

**Weekly One Liners 14th to 20th April, 2025**

**Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Sub-Categorisation**

The **Telangana government** has become the **first in India to implement Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorisation**, following the Supreme Court’s approval. On April 14, 2025—**coinciding with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s birth anniversary**—the state issued a Government Order (GO) enforcing the **Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalization of Reservations) Act, 2025**. The move aims to rationalize the existing 15% SC reservation by dividing 59 SC sub-castes into three groups based on inter-se backwardness, thus ensuring more equitable distribution of benefits.

This initiative aligns with historical efforts like the **Lokur Committee (1965)** and more recent **Justice Ramachandra Raju and Usha Mehra Commissions**, reflecting a shift toward targeted affirmative action.

**Key Highlights of the SC Sub-Categorisation in Telangana**

**Legislative and Legal Framework**

- The Telangana Assembly passed the Act on March 18, 2025.
- The Act received Governor’s assent on April 8, 2025.
- The GO was issued on April 14, Ambedkar Jayanti.
- Based on the Supreme Court’s judgment on August 1, 2024, which permitted SC sub-categorisation.
- Justice Shamim Akhtar led the one-man commission appointed in October 2024.

**Structure of SC Sub-Categorisation**

- **Total SC Reservation:** 15% (based on 2011 Census).
- SCs divided into 3 Groups based on social and educational backwardness.

**Group No. of Communities**

**Group 1**

- **Communities:** 15 (most disadvantaged)
- **Population Share:** 3.288% (~1.71 lakh)
- **Reservation Allocation:** 1%

**Group 2**

- **Communities:** 18 (moderately backward)
- **Population Share:** 62.74% (~34 lakh)
- **Reservation Allocation:** 9%

**Group 3**

- **Communities:** 26 (relatively better-off)
- **Population Share:** 33.963% (~17 lakh)
- **Reservation Allocation:** 5%

**Key Basis for Categorisation**

- Population size, literacy rates, employment, education access, financial assistance, and political participation.
- The Shamim Akhtar Commission received over 8,600 representations from communities.
- Final report submitted after extended consultation period.

**Major Statements and Justifications**

Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha

- Said it’s not a final solution, but a tool for upliftment.
- Emphasized the need for education, skill training, industrial support, and financial aid.
- Highlighted the Budiga Janga caste as an example of disproportionate disadvantage.

Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy

- Chaired final meeting on April 13, 2025.
- Rejected the creamy layer within SCs.
- Clarified no existing benefits will be diluted.
- Mentioned Telangana’s SC population now stands at 17.5%, so reservations may be increased after 2026 Census.

**Political and Social Responses**

- **CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Reddy:** Questioned downgrading of Rella community to Group 3.
- **AIMIM MLA Majid Hussain:** Suggested increasing SC reservation to 18% and creating 4 categories instead of 3.
- The government maintained 3 groups as optimal—2 would cause imbalance, 4 would be excessive.

**SC Laid Down 3 Month Deadline For President To Assent Bill Reserved By Governor**

In a **landmark judgment in State of Tamil Nadu vs. Governor of Tamil Nadu (2023)**, the Supreme Court of India addressed a critical void in the legislative process—delays in **Presidential assent to State Bills reserved under Article 201**. For the first time, the Court established a 3-month deadline for the President’s decision, ensuring accountability and protecting the principles of federalism and democratic governance. Additionally, the Court advised that the President ought to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143 in cases where a Bill is reserved for perceived unconstitutionality. This judgment is a significant step toward safeguarding the spirit of cooperative federalism and curbing executive arbitrariness.



**Key Highlights on SC Verdict**

**Constitutional Articles Involved**

- **Article 201:** Deals with President’s powers on State Bills reserved by the Governor.
- **Article 143:** Provides the power to the President to seek advisory opinion of the Supreme Court.

**SC Interpretation of Article 201**

- When a Governor reserves a Bill for the President’s consideration, the **President must act within 3 months**.
- Earlier, no timeline existed, causing legislative paralysis and uncertainty.
- The Court held that indefinite delay is unconstitutional and violates the principle of non-arbitrariness.

**Time-Bound Decision**

- 3-month deadline is now established for the President to assent or withhold assent.
- The decision must be reasoned and communicated to the concerned State Government.

**No “Absolute Veto”**

- The President cannot indefinitely withhold assent—this would amount to an unconstitutional “absolute veto”.
- The withholding must be justified with sound legal reasoning, not political considerations.

**Recourse to Judiciary**

- **States may approach courts if there is prolonged inaction.**
- They can file a writ petition seeking a Mandamus to compel Presidential action.

**Article 143: Seeking SC Opinion**

- If the Governor reserves a Bill citing unconstitutionality, the President ought to consult the SC.
- Though not binding, SC’s advisory opinion holds high persuasive value.
- Prevents enactment of patently unconstitutional laws, saving public resources.

**Difference Between Governor & President**

- If the Governor returns a Bill, and it is re-passed by the State Legislature, he must assent.
- The President is not bound similarly under Article 201.

**Policy vs Constitutionality**

- SC will only advise if the issue is a purely legal/constitutional question.
- It will not intervene if the matter pertains to policy, socio-economic or political questions.

**Supporting References**

- Sarkaria Commission (1988) & Punchhi Commission (2010) recommended,
- Time-bound Presidential decisions.
  - Article 143 consultation in cases of constitutional doubts.
  - MHA Office Memorandums (2016) also prescribed a 3-month timeline.

**Justice BR Gavai Next CJ of India as Successor to Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna**

On April 16, 2025, **Chief Justice of India (CJ) Sanjiv Khanna** named **Justice B R Gavai, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, as his successor**. This announcement was made through a letter to the Union Law Ministry, and after government approval, Justice Gavai is set to become the 52nd CJ of India. Justice Gavai, who was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2019, will take office as CJ after the retirement of CJ Khanna on May 13, 2025. Justice Gavai’s legal journey spans decades, with significant contributions to Indian jurisprudence, particularly in constitutional and administrative law.

**Career Overview of Justice B R Gavai**

**Background and Early Career**

- Born in Amravati, Maharashtra, Justice Gavai began his legal career by joining the Bar in 1985.
- Initially, he worked under Raja S Bhonsale, a former Advocate General and Judge of the Bombay High Court, until 1987.
- He practiced primarily before the Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court, focusing on constitutional and administrative law.

**Government Roles**

- Appointed as Assistant Government Pleader and Additional Public Prosecutor for the Nagpur Bench in 1992-93.
- Later promoted to Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor from 2000 onwards.

**Judicial Career**

- Elevated to Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2003.
- Became a permanent judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2005.
- Appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court in May 2019.

