

Weekly One Liners 16th to 22nd June, 2025

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

The **Sahitya Akademi**, India's premier literary institution and an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has made a significant announcement regarding children's literature in the country. Under the distinguished chairmanship of **Sri Madhav Kaushik**, the

Executive Board convened in its recent meeting to finalize the recipients of the prestigious **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**.

Complete List of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners

Language-Wise Award Recipients

The following table presents the complete list of **24 distinguished winners** of the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**, organized by language with their respective works and authors:

| Language | Title and Genre | Author |
|------------|--|--|
| Assamese | Mahabharathar Padya (Poetry) | Surendra Mohan Das |
| Bengali | Echhara Gaye Katha Daye (Stories) | Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay |
| Bodo | Khanthi Boronn Ang Abhu Duhui (Stories) | Binay Kumar Brahma |
| Dogri | Nachi Tor (Poetry) | P.L.Parihar "Shaad" |
| English | Dibakar Sinha Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories) | Nitin Kushalappa MP |
| Gujarati | Trivak (Poetry) | Kirtida Brahmabhatt |
| Hindi | Ek Kaley Bara (Short Stories) | Sushil Shukla |
| Kannada | Notebook (Short Stories) | K. Shivaling gappa Harisdhal |
| Kashmiri | Shure Ta Toturu Gyash (Short Stories) | Ishar Mubaashir |
| Konkani | Betekaddo Shankar Aani Haar Karyo (Stories) | Nayima Adankar |
| Maithili | Oudika (Short Stories) | Murari Kanaik |
| Malayalam | Rangamandalache Yaadravadi (Novel) | Sreejith Moolkodaan |
| Manipuri | Anganganginage Shamahungsida (Play) | Shanta M. |
| Marathi | Aathamanga (Poetry) | Sudish Sawant |
| Nepali | Shanti Van (Novel) | Sangmu Lepcha |
| Odia | Kete Phula Phutachi (Poetry) | Rajkishore Parhi |
| Punjabi | Jadoo Patka (Novel) | Pal Khadim, Bhagwant Singh, Daryopal Kailash |
| Rajasthani | Panahravansh Ni Pira (Drama) | Jitendra Sharma |
| Sanskrit | Balviyaam (Poetry) | Preeti Pujara |
| Santali | Sona Mou-ag Sandesh (Poetry) | Hansda Murmu |
| Sindhi | Asman Hari (Poetry) | Heena Agranis "Veer" |
| Tamil | Ottrai Sirago Orva (Novel) | Vishuguram Sarvanain |
| Telugu | Kakurla Devatha (Story) | Ganjarotti Sivakumar |
| Urdu | Quami Sitare (Articles) | Ghazanfar Iqbal |

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 Winners

The **Sahitya Akademi**, India's national academy of letters and an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has made a landmark announcement recognizing the extraordinary contributions of young writers to Indian literature. Under the esteemed leadership of **Sri Madhav Kaushik**, President of the Sahitya Akademi, the Executive Board convened to finalize the recipients of the prestigious **Yuva Puraskar 2025**.

Complete List of Yuva Puraskar 2025 Recipients

Comprehensive Winner's Table

The following table presents the complete list of **23 distinguished winners** of the **Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025**, organized by language with their respective works and authors:

| S.No | Language | Name of the Book (Genre) | Awardee's Name |
|------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1 | Assamese | Kushiyarama (Short Stories) | Supraksam Bhuyan |
| 2 | Bengali | Ekadha Chinish Toliami (Poetry) | Sudeshna Moitra |
| 3 | Bodo | Ang Aisu (Poetry) | Amar Khungur Boro |
| 4 | English | Siddhartha – The Boy Who Became the Buddha (Novel) | Advait Kolarkar |
| 5 | Gujarati | Naranch Tekari (Essays) | Mayur Kharadi |
| 6 | Hindi | Phir Ugna (Poetry) | Parvati Tirkey |
| 7 | Kannada | Paccheya Jagat (Criticism) | R. Deepkumar |
| 8 | Kashmiri | Harfas Harfas Zaagi (Criticism) | Saiba Sehar |
| 9 | Konkani | Gaavgaamhas (Short Stories) | Glynis Dias |
| 10 | Maithili | Banaras Aa Hum (Poetry) | Neha Jha Maini |
| 11 | Malayalam | Ram Oru Anandhi (Novel) | Akhil P. Dharmajan |
| 12 | Manipuri | Khoyum Nongdan Coy (Epic) | A. K. Jiten |
| 13 | Marathi | Khel Khel Dukhana Dele (Novel) | Pradeep Kokane |
| 14 | Nepali | Junko Aansu (Poetry) | Subash Thakuri |
| 15 | Odia | Kademsabana (Short Stories) | Subrat Kumar Senapati |
| 16 | Punjabi | Girka Hostel (Poetry) | Mandeep Aulakh |
| 17 | Rajasthani | Ankhs ni sangmat (Poetry) | Poonam Chand Godara |
| 18 | Sanskrit | Panchbhautikshahol-swavasyam (vedantdarshanhsaraviseshathe) (Criticism) | Dhiresna Kumar Pandey |
| 19 | Santali | Ara Sajo te (Poetry) | Fagui Baaskey |
| 20 | Sindhi | Pandhyado (Poetry) | Manjham Bachani |
| 21 | Tamil | Kuttaaru Kuthuvi (Short Stories) | Latarhinhar |
| 22 | Telugu | Maralawatha (Novel) | Prasad Suri |
| 23 | Urdu | Maulard Haqeqat, Thereek-e-Azadi, or Hindi Jihad Ka Farmonsuti Kardah Qasaid (Novel) | Neetu Rubabi |

QS World Rankings 2026: Top 10 & Best Indian Universities

The QS World University Rankings 2026, one of the most respected global indicators of academic excellence, has been officially released. With over **1,500 universities** featured across more than **100 countries**, the rankings reflect the growing competitiveness and evolution of the global higher education landscape.

For the **14th consecutive year**, the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** has secured the **#1 position globally**, affirming its reputation for academic rigor, research excellence, and innovation leadership. MIT continues to lead across indicators such as **academic reputation**, **faculty/student ratio**, and **employer reputation**.

In a press release, **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** confirmed that nearly **500 institutions** have **improved their positions** compared

to the previous year. This improvement is based on metrics like **citations per faculty**, **international student ratio**, and **sustainability**.

Among the fastest-rising institutions, **Sunway University** from **Malaysia** stood out, **jumping over 120 places** from its previous ranking. This significant rise underscores Asia's growing prominence in global education, driven by investment in **research infrastructure**, **international collaborations**, and a **diverse academic ecosystem**.

The 2026 edition includes institutions from more than **100 regions**, offering insights into the best universities across **North America**, **Europe**, **Asia**, **Australia**, **Latin America**, and **Africa**. It continues to serve as a valuable tool for **students**, **researchers**, and **policy-makers** alike.

Top 10 Universities in QS World University Rankings 2026

According to the latest rankings, the **top 10 global institutions** are as follows:

| Institutions | Overall Rank in 2026 | Overall Rank in 2025 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | 1 | 1 |
| Imperial College London | 2 | 2 |
| Stanford University | 3 | 6 |
| University of Oxford | 4 | 3 |
| Harvard University | 5 | 4 |
| University of Cambridge | 6 | 5 |
| ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) | 7 | 7 |
| National University of Singapore (NUS) | 8 | 8 |
| UCL (University College London) | 9 | 9 |
| California Institute of Technology (Caltech) | 10 | 10 |

Top Indian varsities in the global list

| Institutions | Overall Rank in 2026 | Overall Rank in 2025 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) | 123 | 150 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) | 129 | 118 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) | 180 | 227 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP) | 215 | 222 |
| Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore | 219 | 211 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) | 222 | 263 |
| University of Delhi | 328 | 328 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) | 334 | 344 |
| Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IITR) | 339 | 335 |
| Anna University | 465 | 383 |

PM Modi Conferred with Cyprus' Highest Civilian Honour — Order of Makarios III

In a significant diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, Cyprus' highest civilian honour, on June 16, 2025, by President Nikos Christodoulides. The award is named after Archbishop Makarios III, the first President of Cyprus, and is reserved for global leaders and dignitaries who have made outstanding contributions to international relations and peace.

Why in News?

PM Narendra Modi received Cyprus' top civilian award during his first-ever official visit to the Mediterranean nation. The award, Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, recognizes his efforts in strengthening India-Cyprus relations and promoting global cooperation. Modi's visit marks a historic milestone, as he is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Cyprus.

