Weekly One Liners 19th to 25th May, 2025

Operation Olivia: A Marine Conservation Success by the Indian Coast Guard

In a major boost to marine conservation, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), through its annual mission Operation Olivia, has successfully protected nearly 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles that nested at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha in February 2025. The operation underscores India's commitment to preserving marine biodiversity by ensuring safe nesting habitats for this vulnerable species during its annual breeding season.

Why in News?

The Indian Coast Guard announced on May 19, 2025, that its initiative Operation Olivia had recorded the protection of 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles during the nesting season at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha. This marks a record achievement in marine conservation under the initiative.

Aim and Objective

- **Primary Goal:** To ensure safe nesting of Olive Ridley turtles by minimizing threats such as illegal fishing and habitat destruction.
- Promote community participation, NGO collaboration, and the use of sustainable fishing tools like Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs).

Background and Implementation

- Launched in the early 1980s, Operation Olivia is conducted annually from November to May.
- Focuses on nesting beaches in Gahirmatha, Rushikulya river mouth, and other coastal Odisha regions—key breeding grounds for the Olive Ridley turtle.

Key Achievements in 2025 Season

- Protected 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles at Rushikulya river mouth in February 2025.
- Over 5,387 surface patrol sorties and 1,768 aerial surveillance missions conducted since inception.
- Detained 366 boats involved in illegal fishing activities.
- Established MoUs with NGOs for conservation and education programs.

Community and Tech Initiatives

- Promoted Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) among local fishermen.
- Supported sustainable practices and raised awareness through community engagement.
- Collaborated with states like Karnataka to begin geo-tagging turtles to monitor movement.

Significance

- Enhances India's commitment under Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Reinforces sustainable development goals (SDG 14 – Life Below Water).
- Demonstrates successful multi-agency collaboration for biodiversity conservation.

Mizoram Becomes India's First Fully Literate State

In a historic milestone for education in India, Mizoram has officially been declared a fully literate state, becoming the first in the country to achieve this feat. The announcement was made on 20th May 2025 by Chief Minister Shri Lalduhoma during a special ceremony in Aizawl, in the presence of key central and state dignitaries. This achievement highlights the state's dedication to inclusive education and marks the success of the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, a national adult education initiative.

Why in News?

Mizoram was recently declared India's first fully literate state under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP). This recognition comes after extensive surveys, teaching efforts, and community participation to educate all remaining non-literate individuals in the state. The announcement coincides with growing national efforts to implement the NEP 2020 vision of achieving universal literacy.

Background & Static Facts

- **Statehood:** Mizoram attained statehood on 20 February 1987.
- **Area:** 21,081 km² (8,139 sq mi)
- **2011 Census Literacy Rate**: 91.33% (Ranked 3rd in India)

Key Highlights of the Achievement

- **Date of Declaration:** 20 May 2025
- **Announced by:** Chief Minister Shri Lalduhoma
- **Venue:** Auditorium of Mizoram University, Aizawl
- **Present Dignitaries:** Shri Jayant Chaudhary (MoS, Education & Skill), Dr. Vanlalthlana (Minister of Education, Mizoram), Chief Secretary and other officials.

ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme)

- **Launched:** 2022
- **Duration:** 2022–2027
- **Target Group:** Adults aged 15 years and above
- **Vision:** Jan Jan Saakshar – Literacy for All
- **Implementation Mode:** Volunteer-based (Kartavya Bodh)

Key Components of ULLAS Scheme

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
- Critical Life Skills
- Basic Education
- Vocational Skills
- Continuing Education

Impact and Data

- **Non-literate Persons Identified (2023 Survey):** 3,026
- **Learners Engaged in Education:** 1,692
- **Literacy Rate Achieved:** 98.20% (As per PFLS 2023-24)
- **Volunteer Teachers**: 292 (Students, Educators, CRCCs)
- **National Dat**a: Over 2.37 crore learners and 40.84 lakh volunteers registered on the ULLAS mobile app

Significance

- Sets a national precedent in adult functional literacy.
- Reinforces community-driven education models.
- Demonstrates the power of volunteerism and public participation in governance.
- Reflects commitment to NEP 2020 and UN SDG-4 (Quality Education).