**Key Judicial Contributions of Justice BR Gavai**

- Justice Gavai has been involved in several landmark rulings, which have had significant implications on India’s legal and constitutional landscape. Some of his notable contributions include,

**Demonetization Verdict (January 2023)**

- Justice Gavai was part of the majority verdict that upheld the Government of India’s decision to demonetize Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes in 2016.
- Sub-Categorization of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (August 2024):
- In the landmark case concerning the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Justice Gavai advocated for applying the “creamy layer” principle to these communities. This would ensure that only those truly in need benefit from affirmative action.

Abrogation of Article 370 (2019)

- As part of a five-judge bench, Justice Gavai upheld the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Critique of Bulldozer Demolitions (November 2024)

- In a two-judge bench, Justice Gavai criticized the use of bulldozers to demolish properties of crime suspects, asserting that such demolitions without due process violated the rule of law.

**Bhagavad Gita & Natyashastra Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**

India has added another feather to its civilisational cap with the inclusion of the **Bhagavad Gita manuscripts** and **Bharat Muni's Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**. This move globally acknowledges India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage. The Prime Minister and Union Culture Minister have celebrated this moment as a significant milestone. With these additions, India now has 14 documentary heritages inscribed on the prestigious list.

**Key Highlights**

**What is the Memory of the World Register?**

- Established in 1992, **UNESCO's Memory of the World (MoW) Programme** aims to preserve and provide access to documentary heritage of global significance. It safeguards manuscripts, archives, oral traditions, audio-visual content, and library collections.

**India's Inclusion in 2025**

- On April 17, 2025, Bhagavad Gita manuscripts and Natyashastra by Bharat Muni were added to the register.
- India's total entries in the list now stand at 14.

**Bhagavad Gita's Significance**

- A core spiritual text of Hinduism, part of the Mahabharata's Bhishma Parva.
- Considered a universal guide to philosophy, dharma (duty), and spirituality.
- Translated into nearly 80 languages globally.

**Natyashastra's Significance**

- An ancient treatise on dramaturgy, theatre, and performance arts, attributed to Bharat Muni.
- Covers various aspects like acting, stage design, music, dance, and aesthetics (rasa theory).
- A foundational text for classical Indian dance and drama traditions.

**Official Reactions**

- PM Narendra Modi hailed the announcement as a "proud moment for every Indian" and acknowledged the Gita and Natyashastra for nurturing civilisation and consciousness.
- Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat called it a "historic moment" for Bharat's civilisational heritage.

**Global Perspective**

- A total of **74 new collections** were added in 2025, bringing the global total to **570**.
- 14 of the new entries are related to scientific documentary heritage, including contributions by women and multilateral institutions.

**UNESCO's Statement**

- UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay** emphasized that documentary heritage is fragile but essential to human memory.
- The register supports preservation efforts, knowledge sharing, and serves as a global archive.

**UNESCO's Broader Programme**

- UNESCO supports the creation of regional and national registers.
- Over 100 countries now have Memory of the World committees.
- The programme promotes the universal access to heritage documents.

**National Affairs**

- The **Ministry of Ayush** organized a special session of the **Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme** on **April 16, 2025**, at **Ayush Bhawan, New Delhi**, under the **Mission Karmayogi** framework in collaboration with the **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**. The programme aimed to enhance **service orientation, professional capacity, and public service efficiency** among ministry personnel. The **first phase**, inaugurated by **Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha**, focused on creating a **responsive workforce**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has introduced a **Blue Category** for industries providing **Essential Environmental Services (EES)**, such as **waste-to-energy plants, biomining, and compressed biogas (CBG) plants**. These industries will receive **extended consent validity** (an additional 2 years, totaling 7 years) to incentivize their role in managing **pollution** and promoting **sustainable practices**. The **Pollution Index (PI)** categorizes industries into **Red, Orange, Green**, and now **Blue**, with **waste-to-energy plants and agro-residue-based CBG plants** moved to the Blue Category due to their environmental benefits. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark judgment on April 15, 2025**, the **Supreme Court of India**, led by **Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan**, issued strong directives on **child trafficking**, urging **parental vigilance** and warning of **organized trafficking gangs** exploiting children for **sexual exploitation, forced labour, illegal adoptions, and child marriage** using **technology** for coordination. The court held **hospitals accountable** for newborn safety, exposed **loopholes in the Juvenile Justice Act**, **cancelled bail** of 13 accused, and ordered **trial completion within six months**, with **strict warnings to state authorities and High Courts** for any **non-compliance**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India is set to become the **world's fastest-growing large aviation market** by 2026, surpassing **China** in growth rate, with a projected **10.5% passenger traffic growth** compared to China's 8.9%. Key drivers include **low trips per capita**, a **rising middle class**, enhanced **aviation infrastructure**, expanding **airline networks**, and supportive policies like **UDAN** and **Gati Shakti**. India's **CAGR (2023–2027)** is projected at **9.5%**, higher than China's **8.8%**, positioning India as the **third-largest aviation market** globally by the next three decades. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated India's first **Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)** at the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)**, **New Delhi**, on **April 17, 2025**, marking a major stride in anti-doping efforts. As the **17th APMU globally**, it will manage **Athlete Biological Passports (ABP)** by tracking **biological markers over time** to detect **doping patterns** without identifying banned substances directly. This initiative aligns India with **global anti-doping standards** and strengthens its role as a **leader in ethical sports**, especially within the **Global South**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **landmark study** in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* highlights the success of **Surat's cap-and-trade programme** for **particulate matter (PM) emissions**—the **world's first ETS for PM** and India's first **pollution trading system**. Launched in **September 2019** by the **GPCB** and the **University of Chicago's Energy Policy Institute**, the scheme used **CEMS**, **emission permits**, and **auctions** to regulate 318 industrial plants. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour**, led by **BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai**, has urged the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** to complete the **first-ever third-party evaluation** of the **Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS)**—administered by **EPFO**—by **end of 2025**. Launched in **November 1995**, the scheme has never been independently assessed. The panel also stressed the urgent need to **revise the minimum pension** of **₹1,000**, citing the **rising cost of living** and long-overdue policy updates. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has notified rules for the use of **radar equipment** to measure vehicle speed under the **Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011**, effective from **July 1, 2025**. The rules mandate that all radar equipment must be **verified** and **calibrated** by Legal Metrology authorities to ensure accuracy, compliance with international standards (OIML R 91), and prevent tampering. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** and **NHAI** have clarified that **no satellite-based tolling** will be launched from **May 1, 2025**. Instead, a **pilot project** of a **Barrier-Less Tolling System** using **ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition)** and **FASTag (RFID)** is being introduced at **selected toll plazas**. This system aims for **seamless toll collection** without stopping, with **E-notices** and **penalties**

