

Weekly One Liners 04th to 10th August, 2025

RBI Monetary Policy Statement 2025-26: Full Analysis

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

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

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

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

Growth Outlook

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

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

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

GDP Growth Projection 2025-26: 6.5%

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

Inflation Outlook

Current Situation (June 2025):

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

Projection for 2025-26: 3.1%

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

Key Risks:

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

Rationale for Keeping Repo Rate Unchanged

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

Key Takeaways for Exam Preparation

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

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

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

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

Top 10 Safest Cities in India 2025

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

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

Highlights

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

The Other Side of the Coin – Least Safe Cities

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

How India Compares Globally

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

Top 5 Safest Cities in the World (2025)

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

How the Safety Rankings Were Calculated

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

- **Personal safety:** Risk of mugging, robbery, car theft, physical attacks by strangers, and harassment in public places.
- **Discrimination:** Based on factors like skin colour, ethnicity, gender, or religion.

- **Property crimes:** Including vandalism, burglary, and theft.
 - **Violent crimes:** Such as assault and homicide.
- These inputs are then converted into a Safety Index (higher scores mean safer cities) and a Crime Index (higher scores mean less safe).

National Affairs

- The **Deendayal Port Authority (DPA)** has commissioned India’s **first indigenous 1MW green hydrogen plant** at **Kandla**, setting a new milestone in the nation’s clean energy journey. With plans to expand to **10MW by next fiscal year**, the plant will initially power buses and lighting at the port, eventually fueling all port operations. This **Make in India green hydrogen initiative** is a **pivotal step toward maritime decarbonization**, boosting India’s global leadership in sustainable port management. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** has once again affirmed its strong position in the global fisheries sector, securing the **second rank in fish production worldwide**, according to Union Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry **Rajiv Ranjan Singh**. The announcement was made during a meeting in Kolkata, where the minister chaired discussions with representatives from West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh to explore ways of further boosting fish production. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Western Railway** has restarted its **heritage train services on the 155-year-old Patalpani–Kalakund line** in Madhya Pradesh. Originally built under the reign of **Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II in 1878** as part of the **Holkar State Railways**, the line was later merged with the **Rajputana-Malwa Railway**. Running through the **hilly terrain of Mhow–Khandwa**, the 9.5 km metre-gauge section is both a **tourism hotspot and a historical landmark**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has amended the Cosmetics Rules, 2020**, effective July 29, 2025. The new rules mandate clear distinction between “use before” and “expiry date”, batch-wise testing, detailed documentation, and designate CDL as the Central Cosmetics Laboratory. Exporters get flexibility to comply with importing nations’ norms. These reforms aim to improve consumer safety, regulatory transparency, and India’s global competitiveness in cosmetics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has launched ‘**Apna Ghar**’, a nationwide initiative providing truck drivers with hygienic and safe resting spaces. As of July 2025, 368 units with 4,611 beds have been set up across highways, offering dormitories, dhabas, clean toilets, bathing areas, cooking facilities, and purified drinking water. With the support of a dedicated mobile app, the programme has received overwhelmingly positive feedback, reinforcing the government’s resolve to enhance driver welfare and highway infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC)** has set a **Guinness World Record with 3.53 crore registrations on the MyGov platform**, marking the highest participation on a citizen engagement platform in a month. The **2025 edition witnessed 21 crore viewership**, transforming exam stress into a festival of learning. Aligned with **NEP 2020**, PPC promotes stress-free, experiential education, making exams a joyful experience and advancing the vision of a Viksit Bharat. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Textiles, Government of India**, is actively promoting the registration and protection of Geographical Indications (GI) under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999** for handloom and handicraft products across India. This initiative is implemented through schemes like the **Handloom Marketing Assistance (HMA)**, **National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP)**, and **National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP)**, managed by the respective Offices of the Development Commissioner (Handloom and Handicrafts). ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Kartavya Bhavan**, the **first Common Central Secretariat (CCS)** building under the **Central Vista Project**, aimed at boosting **government efficiency** by centralizing key ministries in one modern facility. **Kartavya Bhavan-03** will house ministries like **Home Affairs, External Affairs, Rural Development, MSME**, and others. The initiative replaces **structurally obsolete** offices from the 1950s–70s. A total of **10 CCS buildings** are planned, with **CCS 2 and 3** nearing completion and **CCS 10** expected by **April 2026**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move** under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**, **SECI** conducted its **first-ever auction** for **Green Ammonia** procurement, discovering a **record-low price of ₹55.75/kg**, significantly down from **₹100.28/kg** in 2024. The auction covers **75,000 metric tonnes/year** to be supplied to **Paradeep Phosphates Limited, Odisha**, and is part of a larger **7.24 lakh MT/year** tender under the **SIGHT Scheme (Mode-2A)**. This price—**USD 641/MT**—offers a competitive alternative to **Grey Ammonia (USD 515/MT)**, encouraging clean energy adoption. The auction, backed by **MNRE, Department of Fertilizers, and SECI**, saw strong competition and reinforces India's ambition to become a **global hub for Green Hydrogen**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **eSAKSHI portal**, launched by the **Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation** in collaboration with **SBI** from **April 1, 2023**, has revolutionized the **MPLAD Scheme** by enabling **seamless digital integration** of **MP recommendations, district authority sanctions, and executing agency workflows**. The portal ensures **real-time tracking, transparency, and accountability** while simplifying fund flow and project execution. A **mobile application** now allows **Members of Parliament** to **recommend and monitor works on-the-go**. All **States and UTs** are onboarded, supported by **training sessions, Parliament kiosks, and a dedicated helpdesk**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **US President Donald Trump** has signed an **executive order** to **double tariffs on Indian imports to 50%**, in response to **India's continued purchase of Russian oil**, as part of efforts to enforce sanctions under **Executive Order 14066**. The **White House** cited **national security threats** linked to Russia's actions in **Ukraine**. The **25% additional tariff** applies to all **Indian goods** entering the US starting **21 days** after the order, unless already in transit. **India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** called the move "**unjustified, unfair, and unreasonable**," accusing the US and EU of **discriminatory targeting** despite ongoing trade ties. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Parliament has passed the **Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025**, replacing the nearly **100-year-old Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925**. The new law defines the **rights, responsibilities, and liabilities** in shipping goods by sea, and gives the **central government** authority to amend shipping regulations and the **bill of lading** rules. The bill will enhance the **ease of doing business**. Highlighted that under **PM Modi's leadership**, India's **maritime sector** has seen **unprecedented growth**, with **cargo handling capacity doubling** from **819 million tonnes (2014-15)** to over **1600 million tonnes (2024)**, boosting India's **global maritime standing and economic growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Kabak Yano**, a mountaineer from **Arunachal Pradesh**, has successfully scaled **Mount Kilimanjaro**, the **highest peak in Africa** at **5,895 meters**, as part of her **Seven Summits expedition**. The climb marks another achievement for Yano, an **Everest summiteer**, showcasing her **courage, determination, and the spirit of Arunachal Pradesh**. The expedition was flagged off by **Governor KT Parnaik** on **July 28**, who praised her **perseverance and achievement**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a transformative move, eight major cooperatives have launched **'Bharat' Taxi**, a **cooperative-driven ride-hailing service** with **₹300 crore** capital, aimed at challenging **Ola** and **Uber**. Operated by the **Multi-State Sahakari Taxi Cooperative Ltd**, and backed by institutions like **IFFCO, NCDC, and Amul**, the initiative prioritizes **fair driver earnings and affordable fares** via a **commission-free, community-focused model**. With **200 drivers onboarded** and an **India-wide app** launching by end-2025, it signals a shift towards **cooperative-led urban mobility**, supported by **IIM-B** and a tech consultant for strategy and expansion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian Railways** successfully conducted a **trial run** of **Asia's longest freight train, 'Rudrastra'**, spanning **4.5 km**. The trial covered **209 km** from **Ganjkhwaja (Uttar Pradesh)** to **Garhwa (Jharkhand)** in **5 hours 10 minutes** at an average speed of **40.5 km/h**. Comprising **345 wagons** and **7 engines**, **Rudrastra** was formed by linking **three long-haul racks**, effectively aligning **five goods trains**. **Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** hailed it as **Bharat's longest freight train**, aimed at enhancing **transport efficiency, saving time and resources**, and accelerating **freight movement** from **DDU to Dhanbad Division**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** radio programme 'Mann ki Baat' has generated **₹34.13 crore in revenue** since its launch on **October 3, 2014**, according to **Union Minister L Murugan**. Produced by **Akashvani** using **in-house resources** without extra expenditure, the programme is broadcast across **radio, Doordarshan, digital platforms, and social media**, including **YouTube, Facebook, X, and Instagram**. It reaches a wide audience, including **vernacular, rural, and global listeners**, with regional language versions and availability on platforms like **DD Free Dish, WAVES OTT**, and the **NewsOnAIR app**, enhancing **engagement and accessibility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In the first six months of **2025**, over **29,000 deaths** occurred on **India's national highways**, already surpassing **50%** of last year's fatalities, highlighting the high risk despite highways covering only **2% of the road network** but accounting for **30% of accident deaths**. The government is tackling this with improved **road engineering, Advanced Traffic Management Systems (ATMS)**, and stricter **consultant selection** for project designs, aiming to halve road fatalities by **2030**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To manage **festival rush** and improve **train utilization**, Indian Railways has launched an **experimental Round Trip Package** offering a **20% rebate on the base fare of the return journey** for passengers booking confirmed **round-trip tickets** between **13th–26th October (onward)** and **17th November–1st December 2025 (return)**. Bookings open from **14th August 2025**, and both journeys must involve the **same passengers, class, and route (O-D pair)**. The offer is valid across **all classes and trains** (except Flexi fare trains), but **no modifications, refunds, or additional discounts** will be allowed. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark discovery, **Deccan Gold Mining Limited** found a significant **Nickel–Copper–Platinum Group Elements (Ni–Cu–PGE) sulphide deposit** in the **Bhalukona–Jamnidih block, Chhattisgarh**, marking a major step toward securing **strategic minerals** vital for India's **clean energy and industrial future**. This discovery, part of a growing **critical mineral hub** alongside the adjacent Vedanta block, supports the government's push for **sustainable exploration** and aims to boost India's position in the **global strategic mineral supply chain**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Delhi Legislative Assembly** has become the **first in India** to run entirely on **solar power** after commissioning a **500-kilowatt rooftop solar plant**, cutting electricity costs by about **Rs 1.75 crore annually**. Alongside this, it launched the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** under the Centre's "**One Nation, One Application**" initiative, marking a shift to **paperless, digital legislative functioning**. These steps reflect Delhi's move towards **sustainable governance and digital transformation**, with surplus power generation potential and advanced smart legislative tools set to be fully operational from the upcoming Monsoon Session. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Punjab is set to become the **first state in India** to formally empanel **sign language interpreters, translators, and special educators** under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015** and the **POCSO Act, 2012**. This initiative will **bridge communication gaps and strengthen access to justice and rights for children** by supporting court proceedings with trained professionals. These experts will be deployed district-wise and compensated as per legal provisions, ensuring **impartial and transparent outcomes**. The state has already pioneered broadcasting Punjab Vidhan Sabha proceedings in sign language. ([Click here to read article](#))