Centre Launches e-Zero FIR to Fast-Track Cybercrime Cases

In a significant push toward combating cybercrime, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has launched a new initiative called e-Zero FIR under its Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). The move, announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on May 20, 2025, aims to enable swift registration of FIRs in high-value cyber financial fraud cases. Currently launched as a pilot project in Delhi, the system will automatically convert complaints filed via the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or helpline 1930 into Zero FIRs for cases involving losses above ₹10 lakh—significantly enhancing the response time in apprehending cybercriminals.

Why in News?

The e-Zero FIR initiative was launched recently by the Ministry of Home Affairs to fast-track investigations in cyber financial crimes. It is initially being implemented in Delhi and is expected to be extended across India soon.

Aim & Objectives

- **Aim:** To ensure faster registration and investigation of cyber financial crimes.
- **Objective:** Streamline the process of converting high-value cyber fraud complaints into FIRs to catch cybercriminals quickly.

Background

- With a rapid increase in online financial frauds, the government saw a pressing need to accelerate the FIR registration process.
- Traditionally, complaints lodged via the NCRP or helpline took time to be converted into FIRs due to multiple verification steps.

Key Features

The e-Zero FIR system will,

- Automatically register Zero FIRs for financial cybercrime complaints above ₹10 lakh.

Accept complaints through,

- National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (www.cybercrime.gov.in)
- Helpline number 1930
- Route the Zero FIRs to the concerned cyber crime police stations.
- Require complainants to visit the cybercrime PS within 3 days to convert Zero FIR into a regular FIR.

Static Facts

- **Zero FIR:** An FIR that can be filed at any police station, irrespective of the jurisdiction, and later transferred to the appropriate PS.
- **I4C (Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre):** A division under the Ministry of Home Affairs, launched in 2020, to deal with cybercrime in a coordinated manner.
- **1930:** Helpline number for financial cyber fraud complaints in India.

Overall Significance

- Improves accountability and transparency in cybercrime handling.
- Ensures faster investigative response and real-time coordination between agencies.
- Boosts public trust in the government's cyber safety infrastructure.
- Aims to build a cyber-secure India, as emphasized by Amit Shah.

WHO Adopts First-Ever Global Pandemic Treaty

In a landmark development, the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the world's first global pandemic treaty during its annual World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 20, 2025. The agreement, passed by a vote of 124 in favor, none against, and 11 abstentions, aims to create a more equitable and coordinated global health response to future pandemics. The absence of the United States — a former WHO member — raises concerns about implementation and funding.

Why in News?

On May 20, 2025, WHO member states voted to adopt the first global pandemic treaty. It comes after three years of negotiations since the devastating impact of COVID-19. The treaty marks a major milestone in global health governance, even as the United States remains absent, having withdrawn from WHO earlier in 2025.

Aim and Objectives

- Ensure equitable access to diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics.
- Strengthen international coordination and global health infrastructure.
- Promote One Health approach, recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and plant health.
- Establish a system for pathogen access and benefit sharing.
- Encourage geographically diverse R&D and local manufacturing.
- Facilitate technology and knowledge transfer.

Key Highlights

- **Voting Outcome:** 124 countries supported the treaty; 11 abstained; none opposed.
- **No External Control:** The treaty respects national sovereignty — WHO cannot mandate lockdowns or vaccination rules.
- **Financial Mechanism**: A new fund will support pandemic response preparedness globally.
- **Equity Focus:** Responds to COVID-era inequality, where richer countries hoarded medical resources.

Controversial Issues Addressed

- Intellectual Property Rights
- Pathogen sharing
- Sovereignty vs. global coordination

Background

- The idea was mooted during the second special session of the World Health Assembly in December 2021, following the second COVID wave.
- Drafting was led by the Intergovernmental Negotiation Body (INB) over 13 rounds of meetings.
- The final draft was completed in April 2025.

Significance

- Ensures the world is better prepared for future pandemics.
- Demonstrates the power of multilateral collaboration in global crises.
- Highlights a shift from reactive to proactive health policy at the global level.
- The treaty is a public health victory, addressing global inequity in healthcare.

PM Modi Inaugurates 103 Amrit Stations Across 18 States Under ₹1,100 Crore Plan

On May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations across 86 districts in 18 states, marking a major milestone under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Developed at a cost of over ₹1,100 crore, these modernized stations aim to transform the passenger experience by enhancing comfort, connectivity, and convenience while celebrating India's rich cultural and architectural heritage. This initiative is part of a broader national effort to modernize over 1,300 railway stations and uplift infrastructure in line with India's growing transit needs.