About the Award

- **Name:** Order of Makarios III
- **Country:** Republic of Cyprus
- **Named after:** Archbishop Makarios III, first President of Cyprus.
- **Purpose:** Awarded for meritorious service to the nation and strengthening diplomatic ties.

Categories of distinction

- Grand Collar
- Grand Cross (awarded to PM Modi)
- Grand Commander
- Commander
- Officer
- Knight

PM Modi's Response

"Humbled to receive the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III' of Cyprus. I dedicate it to the friendship between our nations."
Shared this on X.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

PM Modi and President Christodoulides held high-level discussions on,

- Innovation
- Energy cooperation
- Technology collaboration
- Trade and strategic partnerships
- Roundtable with CEOs: PM Modi engaged with top Cypriot and Indian business leaders to boost commercial linkages.
- Discussed India’s economic reforms and ease of doing business.

Both nations expressed intent to,

- Expand strategic and economic ties
- Collaborate on sustainable development, innovation, and digital transformation

Historic Visit Highlights

- Modi’s arrival marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus.
- Received by President Christodoulides at Larnaca International Airport.
- Received a warm welcome from the Indian diaspora in Limassol.

India Marks 50 Years of Crocodile Conservation Project on World Crocodile Day

On World Crocodile Day (June 17, 2025), India celebrates the 50th anniversary of its pioneering Crocodile Conservation Project (CCP), which began in 1975 at Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha. This milestone highlights India’s successful journey in conserving all three native crocodylian species, including the critically endangered Gharial. With Odisha at the forefront, this initiative has now become a national and global model for reptilian conservation.

Why in News?

India commemorates 50 years of the Crocodile Conservation Project on World Crocodile Day (17th June 2025). Odisha stands out as the only Indian state with all three native crocodylian species thriving in the wild. India hosts 80% of the world’s wild gharial population, underlining its global significance in crocodylian conservation.

Key Facts & Highlights

- **Project Launched:** 1975, at Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha.
- **Supported By:** UNDP and FAO.
- **Method Adopted:** “Rear and release”—capturing eggs or hatchlings, rearing in captivity, then releasing into protected areas.
- **Protected Habitats Created:** Bhitarkanika National Park, Satkosia Tiger Reserve, etc.

Species Conserved

- Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) – Critically endangered.
- Mugger (*Crocodylus palustris*) – Vulnerable.
- Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) – Least Concern but locally threatened.

Crocodyles – Ecological Significance

- Among the largest living reptiles.
- Inhabit freshwater ecosystems (rivers, swamps, lakes); saltwater species live in coastal estuaries.
- Poikilothermic (cold-blooded) and primarily nocturnal.

Threats to Survival

- Habitat destruction
- Egg predation
- Poaching
- Dams and sand mining

Population Estimates

- **Gharials:** ~3,000 in wild (Chambal, Son, Katarniaghat Sanctuaries).
- **Saltwater Crocodiles:** ~2,500 mainly in Bhitarkanika, Sundarbans, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **Muggers:** Widespread across India, especially in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

Impact of the Project

- Revival of near-extinct crocodylian species.
- Promoted captive breeding, habitat protection, and community awareness.
- Became a replicable model for other countries in reptile conservation

National Affairs

- Visakhapatnam will host the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2025) on June 21**, celebrating **10 years** of this global wellness event. Senior officials from the **Ministry of Ayush** and the **Andhra Pradesh Government** recently reviewed preparations at key venues. The state’s ambitious “**Yogandhra**” initiative targets yoga outreach to **2 crore people** and aims to train **20 lakh certified practitioners**. With more than **1 lakh locations** participating across the state and **5 lakh attendees** expected in Visakhapatnam alone, IDY 2025 promises to exemplify India’s commitment to “**Yoga for One Earth, One Health.**” ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **Institutional Arbitration Conference** held in **New Delhi on June 14, 2025**, **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** emphasized India’s ambition to become a **global arbitration hub**. Highlighting the need for **alternative dispute resolution (ADR)** methods such as **arbitration, mediation, and conciliation**, the Minister stressed reduced court burden and investor convenience. **ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh** and other stakeholders underlined the importance of **time-bound, corporate-style arbitration**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **PM Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus in June 2025 marks a strategic recalibration in India's foreign policy.** As Turkey strengthens its alliance with Pakistan, India's outreach to Cyprus — a nation that has consistently backed India on the global stage — is both symbolic and strategic. Cyprus' role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), its geographical proximity to West Asia, and its upcoming presidency of the EU Council in 2026 amplify its significance. The visit underscores India's commitment to counter-terror diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and trade connectivity in a rapidly evolving global order. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**, launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, is India's **largest tribal empowerment campaign**, covering over **549 tribal districts, 2,900+ blocks, and 1 lakh villages**. The campaign ensures **benefit saturation** by delivering key services such as **Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat cards, PM-Kisan registration, Jan Dhan accounts, pensions, and skill development** at the doorstep of tribal households. Implemented as part of **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**, and supported by programs like **PM-JANMAN** and **DAJGUA**, the initiative marks a major step in **inclusive governance and last-mile delivery**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Maruti Suzuki India has inaugurated **India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding** at its **Manesar plant**, marking a major step towards **green logistics**. Aligned with the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan**, the ₹452 crore facility is part of the **126 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor**. It will **dispatch 4.5 lakh vehicles annually, cut 1.75 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions, and save 60 million litres of fuel per year**. With this, MSIL aims to **increase rail-based dispatches to 35% by FY2030–31**, supporting India's vision of a **net-zero emission economy by 2070**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has introduced a **₹3,000 FASTag Annual Pass**, starting **August 15, 2025**, for **private vehicles like cars, jeeps, and vans**. Valid for **one year or 200 trips**, this initiative aims to **reduce toll-related disputes**, especially where plazas are closely spaced, and encourage a **digital-first tolling system**. The pass can be activated through the **Rajmarg Yatra App** or official **NHAI/MoRTH platforms**, offering an **affordable, hassle-free travel experience** across **National Highways**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has initiated **Operation Sindhu** to evacuate its nationals from Iran amid the growing threat of conflict with Israel. Over 100 Indian students have already been safely evacuated via Armenia, reflecting the government's swift and well-coordinated response. The operation emphasizes India's commitment to the **safety of its citizens abroad**, effective diplomacy, and robust crisis management strategies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anantha Chandrakasan**, a Chennai-born academic and MIT's School of Engineering Dean, has been appointed as the **first Indian-born Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**. Taking office on **July 1, 2025**, he will oversee MIT's **academic and financial strategy**. A **renowned engineer and researcher**, Chandrakasan leads MIT's **Energy-Efficient Circuits and Systems Group**, and has been instrumental in promoting **innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusion** through programs like **SuperUROP** and **Rising Stars**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 18, 2025**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** unveiled a **new SOP** to deliver **Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs)** within **15 days** of any electoral roll update. Powered by the **ECINet platform** and integrated with the **Department of Posts**, the system provides **real-time tracking** and **SMS notifications** to voters. This tech-driven step aims to improve **voter convenience**, ensure **timely delivery**, and bolster **digital transparency** in India's electoral services. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Croatia** signals a strategic shift in India's foreign policy, emphasizing deeper **connectivity with Central and Eastern Europe**. With its **Adriatic Sea access, membership in EU and NATO**, and involvement in initiatives like **3SI** and **IMEC**, **Croatia offers India key trade and geopolitical advantages**. The visit also revived **historic cultural ties**, notably through the **Sanskrit grammar work of Croatian scholar Filip Vezdin**. This outreach reinforces India's presence in the region and counters rival global influences like the **BRI**, while enhancing prospects for **UNSC support**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has rolled out transformative reforms during the **June 2025 bye-polls**, introducing innovations like **mobile deposit facilities, real-time VTR updates, and 100% webcasting**. These initiatives, implemented across five **Assembly Constituencies**, enhance **voter convenience, transparency, and polling efficiency**. With the **Special Summary Revision** of electoral rolls also carried out for the first time in two decades, these reforms set a precedent for **future state elections**, especially the upcoming **Bihar Assembly Elections**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to export its **first-ever locally manufactured locomotive** to **Guinea**, with **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurating the flag-off ceremony from **Marhowrah, Bihar**, on **June 20, 2025**. The deal includes **150 high-tech locomotives worth ₹3,000 crore**, made for Guinea's **SimFer Simandou mining project**. Manufactured under the **Make in India** initiative, these locomotives feature **world-class safety, comfort, and performance**. The project, awarded through **global competitive bidding**, highlights India's rising capabilities in **railway manufacturing**, its diplomatic outreach to Africa, and the realization of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))