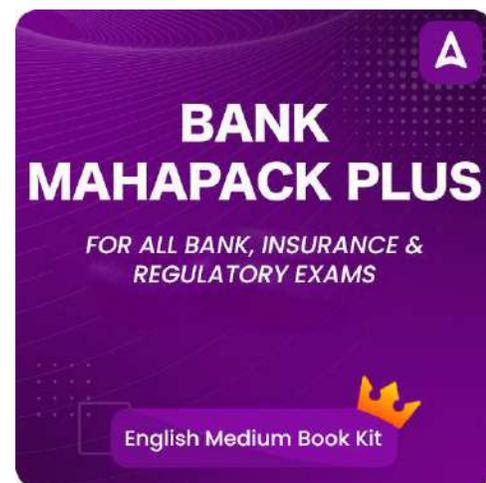
States in the News

- Sikkim has made history as the **first state in India** to implement a **Sabbatical Leave Scheme for government employees**, offering **365 to 1,080 days of leave with 50% basic pay**, while ensuring **seniority and service continuity**. The scheme covers **both regular and temporary employees** and now includes a **decentralized approval system** to speed up decisions, reflecting the state's commitment to **progressive governance and employee empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Sawalkote Hydropower Project**, a **2,185 MW run-of-the-river plant** on the **Chenab River**, is being revived by **NHPC and JKSPDC** at a cost of **₹22,704 crore**. As **J&K's largest hydroelectric project**, it aims to generate **7,000 million units annually**, making the region **power-surplus** while also contributing to **flood control**. Its revival follows India's decision to pause the **Indus Waters Treaty**, marking a significant shift in regional water and energy policy. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- The **Krasheninnikov Volcano** in Russia's **Kamchatka Peninsula** erupted today for the first time in **600 years**, sending an **ash plume 4 km high**. Authorities issued an **orange aviation warning**, citing risks to aircraft. The eruption is believed to be linked to a recent **8.7 magnitude earthquake** and subsequent aftershocks in the region. Though **no populated areas are at risk**, officials have urged **residents and tourists** to avoid traveling near active volcanoes. The eruption, last seen around **1463**, is being closely monitored as a **historic geological event**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hong Kong** has launched a **stablecoin regulatory framework** requiring **full reserves and selective licensing**, reinforcing its ambition to become a **leader in digital finance**. The move ensures **stability, transparency, and innovation**, while aligning with global standards like the **U.S. GENIUS Act** and **EU's MiCA**, marking a new era for **programmable finance and asset tokenization**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- A **high-level delegation from the Philippines**, led by **Secretary of Agriculture Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr.**, met with **Indian trade bodies** including **APEDA** and the **Indian Rice Exporters Federation (IREF)** to boost **food imports from India**. The Philippines agreed to import more **rice, buffalo meat, vegetables, fruits, and peanuts**, while also committing to **remove restrictions on Basmati rice imports**. This move aims to **reduce reliance on Chinese products, diversify supply chains, and strengthen Indo-Philippine relations**, promoting **food security and economic growth**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Moldova has become the **107th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a global initiative launched by India and France in 2015 at COP21. The ISA aims to **boost solar energy investments by 2030** and reduce technology and financing costs. It promotes solar use across sectors like agriculture, health, transport, and power generation. Moldova's ratification was formalized in a meeting between its ambassador to India and ISA officials, highlighting ongoing global cooperation to advance renewable energy. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **India and Russia** signed a key **protocol to boost industrial cooperation** during the **11th Working Group session** held at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. Co-chaired by DPIIT Secretary **Amardeep Singh Bhatia** and Russian Deputy Minister **Alexey Gruzdev**, the meeting focused on collaboration in **aluminium, fertilizers, railways, mining**, and emerging areas like **aerospace, carbon fibre, 3D printing, and critical minerals**. Discussions included **joint development of small aircraft engines, a wind tunnel facility, and underground coal gasification**, reaffirming both countries' commitment to **strategic industrial ties and technology transfer**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In a **landmark move**, **Illinois** has become the first U.S. state to **ban AI platforms** like ChatGPT from providing **therapy services without human oversight**, under the **Wellness and Oversight for Psychological Resources Act**. Signed by **Governor JB Pritzker**, the law prohibits AI from performing core **therapeutic functions** like diagnosis, treatment planning, or emotional assessments unless supervised by a **licensed professional**. This comes amid rising concerns over AI's misuse in **mental health**, echoing warnings from the **American Psychological Association**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has officially classified **Hepatitis D (HDV)** as a **cancer-causing virus**, citing its strong link to **liver cancer** when co-infected with **Hepatitis B (HBV)**. Since HDV requires HBV to replicate, the **Hepatitis B vaccine** becomes the most effective shield against this dangerous coinfection. HDV significantly accelerates **liver cirrhosis**, increases cancer risk by up to six times, and is spreading through **blood, sexual contact, and childbirth**. With **vaccine coverage in India** still around 50%, experts urge stronger **prevention, screening, and public awareness** to curb HDV transmission and protect vulnerable populations. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In a **historic peace deal** brokered at the **White House**, **Azerbaijan and Armenia** officially agreed to end decades of **conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh**, with **President Donald Trump** hosting the summit. The agreement includes reopening **transport routes**, establishing **diplomatic and business ties**, and constructing a new **Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity** linking Azerbaijan to its **Nakhchivan exclave**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Aadhaar face authentication** recorded a historic **19.36 crore transactions** in **July 2025**, up from **5.77 crore** in July 2024, showing rapid adoption across **banking, telecom, oil, and government services**. The month saw a **22% increase** over June and a **record 1.22 crore transactions** on **1 July** alone. Over **150 entities** now use the **AI-driven** technology for secure, **contactless verification**, including integration with **NSAP, NMC medical colleges**, and recruitment bodies like **SSC and RRB**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Government e Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **9th anniversary** in 2025, achieving a remarkable **Rs 5.4 trillion Gross Merchandise Value (GMV)** in FY 2024–25. Since its launch in 2016, GeM has onboarded **1.5 lakh women-led enterprises, startups, self-help groups (SHGs), artisans, and micro and small enterprises (MSEs)**, promoting **transparent, inclusive, and efficient public procurement**. Recent reforms include the removal of **caution money, rationalization of vendor fees, and transaction charge reductions**, benefiting **97% of orders**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Cambodia and Thailand** have reached a **consensus on ceasefire details** and signed an agreement during the General Border Committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur, with **third-party observers from the US, China, and Malaysia**. Both countries pledged to cease all types of firing, maintain current troop levels without reinforcements along the border, and ensure humane treatment of captured soldiers as per **international humanitarian law**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The MoU between **BSNL and NRL** marks a **historic partnership** to deploy India's **first 5G CNPN** in the refinery sector, strengthening the country's march toward **Industry 4.0**. By combining technologies like **IoT, AR/VR, Digital Twins, and Big Data Analytics**, this initiative will not only enhance **operational efficiency and cybersecurity** but also create new opportunities for **employment, skilling, and innovation**. It stands as a shining example of the Government's **Whole of Government approach** to building a **digitally empowered, self-reliant Bharat**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Ayush**, through its **National Medicinal Plants Board**, has signed two crucial **MoUs**—one with **IshVed-Bioplants Venture** for the **conservation of rare medicinal plants** through **tissue culture techniques**, and another with **AIIA and AIIMS** to set up a **National Medicinal Plants Garden**. These initiatives aim to **preserve medicinal biodiversity, educate the public, and advance India's journey towards a healthy and self-reliant future**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SAP**, Europe's largest software maker, partnered with **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** to digitally skill professionals in India's **logistics and transport sector**. The MoU focuses on three pillars: **employment enablement** of GSV graduates via industry-relevant skills, **curriculum enhancement** for students and government staff, and fostering **industry linkages** for research, development, and job creation to boost national logistics capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and the Philippines formalized