for non-compliance. A **nationwide rollout** will depend on pilot outcomes. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **Vizhinjam International Seaport** on **May 2, 2025**, near **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. It is India's **first semi-automated deep-water international container transshipment port**, developed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** between the **Kerala Government** and **Adani Ports**, with an investment of over **₹18,000 crore**. Strategically located near **global shipping routes**, the port boosts India's trade, supports the **Make in India** initiative, and enhances Kerala's role as a **maritime hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 20, 2025**, two male cheetahs (likely **Prabhas** and **Pavak**) from **Kuno National Park (KNP)** will be relocated to **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS)** in **Madhya Pradesh**, marking a major step in India's **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**. This expansion aims to establish GSWS as a **second home** for cheetahs, with **64 sq.km enclosures** and a boosted **prey base**. While plans to bring 6–8 cheetahs from **South Africa** are delayed, **4 cheetahs from Botswana** are expected in May. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Saudi Arabia** on **April 22–23, 2025**, marking his first visit during his **third term**. The trip aims to deepen ties in **trade, energy, defence**, and the **India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC)**. Modi will meet **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman** in **Jeddah**, with discussions expected on **regional stability, Houthi disruptions**, and **IMEEC revival** as a counter to China's **BRI**. In FY 2023–24, **bilateral trade** stood at **USD 42.98 billion**, with India importing **14.3% of crude oil** and **18.2% of LPG** from Saudi Arabia. **Defence cooperation** is growing, including naval exercises like '**Al Mohed Al Hindi**'. ([Click here to read article](#))

### States in the News

- **West Bengal** is set to host a major **religious and cultural event** with the **inauguration of the Jagannath Dham Temple** in **Digha** on **April 30, 2025**, by **Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee**. The high-profile ceremony will see attendance from around **12,000–14,000 people**, including **VIP guests** like **chief ministers, political leaders, celebrities, and industrialists**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Cheetah Project Steering Committee** under the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has approved relocating cheetahs from **Kuno National Park** to **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh**, about **300 km apart**, as part of a long-term plan to establish a **meta-population** of **60–70 cheetahs** across a connected landscape. This move, under **Project Cheetah** (launched in 2022 with cheetahs from **Namibia** and **South Africa**), addresses concerns over **space, prey availability**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Tamil Nadu **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** announced the formation of a **high-level committee** on **April 15, 2025**, to review **Centre-State relations** and propose measures to enhance **State autonomy**. The committee, chaired by **Justice Kurian Joseph** (Retired Supreme Court Judge), includes **K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty** and **M. Naganathan**. It will review constitutional provisions, laws, and policies, recommend restoring subjects from the **State List to Concurrent List**, and suggest reforms to improve **States' administrative capacity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **GP-DRASTI** (Drone Response and Aerial Surveillance Tactical Interventions) program by **Gujarat Police** introduces **quadcopters** for **real-time surveillance**, **quick crime response**, and **evidence gathering** across **33 police stations** in **Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Surat, and Vadodara**. Equipped with **HD cameras, night vision, and 1 km zoom**, drones can **track targets**, provide **live footage**, and assist in **facial recognition** during criminal events. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** on **April 15, 2025**, approved a draft **ordinance for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, enabling "**reservation within reservation**" to ensure **equitable distribution** of benefits based on **degree of backwardness**. Based on the **Rajeev Ranjan Mishra Commission** report, 59 SC sub-castes are divided into **three groups—Group 1 (Most Backward – 1.0%), Group 2 (Backward – 6.5%), and Group 3 (Less Backward – 7.5%)**. Backed by the **Supreme Court verdict**, this move promotes **inclusive development** and better **representation in education, jobs, and governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### International Affairs

- India and Italy have strengthened their **Strategic Partnership** by advancing cooperation in **trade, defence, clean energy, and connectivity**, notably through the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC)** and the **Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025–29**. During Italian Deputy PM **Antonio Tajani's visit**, both sides focused on boosting **high-tech collaboration, space and digital innovation**, and promoting a **free Indo-Pacific**. Key outcomes include **tech transfer, youth mobility**, and Italy's appointment of a **special envoy for IMEEC**, reaffirming deepening ties since their **Strategic Partnership declaration in 2023**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **April 2025**, the **Trump administration** froze **\$2.3 billion in federal funding to Harvard University** after it rejected a list of controversial demands including dismantling **DEI programs**, enforcing **merit-based policies**, and restricting **student activism**. This unprecedented move has triggered a national debate over **academic freedom, executive overreach, and constitutional rights** of private institutions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Amid escalating **US-China trade tensions**, **China** has instructed its major airlines to **halt the purchase and delivery of Boeing aircraft** following **President Trump's 145% tariff** on Chinese goods. The move affects **179 aircraft orders** from **Air China, China Eastern, and China Southern**, and suspends the import of **US aircraft parts**, hitting **Boeing** hard. Meanwhile, **Airbus** and China's **COMAC** emerge as key **beneficiaries**, gaining ground in the Asian aviation market. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In Ecuador's **2025 presidential run-off**, **right-wing incumbent Daniel Noboa** secured a **full 4-year term** with **55.8%** of the vote, defeating **left-wing rival Luisa Gonzalez** (44.2%). Amid rampant **drug cartel violence** and a **28% poverty rate**, Noboa's tough-on-crime "**mano dura**" strategy, military deployments, and **U.S. anti-narcotics cooperation** resonated with voters. Gonzalez alleged **electoral fraud** and demanded a recount, though the **National Electoral Council** confirmed Noboa's clear win. His presidency focuses on **security, economic revival, and restoring public trust**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **2024**, **Tanzania** recorded its hottest year since **1970**, with an average national temperature of **24.3°C**, 0.7°C above normal, surpassing the previous record set in **2023**. The year saw a significant rise in **nighttime temperatures**, with the **minimum temperature** averaging **19.3°C**, 1.1°C above the long-term average. In contrast, the **maximum temperature** averaged **28.8°C**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has finalized a **Pandemic Treaty** proposal, set to be presented at the **78th World Health Assembly** on **May 19, 2025**. The agreement, drafted by the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)**, aims to strengthen **pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR)** through a **binding international instrument** under the WHO Constitution. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **General Brice Oligui Nguema** won Gabon's **2025 presidential election** with over **90% of the vote**, following a **military coup** in 2023 that ended the **Bongo family's 40-year rule**. Nguema, previously head of the **Republican Guard**, ran under a new **electoral code** allowing military officers to contest elections. Despite his promise to relinquish power after the coup, he secured the presidency in a **largely peaceful election**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has been elected as **Chair of INTERPOL's Committee on Governance**, with **Lt. Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi** securing **67% of member state votes** during the election held at **INTERPOL HQ, Lyon** on **April 11, 2025**. This marks the **UAE's first leadership role** on this key platform, enhancing its **global influence in policing and law enforcement diplomacy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a landmark move, **India signed an agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to host its headquarters and secretariat, reaffirming its leadership in global wildlife conservation. Launched by **PM Modi in April 2023** during the **50th anniversary of Project Tiger**, the IBCA focuses on the protection of **seven major big cats—tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma**. Now a **treaty-based intergovernmental body** (from 2024), with **India, Liberia, Eswatini, Somalia, and Nicaragua** ratifying it, the alliance will receive **₹150 crore support (2023–2029)** from India for infrastructure and operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **China has imposed export restrictions on seven key Rare Earth Elements (REEs)—Samarium (Sm), Gadolinium (Gd), Terbium (Tb), Dysprosium (Dy), Lutetium (Lu), Scandium (Sc), and Yttrium (Y)—citing national security and non-proliferation concerns**, escalating global trade tensions following new **U.S. tariffs**. As a global leader in **REE mining and refining**, China's move threatens supply chains for industries reliant on REEs' **magnetic and optical properties**, such as **electronics, clean energy, defense, and EV manufacturing**, urging nations to **diversify sourcing** and reduce **dependence on Chinese exports**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic move**, **New York City Mayor Eric Adams** proclaimed **April 14, 2025, as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day**, honoring the **135th birth anniversary of the architect of the Indian Constitution**. The announcement, made at the **United Nations Headquarters**, featured a keynote by **Union Minister Ramdas Athawale**, who highlighted Ambedkar's contributions to **social justice, human rights, and the 2030 SDGs**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Ministry of Labour & Employment** signed an **MoU with Swiggy** to enhance **gig and logistics** employment opportunities through the **National Career Service (NCS)** portal. This partnership aims to create **12 lakh job opportunities** over the next **2–3 years** by integrating **real-time job postings** and fostering **inclusive hiring** for youth, **women**, and individuals seeking **flexible work**. Swiggy will post **gig jobs, delivery roles, and support roles**, contributing to **digital empowerment** and **worker welfare schemes**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)**, in collaboration with **IIT Bombay**, is launching a **pilot project** to integrate **Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology**, which enables **EV batteries** to both draw and supply electricity to the **power grid**. This initiative aims to support **renewable energy integration**, enhance **grid stability**, and promote **clean energy** by using EVs as **decentralized energy storage**. The project involves **financial incentives**, such as **premium tariffs** for EV owners feeding energy during peak hours. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