- To mark **World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2025**, **AIIMS Mangalagiri** organized an **awareness rally** in collaboration with the **Departments of Health and Tribal Welfare**. The event featured participation from **students, tribal members, and medical professionals**, aiming to boost awareness about **sickle cell disease**, a **hereditary blood disorder** that disproportionately affects **tribal populations** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** has launched "**Pratibha Setu**", a revamped platform that allows employers to access details of **non-recommended candidates** who cleared all stages of UPSC exams but were not on the final merit list. This move provides **career alternatives to top-tier aspirants** and strengthens the interface between **government-selected talent and private sector demand**. With secure login access for verified recruiters and opt-in participation from candidates, *Pratibha Setu* represents a **forward-looking employment reform** initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India is set to notify the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025**, mandating the use of **Indian Standard Time (IST)** across all legal, commercial, and digital activities. This initiative, backed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, aims to enhance **digital security, traceability, and operational efficiency** by eliminating reliance on foreign time sources. It includes setting up **five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs)** with atomic clocks and secure synchronization protocols. The move is a major leap towards **One Nation, One Time**, securing national digital infrastructure under a **trusted, standardized ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major step towards uniting the world through the ancient practice of yoga, the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)** launched '**Yoga Bandhan**', a flagship international program under the Ministry of Ayush. As a Signature Event leading up to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the initiative brought together yoga ambassadors from 15 countries to strengthen global partnerships in yoga education, diplomacy, and wellness, reflecting India's continued leadership in promoting cultural unity and holistic health worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During his visit to **Bhubaneswar on June 20, 2025**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **₹18,600 crore worth of development projects**, flagged off new **rail and bus services**, and launched the **Odisha Vision Document**, aiming for a **\$1.5 trillion economy by 2047**. Emphasizing **cultural revival, women empowerment, and infrastructure growth**, the PM also rolled out the **Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana** and **felicitated Lakhpati Didis** under the SHG initiative. The event signaled the government's commitment to holistic, inclusive progress in Odisha. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, under **Annpurna Devi**, launched the **Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub** on **June 20, 2025**, during a **national consultation in New Delhi**. The platform will act as a **digital repository for gender budgeting resources**, aiding ministries, states, and policymakers in integrating **gender equality** in planning and budgeting. The Centre's allocation for **FY 2025–26** stands at **₹4.49 lakh crore**, a **4.5x increase** from 2014–15. The consultation reviewed **20 years of gender budgeting** in India and proposed **training manuals and sector-specific strategies** to further strengthen **inclusive fiscal governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Yoga Sangam 2025**, an initiative by the **Ministry of Ayush**, marks a transformative celebration of the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY)** with the theme "**Unity Through Breath**". This nationwide event will mobilize participation at **over one lakh locations**, including **schools, offices, villages, and metros**, symbolizing a **collective movement for health and harmony**. Emphasizing **synchronized breathing and community connection**, it redefines yoga as both a **wellness practice** and a **national unifier**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Centre has notified the schedule for the 2027 decennial census, which will include caste enumeration. This will be India's first caste-based census in 16 years, since the last socio-economic caste data was gathered in 2011. The announcement follows a high-level review chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

States in the News

- In a **historic move**, **Bihar** becomes the **first Indian state** to implement **mobile-based e-voting**, set to launch during the **28th June municipal elections**. Developed by **C-DAC** and the **Bihar State Election Commission**, the **Android-based system** aims to boost **inclusive voting** by enabling **migrant workers, senior citizens, pregnant women, and Divyang voters** to vote remotely. With features like **blockchain technology, live face scan, biometric verification, and audit trails**, the system ensures **digital security, transparency, and tamper-proof voting**, revolutionizing India's democratic process. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Google** inaugurated its **first Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)** in **Hyderabad on June 18, 2025**, solidifying India's role in global **cybersecurity and responsible AI development**. Inaugurated by **CM A Revanth Reddy**, the centre will combat **online fraud**, ensure **infrastructure safety**, and develop **AI-driven security solutions** like **real-time scam alerts** and **SynthID watermarking**. With its Hyderabad operations since 2007, Google reaffirmed its commitment to **user safety, job creation, and skilling**. The launch aligns with India's AI transformation strategy and Telangana's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** by 2035. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Maharashtra government's new directive under the **State Curriculum Framework 2024** declares **Hindi as the default third language** from **Classes 1 to 5** in **Marathi and English medium schools**, with the option to study another **Indian language** if **20 students per class** request it. While aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the move has been criticized by the **opposition and language activists** as a veiled attempt to **reimpose Hindi** despite earlier assurances that it wouldn't be mandatory. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Calcutta High Court** has ordered the **Centre to resume MGNREGA operations in West Bengal** starting **August 1, 2025**, after a **three-year suspension** due to alleged irregularities. The court stressed the need to separate **past misconduct** from the **future right to livelihood**, restoring work opportunities to over **25 million rural workers**. The scheme's revival is seen as a **victory for civil rights**, with advocates hailing it as a turning point for **rural employment, economic justice, and public accountability** in India's flagship **social welfare** programme. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has approved a **₹2,006.40 crore relief package** for **Himachal Pradesh** under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** to support **recovery and reconstruction** following the **2023 monsoon disasters**. Over **550 people died** during the floods and landslides. The decision, made by a **high-level committee led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, includes **₹1,504.80 crore** as the **Centre's share**. The state had earlier sought **₹9,042 crore** under PDNA. This move reflects a **national commitment to disaster resilience** and follows similar packages to **Uttarakhand and Sikkim**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Prayoga Institute of Education Research**, in collaboration with the **SBI Foundation and SBI Funds Management**, launched the **Kriya programme** in **12 government schools of Raichur district** on **June 17, 2025**. Aligned with **NEP 2020**, the initiative aims to provide **experiential science learning for students from Classes 6 to 10**, encouraging **critical thinking and inquiry-based education**. Having already impacted over **11,000 students in Karnataka**, the programme marks a key milestone in Prayoga's mission to **transform rural STEM education** through **scalable, research-backed methods**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Delhi Government** is set to begin **cloud-seeding trials** by late June 2025, marking a significant move in **weather modification** technology to potentially combat **pollution and water scarcity**. The **₹3.21 crore** pilot project, involving **five aerial trials** with seeding agents like **silver iodide and salts**, is being conducted with support from **IIT Kanpur, IMD, and multiple national agencies**. The trials will assess **rainfall induction efficiency, and environmental safety**, while avoiding restricted air zones in the city. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Uttar Pradesh** has topped the nation in **digital public procurement**, registering a cumulative **₹65,227.68 crore** worth of orders on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** between FY 2020 and FY 2025. In FY 2024–25 alone, the state processed **72 lakh orders worth ₹5.43 lakh crore**, showcasing its commitment to **e-governance, transparency, and efficient public service delivery**. The **November 2024 reforms**, aligning with **GFR 2017**, enabled **100% GeM adoption**, setting an example for other states under the **Digital India initiative**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has approved a **15% housing reservation for religious minorities**, increasing it from the earlier **10%**, as part of state housing schemes. **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** and **DCM DK Shivakumar** defended the move as a **social welfare measure** aimed at addressing **minority housing shortages** and reducing the number of **vacant homes**. However, the **BJP criticized** the decision as **vote-bank politics** and termed it **unconstitutional**. The Cabinet also made decisions regarding **mango farmer compensation**, scheduling a **cabinet meet at Nandi Hills**, and declaring **Apsarakonda-Mughali** a new **marine wildlife sanctuary**. ([Click here to read article](#))