nine Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) across key sectors including **Defence, Digital Technology, Space, Maritime Cooperation, Tourism, and Cultural Exchange** during Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.'s visit to India. The exchange took place in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Bhashini have signed a **Statement of Intent (SoI)** to promote **vernacular innovation and language inclusivity** across India's innovation ecosystem. This collaboration aims to **break language barriers** by integrating **Bhashini's language technologies** into AIM's programs, including translating **WIPO Academy content** into multiple Indian languages and supporting startups with **multilingual product development**. The partnership focuses on empowering **grassroot innovators** through skilling initiatives and inclusive platforms, advancing India's goal of **digital empowerment and inclusive innovation** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **UPI platform** reached an **all-time high in July 2025** with **1,947 crore transactions worth ₹25.1 lakh crore**, showing a **35% rise in volume** and a **22% growth in value** year-on-year. With **62.8 crore daily transactions** and deeper reach into **Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities**, UPI continues to dominate India's **cashless economy**, driven by **innovations like credit on UPI, recurring payments, and strong government support**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has rolled out **Aadhaar-based face authentication nationwide**, allowing customers to conduct **banking transactions using facial recognition** without fingerprints or OTPs. Developed under **UIDAI**, the feature enhances **financial inclusion and digital security**, especially benefiting the **elderly, differently-abled, and those with worn fingerprints**, while ensuring safe banking during **health emergencies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Following the resignation of **MD & CEO Girsh Kousgi**, **PNB Housing Finance** has appointed **Jatul Anand** as **Executive Director** and **Valli Sekar** as **Chief Business Officer — Affordable Business**. While Kousgi will step down officially on **October 28, 2025**, he will assist with the transition. Despite an **18% fall in share price**, the company reaffirmed its focus on **growth, asset quality, and margins**, even as it faces the challenge of multiple senior-level exits. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the **merger of New India Co-operative Bank with Saraswat Bank**, effective **August 4, 2025**. Saraswat Bank will assume **all assets and liabilities** of New India Co-operative Bank, and its customers will enjoy **full protection of their interests**. The move, endorsed by the shareholders of both banks, strengthens the cooperative banking framework and expands the service reach for customers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Fitch Ratings** has revised India's **FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%**, citing steady demand from **infrastructure spending** but cautioning against risks from **US tariffs** and redirected global supply. While **cement, power, construction, and petroleum** are set to benefit, **export-driven sectors like IT, auto components, and pharma** may face headwinds due to tariff uncertainty. **Telecom, oil & gas, utilities, and construction** remain relatively insulated. Fitch also noted India's strong stance in **trade negotiations** with the US over **agriculture and dairy concessions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **US decision to impose a 25% tariff** on Indian goods is projected by **SBI Research** to reduce **India's FY26 GDP growth by 25–30 bps**. The tariff will mainly affect **electronics, gems and jewelry, pharmaceuticals, and machinery**, which together make up nearly **half of India's exports to the US**. While this creates **deflationary pressures**, India's **diversified export base** and support from **PLI schemes and GST reforms** may cushion the impact. Experts believe that the **US economy faces higher risks** than India due to this move. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **palm oil imports fell 10% in July 2025**, totaling **858,000 tons**, due to **contract cancellations**, while **soyoil imports surged 38% to 495,000 tons**, the highest in three years, aided by **delayed shipments** and **competitive prices**. With **sunflower oil imports down 7%**, India's **total edible oil imports still rose 1.5% to 1.53 million tons**, the highest since November. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **tea production dropped 9% in June 2025 to 133.5 million kg**, compared to **146.72 million kg** in June 2024, due to **adverse weather** and **pest infestations**. Output from both **North and South India** fell, impacting **big planters and small growers alike**. The fall was evident across all major tea types, including **CTC, orthodox, and green tea**, raising concerns for the industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Income Tax Department** has awarded the **₹811.5 crore PAN 2.0 project** to **LTIMindtree Ltd**, aiming to **digitally transform PAN and TAN management**. Cleared in **November 2024** and scheduled to go live in **18 months**, the project will enhance **security, efficiency, and taxpayer convenience**, handling services like **Aadhaar-PAN linking, allotment, reissuance, and validation** on a unified digital platform. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **RBI's decision to settle a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap without a rollover** highlights the central bank's confidence in India's **strong rupee liquidity position**, which currently stands at over **₹3.60 lakh crore**. By selling dollars and absorbing rupees, the RBI is ensuring liquidity remains stable without disturbing the money markets. Experts believe this is a sound move since the **banking system has adequate cash flow**, minimizing the risk of market disruptions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has uncovered **₹7 trillion in GST evasion** across **91,000 cases** between **April 2020 and March 2025**, according to **Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary**. Of this, only **₹1.29 trillion** has been **voluntarily paid back** by taxpayers. Notably, **₹1.78 trillion** is linked to **fake input tax credit (ITC)**, with just **7% recovery**. The rise in evasion coincides with the government's deployment of **advanced tech tools**—including **e-invoicing, risk-based audits, facial recognition, and E-way bill tracking**—which have significantly strengthened **GST compliance and fraud detection**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a strategic move to boost its **value-added product portfolio**, **JSW Steel Limited** has committed **₹5,845 crore** to expand **Cold Rolled Grain-Oriented (CRGO)** steel manufacturing in collaboration with **JFE Steel Corporation** of Japan. This expansion includes increasing the **Nashik facility's capacity from 50,000 TPA to 250,000 TPA** at a cost of **₹4,300 crore**, and upgrading the **Vijayanagar unit** in Karnataka from **62,000 TPA to 100,000 TPA** with **₹1,545 crore** investment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **services sector** surged to an **11-month high in July 2025**, with the **HSBC India Services PMI** rising to **60.5**, up from 60.4 in June, according to **S&P Global**. This marks the **48th straight month of growth**, driven by **robust international demand** and **steady domestic sales**. The **finance and insurance sectors** led the growth, while **real estate and business services** lagged due to cautious spending. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has imposed a **₹5 crore penalty** on **Policybazaar Insurance Brokers** for **multiple regulatory violations under Section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938**. Key infractions include **biased promotion** of certain insurance products as **"Best"** or **"Top"** without objective comparisons, **delayed premium remittance** to insurers (sometimes over 30 days), and **lack of transparency** in **outsourcing agreements** and **commission structures**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) hit a new record by crossing **707 million daily transactions** on August 2, 2025, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This is the first time the daily transaction count has exceeded 700 million, doubling over the last two years despite a slower growth in transaction value. Total UPI transactions last month: **19.5 billion**, amounting to over **₹25 lakh crore**. UPI now accounts for approximately **85% of all digital transactions** in India. The platform represents nearly **50% of real-time digital payments globally**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Business Confidence Index (BCI) surged to **149.4** in the first quarter of fiscal year 2025-26 (April-June), up from **139.3** in the previous quarter, according to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). This jump reflects strong optimism among Indian businesses about the near-term economic outlook. **Positive expectations across key indicators**, 78.7% of firms expect production to increase. 79.1% anticipate higher domestic sales. 66.5% foresee growth in exports of final products. 