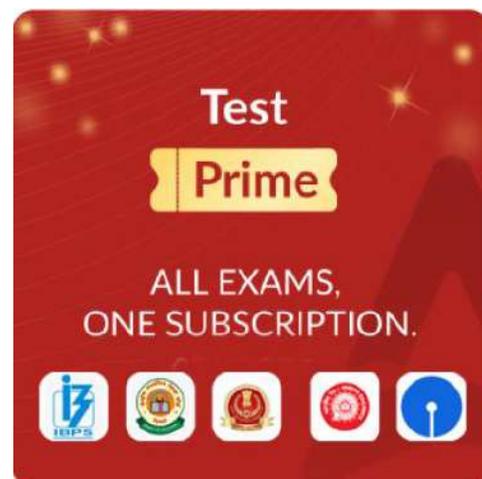
- **Milkfed Punjab** has launched a new mascot '**Veera**'—a smiling **Sikh boy with folded hands**—for its flagship dairy brand **Verka**, aiming to boost national recognition similar to the **Amul Girl**. The launch, symbolizing **Punjabi warmth and hospitality**, coincided with a **₹135 crore dairy expansion project** in **Amritsar**, enhancing Verka's production of **flavored milk and fermented dairy products**. As the **7th largest milk cooperative** in India, Milkfed also announced **e-commerce integration** to expand Verka's **global market reach**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI)** eased to **2.05% in March 2025**, down from **2.38% in February**, mainly due to a steep **15.88% deflation in vegetable prices**, leading to a drop in **food inflation to 1.57%**. However, **manufactured product inflation** rose to **3.07%**, indicating a **mixed inflation trend**, with **food prices softening** while **fuel, power, and manufactured goods** witnessed **price increases**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- SEBI has **barred Gensol Engineering Ltd (GEL)** and its promoters **Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi** from the **securities market** due to serious allegations of **fund diversion, share price manipulation, and forged documents**. The investigation, initiated after a **June 2024 complaint**, revealed **weak internal controls**, misuse of company funds, and violations of **PFUTP regulations**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DPIIT** released the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** data for **March 2025**, showing a **2.05% annual inflation**, a slight decline from **2.38%** in February. The **WPI index** for all commodities stood at **154.5**, driven by price increases in the **manufacture of food products, textiles, and electricity**. The inflation for **primary articles** dropped sharply to **0.76%**, while **manufactured products** saw a higher inflation of **3.07%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **banking sector** is projected to see **credit growth of 12-13% in FY26**, driven by **supportive regulatory measures, tax cuts, and softer interest rates**, slightly higher than the **11-11.5% growth in FY25**. Key **regulatory changes**, such as the **rollback of risk weights for loans to NBFCs** and the **deferral of Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms**, are expected to **boost lending to NBFCs** and enhance overall credit growth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Morgan Stanley** has **lowered India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.1%** (from 6.5%) and slashed its **Sensex year-end target to 82,000** (from 93,000), citing global uncertainty triggered by **US President Donald Trump's new tariffs**. Announced on **April 2, 2025**—dubbed "**Liberation Day**"—these **protectionist tariffs** impacted 70 nations, including a **26% tariff on India**, stoking fears of a **global slowdown**. Other brokerages like **UBS, Goldman Sachs, and Citi** also trimmed India's growth outlook. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In **March 2025**, India's **exports** grew marginally by **0.7%** to **\$41.97 billion**, while **imports** surged by **11.3%** to **\$63.51 billion**, widening the **trade deficit** to **\$21.54 billion**. For the **fiscal year 2024–25**, **merchandise exports** saw a slight **0.08% increase** to **\$437.42 billion**, while **imports** rose by **6.62%** to **\$720.24 billion**. Overall **exports** (goods + services) grew by **5.5%** to **\$820.93 billion**, indicating resilience in **service exports**, despite a growing **trade deficit** driven by rising import demand. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **foreign trade** for **FY2024–25** showed contrasting trends with key global partners. **Exports to the United States** rose by **11.59%** to **\$86.5 billion**, leading to a **trade surplus** of **\$41.2 billion**. Meanwhile, **exports to China** fell by **14.49%** to **\$14.25 billion**, while **imports from China** grew by **11.52%** to **\$113.45 billion**, deepening the **trade deficit** with China to **\$99.2 billion**. Key import drivers from China included **electronics, EV batteries, solar cells, and industrial inputs**, with **PLI schemes** boosting demand for imported components. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is projected to remain the **fastest-growing major economy** in **2025** with a **6.5% GDP growth**, according to **UNCTAD's Trade and Development Foresights 2025** report, driven by **robust public spending** and **supportive RBI monetary policies**. While the **global economy** faces a potential **recession** amid **geopolitical tensions, sluggish trade, and tight financial conditions**, **China** is expected to grow at **4.4%**, and the **US** and **EU** at **1%**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **pharmaceutical exports** hit a historic high of **\$30.47 billion** in **FY25**, surpassing the target of **\$29.38 billion**, driven by a **31.21% YoY surge** in **March 2025**. Key contributors included **drug formulations and biologicals** (**\$20.12 billion**) and robust demand from the **United States** (**\$8.95 billion**, up **14.29%**), with **NAFTA** accounting for **36.6%** of exports. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Finance Ministry** has **dismissed false reports** about imposing **GST on UPI transactions above ₹2,000**, clarifying that **no such proposal exists**. Since **MDR (Merchant Discount Rate)** on **person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions** was **abolished in January 2020**, **GST is not applicable**. Backed by exponential **UPI growth** (**₹260.56 lakh crore** in **FY25** vs **₹21.3 lakh crore** in **FY20**), the government continues to **promote digital payments**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **engineering, textile, and apparel exports** recorded **over 6% growth** in **FY25**, driven by a **6.74% rise** in **engineering goods** (**\$116.67B**) and a **6.32% boost** in **textiles**, with **apparel exports surging 10.03%**. This growth, amid **U.S.–China trade tensions**, presents **strategic opportunities** for India as a **trusted alternative supplier**, though risks from **U.S. tariffs** and **Chinese competition** persist. Exporters emphasize the need for **policy support** and **diversification** to sustain momentum. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **SBI Card** has partnered with **Tata Digital** to launch the **Tata Neu SBI Card**, available in two variants: **Tata Neu Plus** and **Tata Neu Infinity**. Both cards offer **rewards** (NeuCoins), with up to **10%** on purchases from **Tata Neu** and partner brands, redeemable for **groceries, fashion, and travel**. Benefits include **lounge access, spend-based annual fee reversal, and cashback** on bill payments. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has **reintroduced its 'Amrit Vrishti' FD Scheme** from **April 15, 2025**, with **revised interest rates** targeting mainly **senior (7.55%)** and **super-senior citizens (7.65%)**, while the **general public** will earn **7.05%** on a **unique 444-day tenure**. Originally launched in **July 2024** and closed in **March 2025**, the scheme returns with no fixed deadline, aiming to ensure **secure, high-return investment options** for the elderly under SBI's **senior citizen-focused financial products**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu**, **Olympic silver medallist** and **Commonwealth Games champion**, was appointed as **Chairperson of the IWLF Athletes Commission** by the **Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)**. Hailing from **Manipur**, Chanu aims to **amplify athletes' voices**, ensure their **well-being**, and bridge gaps between players and administrators. Her appointment marks a pivotal step in promoting **athlete-led governance, gender representation, and empowering Indian sports with experienced leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IndusInd Bank**, India's **5th-largest private lender**, has appointed **Santosh Kumar** as **Deputy CFO** effective **April 18, 2025**, following the exit of **Arun Khurana** as acting CFO. This leadership change comes amid **regulatory scrutiny**, driven by rising **bad loans in the microfinance sector** and **accounting discrepancies in derivative transactions**. The appointment of a **full-time CFO** is still pending. ([Click here to read article](#))