International Affairs

- The **UK government** has appointed **Blaise Metreweli** as the **first female chief of MI6**, marking a historic moment in the agency's 116-year legacy. Announced by **Prime Minister Keir Starmer** at the **G7 Summit**, Metreweli brings **25 years of intelligence experience** and currently heads MI6's **technology and innovation division**. Her leadership arrives as the agency grapples with rising **cybersecurity threats, espionage from nations like China and Russia**, and a shifting global landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **OpenAI** has won a **\$200 million contract** from the **U.S. Department of Defense** to develop **AI tools for national security and military operations**, with a completion target of **July 2026**. The agreement focuses on **frontier AI prototypes** addressing **warfighting and enterprise needs**, and reinforces the growing role of **AI in defense technologies**. OpenAI, which has seen its **revenue surge to \$10 billion**, continues to scale globally while moving into **high-impact government partnerships**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **United Nations' declaration of 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer** is a pivotal global recognition of the **indispensable role of women in agriculture**. Women contribute significantly to **food production**, especially in **developing nations**, yet face barriers like **low land ownership, limited access to credit and technology, and climate vulnerability**. In India, initiatives like the **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** and the **ENACT Project** show promise. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Iran escalated tensions with Israel by launching **Operation True Promise 3**, a retaliatory strike in response to attacks on its **nuclear facilities and top commanders**. The IRGC employed a **new missile warfare tactic** involving **AI-guided trajectories, decoy saturation, and internal disruption** of Israel's **Iron Dome defence system**. This operation highlights a **strategic shift in asymmetric warfare**, raising questions over **urban defence vulnerabilities, cyber-kinetic weapons, and the future of missile interception technologies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Ukraine held their **first Joint Working Group meeting on agriculture** on **June 18, 2025**, to expand cooperation in **digital agriculture, agri-mechanisation, and food processing**. Co-chaired by officials from both nations, the dialogue explored **technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and joint research in climate-resilient agriculture, soil fertility, and plant breeding**. India showcased flagship schemes like **e-NAM** and the **National Mission on Edible Oils**, while Ukraine expressed interest in capacity building and market access. The meeting strengthens bilateral ties and positions India as a **global agri-tech partner**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Pakistan** has secured a landmark **\$1 billion syndicated finance facility**, backed by a **policy-based guarantee from the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. The deal, structured with both **Islamic and conventional financing tranches**, was signed on **June 18, 2025**, with major banks like **Dubai Islamic Bank and Standard Chartered** leading the coordination. The agreement marks **Pakistan's return to Middle Eastern financial markets**, reflects **global confidence in its macroeconomic reforms**, and is the **first ADB-backed facility tied to governance-linked policy conditions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic cyber breach**, **16 billion credentials** were exposed across **30 datasets**, impacting services like **Apple, Google, and Telegram**. Researchers warned this is **not a recycled leak, but fresh, actionable data** that poses major threats like **account takeover, phishing, and BEC attacks**. **Google** urged users to **move to passkeys—a biometric-based login method**—to guard against growing threats. This incident underscores the urgent need for **stronger digital security, user awareness, and global cooperation** against cybercrime. ([Click here to read article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** has partnered with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** through a **strategic MoU** to boost **retail vehicle financing** across India. The collaboration will provide **affordable and accessible loans** for **new cars, used cars, and commercial vehicles**, especially targeting customers in **semi-urban and rural areas**. This move reinforces both entities' commitment to **financial inclusion, customer satisfaction, and expanding the reach of organized vehicle finance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India and Cyprus have taken a significant step toward digital payment integration, with **NPCI and Eurobank Cyprus** signing an **MoU to introduce UPI services** in the Mediterranean nation. Finalized during **PM Modi's visit**, the deal will facilitate **cross-border transactions** for **tourists, businesses, and investors**, boosting trade and financial cooperation. Cyprus, a major **FDI contributor** to India, also signed an MoU with the **NSE at GIFT City**, underlining its role as a **strategic economic partner and fintech hub** for India's global ambitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To **promote inclusive entrepreneurship** and reach underserved regions, **DPIIT** has signed an **MoU with YourStory Media** under the **Bharat Project**. The initiative targets **1 million entrepreneurs** across **Tier II, Tier III, and rural India**, offering **AI-powered tools, venture launchpads, and regional storytelling**. The partnership will boost **grassroots innovation**, foster engagement in **emerging tech sectors** like **AI and blockchain**, and contribute to India's goal of becoming a **global innovation hub**. It also supports **Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and economic decentralization**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Books and Authors

- In her debut novel *"The Stars Light the Way"*, **Sucheta Raj Khanna** weaves a compelling tale of **identity, ancestral wisdom, and spiritual reflection** through the story of **Shazma**, a woman caught between her tranquil life in **Singapore** and a call to politics in **India**. Guided by signs from her late father, the novel explores **inner conflict, personal transformation, and the invisible forces** that shape human choices. A meditation on **faith, belonging, and courage**, the book is a timely and timeless read for those seeking meaning in life's turning points. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **A.K. Bhattacharya's** latest book *"India's Finance Ministers III: Different Strokes (1998–2014)"* explores India's economic landscape through the lens of four finance ministers during a crucial post-liberalisation phase. Published by **Penguin Business**, the 556-page volume provides a **clinical, narrative-driven account** of the **policy shifts, fiscal decisions, and governance dynamics** that defined India's growth story from **1998 to 2014**. With a **non-judgemental tone**, it reflects on challenges like **employment generation, infrastructure expansion, and tax reforms**, making it a valuable resource for economists, historians, and civil services aspirants alike. ([Click here to read article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **wholesale price inflation (WPI)** dropped to **0.39% in May 2025**, reflecting a cooling in **food prices, fuel costs, and manufactured goods**. The deflation in **vegetable prices** at -**21.62%** played a major role in lowering the overall WPI from **0.85% in April**. Simultaneously, the **retail inflation** fell to a **six-year low of 2.82%**, offering positive signals for both **economic stability** and **monetary policy flexibility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- UPI transactions are now set to be completed in just **10–15 seconds**, starting June 16, 2025, as per NPCI's latest directive. In addition to this, users will have a **50-times daily limit** for checking their account balance via UPI apps. To increase transaction transparency and reduce fraud, apps will display only the **final beneficiary's name**, and users will no longer be able to edit it. With UPI usage surging across India, these upgrades aim to boost the **efficiency, speed, and trust** in the country's digital payment ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 16, 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** inaugurated its newly relocated **Andhra Pradesh regional office** in **Vijayawada**. Inaugurated by **Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar**, the office will house key departments such as **FIDD, IBD, DoS, and FED**. While administrative and financial functions will operate from Vijayawada, **currency management will continue from RBI's Hyderabad office**. This strategic move strengthens the RBI's **regional outreach**, especially in one of India's rapidly growing states. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) has partnered with the **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** in **Paris** to automate and optimise its financial reconciliation process. The implementation of **TCS BaNCS™ for Reconciliations** will enable **end-to-end automation, real-time insights, and AI-driven exception management**. This will lead to reduced **manual intervention**, improved **operational efficiency**, and enhanced **control and transparency** in daily transactions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **unemployment rate** climbed to **5.6% in May 2025**, driven by a **decline in rural agricultural jobs** after the **harvest season**, according to new **monthly labour force data**. The **jobless rate among youth and women** saw notable increases, reflecting persistent challenges in employment access, especially in **rural areas**. Meanwhile, **female labour force participation** fell to **27.8%**, and **youth unemployment** rose sharply in both **urban and rural areas**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has granted **operating license to Starlink**, the **satellite internet service by SpaceX**, paving the way for **widespread rural and remote broadband access**. Following this, **Jio Platforms** and **Bharti Airtel** partnered with **SpaceX** to retail