54.3% expect increased imports of raw materials, signaling growth in domestic production. Nearly 61% expect pre-tax profits to rise. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Deloitte India** has forecasted India's economic growth to range between **6.4% and 6.7%** for the fiscal year 2025-26, building on a solid growth rate of 6.5% in 2024-25. This optimistic outlook is anchored by resilient domestic demand, easing inflation, and strategic global trade initiatives. A dynamic consumer base, resilient capital markets, and a globally competitive workforce. Ongoing and upcoming trade talks with the **UK, US, and European Union** are expected to enhance market access, income, and employment opportunities. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a major boost to **investor sentiment** and the **Indian digital economy**, **Jack Ma's Ant Financial**, a **Chinese affiliate of Alibaba Group**, has completely **exited its stake** in **Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications**. Ant Financial sold its entire **5.84% stake**, worth around **Rs 3,800 crore**, through bulk deals via its Netherlands-based affiliate, **Antfin (Netherlands) Holding BV**. This exit removes all **Chinese ownership** from Paytm, alleviating **regulatory and geopolitical concerns** and paving the way for greater **institutional and Indian investor interest**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major international expansion move, **Tata Motors** has announced its **largest acquisition since Jaguar Land Rover (2008)** by agreeing to acquire **Italian commercial vehicle manufacturer Iveco** for **€3.8 billion** (excluding its defence business). This also marks the **Tata Group's biggest deal since acquiring Corus** in 2007. The acquisition aims to merge the **complementary capabilities** of both companies, with minimal **overlap in geographies or industrial assets**, resulting in a **diversified commercial vehicle giant** with **combined sales of over 540,000 units annually** and revenues of **€22 billion**. The deal gives Tata Motors a stronghold across **Europe (50%), India (35%), and the Americas (15%)**, and strengthens its position in **emerging markets in Asia and Africa**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **RBI** has kept the **repo rate unchanged at 5.5%** during the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting held on **August 4–6, 2025**, maintaining a **neutral stance**. The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** stands at **5.25%**, and both the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)** rate and the **Bank Rate** remain at **5.75%**. This decision follows a **100 bps rate cut** since February and comes ahead of the **festive season**. The **FY26 GDP growth forecast** is retained at **6.5%**, while **inflation** is projected at **3.1%**, down from **June's 3.7%**, though **CPI** may rise to **4.9% in FY27**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Goldman Sachs** has trimmed **India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% for 2025 and 6.4% for 2026**, citing concerns over **US-India trade tensions** after **President Trump's 25% tariffs** on Indian goods. While the investment bank expects some **tariffs may be negotiated**, it warns that the main risk lies in **policy uncertainty**, which could hurt **investor confidence**. On inflation, **forecasts have been lowered to 3.0%**, driven by easing **vegetable prices**, though Goldman cautions that such **low inflation is rare** in India and remains **vulnerable to shocks**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **electronics exports** soared over **47% year-on-year** to **\$12.4 billion** in **Q1 FY26**, driven largely by a **55% surge in mobile phone exports**, according to the **India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA)**. **Non-mobile electronics**, including **solar modules, networking equipment, and chargers**, also grew by **37%**. With momentum building, ICEA projects **FY26 exports** to hit **\$46–50 billion**, up from **\$38.6 billion** in FY25. Chairman **Pankaj Mohindroo** emphasized the need for a **domestic supply chain** and **globally competitive Indian brands** to ensure long-term **electronic sector sovereignty** and **value addition**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The recent **RBI Survey of Professional Forecasters** projects that India's **merchandise imports** will grow by **2.5%** in **2025-26**, more than twice the **1.2% growth** expected in **exports**, leading to a widening **trade imbalance** and a **current account deficit** of **0.8% of GDP**, rising slightly to **0.9%** in **2026-27**. Despite this, India's **economy** is forecast to grow steadily, with **GDP expanding by 6.4%** in **2025-26** and **6.7%** the following year. **Private consumption** and **investments** are also expected to grow moderately, while **inflation** is projected to remain manageable, with **headline CPI** rising from **3.1% to 4.4%** over the same period. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** is partnering with **HDFC Capital Advisors** to launch a **\$1 billion real estate fund** aimed at promoting **green affordable housing** in India. IFC is anchoring the **H-DREAM Fund** with a **\$150 million investment**, which will help mobilize an additional **\$850 million** from other investors. The fund focuses on financing projects that adhere to **green building standards**, addressing the country's significant **housing gap** while fostering **sustainable urban development**. Managed by **HDFC Capital**, this initiative supports the expansion of environmentally friendly and affordable housing options across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata AutoComp Systems** has signed an agreement to fully acquire the Slovakia-based **IAC Group** through its British subsidiary, **Artifex Interior Systems Limited**. While the company has not revealed the financial details, the acquisition involves a conditional agreement to purchase 100% of **IAC Group's share capital**, expanding **Tata AutoComp's global footprint** in the auto components sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **AU Small Finance Bank (AU)** has made history by becoming the **first Small Finance Bank in India** to receive **in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to transition into a **Universal Bank**. This landmark achievement highlights AU's strong business model, sound governance, and unwavering commitment to **financial inclusion**. The approval validates AU's growth into a full-service bank offering a wide range of **retail, business, and digital banking solutions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** reported a **5% rise in standalone net profit** to **Rs 10,987 crore** for **Q1 FY26**, up from **Rs 10,461 crore** in the same quarter last year. Its **net premium income** also grew **5% year-on-year** to **Rs 1.19 lakh crore** during April-June 2025-26. LIC's **solvency ratio improved to 2.17** from 1.99 in **Q1 FY25**, indicating stronger financial health. Asset quality showed improvement with **gross NPAs down 21% to Rs 8,436.5 crore** and **net NPAs down 36% to Rs 4 crore**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Jaguar Land Rover (JLR)**, owned by **Tata Motors**, has appointed **PB Balaji** as its next **CEO**, effective **17 November 2025**, succeeding **Adrian Mardell**, who will retire after a **35-year career**. Balaji, currently **Group CFO of Tata Motors**, brings over **30 years of global leadership experience** and has been a key force behind Tata Motors' revival. His appointment is expected to accelerate JLR's **Reimagine strategy**, focusing on **luxury, sustainability, and electric mobility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IndusInd Bank** has announced the appointment of **Rajiv Anand** as its new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a **three-year term**, effective **August 25, 2025**, until **August 24, 2028**, pending **shareholder approval**. Anand, formerly **Deputy MD at Axis Bank**, brings over a decade of leadership in both **retail and wholesale banking**, having also served as **President of Retail Banking and MD & CEO of Axis Asset Management**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mrs. S. Radha Chauhan**, a **retired IAS officer** (UP Cadre, 1988 batch) and former **Secretary of DoPT**, has assumed charge as the new **Chairperson of the Capacity Building Commission in New Delhi**, succeeding **Shri Adil Zainulbhai**. The **Commission**, established on **1st April 2021**, plays a pivotal role in implementing **Mission Karmayogi** by driving **standardisation and harmonisation in civil services capacity building** across India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Airbus has appointed **Jürgen Westermeier** as **President and Managing Director for India and South Asia**, effective **September 1, 2025**. He will oversee **commercial aircraft sales** and drive Airbus' expansion in the region across **services, engineering, digital innovation, and training**. Westermeier will lead operations including the **Airbus-Tata joint ventures** manufacturing military transport aircraft and helicopters in India. His role also involves strengthening Airbus' collaboration with **ISRO** and supporting the **Make in India** initiative to boost local manufacturing and technology growth. ([Click here to read article](#))