Why in News?

On May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations located in 86 districts across 18 states as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The project was completed at a cost of over ₹1,100 crore. This marks a significant milestone in modernizing India's railway infrastructure while celebrating regional architecture and cultural heritage.

Key Objectives and Aims

- To modernize railway stations with world-class infrastructure.
- To improve passenger amenities with a focus on Divyangjan-friendly facilities.
- To preserve and highlight regional architectural styles and cultural heritage.
- To ensure sustainability and energy efficiency in station design.
- To enhance connectivity, safety, and travel comfort for millions.

Event Highlights

- PM Modi inaugurated Deshnoke Station in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- Flagged off Bikaner-Mumbai Express Train.
- Laid foundation stones for rail, road, and state infrastructure projects worth ₹26,000 crore.

Amrit Bharat Station Scheme – Background

- Launched by the Indian Railways to redevelop 1,300+ stations across India.
- Focus on integrating modern facilities with the cultural identity of each region.
- Designed to meet future growth in passenger traffic and improve operational efficiency.

Key Infrastructure Projects Inaugurated/Dedicated

- Railway Electrification Projects (Total ~999 km)
Churu–Sadulpur (58 km) – Foundation stone laid.
- Suratgarh–Phalodi (336 km)
- Phulera–Degana (109 km)
- Udaipur–Himmatnagar (210 km)
- Phalodi–Jaisalmer (157 km)
- Samdari–Barmer (129 km)

Road Infrastructure Projects

- Three vehicle underpasses and widening of national highways.
- Seven roadway projects in Rajasthan worth ₹4,850 crore.
- Roads extend up to the Indo-Pak border, strengthening defence infrastructure and logistics movement.

State Development Initiatives

- 25 key state projects in Rajasthan inaugurated/foundation laid.
- Focus areas: health, water, connectivity, electricity, and infrastructure.

Supreme Court Mandates Three Years of Legal Practice for Judicial Service Entry

In a landmark judgment delivered on May 20, 2025, the Supreme Court of India mandated a minimum of three years of legal practice as a prerequisite for applying to the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post. The ruling, led by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai, aims to enhance the quality of the judiciary by ensuring that candidates have hands-on experience in litigation before assuming judicial roles.

Why in News?

The decision is significant because it restores a legal practice requirement that had been waived by several High Courts, allowing fresh law graduates with no courtroom experience to become judges. The Supreme Court found this practice ineffective over the past two decades and deemed it detrimental to judicial efficiency and public trust.

Background

- Earlier, several High Courts permitted direct recruitment of fresh law graduates into the judiciary.
- The SC reviewed affidavits submitted by High Courts, which reported negative outcomes of appointing inexperienced candidates.

Key Judgments and Directions

- All High Courts and State Governments must amend service rules.
- Minimum three years of practice as an advocate is now mandatory for applying to the Civil Judge (Junior Division) post.
- The period of practice will be counted from the date of provisional enrollment with the Bar Council.

Certification Requirements

Candidates must provide proof of practice certified by,

- Principal Judicial Officer of the court, or
- Advocate with at least 10 years' experience, endorsed by a judicial officer.

Additional Considerations

- Experience as a law clerk to a judge or judicial officer will be counted toward the three-year requirement.
- The rule will apply to future recruitment cycles only and not those already underway.

Objectives and Significance

- Ensures that newly appointed judges have practical exposure to court proceedings.
- Strengthens the judiciary by appointing officers who understand the realities of litigation.
- Aims to reduce errors and inefficiencies stemming from inexperience.

Gujarat's Lion Population Grows by 32% Since 2020

In a landmark development for wildlife conservation in India, the Gujarat Forest Department has reported a 32% increase in the Asiatic lion population over the last five years, reaching 891 lions in 2025. This positive trend reflects the success of ongoing conservation efforts and habitat management under initiatives like Project Lion. However, the expanding lion territory now includes non-forested and human-populated areas, raising concerns about human-wildlife conflict.

Why in News?