### Defence News

- The **Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0'** was held on **April 15, 2025**, at the **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**, organized by **CENJOWS** and **HQ IDS**, with the theme '**Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms**'. The event focused on **defence technology**, including **AI, cyber technologies, quantum computing, drones, space tech, and semiconductors**. It emphasized **Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance)** in **defence manufacturing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** hosted the **3rd edition of Meghayan-25** on **April 14, 2025**, at **Nausena Bhawan, New Delhi**, to celebrate **World Meteorological Day 2025** under the theme "**Closing the Early Warning Gap Together.**" The symposium aimed to enhance awareness and collaboration in **Marine Meteorology and Oceanology**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **6th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK (DUSTLIK-VI)** between **India and Uzbekistan** commenced on **April 16, 2025**, at the **Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune**, and will run until **April 28, 2025**. The exercise focuses on enhancing **bilateral military cooperation, tactical interoperability, and coordination** between the armed forces of both nations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Under **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, India is setting ambitious goals for **defence production**, targeting **₹1.60 lakh crore** in 2025 and **₹3 lakh crore** by 2029, with a focus on **Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India)**. The country aims to increase **defence exports** to **₹30,000 crore** in 2025 and **₹50,000 crore** by 2029, reducing dependency on imports, fostering **indigenous innovation**, and enhancing global **supply chain resilience**. This strategic vision seeks to establish India as a self-reliant leader in **defence manufacturing**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During **President Droupadi Murmu's April 2025 visit to Slovakia**, **India and Slovakia** signed their **first-ever defence MoU**, marking a major step in boosting **India's indigenous defence manufacturing**. The deal involves **JCBL Group's defence arm, ADSL**, collaborating with Slovakia to **co-develop advanced technologies for light tanks**, including **turrets, protection systems, and remote weapon systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Bollywood icon **Aamir Khan** made headlines at the **Macau International Comedy Festival 2025** in **China**, where he was honored with the '**Master Humor Award**' from April 9-13, 2025. Known as '**Uncle Mi**' in China, Aamir has enjoyed immense popularity, with his films like **3 Idiots (2009), PK (2014), and Dangal (2016)** earning huge success in the country, particularly the latter, which grossed over **₹1000 crore (~\$193M)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **April 13, 2025**, renowned writer, **retired IAS officer**, and **social activist P. Sivakami** received the **Verchol Dalit Literary Award** from **Neelam Cultural Centre**, founded by **Pa. Ranjith**, in **Chennai**, along with a **₹1 lakh prize**. In her speech, Sivakami emphasized **Dalit identity**, the **resistance and power of Dalit literature**, its role in **challenging dominant narratives**, and the importance of **writing in English** for broader impact, while celebrating the rise of **Dalit voices in literature**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy**, Chairman of **AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad**, was honored with the prestigious '**Legends of Endoscopy**' award by the **Japanese gastroenterology community** at the **Tokyo Live Global Endoscopy 2025** event held at **SHOWA Medical University, Tokyo**. Recognized for his **pioneering contributions in Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Meghalaya** was recognized by the **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** as the **best-performing state** in two categories: **mandatory biometric updates of children and verification of adult Aadhaar enrolment**. The awards were presented in **New Delhi**, with **Shai Kupar War**, Aadhaar nodal officer from the **General Administration Department**, receiving the honors on behalf of the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **6th National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2023**, organized by the **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** on **April 15, 2025** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, celebrated excellence in **highway development, maintenance, and innovation**. Key winners included **H.G. Infra Engineering (PPP), Bhartia Infra Projects (EPC), and Ashoka Buildcon (Green Highways Gold)**. **Best Engineer Awards** went to **Navratan, Devender Kumar, and Subhash Chandra**, while **ULCCS** earned **Special Recognition** for quality and transparency. **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** emphasized global benchmarks, aligning with the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision. The event also honored winners of the "**पथ चिंतन Hackathon**" for innovative ideas. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **MacGregor Memorial Medal** was awarded to five distinguished military personnel for **2023 and 2024** in recognition of their exceptional contributions to **military reconnaissance, exploration, and adventure**. The awards, conferred by **Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan** at a ceremony hosted by the **United Service Institution of India (USI)**, honored **Wing Commander D. Panda** and **Electrical Artificer Rahul Kumar Pandey** for 2023, and **Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer Ram Ratan Jat, Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, and Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal (Director, NIMAS)** for 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- WHO and International Diabetes Federation (IDF) co-hosted a **hybrid side event** at the **IDF World Diabetes Congress** in Bangkok, themed “**Bridging gaps: Integrated strategies to address TB and diabetes**”. The event addressed the **dual burden** of TB (**10.8M cases, 1.25M deaths in 2023**) and **diabetes (828M adults in 2024)**, highlighting their **15% co-morbidity rate**. WHO launched new **guidance for integrated, people-centered care**, focusing on **early diagnosis, bidirectional screening, and primary health care strengthening** to support **UHC, SDG 3, and the End TB & Global Diabetes Compact** goals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **two-day conclave** titled ‘**Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of Northeast India**’ will be held in **Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, from April 21-22, 2025**, organized by the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** and the **Ministry of Culture**. The event will explore **Buddhism's influence** on the region’s **art, culture, and history**, with a special focus on **Theravāda Buddhism** practiced by the **Tai Khamti tribe**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- **Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** has been ranked the **9th busiest airport in the world in 2024** by **Airports Council International (ACI) World**, handling **77 million passengers**. This marks a steady rise from **17th in 2019 to 10th in 2023**, showcasing India’s growing **aviation footprint, world-class infrastructure, and expanding international connectivity**. IGI remains the **only Indian airport** in the global top 10. Operated by **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** under the **GMR Group**, IGI joins a list topped by **Atlanta and Dubai** amidst **9.5 billion global passengers** in 2024. ([Click here to read article](#))