Defence News

- India received the **final Airbus C-295MW transport aircraft** from **Spain**, completing the delivery of the first 16 planes under the **2021 contract**. The aircraft, capable of carrying **5–10 tonnes with 11-hour endurance**, will replace the **ageing Avro fleet** of the IAF. The remaining **40 aircraft** will be **manufactured in India** at the **TATA Aircraft Complex, Vadodara**, India's **first private Final Assembly Line for military aircraft**. This programme strengthens India's defence self-reliance under the **Make in India initiative** and marks a **historic milestone in aviation manufacturing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy** concluded **SIMBEX 2025**, held from **July 28 to August 1**, with joint exercises in the **South China Sea**. Featuring ships, aircraft, and professional exchanges, this **32nd edition** strengthened **maritime security cooperation** as both nations marked **60 years of diplomatic relations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, has approved proposals worth **₹67,000 crore** to bolster India's military capabilities. For the **Indian Army**, **Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sights** for **BMPs** were cleared to enhance night mobility. The **Indian Navy** will procure **Compact Autonomous Surface Craft, BrahMos Fire Control Systems**, and upgrade the **BARAK-1 Missile System**. The **Indian Air Force** will get **Mountain Radars** and upgrades to **SAKSHAM** and **SPYDER Weapon Systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- At the **M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference in New Delhi**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched the **M.S. Swaminathan Global Award for Food and Peace** to honour scientists from the **developing world** working to fight **hunger** and promote **global peace**. The **first recipient** was **Nigerian scientist Dr. Arenare**, recognized for his work in **combating hunger in Nigeria**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)**, developed by **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam** with **IUCN support**, works to **conserve and restore wetlands through transboundary cooperation**. At **Ramsar COP15**, **IBRRI** launched its **Strategic Plan 2025–2030**, aiming to halt and reverse wetland loss, enhance climate resilience, and ensure sustainable wetland management. With a strong governance structure and community focus, **IBRRI** is a major step towards regional ecological security and biodiversity conservation. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **first BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival**, titled ‘SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody’, will be held today at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, with performances from artists representing **India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand**. Organised by the ICCR, the event, inaugurated by **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, marks a **cultural milestone** in regional cooperation, fulfilling **PM Modi’s vision announced at the 2025 BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India, in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, will host the **WHO–IRCH Workshop on Herbal Medicine Safety and Regulations** from **August 6 to 8, 2025**, at **Hotel Fortune District Centre, Ghaziabad**. Organised by the **Ministry of Ayush** and supported by the **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H)**, the workshop will feature **hands-on training, global regulatory dialogues, and case studies**, with participation from **15+ countries**, including **USA, Japan, Brazil, Egypt**, and more. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Centenary International Conference** in **New Delhi**, celebrating the **birth centenary of the father of India’s Green Revolution**. Themed “**Evergreen Revolution – The Path to Bio-Happiness**”, the event honors **Dr. Swaminathan’s** lifelong dedication to **agriculture, food security, and eradicating hunger**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **NITI Aayog** has launched the report “Unlocking a \$200 Billion Opportunity: Electric Vehicles in India” on **4th August 2025**, providing a blueprint to fast-track India’s **Electric Vehicle transition**. Released by **Shri Rajiv Gauba**, the report highlights India’s progress in EV sales—from **50,000 in 2016 to 2.08 million in 2024**—and outlines actionable steps to achieve **30% EV penetration by 2030**. It stresses the need for stronger measures, **cross-sector collaboration**, and **data-driven decisions** to overcome challenges and unlock India’s \$200 billion EV opportunity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has become the **world’s 5th largest aviation market** in 2024, carrying **241 million passengers**, a growth of **11.1% over 2023**. The **Mumbai-Delhi route ranked 7th among the busiest global air corridors**, while **premium class travel surged 11.8%**. Aircraft like the **Boeing B737 and Airbus A320** dominated global skies. The achievement highlights India’s expanding role in global aviation, with strong growth prospects in both domestic and international travel. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Housing Price Index (HPI)** for **13 major Indian cities** rose by **8 points year-on-year to 132 in March 2025**, according to a **Housing.com–ISB report**. Despite remaining **stagnant since February**, the market reflects a **healthy consolidation phase**, following previous surges. This **price stabilisation**—driven by **cautious buyer sentiment, supply-side adjustments, and global headwinds**—is viewed as a foundation for **sustainable growth**. Cities tracked include **Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Gurugram**, and others. Experts predict continued **market maturity**,