On May 21, 2025, the Gujarat Forest Department released the 16th Asiatic Lion Census, highlighting a 32% increase in population since 2020. The update is significant as it underscores both conservation success and emerging challenges, particularly in human-wildlife coexistence. This follows the approval of Project Lion by PM Modi in March 2025, with a ₹2,900 crore outlay to improve lion habitats.

Background & Conservation Success

- The Asiatic lion (Panthera leo persica) is found only in India, primarily in Gir National Park and its surroundings.
- From 2020 to 2025, lion numbers rose from 674 to 891, a 32% jump.
- Adult females increased to 330, a 27% rise, indicating strong future growth potential.

Expansion of Territory

- Lion range increased by 16.67% from 30,000 sq. km in 2020 to 35,000 sq. km in 2025.
- Over 50% of lions now live outside protected areas, entering 11 districts of Saurashtra, including coastal and non-forested zones.

New Satellite Populations

Satellite populations include 497 lions across 9 regions such as,

- Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
- Jetpur region
- Babra-Jasdan belt
- Mityala Wildlife Sanctuary (doubled to 32 lions)
- 22 lions now recorded in a corridor area for the first time.

Challenges and Human-Lion Conflicts

- Increasing encounters with humans
- 10% annual rise in livestock attacks across villages.
- 15% annual rise in livestock killed per village.
- Despite this, 61% of locals remain tolerant, but experts stress sustainable land-sharing strategies.

National Affairs

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** has restored the historic **Rajon Ki Baoli**, a **16th-century stepwell** from the **Lodi era**, located in **Mehrauli**, Delhi. The project, supported by the **World Monuments Fund India** and the **TCS Foundation**, is part of a larger initiative to revive **traditional water systems** and promote **sustainable water management**. The restoration involved **cleaning, structural repair**, and **community involvement**, using **traditional materials** to preserve the site's **authenticity**. This conservation effort reflects the synergy between **heritage preservation** and **climate resilience**. (Click here to read article)

- On the occasion of the **125th anniversary** of the **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory**, a commemorative postal stamp was issued by the Department of Posts in Bengaluru on **May 17, 2025**. The stamp highlights the observatory's historic architecture, solar imaging contributions, and its role in long-term solar observation, symbolizing over a century of India's leadership in solar astrophysics. (Click here to read article)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the **revamped National Manuscripts Mission**, now named the **Gyan Bharatam Mission**, on **June 9, 2025**. With a substantial **budget increase to ₹60 crore**, the mission will focus on the **digitization, documentation, and conservation** of over **one crore manuscripts**. Originating in **2003**, the original mission struggled due to **funding issues** and **lack of access policy**, especially for manuscripts held by **private collectors**. This renewed effort includes making the mission **autonomous**, enhancing **digital preservation**, and promoting **India's cultural and intellectual heritage** globally. (Click here to read article)

Test Prime

ALL EXAMS, ONE SUBSCRIPTION.

- India is set to allow **private operators** into its **nuclear energy sector**, along with **limited liability provisions**, marking a strategic shift aimed at attracting **domestic and foreign investment**. The move follows the **U.S. greenlighting its nuclear firms** to collaborate with India, and could significantly enhance **energy security**, promote **clean energy expansion**, and modernize India's nuclear ecosystem. Key reforms may include **amending the CLND Act** and reducing exclusive reliance on **state-owned enterprises like NPCIL**. (Click here to read article)

- India has approved a ₹22,864 crore **Shillong-Silchar Highway** project, aiming to establish a new **multi-modal sea route** via **Myanmar**, bypassing **Bangladesh**. This **strategic infrastructure** initiative will bolster India's **Act East Policy**, reduce dependence on the **Siliguri Corridor**, and integrate with the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project**. With modern **geotechnical technologies**, this is the **first high-speed highway in the hilly terrain** of North-East India. (Click here to read article)

- India has been officially **certified by WHO** for eliminating **trachoma** as a **public health problem** during the **78th World Health Assembly** in **Geneva**. This achievement is a result of India's focused **preventive healthcare programs**, robust implementation of the **SAFE strategy**, and coordinated efforts under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**. India's participation at the WHA, led by **Punya Salila Srivastava**, reinforces its **global health leadership**, particularly in tackling **neglected tropical diseases**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated its **8th Incorporation Day** by emphasizing its commitment to **inclusive procurement**, **digital governance**, and **entrepreneur empowerment**. The launch of **GeMAI**, India's first **GenAI chatbot** for the public sector, marks a significant step in AI-driven citizen services. With over **10 lakh MSEs**, **1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs**, and **1.3 lakh artisans** integrated, GeM stands out as a catalyst for **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **cost-efficient procurement**. Its nationwide adoption and support for startups, complex services, and indigenous innovation highlight its evolving role in **transforming public procurement in India**. (Click here to read article)