- NITI Aayog’s report titled ‘**Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential - India’s Hand & Power Tools Sector**’ explores how India can tap into the global **hand and power tools** market, currently valued at **\$100 billion** and expected to grow to **\$190 billion by 2035**. India’s export potential is significant, with targets to reach **\$25 billion in exports** and generate **35 lakh jobs** over the next decade. However, India faces **cost disadvantages** due to higher raw material and logistics costs. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Sports News

- In a **landmark move for inclusivity and athlete rights**, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has formed a **dedicated task force** to support **displaced Afghan women cricketers**, in collaboration with **BCCI, ECB, and Cricket Australia (CA)**. The initiative includes the creation of a **monetary support fund**, a **high-performance programme** offering **advanced coaching, training facilities, and mentorship**. ICC Chair Jay

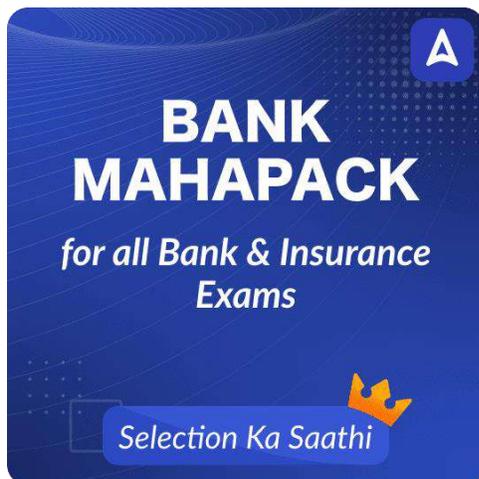
**Shah** stressed the role of cricket as a **unifying force** and reaffirmed the ICC’s commitment to **global unity and equal opportunities** in cricket. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India’s recurve men’s archery team—Dhiraj Bommadevara, Atanu Das, and Tarundeep Rai—clinched a silver medal** at the **Archery World Cup 2025, Stage 1** in **Auburndale, Florida**, after a **1-5 loss to China** in the final. Despite being the **world number two team**, India fell short against the **third-seeded Chinese trio—Li Zhongyuan, Kao Wenchao, and Wang Yan**. India had earlier defeated **Spain** in the semi-finals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Virat Kohli** achieved a historic milestone in **IPL 2025**, scoring his **100th T20 half-century** with a match-winning **unbeaten 62 off 45 balls** against **Rajasthan Royals** in **Match 28** at **Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur**. This also marked his **66th 50+ score in the IPL**, tying with **David Warner** for the most in league history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Oscar Piastri** of **McLaren** triumphed at the **2025 Bahrain Grand Prix**, securing his **second win of the season** by a dominant **15.499 seconds**. Starting from pole, Piastri’s performance marked **McLaren’s first-ever victory** at the **Bahrain Circuit** and his **50th Formula One race**. He now sits **second in the championship**, just 3 points behind teammate **Lando Norris**, who finished third on the podium. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India made a **strong start** to the **2025 ISSF World Cup**, finishing **2nd overall with 8 medals (4 Gold, 2 Silver, 2 Bronze)** across **rifle, pistol, and shotgun** events. The standout performers included **Sift Kaur Samra, Rudranksh Patil, Suruchi, and Vijayveer Sidhu**, each clinching gold. Held ahead of the **Paris Olympics**, the event highlighted India’s **growing shooting prowess** and blend of **youth and experience**, with **China** topping the medal table. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Carlos Alcaraz** clinched the **Rolex Monte Carlo Masters 2025** title with a stunning **comeback victory** over **Lorenzo Musetti**, winning **3-6, 6-1, 6-0** in a **1-hour 54-minute** final. Despite losing the first set, Alcaraz capitalized on **Musetti’s leg injury** in the deciding set to dominate and secure his **6th ATP Masters 1000 and 18th career title**. The **reigning French Open champion** now rises to **World No. 2**, further cementing his status among tennis’s elite ahead of his **22nd birthday**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2025** will be held for the **first time in Bihar** from **May 4 to May 15**, with **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurating the event in **Patna**. The **launch ceremony on April 14** at **Samvad Hall** featured the unveiling of the **logo, mascot, and theme song** by **CM Nitish Kumar** and **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**. The mascot **Gajsingh**, inspired by **Pala-period temples**, and design elements like the **Mahabodhi Temple, Nalanda University, Peepal Tree, Gangetic Dolphin, and Madhubani art**, highlight Bihar’s **rich heritage, cultural vibrancy, and environmental awareness**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Mohun Bagan Super Giant** made history by winning the **2024-25 Indian Super League (ISL)** title with a **2-1 victory** over **Bengaluru FC** at the **Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan** in **Kolkata**. This win marked a significant achievement as it was the first time an ISL final was won at home, and **Mohun Bagan** became the first team to secure both the **ISL title** and the **ISL League Shield** in the same season. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shreyas Iyer** has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2025** for his outstanding role in **India's Champions Trophy 2025 victory**, scoring **243 runs** in 3 matches with an average of **57.33** and a **strike rate of 77.47**. He edged out **Jacob Duffy** and **Rachin Ravindra** of New Zealand, delivering key performances including **79 vs NZ**, **45 vs AUS**, and **48 in the final vs NZ**. This marks a **back-to-back win for Indian players**, following **Shubman Gill's February 2025 win**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Saurabh Chaudhary**, a **22-year-old shooter from Uttar Pradesh**, made a stunning **comeback** by winning the **bronze medal** in the **10m Air Pistol** event at the **ISSF World Cup 2025** in **Lima, Peru**. Competing after a **2+ year break**, he showed great **resilience** in a closely contested final, outperforming top shooters like **Yu Xie** and **Christian Reitz**. With a final score of **219.1**, he marked his **first World Cup medal in over two years**, signaling a strong return to international form. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- On **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary** (April 14, 2025), **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** announced that the upcoming **'Zero Poverty' Mission** will be named after **Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar**, aiming to uplift every deprived citizen above the poverty line. Launched at the **Ambedkar Mahasabha campus, Lucknow**, the mission focuses on a **saturation approach** to deliver all government benefits to marginalized communities like **Musahar, Vantangia, Tharu, Sahariya, Gond, and Kol**. ([Click here to read article](#))