supported by **rate cuts, income growth, and rising affordability**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- A study by **IIT Bombay** reveals that between 2015 and 2019, India lost **18 sq km of forest for every 1 sq km gained**, with all states experiencing a **net forest cover loss**. Although some gains occurred in states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, over half the new forest areas were **fragmented islets** lacking **structural connectivity**, reducing their ecological value. The study highlights the need to prioritize **continuous, connected forests** for biodiversity and resilience, contrasting with the Forest Survey of India’s broader metrics that don’t account for fragmentation, urging improved **forest connectivity assessments** for better conservation planning. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- At the **Hungarian Grand Prix 2025**, **Lando Norris** claimed a thrilling victory after a fierce late-race battle with teammate **Oscar Piastri**, finishing just 0.698s ahead. The win, Norris’s fifth of the season, slashed Piastri’s championship lead to nine points. **George Russell completed the podium**, while early leader **Charles Leclerc** faded to fourth after a penalty. The race was a mix of strategic gambles, intense duels, and surprises, making it a highlight of the Formula 1 season. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **Chess Esports World Cup 2025 in Riyadh**, **Magnus Carlsen** delivered a commanding performance to defeat **Alireza Firouzja** and secure the **first-ever title** in the tournament’s history. Representing **Team Liquid**, Carlsen’s **4–2–1 scoreline** earned him **\$250,000** and vital championship points, while Firouzja took home **\$190,000** for Team Falcons. This victory adds another jewel to Carlsen’s crown, proving his dominance as chess embraces the esports era. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In the **World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 Final** at Edgbaston, **AB de Villiers** delivered a stunning century off 58 balls, powering **South Africa Champions** to a 9-wicket victory over **Pakistan Champions** and securing the tournament’s second edition title. Pakistan, led by **Sharjeel Khan’s 76**, had posted 195/5, but South Africa’s chase was dominated by de Villiers’ masterclass, supported by **JP Duminy**. Despite battling injury, de Villiers’ brilliance overshadowed Pakistan’s effort, marking an unforgettable finale and ending Pakistan’s dream run in the competition. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India’s first **FIFA Talent Academy for girls** was launched in **Hyderabad** through a collaboration between **AIFF, FIFA, and the Telangana Government** under FIFA’s **Talent Development Scheme**. Hosted at the **Gachibowli Stadium Complex**, the academy will train and support **30 girls and 30 boys** with residential facilities, education, medical care, and mental wellness programs. Leaders including **Telangana CM Revanth Reddy** and **AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey** called it a **historic milestone**, with hopes of paving the way for India’s qualification to the **U17 FIFA World Cups**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Archery Association of India** has launched the country's first **Archery League**, to be held in **October 2025** at the **Yamuna Sports Complex, Delhi**. Featuring **six franchise teams with top Indian and foreign archers**, the event has the support of **World Archery, World Archery Asia**, and the **Sports Ministry**. The league is set to transform the Indian archery landscape, boosting competitiveness and global recognition. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India's Annu Rani** clinched the **gold medal** in **women's javelin throw** at the **International Wiesław Maniak Memorial** in **Poland** with a **season-best throw of 62.59 meters**. The **32-year-old Asian Games champion** secured the win early with a **60.96m first attempt** and followed it up with her best in the second. **Turkey's Eda Tugsuz** and **Australia's Lianna Davidson** won **silver** and **bronze**, respectively. Annu now ranks among the **top 15 javelin throwers** globally this season and is targeting the **64m qualification mark** for the **2025 World Athletics Championships** in **Tokyo**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- In the second round of the **PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)**, **female participation** rose significantly from **31% to 41%**, thanks to **mass outreach programmes** by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** and **state governments**. The scheme saw **over 455,000 applications** for **118,000 internships** across **735 districts**, with enhancements like **geo-tagged locations, company profiles**, and **additional benefits** boosting engagement. The MCA adopted a **multi-pronged strategy**, including the appointment of **nodal officers** and stronger **IEC initiatives**, to improve accessibility and awareness. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** launched '**Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina 2.0**', a **monthly financial assistance scheme** aimed at **boosting girls' enrolment in higher education**. The scheme provides **monetary support** to **girl students from HS to PG level** in **government and aided institutions**, regardless of **economic background**. Students in **HS** will receive **₹10,000** per year, **graduates ₹12,500**, and **postgraduates ₹25,000**, disbursed over **10 months**. Over **4 lakh girl students** are expected to benefit from this **flagship initiative**, which aims to **reduce dropout rates** and **empower female education** across **Assam**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- As of **July 2025**, over **72.22 lakh pregnant women** have been registered under **Mission Poshan 2.0**, and **more than 4.05 crore women** have received maternity benefits through the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)** since its launch in **2017**. The government, through programs like **SUMAN, JSSK, and PMSMA**, is enhancing **maternal healthcare** and reducing **anaemia** and **low birth weight**. Under **Poshan 2.0**, **Take-Home Ration (THR)** is provided for **300 days** to pregnant women and adolescent girls. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- After the successful **NISAR mission**, **ISRO** is preparing to launch the **6,500 kg BlueBird communications satellite**, developed by **AST SpaceMobile**, aboard the **LVM3** from **Sriharikota** in late 2025. The mission strengthens Indo-U.S. space collaboration and comes alongside ISRO's preparations for the **Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme** and the long-term goal of building **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has identified the **world's rarest blood group — CRIB**, in a **38-year-old woman from Bengaluru**, in collaboration with UK scientists. Classified under the **Cromer blood group system**, CRIB lacks a common antigen, making blood transfusions **extremely difficult** as no donor match exists. The woman's blood showed **panreactivity**, forcing doctors to perform surgery **without a transfusion**. Experts say this discovery could revolutionize **critical care, prenatal diagnostics, and rare blood donation systems** globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ICRISAT**, in partnership with **ICAR** and backed by the **Monsoon Mission III**, has launched an **AI-powered climate advisory service** to provide **hyper-local weather insights for smallholder farmers**. Starting in **Maharashtra**, the initiative will use tools like an **AI WhatsApp bot** to enhance **climate resilience** in agriculture, paving the way for a **national rollout** and international replication. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India, with support from the **International Potato Center (CIP)**, is introducing **bio-fortified potatoes enriched with iron** to combat **hidden hunger** and **nutrient deficiencies**. With similar efforts already underway for **Vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes**, the initiative—backed by **ICAR's biofortification drive across 61 crops**—will boost **nutrition security** and make India a leader in **climate-smart and health-focused agriculture**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **ISRO** has launched a **10-day space mission simulation** at **14,000 feet in Ladakh** under its **Gaganyaan programme** to study the effects of **isolation, high-altitude stress, and extreme cold** on the human body and mind. Conducted at the newly inaugurated **HOPE (Himalayan Outpost for Planetary Exploration)** facility by space firm **Protoplanet**, the mission involves two participants, **Rahul Mogalapalli** and **Yaman Akot**, selected from 135 applicants. The study includes **biological sampling** and monitoring of **mental health**, mimicking astronaut routines aboard the **ISS**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian government aims to make **BharatGen AI** fully support all **22 Eighth Schedule languages** by **June 2026**, enhancing **digital inclusivity** nationwide. Announced by **Minister Jitendra Singh**, this initiative under the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** seeks to build **inclusive AI ecosystems** accessible in every scheduled language as part of the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**, ensuring wider reach of digital tools and resources across India's linguistic diversity. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **IndiaAI** and the **National Cancer Grid (NCG)** have launched the **CATCH Grant Program** to support innovative **AI solutions** in **cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment** across India. The program offers **pilot grants up to ₹50 lakh** and potential **scale-up funding up to ₹1 crore** for up to **10 selected projects**. Startups, **health tech firms, academia,** and **hospitals** can apply by **September 2, 2025**. The initiative emphasizes **responsible AI development, clinical validation,** and deployment readiness within the NCG network, aiming to boost **healthcare operations** and **patient outcomes** through advanced technology. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- **National Handloom Day 2025** is celebrated on **7th August**, marking its **11th anniversary**, with the theme **“Handlooms – Empowering Women, Empowering the Nation.”** It commemorates the **Swadeshi Movement of 1905**, a turning point in India’s freedom struggle aimed at reviving indigenous crafts and promoting self-reliance. Initiated in **2015 by PM Modi**, the day honours the **contribution of weavers**, especially **women**, who comprise over **70%** of the handloom workforce. Celebrations include **award ceremonies, cultural events,** and initiatives to promote **sustainable fashion** and **rural livelihoods**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Hiroshima Day**, observed annually on **August 6**, marks the **anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945** during **World War II**, a moment that profoundly changed global history. As the world commemorates **Hiroshima Day 2025**, the day serves as a solemn reminder of the **immense**