- India is **on track to become the world's largest potato producer** by 2050, overtaking China, with production projected to rise from **60 to 100 million tonnes**. The **International Potato Center (CIP)**, which has partnered with India for over five decades, highlighted the potential of **tuber crops** like **sweet potatoes** in boosting **nutrition**, **employment**, and **climate resilience**. The government is boosting **agricultural innovation** and **research collaboration**, reinforcing **food and income security** while enabling **private sector participation** and **women/youth empowerment** in the agriculture sector. (Click here to read article)

- **Geeta Samota**, a **CISF Sub-Inspector** from **Rajasthan**, has created history by becoming the **first officer from CISF** to **summit Mount Everest**. Trained by **ITBP and ABVIMAS**, her journey includes completing the **Seven Summits challenge**, setting national records, and inspiring **women and youth** with her achievements. Recognized with top **national awards**, her victory has energized the **CAPF community** and strengthened India's presence in **adventure sports** and **women's empowerment**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** launched a **revamped OCI portal** to modernize services for **Overseas Citizens of India**. With over **5 million beneficiaries**, the new system is aimed at simplifying registration, enhancing user experience, and providing secure digital services. Developed in response to evolving needs and technological trends, this launch underlines India's commitment to supporting its **diaspora** through innovation and connectivity. (Click here to read article)

- The **FSSAI** has directed all states to take strict action against the use of **calcium carbide**, an **illegal fruit ripening agent**, especially in **mango** markets. The chemical is known to be **carcinogenic** and causes **mouth ulcers**. The regulator has called for enhanced **inspections**, public **awareness**, and the promotion of **safe alternatives** like **ethylene gas**. This initiative strengthens **food safety enforcement** and protects **public health** during the peak fruit season. (Click here to read article)

- India is planning to integrate **Mission LiFE** with the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** to promote **sustainable behaviours** and enhance **climate literacy**. Launched at **COP26**, Mission LiFE focuses on **individual action**, **circular economy**, and leveraging **local cultures**. By aligning this mission with existing **NAPCC frameworks**, India aims to bridge the **awareness-to-action gap** and ensure **inclusive, participatory climate governance**. Despite challenges like **voluntary participation** and **impact measurement**, this step is expected to catalyse long-term **climate resilience**. (Click here to read article)

- The Government of India, led by Minister Pralhad Joshi, has launched **Depot Darpan**, **Anna Mitra**, and **Anna Sahayata** to enhance the **transparency**, **efficiency**, and **citizen-centricity** of India's **Public Distribution System (PDS)**. These initiatives aim to **digitally monitor food depots**, **empower PDS stakeholders**, and **streamline grievance redressal** using **modern technologies** like IoT and ASR. With extensive pilot rollouts and significant financial backing, the platforms align with the vision of **Digital India** and **Viksit Bharat**. (Click here to read article)

- The **iGOT Karmayogi** platform has crossed a significant threshold, registering over **1 crore users** across India's **central and state governments**. It is part of **Mission Karmayogi**, aimed at building a **future-ready civil service**. With **2,400+ courses**, over **3.1 crore certificates**, and a strong emphasis on **digital public infrastructure**, the platform is a cornerstone of **capacity building** in governance. Going forward, the focus will shift to **regional language inclusion**, **AI-based enhancements**, and **international collaborations**. (Click here to read article)

- **Yashoda AI,** launched by **NCW** in collaboration with **Future Shift Labs**, is a pioneering effort to increase women's participation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and digital safety. The program targets women from rural and semi-urban areas, providing them with critical skills to navigate and lead in India's digital future. By addressing key issues like **AI-driven crimes and digital privacy,** Yashoda AI promotes a community-driven approach where women emerge as leaders and innovators in technology, helping build a safe, inclusive, and technologically advanced India. (Click here to read article)