Starlink kits and offer support services, aiming to connect schools, hospitals, and businesses. While the move aligns with the **Digital India vision**, **spectrum allocation disputes** between **Elon Musk and Mukesh Ambani** highlight ongoing regulatory challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **TVS Motor Company** has entered **Indonesia's electric two-wheeler market** with the launch of the **TVS iQube**, an **electric scooter** offering a **115 km range** and **78 kmph top speed**. Priced at **IDR 29.9 million**, the scooter will be **assembled locally** in East Karawang and aligns with the Indonesian government's EV adoption goals. As **Indonesia's EV market grows at 101% CAGR**, this marks a **major milestone for TVS's global EV expansion**, with the iQube already boasting a **6 lakh global customer base**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- ICRA's latest report forecasts **India's GDP growth** to dip slightly to **6.2% in FY2025–26**, citing **weak merchandise exports, trade policy uncertainty, and moderating inflation**. However, **strong rural demand, a 10.1% increase in capital expenditure, and household tax reliefs** are expected to **support growth**. **Services exports** are likely to outperform, while the **fiscal deficit** is projected at **4.4% of GDP**. Overall, India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain **resilient** despite global headwinds. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)** has acquired **State Bank of India's 17.8% stake** in **Jio Payments Bank** for **₹104.54 crore**, resulting in full ownership of the digital bank. Approved by the **Reserve Bank of India**, the move marks a significant milestone in **Jio's fintech expansion**. Alongside, **Jio BlackRock Mutual Fund** introduced **Aladdin**, a **global risk analytics platform**, to the Indian market. While **JFSL shares dipped 1%**, the company is rapidly strengthening its **digital finance ecosystem** through **strategic collaborations** and acquisitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic aerospace collaboration**, **Reliance Aerostructure** and **Dassault Aviation** will manufacture **Falcon 2000 business jets** in **Nagpur, India**, marking the first production of these aircraft outside **France**. With the **first delivery by 2028**, this aligns with the **'Make in India'** and **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'** goals. The venture will transform **DRAL** into a **Center of Excellence**, generate **employment**, and strengthen India's role in the **global aerospace value chain**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced **final guidelines for project finance provisioning**, reducing the burden on lenders by setting a **1% requirement for under-construction loans**, down from the earlier proposed 5%. The norms, effective **October 1, 2025**, provide flexibility for commercial real estate and housing loans, while retaining **lower provisioning rates for operational projects**. This move aligns with the RBI's broader **consultative approach**, supporting **credit availability** and **infrastructure development**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- At the **CBIC Conclave 2025**, India recorded its highest-ever **GST evasion** figure of **₹2.23 trillion** for FY25, a 10% rise from the previous year. **FM Nirmala Sitharaman** called for immediate structural improvements including **speedier probes, simplified registrations**, and robust **taxpayer awareness**. With improvements in audit coverage, grievance redressal, and refund efficiency, CBIC is pushing towards a more tech-driven and responsive indirect tax system. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **core sector growth** plunged to **0.7% in May 2025**, a **nine-month low**, dragged down by a sharp fall in output from the **crude oil, gas, fertiliser, and electricity** sectors. The **Index of Eight Core Industries**, which forms a vital component of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, reflected two consecutive months of weakening momentum. While the **cement (+9.2%)** and **steel (+6.7%)** sectors showed strength, the overall slowdown highlights the need for **targeted policy support** in energy and infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has secured the **13th spot globally** in terms of **online investment curiosity**, according to a recent study by **BrokerChooser**. The country logged **2,629 monthly searches per million people**, showing strong interest in **stocks**, followed by **crypto** and **forex**. While India still trails nations like **Australia, Singapore, and Kenya**, the findings reflect a rapid shift in **investment behavior**, especially among **tech-savvy youth**. The rise of **mobile trading apps, SIPs, and digital financial influencers** is redefining how Indians engage with the market. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has disbursed **₹17.02 crore** to the families of **26 defence and paramilitary martyrs** under its **Rakshak Plus Scheme**, as of **June 11, 2025**. The scheme, designed for **uniformed personnel**, provides **comprehensive insurance benefits**, including **₹1 crore accidental cover** and **₹1.5 crore air accident cover**, along with support for **partial disabilities**. PNB's initiative aims to **honour the sacrifices** of Indian soldiers by ensuring their families are not left without support. It reaffirms the bank's role in **nation-building**, standing in **solidarity with the armed forces**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's financial presence in Swiss banks has sharply increased in 2024, with total holdings reaching **CHF 3.5 billion** (₹37,600 crore) — a threefold jump over the previous year. The surge is largely driven by **institutional investments**, while **personal deposits** remain a minor share. Despite regular tax data exchange between India and Switzerland, the issue of **black money** remains under scrutiny. India also improved its global rank among foreign clients of Swiss banks, moving from **67th to 48th** in just one year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NPCI's New Real-Time PAN-Bank Account Validation API** aims to **enhance accuracy and efficiency** in tax-related processes by enabling **instant verification of PAN, bank account status, and account holder identity** via a secure API

interface. Integrated with **Core Banking Systems (CBS)**, this facility ensures **real-time validation** on the **Income Tax e-filing portal**, reducing delays and manual errors. Though targeted at **government departments, taxpayers** benefit from **faster PAN-bank linking**, improved **refund processing**, and greater **data security**, marking a major step toward **streamlined digital governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has revised **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** norms for **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)**, effective from **FY 2025–26**, reducing the **overall PSL target from 75% to 60%** of **Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC)** or **Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBE)**, whichever is higher. Of this, **40% must still go to specified PSL sub-sectors** (e.g., **agriculture, MSMEs, education**), while the **remaining 20%** can be **flexibly allocated** to any PSL sub-sectors where the SFB has a **competitive advantage**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** reported a **3.1% year-on-year rise** in the **All-India House Price Index (HPI)** for **Q4 FY2024–25**, matching the previous quarter's growth but slightly lower than **4.1% in the same period last year**. Based on **property registration data** from **10 major cities**, the index reflects **authentic urban housing trends**. **Quarter-on-quarter**, national house prices increased by **0.9%**, with **Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata, and Chennai** leading due to **strong demand and urban development**. **Kolkata** saw the highest annual rise at **8.8%**, while **Kochi** was the only city with a **price decline (-2.3%)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹29.6 lakh** on **Fino Payments Bank Limited** for **non-compliance** with the **Licensing Guidelines for Payments Banks**. The violation was uncovered during the **Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024)**, assessing operations as of **March 31, 2024**. The **breach involved exceeding the end-of-day balance limits** in customer accounts, which is against the RBI's prescribed norms for **Payments Banks** designed to limit **systemic risk**. This action underscores the RBI's commitment to **regulatory enforcement and financial discipline**. ([Click here to read article](#))