human loss, the suffering of **Hibakusha** (survivors), and the devastating effects of **nuclear warfare**. Beyond remembrance, it promotes the global message of **peace, non-violence,** and **nuclear disarmament**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Shibu Soren**, veteran tribal leader, JMM founder, and former **Chief Minister of Jharkhand**, passed away on **August 4, 2025**, at the age of 81 after battling **kidney ailments** and a **stroke** at **Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi**. Confirmed by his son, **Hemant Soren**, the news triggered nationwide tributes. Known as **“Dishom Guru”**, Soren played a **historic role in the creation of Jharkhand** and served as its **Chief Minister thrice**. Leaders across the spectrum hailed him as a **voice of the tribals, the poor, and the marginalized**, marking his demise as an **irreparable loss** for Jharkhand and the nation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik** passed away at **79** in **New Delhi** on **August 5** after a **prolonged illness**. He died at **Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital** around **1 PM**. Malik served as the **last Governor of Jammu and Kashmir** from **August 2018 to October 2019**, during which **Article 370 was abrogated** on **August 5, 2019**. He later held positions as **Governor of Goa, Meghalaya (until October 2022)**, and briefly **Governor of Bihar** in **2017**. Beginning his political journey as a **socialist leader in the 1970s**, he served as **Lok Dal General Secretary** and had **two Rajya Sabha terms**, including one as a **Congress MP**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	ISRO	Chairman - V Narayanan
2	NASA	Head - Sean Duffy
3	FIFA	President - Jiovanni Infantino
4	BIMSTEC	HQ - Dhaka, Bangladesh
5	Airbus India	CEO - Jurgen Westermeier
6	Indusind Bank	CEO - Rajiv Anand
7	Jaguar Land Rover	CEO - P. B. Balaji
8	AU Small Finance Bank	CEO - Sanjay Agarwal
9	RBI	Chairman - Sanjay Malhotra
10	Goldman Sachs	Chairman - David Solomon
11	TATA Motors	CEO - Guenter Butschek
12	Paytm	CEO - Vijay Shekhar Home
13	Deloitte India	CEO - Romal Shetty
14	JSW Steel Limited	CEO - Jayant Acharya
15	PNB Housing Finance	CEO - Girish Kousgi

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
16	Russia	President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow
17	USA	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C.
18	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing
19	Azerbaijan	President - Ilham Aliyev Capital - Baku
20	Armenia	President - Vahagn Khachaturyan Capital - Yerevan
21	Cambodia	PM - Hun Manet Capital - Phnom Penh
22	Thailand	PM - Paetongtarn Shinwatra Capital - Bangkok
23	Mexico	President - Claudia Sheinbaum Capital - Mexico City
24	Moldova	President - Maia Sandu Capital - Chisinau
25	Assam	Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya CM - Hemanta Sarma
26	Punjab	Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria CM - Bhagwat Mann
27	Delhi	L. Governor - Vinai Saxena CM - New Delhi
28	Gujarat	Governor - Acharya Devvrat CM - Bhupendra Patel
29	Sikkim	Governor - Om Prakash Mathur CM - Pema Tamang
30	Chattisgarh	Governor - Khambhupati CM - Vishnu Deo Sai
31	Jammu & Kashmir	L. Governor - Manoj Sinha CM - Omar Abdullah
32	Madhya Pradesh	Governor - Mangubhai Patel CM - Mohan Yadav
33	Andhra Pradesh	Governor - Abdul Nazeer CM - Chandrababu Naidu