- The **10th Governing Council Meeting** of **NITI Aayog**, chaired by **PM Narendra Modi**, focused on the theme **"Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047"**. It emphasized **state-level vision-building**, **data-driven governance**, **entrepreneurship**, and **green growth**, in line with recommendations from the **4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries**. The meeting highlighted the role of **cooperative federalism** in achieving a **developed India** by **2047**, the centenary of Indian independence. (Click here to read article)

- To protect India's **youth** from **tobacco** and **substance abuse**, the **Ministry of Education** has launched a **nationwide enforcement drive** for **Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI)**. Kicking off on **May 31, 2025**, the initiative enforces **Section 6(b) of COTPA, 2003**, bans tobacco sales within **100 yards of educational institutions**, and promotes awareness through a **MyGov Quiz**. With active involvement from **law enforcement**, **school authorities**, and **community stakeholders**, this campaign is crucial to building a **safe and healthy educational environment** for students. (Click here to read article)

- The Election Commission of India has introduced reforms to facilitate voters by setting up a **Mobile Deposit Facility** outside polling stations and **rationalising canvassing norms** to uphold election-day discipline. Backed by statutory provisions, these measures aim to enhance voter convenience, especially for vulnerable groups, and maintain the **secrecy of voting**. Canvassing is now banned within **100 meters** of polling stations, and mobile phones must be deposited before entering the booth. These updates mark a significant step toward a **more efficient, transparent, and voter-friendly election process**. (Click here to read article)

States in the News	International Affairs

States in the News

- The foundation stone laying of the **₹42.4 crore Integrated Aquapark** in **Tripura** under **PMMSY** represents a significant boost to the **fisheries sector** in the Northeastern region. With fisheries growing at an impressive **9.08% rate** nationally, this initiative targets increasing Tripura's **fish production** to **2 lakh tonnes**, surpassing its current demand. The project emphasizes **technology-driven sustainable farming**, **capacity building**, and **infrastructure development**, with aspirations to make Tripura a **fish surplus state** and exporter. The launch event, which included a **Fish Festival**, highlighted the government's commitment to transforming fisheries into a vibrant, innovative, and economically impactful sector. (Click here to read article)

- The **Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK)** inaugurated by **Om Birla** in **Kota** serves as a major leap in **empowering differently abled citizens**. Under the guidance of **ALIMCO** and the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, the centre provides **assistive devices**, **mobility aids**, and **skill development training** to ensure **self-reliance** and **inclusive growth**. With a vision to expand to **100 centres**, the initiative aligns with national goals of accessibility, equality, and social justice. (Click here to read article)

- The **Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund**, launched in 2024 with a **₹50 crore corpus**, faced administrative hurdles due to the **defunct status of the State Forest Development Agency (SFDA)**. To avoid delays, the fund has now been transferred to the **Advanced Institute of Wildlife Conservation (AIWC), Vandalur**, known for its **research and wildlife initiatives**. The fund aims to protect species like the **Malabar Civet** and **Salim Ali's Fruit Bat** through **mapping, research grants, and partnerships**. This move revitalizes Tamil Nadu's commitment to **biodiversity conservation**. (Click here to read article)

- Tripura has announced the launch of the **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan**, a **pan-India agriculture campaign** scheduled from **May 29 to June 12, 2025**. The initiative, launched under the guidance of **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, will focus on **enhancing farm productivity**, **reducing agricultural costs**, and **raising awareness** about **government schemes** through village-level outreach involving **ICAR and KVK experts**. This step supports the vision of a **developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047**. (Click here to read article)

International Affairs

- The **United States** has proposed a new **5% excise tax** on **international remittances** by **non-citizens**, affecting individuals such as **Indian H-1B holders**, **students**, and **green card holders**. If passed, this law could reduce **formal remittance flows**, increase use of **informal channels**, and put pressure on **salaries** and **investment outflows**. The **Indian diaspora**, which sent over **$23 billion in 2023**, stands to be one of the most impacted groups. Experts have criticized the bill for being **discriminatory** and potentially overriding **international tax treaties**. (Click here to read article)

- China's **rare earth export restrictions** have placed India's growing **EV industry** under significant strain, revealing its **overdependence on Beijing** for key components. Despite having **local reserves**, India lacks **refining infrastructure**, making it vulnerable to **supply shocks**. While initiatives like **KABIL** and **critical minerals lists** signal intent, building **domestic capacity**, fostering **international collaborations**, and scaling up **rare earth recycling** are essential to achieving real **self-reliance**. (Click here to read article)