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Appointments/Resignations

- **Amitabh Kant**, former **G20 Sherpa** and a reform-oriented **IAS officer**, has announced his **resignation** after **45 years** in **public service**. Known for leading the **Aspirational Districts Programme**, **Incredible India**, **Startup India**, and playing a pivotal role in India's **G20 Presidency**, Kant emphasized achievements like **digital public infrastructure**, **climate leadership**, and **global inclusivity** through the **African Union's G20 inclusion**. He now intends to support **startups**, **free enterprise**, and **think tanks**, continuing to shape **Viksit Bharat** from outside the government framework. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Meta** has appointed **Arun Srinivas** as its **India Head and Managing Director**, effective **July 1, 2025**, marking a key leadership reshuffle. He succeeds **Shivnath Thukral**, and will report to **Sandhya Devanathan**, who now oversees India and Southeast Asia. Srinivas brings nearly **three decades of experience** and has led Meta's **ads business in India** since 2020, playing a pivotal role in the company's **AI, Reels, and messaging** initiatives. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee** made history on **May 9, 2025**, by becoming the **first woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India**, an appointment driven by **President Droupadi Murmu's vision for gender equality and military inclusivity**. Selected after a comprehensive evaluation process involving physical, intellectual, and ceremonial aptitude, Solankee is tasked with facilitating **presidential engagements, liaising with government and military officials**, and being constantly informed to support the **First Citizen**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has appointed **Aliawati Longkumer** as **ambassador to North Korea**, reviving high-level diplomatic engagement after a **four-year pause**. The move follows the **reopening of India's embassy in Pyongyang** in December 2024, which had been closed in **July 2021** due to the pandemic. While **trade remains suspended** under **UN sanctions**, India has continued **humanitarian support** and **training programmes** for North Korean officials. The appointment reaffirms India's **strategic presence in East Asia**, balancing **non-proliferation**, regional security, and humanitarian interests. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anuradha Thakur**, a 1994 batch **IAS officer**, has been appointed to the **SEBI Board**, replacing outgoing Economic Affairs Secretary **Ajay Seth**. Effective **July 1, 2025**, Thakur will also likely join the **RBI Central Board**, making her the **first woman Economic Affairs Secretary** in India. Known for her leadership in **Air India's disinvestment**, **Bharat Bond ETF**, and **regulatory enforcement**, she brings rich administrative experience. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Nippon Koei India** has appointed **G. Sampath Kumar** as its **Managing Director**, making him the **first Indian** to lead the company. Backed by over **three decades of experience** in civil engineering and IT consultancy, Kumar's leadership is expected to **enhance the company's footprint** across **India, West Asia**, and the **Asia-Pacific**. This strategic shift highlights NKI's commitment to **regional expansion, local expertise**, and **inclusive leadership**, as it continues delivering on large-scale infrastructure projects across sectors. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Queen's University Belfast (QUB) has named **Prof M Satish Kumar** as the **first Dean** of its **GIFT City campus in Gujarat**, a landmark step in enhancing **UK-India education ties**. With **over 25 years of experience** and deep regional knowledge, Prof Kumar will oversee the campus's establishment, set to begin **admissions in early 2026**. The appointment marks **QUB's debut** in GIFT City and reinforces its **global expansion strategy**, offering Indian students access to top-tier British education within India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Professor Suman Chakraborty** has been appointed as the **Director of IIT Kharagpur**, effective June 19, 2025. A distinguished academic and **J.C. Bose National Fellow**, he is celebrated for pioneering **affordable diagnostic technologies** like Covirap and HemoQR. With a career rooted in innovation and global academic engagement, Prof. Chakraborty's directorship is set to enhance IIT Kharagpur's **research excellence, technological outreach, and global reputation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- On **13 June 2025**, the **Indian Navy** executed a **daring aerial insertion** of a salvage team aboard the **burning cargo ship MV Wan Hai 503** using a **Seaking helicopter** from **INS Garuda**. The operation involved connecting the vessel to the **salvage tug Offshore Warrior** and successfully extracting the team post-mission. Supported by **INS Sharda, MV Triton Liberty, and Indian Coast Guard**, the mission highlighted India's **maritime emergency response capabilities**, ensuring the vessel could be safely towed and maritime safety maintained. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Cyber Agency** has launched **Cyber Suraksha**, a 12-day **cybersecurity exercise** focused on training over **100 defence personnel** in handling **real-time cyber threats**. The event includes a **CISOs leadership conclave**, practical simulations, and decision-making drills. Organized under the **Integrated Defence Staff**, this initiative aims to **build resilience, test cyber defence capabilities, and promote a cybersecurity-first culture**. The Ministry of Defence plans to **make such exercises regular** to enhance India's **defence cyber preparedness**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **INS Arnala**, the first of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** series, was **commissioned by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam on June 18, 2025**, in a ceremony led by **CDS General Anil Chauhan**. Built by **GRSE** in partnership with **L&T Shipbuilders**, the vessel showcases **80% indigenous content**, aligning with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**. Designed for **coastal and littoral warfare**, it enhances India's **anti-submarine capabilities** and secures the nation's interests in the **Indian Ocean Region**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Army** has deployed a 90-member contingent for **Exercise Shakti 2025**, a **joint Indo-French military drill** conducted at **Camp Larzac in France**. This eighth edition of the **biennial exercise** focuses on **sub-conventional operations**, particularly **counter-terrorism**, under **UN Chapter VII** frameworks. The Indian troops, mainly from the **Jammu and Kashmir Rifles**, will train alongside France's elite **13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade**. Through simulated urban warfare in **semi-urban terrain**, the exercise enhances **interoperability, strategic coordination**, and mutual combat preparedness. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is developing next-generation variants of the **Pinaka rocket system**, with ranges up to **300 km**, to boost its **artillery strength** and achieve **defence self-reliance**. Developed by **DRDO**, the Pinaka-3 and Pinaka-4 systems will support **precision strikes**, rapid deployment, and **high-volume firepower**. With the successful **trials of the Guided Pinaka** and the Army planning to induct **22 regiments by 2030**, these developments reinforce India's commitment to **indigenization, modernization**, and enhanced **national security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Padma Bhushan** was awarded to **Shri Ram Bahadur Rai**, veteran **journalist**, cultural thinker, and **President of IGNCATrust**, in a special ceremony organized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** on June 18, 2025. Acknowledging his **over 40 years of service** in journalism and his active participation in the **JP Movement**, the event celebrated his impact on **Indian media, democracy, and intellectual thought**. Through numerous **editorial roles, publications**, and leadership in cultural institutions, Shri Rai has left an indelible mark on India's journalistic landscape. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Hindu** emerged as the **Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025**, winning **10 accolades** including four golds for innovations in **video storytelling, AI integration, native advertising, and podcasting**. Held in Chennai, the event was organized by **WAN-IFRA**, celebrating digital excellence across South Asian newsrooms. With recognitions in **data visualisation, audience engagement, and digital subscriptions**, *The Hindu* solidified its place as a **digital leader in journalism**. The awards reflect the organisation's collaborative approach and its commitment to **tech-driven, reader-centric journalism**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian animation film **Desi Oon**, directed by **Suresh Eriyat**, won the **Jury Prize** at the **Annecy International Animation Festival 2025**, one of the most respected awards in global animation. Rooted in Indian culture, the film also won at the **WAVES Awards of Excellence**, was a standout in the **Create in India Challenge**, and earned a place in **MoMA's archive**. It has been **shortlisted for Cannes Lions**, recognized at the **AICP Show**, and earned accolades like the **D&AD Wooden Pencil** and **Good Ads Matter Golds**. Government leaders and animation bodies hailed the film as a **milestone** in India's journey to becoming a global **AVGC-XR powerhouse**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Swedish startup **NitroCapt** has won the **\$2 million Food Planet Prize 2025** for its **green fertiliser** technology that eliminates **fossil fuels** by using **plasma and renewable energy** to extract nitrogen from air. With the potential to reduce **CO₂ emissions** by over **90%**, the innovation addresses one of agriculture's biggest environmental challenges. As **fertilisers contribute to 2.7% of global emissions**, NitroCapt's scalable, **locally-produced solution** could transform food security and climate resilience worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major achievement, **IndiGo Airlines** ranked **3rd globally** in the **2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards** under the **Best Low-Cost Airlines** category, following **AirAsia** and **Scoot**, showcasing India's rising stature in global aviation. The **Skytrax Awards**, often called the "**Oscars of aviation**", reflect votes from **22.3 million passengers**. While **no Indian full-service airline** made the top 10, **IndiGo's efficiency, affordability, and expanding global reach** earned it this prestigious international recognition. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- India hosted the **first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** in **New Delhi**, establishing a global coalition for the **conservation of seven major big cat species**. Chaired by **Bhupender Yadav**, the meeting saw the endorsement of governance frameworks and leadership roles, uniting **nine participating countries**. The IBCA, launched in **March 2024**, seeks to drive international **cooperation, knowledge exchange, and financial support** to protect **biodiversity and habitats** across 95 range nations. The event marked a significant milestone in India's vision of **global ecological stewardship**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025**, held from **June 16 in Bonn, Germany**, is a vital **UNFCCC technical meeting** bringing together over 5,000 stakeholders to **lay the groundwork** for decisions at the next **COP summit**. It focuses on operational aspects like the **Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), climate finance, loss and damage, technology transfer, and NDC monitoring**. Led by the **SBI and SBSTA**, the conference plays a key role in ensuring **scientific rigor, accountability, and policy readiness** in global climate governance. ([Click here to read article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- According to the **SIPRI Yearbook 2025**, India has modestly **expanded its nuclear arsenal** and is actively developing **new nuclear delivery systems**, including **canisterised missiles** that could carry warheads even during peacetime. This comes amid **global nuclear modernisation**, where nations like **China** (now with over **600 warheads**) and **Pakistan** are also upgrading capabilities. The report warns of a **new nuclear arms race**, as **12,241 nuclear warheads** are now estimated worldwide, with **Russia and the US** holding **90%** of them. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025** showcased India's growing presence in **sustainability-oriented education**, with **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Rank 41)** and **Lovely Professional University (Rank 48)** leading among **135 Indian participants**. They were joined in the **global top 100** by **JSS Academy** and **Shoolini University**, marking a strong performance in **UN SDGs** like **clean energy, climate action, and quality education**. With **Asian universities** dominating the top ranks and **Western Sydney University** retaining global leadership, the rankings highlight India's rising academic influence on sustainability metrics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India ranked **71st** in the **Energy Transition Index 2025** released by the **World Economic Forum**, a drop from last year's **63rd** position. While the country advanced in **energy efficiency, clean energy investments, and regulatory frameworks**, gaps remain in **energy equity, grid reliability, and import dependence**. The report emphasized **uneven global progress**, with only **28% of countries** improving in all three core energy dimensions. India remains a **key player in global energy transformation**, alongside the US, China, and EU. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has achieved the **third-highest growth in global power generation capacity** over the past five years, according to the IEA. This surge is driven by **rising energy demand**, particularly from urbanization and industry, and a strong national commitment to **renewable energy**, especially **solar PV**. With **83% of 2024's power investment going to clean energy** and **USD 5 billion FDI inflow in 2023**, India is emerging as a major force in the global clean energy landscape. Despite recent declines in **foreign portfolio investment**, the long-term trajectory remains robust, underscoring India's **sustainable energy ambitions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's wealth landscape is being reshaped by a new generation of dynamic entrepreneurs under 40, as revealed in the '**360 ONE Wealth Creators List 2025**' by **360 ONE Wealth and CRISIL**. Dominated by the **Ambani siblings**, the list also features **self-made pioneers** like **Nikhil Kamath** of Zerodha and **Bhavish Aggarwal** of Ola Electric. With combined wealth nearing ₹100 trillion, these icons reflect India's **emerging dominance in digital innovation, business transformation, and economic leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **TRAI Telecom Performance Report Q1 2025** reveals strong growth across India's telecom sector. **Total subscribers** climbed to **1.2 billion**, led by wireless expansion and **5G FWA adoption**. The sector reported **₹98,250 crore** in gross revenue, with **ARPU** and **data consumption** per user also rising. Despite a slight dip in **internet penetration** and **DTH users**, the sector shows financial resilience and increasing digital adoption. The dominance of **private operators**, surge in **data usage**, and expanding **public Wi-Fi** underscore India's evolving **digital infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Sports News