### Science and Technology News

- In a major boost to India's biodiversity documentation, scientists have discovered **six new species of scarab beetles** (Subfamily: **Sericinae**) in **Northeast India** and the **Western Ghats**, as published in *Zootaxa*. Species like **Maladera champhaiensis** (Mizoram), **Maladera onam** (Kerala), and **Serica subansiriensis** (Arunachal Pradesh) reflect the rich endemism of the **Eastern Himalayas** and **Western Ghats**, both key **biodiversity hotspots**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 14, 2025**, coinciding with **World Quantum Day** and the **International Year of Quantum Science and Technology (IQST 2025)**, the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** released India's first **International Technology Engagement Strategy for Quantum (ITES-Q)**. Launched by **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood**, the strategy aligns with the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** and marks India's first **outward-facing roadmap** in **Quantum Science, Technology & Innovation (QSTI)**, aiming to **accelerate innovation, enhance strategic autonomy, and promote global partnerships and standards** in quantum technology. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Blue Origin's New Shepard** rocket completed a **historic 10-minute suborbital spaceflight** from **Van Horn, Texas**, featuring the **first all-female crew since 1963**. The crew included **Katy Perry, Gayle King, Lauren Sánchez, Aisha Bowe, Amanda Nguyen, and Kerianne Flynn**, symbolizing **diversity, empowerment, and the fusion of science and pop culture**. The mission crossed the **Kármán line (100 km)**, showcased **microgravity activities**, and was witnessed by celebrities like **Oprah Winfrey** and **Mae Jemison**. It marked a milestone in **reusable commercial spaceflight, gender representation, and inclusive exploration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has achieved a **major milestone** in secure communication with the successful testing of the country's **first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** over a **4-core Multi-Core Fibre (MCF)** by **C-DOT and Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL)**. The test sustained QKD transmission over **100 km**, using **one core for quantum signals** and the **other three for high-speed classical data**, showcasing the **cost-effective, interference-free advantages of MCF** for building a **national quantum communication network**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **breakthrough discovery**, scientists from **Cambridge University** using **NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** have detected potential **biosignature molecules—Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) and Dimethyl Disulphide (DMDS)—**in the atmosphere of **exoplanet K2-18b**, located **124 light-years** away in the **Leo constellation**. These molecules, produced by **marine phytoplankton and bacteria** on Earth, suggest possible **extraterrestrial life**, marking a significant advancement in **astrobiology**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)** mission, a landmark **Earth observation collaboration** between **ISRO and NASA**, is now expected to **launch in June 2025** aboard a **GSLV**. Designed to monitor **glacier retreat, vegetation change, earthquakes, and ground deformation** with **1 cm precision**, it will advance climate and disaster models. Originally set for 2024, the launch was delayed due to a **12-metre antenna issue**, which required upgrades in the **US**. NISAR marks the **first major NASA-ISRO Earth science mission**, showcasing joint space innovation. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- **Ambedkar Jayanti**, observed on **April 14**, commemorates **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, the **chief architect of India's Constitution** and a pioneering **social reformer** who championed **equality, social justice, and human rights**, especially for **marginalized communities**. First celebrated in **1928 in Pune** by **Janardan Sadashiv Ranapisay**, it marked Dr. Ambedkar's growing influence even before independence. In **1990**, he was posthumously awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, recognizing his transformative legacy in shaping a **just and inclusive society**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bohag Bihu 2025**, also known as **Rongali Bihu** or **Xaat Bihu**, is a vibrant **seven-day Assamese New Year festival** celebrated from **April 14 to April 20/21**, marking the **arrival of spring** and a **thanksgiving for harvests**. Rich in **agricultural and cultural rituals**, each day honors aspects like **cattle (Garu Bihu)**, **elders (Manuh Bihu)**, **household deities (Guxai Bihu)**, **handloom (Taator Bihu)**, **farming tools (Nangolor Bihu)**, **domestic animals (Gharosia Jibar Bihu)**, and **community unity (Chera Bihu)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Siachen Day**, observed annually on **April 13**, commemorates **Operation Meghdoot (1984)**, when the **Indian Army** preemptively secured the **Siachen Glacier**—the world's highest battlefield—against **Pakistan's intrusion**. Marking its **41st anniversary** in 2025, the day honors the **unmatched bravery** of Indian soldiers who endure extreme conditions to guard strategic passes like **Sia La** and **Bilafond La** at **20,000 feet** in the **Karakoram Range**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Chagas Disease Day 2025** highlights the global impact of **Chagas disease**, a "**silent and silenced**" parasitic illness caused by **Trypanosoma cruzi**, and stresses the need for **equitable healthcare** and **collective responsibility** in its **prevention, control, and care**. Also known as **American trypanosomiasis** and discovered by **Carlos Chagas** in 1909, the disease primarily affects **poor populations in Latin America**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Himachal Day**, celebrated on **April 15** each year, marks the creation of **Himachal Pradesh** as a province in **1948** and commemorates its **78th celebration in 2025**. Known as the