- **Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki**, an active **volcano** in **Indonesia**, erupted twice on **May 19, 2025**, with **volcanic ash** reaching 1.1 km into the atmosphere. Authorities issued the **highest alert level** and warned of potential **lahar floods** and larger eruptions. The **Volcanic Ash Advisory Center** in **Darwin, Australia**, released a **red aviation alert** due to the ash's possible impact on **air travel**. As part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, Indonesia faces regular seismic activity, and this incident underscores the region's vulnerability and global implications. (Click here to read article)

- Sudan's military, led by **Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan**, has appointed **Kamil al-Taib Idris** as the first **Prime Minister** since the outbreak of the **civil war in April 2023**, which erupted due to a power struggle between the army and the **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)**. The appointment is part of efforts to create a **transitional government**, restore **civilian-led rule**, and address the nation's ongoing **humanitarian crisis**, with **over 13 million displaced** and half the population facing **hunger**. Idris, a respected **legal diplomat**, is seen as a **neutral figure** and a possible unifying leader in a country torn by war and **political fragmentation**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Golden Dragon-2025 joint military drill**, held in **Cambodia**, signifies a **deeper defense partnership** between **China and Cambodia**. The exercise covers **counter-terrorism**, **humanitarian relief**, and **multi-domain military operations**, including the use of **unmanned systems**. The involvement of the **Ream Port Joint Support and Training Center** and integrated training phases reflect growing **military trust** and **strategic cooperation** between the two nations. (Click here to read article)

- The **Suez Canal Authority** has initiated a **15% toll discount** for large vessels to attract traffic back to the waterway, severely impacted by the **Red Sea crisis** sparked by **Houthi rebel attacks** in late 2023. Despite a recent **ceasefire with the US**, shipping giants remain wary due to continued threats against Israeli-linked ships. While the **Suez Canal's trade volume and revenue have plummeted**, shipping companies like **Maersk** have adjusted well to the **Cape of Good Hope** route, maintaining profitability despite longer and costlier voyages. (Click here to read article)

- The **Golden Dome** is a newly unveiled **space-based missile defense system** proposed by **US President Donald Trump**. It seeks to create a **multi-layered shield** to counter **hypersonic and space-launched missile threats**, integrating terrestrial assets like **THAAD**, **Patriot**, and **Aegis**, while introducing **orbital interceptors** and **laser weaponry**. Despite being in its **conceptual stage**, the initiative has drawn **global scrutiny**, especially from **China and Russia**, who view it as a **threat to space stability**. The plan is anticipated to be operational by **2029**, though concerns over cost, coordination, and feasibility persist. (Click here to read article)

- India has **welcomed** the **UK's decision** to **transfer sovereignty** of the **Chagos Islands** to **Mauritius** under a **landmark agreement** signed on **May 22, 2025**, calling it a significant step in the global process of **decolonisation** and reaffirming its commitment to **international law**, **territorial sovereignty**, and **regional stability**. (Click here to read article)

- **Saudi Arabia's** launch of the **TOURISE** platform marks a strategic step in strengthening its position as a global tourism powerhouse. The initiative aims to unite stakeholders across various sectors to foster innovation, address sustainability challenges, and develop future-forward tourism policies. With its upcoming summit and awards program, TOURISE will spotlight advancements in AI, inclusive tourism, and investment opportunities. This platform supports **Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030** ambitions, emphasizing technology-driven growth and sustainable development in tourism. (Click here to read article)

- Algeria's accession to the **New Development Bank (NDB)** marks a strategic enhancement in the global presence of the **BRICS-led financial institution**. By joining NDB, Algeria aims to support and benefit from international efforts in **sustainable development, infrastructure financing**, and **economic resilience**. With a focus on impactful projects and collaboration, this move is expected to strengthen the NDB's mandate and offer Algeria alternative funding sources and regional influence. (Click here to read article)