- The **MCC** has **outlawed the "bunny hop"** boundary catch in its **Law 19.5.2** update, effective in **ICC play from June 17, 2025**, and in the **MCC Laws from October 2026**. Under the new rule, a fielder may make **only one airborne touch** after springing from **beyond the boundary** and **must land** inside the field to complete the catch; otherwise, it is scored a **boundary**. This amendment aims to uphold the **spirit of fair play**, eliminate **unusual-looking** multi-touch feats, and ensure consistency across cricket's premier championships. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Taylor Fritz** emerged victorious at the **2025 Stuttgart Open**, defeating **Alexander Zverev** in straight sets to earn his **first title of the year** and **ninth overall**. The match showcased Fritz's **flawless service game**, as he didn't drop serve during the entire tournament. The win strengthens his form going into **Wimbledon 2025**, where he will enter with renewed confidence. Meanwhile, **Zverev's struggles on grass** continued, marking his **third loss in a grass-court final**. Fritz now holds an **8-5 record** against Zverev and is poised to **rise to World No. 4** in the ATP rankings. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **FIFA Club World Cup 2025**, hosted in the **United States**, marks a significant expansion of the traditional club tournament, now featuring **32 teams** over **63 matches** across **11 cities**. With major clubs like **Real Madrid, Manchester City, and Inter Miami** participating, the event promises intense competition and big payouts from a **\$1 billion prize pool**. However, concerns over **player fatigue, political tensions, and unequal reward distribution** have added layers of controversy. As a **precursor to the 2026 World Cup**, this tournament is a major test of FIFA's global ambitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic moment** at the **Stockholm Diamond League**, **Armand Duplantis** broke his **own pole vault world record** for the **12th time**, clearing **6.28 meters** on his first attempt. Competing on home soil, the **Swedish-American athlete** fulfilled a personal dream by setting a record at the **Olympiastadion**. The event also saw thrilling performances from **Hunter Bell, Femke Bol, and Dina Asher-Smith**, underscoring a night of **athletic excellence**. This achievement cements Duplantis' status as a **legend in athletics**, inspiring future generations. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Hockey India Masters Cup 2025** is being hosted in **Chennai** from **June 18 to 27**, featuring **veteran hockey players** in the **men's (40+) and women's (35+)** categories. Organized by the **Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu**, the tournament includes **12 men's and 8 women's teams** playing across **group matches and knockouts**. Notable former players such as **Pritam Siwach, Adam Sinclair, and Sudha Chaudhari** will participate. The event emphasizes **honoring India's hockey legacy**, encouraging **active aging**, and creating a platform for veteran athletes. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian tennis player **Ankita Raina** secured her **32nd career doubles title** after winning the **Guimaraes ITF tournament** in **Portugal** with partner **Alice Robbe** of France. The duo overcame the **Japanese third seeds** in a closely fought final (1-6, 6-4, [10-8]), marking Ankita's **third doubles title of 2025** and the **eighth career doubles title** for Robbe. Their win reflects **grit, teamwork, and resilience**, enhancing India's standing on the **international women's tennis circuit**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In the **Canadian GP 2025**, **George Russell** secured **Mercedes' first win** of the season as **McLaren teammates Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri collided** with just four laps remaining. Norris admitted fault after **rear-ending Piastri** in a failed overtake, retiring with damage. The crash allowed **Piastri to finish fourth**, extending his **championship lead to 22 points** over Norris. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ICC** is preparing to implement **four-day Test matches** in the **2027–29 World Test Championship cycle** to help **smaller cricketing nations** manage schedules and costs better. While the **Big Three — India, Australia, and England** — will continue playing **five-day Tests** for their major series, the change could make Test cricket more **inclusive, efficient, and economically viable**. The plan also introduces the **Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy**, while maintaining the traditional format for the **2025–27 WTC cycle**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025** will be held from **30th September to 2nd November** in **India and Sri Lanka**, featuring **eight teams** in a **round-robin format**. Due to political tensions, **Pakistan's matches** will be played in **Sri Lanka**, while **India will face Sri Lanka** in the tournament opener. The high-profile **India-Pakistan clash** is set for **October 5 in Colombo**, with the **final scheduled for November 2**. This event underscores **India's continued prominence** in global cricket and boosts the stature of **women's cricket worldwide**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Neeraj Chopra** clinched the **2025 Paris Diamond League** title with a phenomenal **88.16m throw**, defeating strong rivals like **Julian Weber** and **Luiz Da Silva**. This marked his **first Diamond League win in two years** and a triumphant return to the Paris leg after eight years. The win strengthens his position in the international circuit and builds momentum for upcoming events like the **Zurich finals**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- Delhi University has launched the **JAIHIND** scheme to empower **Scheduled Tribe (ST) students** from **remote regions** by providing **basic computer training** and **CUET preparation support**. The programme targets **school students (Classes 9–12)** and addresses challenges like lack of digital access and unfamiliarity with online admission processes. With the **first batch of 25 students** from **Ukhrul, Manipur**, the initiative is fully funded by DU and is envisioned as an **annual skill-building programme** to support **tribal participation in higher education**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Science and Technology News

- Union Minister **Kamlesh Paswan** inaugurated **Garuda Aerospace's Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility** in **Chennai**, launching **300 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** and the **DGCA-approved Train the Trainer (TTT) programme**. The **35,000 sq. ft. facility** is equipped to manufacture **1 lakh drones by 2026**, aligning with **Prime Minister Modi's vision** of making India a **Global Drone Hub**. Live demonstrations by **Drone Didis**, collaboration with the **Bharat Drone Association**, and a focus on **self-reliance, skilling, and innovation** marked a transformative moment for the country's drone industry. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has marked a significant milestone in **cancer research** by developing a **one-step synthesis method** for **PEGylated nano-cups**, offering a **non-toxic, efficient alternative** for **photothermal therapy (PTT)**. Spearheaded by **INST Mohali** with contributions from **IIT Bombay** and **ACTREC**, this breakthrough utilizes **ZIF-8 MOF** and **ascorbic acid** to create **semi-shells** that can precisely **target and destroy cancerous tumors**, especially in **advanced breast cancer**. The innovation not only enhances **therapeutic efficacy** but also opens pathways for **biosensing** and **chemo-photothermal treatments**, making it a game-changer in **minimally invasive oncology**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's participation in **international commercial spaceflight** has reached new heights as the **Axiom Mission 4** launch, featuring **Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla**, has been **rescheduled to June 22** due to safety checks in the **Zvezda module** of the **ISS**. The mission, led by **NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson** and operated by **Axiom Space**, includes astronauts from **India, Poland, and Hungary**, and will fly aboard the **SpaceX Falcon 9** using the **Dragon capsule**. With **ISRO's support**, this mission reflects India's evolving space ambitions and boosts its role in **low-Earth orbit (LEO)** scientific operations. ([Click here to read article](#))