"**Apple State of India**", Himachal showcases rich **cultural heritage**, scenic **Himalayan landscapes**, and **tourism**. Formed by merging **30 princely states**, it gained **full statehood on January 25, 1971**, becoming India's **18th state**. **CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** highlighted tribal development in regions like **Pangi Valley**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Art Day** is observed annually on **April 15** to celebrate the **universal language of art** and honor the **birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci**, symbolizing **creativity, peace, and freedom of expression**. Initiated by the **International Association of Art (IAA)** in **2012**, in collaboration with **UNESCO**, the day promotes **art education, cultural diversity, and emotional well-being**. The **2025 theme, "Art for Unity and Healing,"** emphasizes art's role in fostering **social harmony and mental health**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Heritage Day**, also known as the **International Day for Monuments and Sites**, is observed on **April 18** annually to promote the **preservation of cultural and natural heritage**, organized by **ICOMOS** and recognized by **UNESCO** since **1983**. The **2025 theme, "Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts,"** highlights the need for **preparedness and resilience**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Liver Day**, observed on **April 19**, raises awareness about liver health and disease prevention. The **2025 theme, "Food is Medicine,"** emphasizes the role of **nutrition** in preventing liver disorders. The **liver** performs critical functions like **detoxification, metabolism, and immune regulation**, making its care essential. Poor diet, alcohol abuse, and infections like **hepatitis** can lead to conditions such as **fatty liver, cirrhosis, and liver cancer**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Obituaries News

- **Kumudini Lakhia (1930–2024)**, the **trailblazing Kathak exponent**, revolutionized the classical form by challenging its reliance on **narrative (katha)** and **literary content (sahitya)**, introducing **abstraction, ensemble choreography, and contemporary themes**. Trained under legends like **Pt Sundar Prasad, Pt Shambhu Maharaj, and Pt Birju Maharaj**, she brought a **global perspective** after touring Europe with **Ram Gopal** at 18. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Mario Vargas Llosa**, the celebrated **Peruvian novelist, essayist, and journalist**, passed away on **April 14, 2025**, at **age 89**. A **Nobel Laureate (2010)**, he was known for his incisive works exploring **power structures** and the **individual's struggle** against them. Author of over **30 novels**, including *The Time of the Hero* and *The Green House*, Vargas Llosa's **influential literary style** and **political activism** cemented his legacy as a towering figure in **Spanish-language literature** and global intellectual thought. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Jean Marsh**, renowned **British actress** and **co-creator** of the iconic period drama **Upstairs, Downstairs**, passed away on **April 13, 2025**, at the age of **90** in **London** due to **complications from dementia**. Best known for her **Emmy-winning role** as **Mrs. Rose Buck**, a parlormaid, Marsh's performance left a lasting impact on British television. As both a **talented actress** and **screenwriter**, her legacy is marked by **creativity, resilience**, and a pivotal contribution to classic British drama. ([Click here to read article](#))

**craftsmanship** involved in creating shehnai using **Sheesham** and **Sagwan wood** and **reed from Dumraon**. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- The **Banaras Shehnai** has been conferred with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** in **April 2025**, recognizing its cultural and spiritual significance. Originating from **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, this traditional wind instrument is deeply tied to ceremonies and rituals. The recognition, awarded by **PM Modi**, highlights the **artisan**



**Static Takeaways**

Sr. No	Static Name	Details
<b>Organizations</b>		
1	UNESCO	HQ - Paris, France
2	SEBI	Chairman - Tuhin Kanta Pandey Head Office - Mumbai
3	Swiggy	Founder - Sriharsha Majesty, Nandan Reddy, Rahul Jaimini
4	Blue Origin	CEO - Dave Limp
5	Adani Ltd.	Chairman - Gautam Adani
6	WHO	DG - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
7	Principal Scientific Advisor of India	Ajay Kumar Sood
8	IndusInd Bank	MD - Sumant Kathpalia Head office - Mumbai
<b>Countries</b>		
9	United States of America	President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. Currency - USD
10	China	President - Xi Jinping Capital - Beijing Currency - Yuab
11	Gabon	President - Brice Oligui Ngoma Capital - Libreville Currency - CFA Franc
12	Ecuador	President - Daniel Noboa Capital - Quito Currency - USD
13	Tanzania	President - Samia Suluhu Capital - Dodoma Currency - Tanzanian Shilling Equals
14	UAE	President - Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Capital - Abu Dhabi Currency - UAE Dirhum

Sr. No	Static Name	Details
<b>Indian States</b>		
15	Kerala	<b>Governor</b> - Arlekar <b>CM</b> - Pinarayi Vijayan <b>Capital</b> - Thiruvananthpuram
16	Tamil Nadu	<b>Governor</b> - R. N. Ravi <b>CM</b> - M. K. Stalin <b>Capital</b> - Chennai
17	Meghalaya	<b>Governor</b> - C. Vijayshankar <b>CM</b> - Conrad Snagma <b>Capital</b> - Shillong
18	Arunachal Pradesh	<b>Governor</b> - Kaiwalya Parnaik <b>CM</b> - Pema khandu <b>Capital</b> - Itanagar
19	Telanagana	<b>Governor</b> - Jishnu Dev Verma <b>CM</b> - Revanth Reddy <b>Capital</b> - Hyderabad
20	Gujarat	<b>Governor</b> - Acharya Devvrat <b>CM</b> - Bhupendra Patel <b>Capital</b> - Gandhinagar
21	Madhya Pradesh	<b>Governor</b> - Mangubhai Patel <b>CM</b> - Mohan Yadav <b>Capital</b> - Bhopal
22	West Bengal	<b>Governor</b> - C. V. Ananda Bose <b>CM</b> -Mamta Banerjee <b>Capital</b> - Kolkata

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