- A new **COVID-19 variant, NB.1.8.1 (Nimbus)**, first identified in **January 2025**, is drawing global concern due to its **rapid spread** and a distinct symptom described as **“razor blade throat”**. Classified by the **WHO** as a **variant under monitoring**, Nimbus, a **descendant of Omicron**, has been detected in **22 countries** including the **US, UK, China**, and **parts of Asia**, accounting for **10.7% of sequenced cases** in late April. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has laid the **foundation stone** for a **Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe** at the **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve** in **Ladakh**, with a project outlay of **₹276.65 lakh** under the **Special Development Package**. The initiative supports **astro-tourism, public astronomy education**, and **local employment**, complementing the work of advanced observatories like **MACE**. The Minister also engaged with **nomadic communities**, distributing **goat-shearing machines**, and allocated **₹50 lakh** under **SBI’s CSR** for constructing community tents. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Honda** has made its **debut in the space race** with the successful **launch and landing** of a **reusable experimental rocket** on **June 17, 2025**, from its **Hokkaido facility**. The rocket, though small, achieved its goals of **flight stability** and **precision landing**, touching down just **37 cm from the target**. The trial marks the **first such success outside the US and China**, with **future plans** to develop **suborbital launch capabilities** and **Earth observation satellites**, as Honda aims to become a serious player in the **commercial space industry**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **US FDA** has approved **Lenacapavir (Yeztugo)**, a **twice-yearly injectable drug** for **HIV prevention**, showing **99.9% efficacy** in Phase 3 trials. This breakthrough offers a **low-maintenance, long-acting** alternative to current **PrEP options**, with potential to **boost global compliance** and **reduce stigma**. Though not widely used in **India** due to high costs and absence in **national HIV programmes**, experts say the drug could transform **global public health outcomes** if supported by **WHO and donor agencies**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a move set to accelerate India’s entry into the **commercial space launch market**, **HAL** has secured a **₹511 crore deal** to manufacture and operate **SSLVs** under **ISRO’s technology transfer programme**. The process will include **two years of support and training**, after which HAL will independently handle **SSLV production**. This milestone reflects India’s strategic intent to empower its public sector units in **space commercialisation**, foster **private collaboration**, and position the country as a **global launch service provider** for small satellites. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Days News

- The **International Day of Family Remittances 2025**, observed on **June 16**, recognises the vital financial contributions of **migrant workers** to their families and communities. The **2025 theme**, **"Remittances financing development,"** reaffirms the global commitment to leveraging remittances as tools for sustainable development. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025**, observed on **June 17**, focuses on the theme **“Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities.”** It draws attention to the urgent need for **land restoration**, especially with over **1.5 billion hectares** needing revival by 2030. As a global observance driven by the **UNCCD**, it emphasizes the **economic and environmental significance** of healthy land and encourages nations like **India** to scale up **sustainable land management**, afforestation, and community-led resilience to achieve a **land degradation-neutral world**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Domestic Workers’ Day 2025**, observed on **June 16**, underscores the urgent need for **decent work, fair wages, social protection, and legal rights** for millions of **domestic workers**, especially **women and migrants**. With only **39 countries ratifying ILO Convention 189**, the global community is called to action to **recognise domestic work as real work**, implement strong laws, and **invest in the care economy**, in line with the **2024 ILO Resolution**—ensuring **dignity, justice, and equality** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **On the International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June)**, global attention turned toward combating the **escalating threat of online hate speech**. Prominent among voices calling for action was **Nazia Rehman**, Chair of the **Congress Social Inclusion Committee (UK)**, who emphasized the need for **local and regional authorities** to adopt **practical countermeasures**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **UN General Assembly** has adopted a resolution establishing **4 December** as the **International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures**, reflecting increasing global concern over **sanctions imposed without multilateral approval**. While supported by 116 countries, the resolution faced **strong opposition from the US and EU**, who view sanctions as vital tools to counter **security threats and rights violations**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **World Kidney Cancer Day 2025**, observed on **June 12**, highlights the importance of **kidney health awareness** with the theme "**Understanding Kidney Health.**" Organized by the **International Kidney Cancer Coalition (IKCC)**, the campaign promotes **early detection**, identifies **key risk factors** like smoking, obesity, and hypertension, and urges people to adopt a **kidney-friendly lifestyle**. As **kidney cancer** often shows no symptoms in early stages, routine **screenings** such as **CT scans** and **urine tests** are crucial for timely diagnosis and treatment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 19, 2025**, the world observes the **11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**, under the theme "**Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars.**" The United Nations uses this day to highlight the **intergenerational trauma** caused by **conflict-related sexual violence**, such as **rape, sexual slavery, and forced marriage**. Originating from **UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008)**, this day seeks to end the **impunity** surrounding war-related sexual crimes, support **survivors**, and campaign for **#EndRapeInWar** through global awareness, healing initiatives, and justice reform. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Refugee Day 2025**, observed on **June 20**, reaffirms the global commitment to uphold the **rights and dignity of refugees**. Under the theme "**Solidarity with Refugees**", this year's observance emphasizes **inclusion, fair work opportunities, and equal treatment** for the forcibly displaced. It urges **governments, employers, and communities** to recognize refugees not just as survivors, but

as **active contributors** to economic and social progress. With record levels of **displacement** worldwide, the day calls for **action-oriented solidarity**, ensuring that **refugees thrive, not just survive**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- **Former ISRO scientist and renowned Tamil author Nellai Su. Muthu** passed away on **June 16, 2025**, in **Thiruvananthapuram** at the age of **74**. Born in **Tirunelveli**, he served at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, collaborated with **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**, and wrote **over 170 books**. His works like *Vinveli 2057* and *Einsteinum Andaveliyum* received **multiple state awards**, and his contributions spanned **science communication, children's literature, and Tamil poetry**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maruti Chitampalli**, the **93-year-old Padma Shri awardee** and legendary **environmentalist**, passed away in **Solapur** due to **age-related ailments**. Fondly called '**Aranya Rishi**', he spent **36 years** in the **Forest Department**, travelling over **5 lakh kilometres** to document **wildlife**, engage with **tribal communities**, and author iconic ecological works like '**Pakshikosha**', '**Pashukosha**', and '**Matsyakosha**'. Fluent in **13 languages**, Chitampalli helped bridge traditional ecological knowledge and formal science. His death is being mourned widely by political leaders and the environmental community as a major loss to India's **ecological and literary heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

| Sr. No | Static Name | Static Info |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | NASA | Head - Jannet Petro |
| 2 | ISRO | Chairman - V Narayanan |
| 3 | Honda Space | CEO - Toshiriro Mibe |
| 4 | ICC | Chairman - Jay Shah |
| 5 | FIFA | President - Jiovaani Infantino |
| 6 | IndiGo Airlines | CEO - Pieter Elbers |
| 7 | Air India | CEO - Campbell Wilson |
| 8 | Nippon Koei India | CEO - Sampath Kumar |
| 9 | Meta India | CEO - Sandhya Devanathan |
| 10 | PNB | MD - Ashok Chandra |
| 11 | SBI | MD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty |
| 12 | RBI | Governor - Sanjay Malhotra |
| 13 | Google | CEO - Sundar Pichai |
| 14 | Telegram | CEO - Pavel Durov |
| 15 | Jio Financial Service | CEO - Hitesh Sethiai |
| 16 | Maruti Suzuki India | CEO - Hishashi Takeuch |

| Sr. No | Static Name | Static Info |
|--------|----------------|---|
| 17 | Space X | CEO - Elon Musk |
| 18 | Star Link | CEO - Elon Musk |
| 19 | TVS Motors | CEO - K Radhakrishnan |
| 20 | USA | President - Donald Trump Capital - Washington D.C. |
| 21 | Iran | Head - Ali Hosseini Khamenei Capital - Tehran |
| 22 | Italy | PM - Georgia Meloni Capital - Rome |
| 23 | Cyprus | President - Nikos Chrisodoulides Capital - Nicosia |
| 24 | UK | PM - Keir Starmer Capital - London |
| 25 | Russia | President - Vladimir Putin Capital - Moscow |
| 26 | Croatia | PM - Andrej Plenkovic Capital - Zagreb |
| 27 | UP | CM - Yogi Adityanath Governor - Anandiben Patel |
| 28 | Karnataka | CM - Siddharamaiya Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot |
| 29 | Andhra Pradesh | CM - Chandrababu Naidu Governor - Abdul Nazeer |
| 30 | West Bengal | CM - Mamta Banerjee Governor - C V Ananda Bose |
| 31 | Delhi | CM - Rekha Gupta L. Governor - V K Saxena |
| 32 | Bihar | CM - Nitish Kumar Governor - Arif Khan |
| 33 | Maharashtra | CM - Devendra Fadnavis Governor - Radhakrishnan |