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL) have formed a **strategic partnership** to enhance **credit accessibility** across India. Through IPPB's vast **postal network** and ABCL's **digital lending platforms**, customers will now have simplified access to **personal**, **business**, and **property loans**. The initiative emphasizes **financial inclusion**, supports **Digital India**, and offers **personalized financial services** using **AI** and **data analytics**. The move is expected to benefit **rural populations**, promote **entrepreneurship**, and bridge the urban-rural credit divide. (Click here to read article)

Books and Authors

- *Original Sin* by Jake Tapper and Alex Thompson investigates President Joe Biden's cognitive decline, focusing on how it was concealed from the public by his inner circle. The book outlines troubling incidents, from memory lapses to debate struggles, and critiques the media's failure to highlight these issues. Released amid Biden's cancer diagnosis, the book underscores the urgent need for transparency in leadership and responsible journalism. **Key themes include presidential fitness, media accountability, and democratic integrity.** (Click here to read article)

- Puja Pujara's memoir, *The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife*, provides a **rare behind-the-scenes look** at the **emotional challenges**, **public scrutiny**, and **family sacrifices** involved in the life of an Indian cricketer's spouse. Triggered by Cheteshwar Pujara's exclusion from the Test team post-**World Test Championship 2023**, the book candidly explores themes of **resilience**, **media pressure**, and **personal strength**. Through vivid storytelling and real-life incidents, Puja sheds light on the **silent support systems** behind every cricketing success. (Click here to read article)

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **RBI** will soon issue **new ₹20 notes** under the **Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series**, now bearing the signature of **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**. These notes will have **no changes in design, colour, or features**, and will retain the **Ellora Caves** motif. The RBI confirmed that **older notes remain valid**, emphasizing this as a **routine update** following leadership change. (Click here to read article)

- **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** injected ₹**4,452 crore** into **Indian equities** this week, pushing **total May inflows** to ₹**18,620 crore**, per **NSDL** data. Despite earlier **net outflows** in 2025, this rebound highlights renewed **investor confidence**, driven by **domestic economic stability**, easing **global uncertainty**, and strong **sectoral performance** in **defence, capital markets**, and **real estate**. The **Sensex and Nifty** also surged, reflecting the **positive market sentiment**. (Click here to read article)

- The **RBI has cancelled the licence of HCBL Co-operative Bank** due to its **inability to meet capital and earning standards**, posing a risk to depositors. The **UP Cooperative Registrar** has been directed to liquidate the bank, with over **98% of depositors insured up to ₹5 lakh** by the DICGC. This decision upholds **banking discipline**, strengthens **deposit protection**, and addresses regulatory non-compliance. (Click here to read article)

- India's **core sector growth** for **April 2025** slowed sharply to **0.5%**, marking the **lowest performance in eight months**. Key sectors like **refinery products**, **fertilisers**, and **crude oil** witnessed contraction, while only **coal** and **natural gas** posted minor gains. The **Index of Core Industries (ICI)**, which constitutes **40.27% of the IIP**, struggled under the weight of a **high base effect** from last year. Economists expect **April's IIP** to remain subdued around **1%**, reflecting a broader **slowdown in industrial activity**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched the **Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)** to tackle rising incidents of **cyber fraud** associated with **UPI transactions**. Integrated into the **Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP)**, the FRI classifies mobile numbers as **Medium**, **High**, or **Very High** risk based on inputs from **cybercrime portals**, **banks**, and **financial institutions**. Major UPI platforms like **PhonePe**, **Paytm**, and **Google Pay** are already incorporating these alerts to **prevent financial crimes**, making this a crucial **cybersecurity measure** in India's digital economy. (Click here to read article)

- **IREDA**, the country's largest **green financing NBFC**, has secured an **'Excellent' rating** from the **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)** for FY **2023-24**, ranking among the **top 4 CPSEs in India**. The recognition reflects its outstanding performance and leadership in the **Power and NBFC sectors**. Under the leadership of **CMD Pradip Kumar Das**, IREDA has consistently contributed to India's **renewable energy** mission and demonstrated its commitment to **sustainable development** and **nation-building**. (Click here to read article)

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

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

- In **FY2024-25**, the **RBI** sold a record **$398.71 billion** in **foreign exchange** to defend the **rupee**, which dropped to an all-time low of ₹87.95 against the **US dollar**. This aggressive intervention was spurred by **global uncertainty**, particularly related to fears of a **Donald Trump** return and **protectionist trade policies**. Despite an increase in the ceiling for **FCNR(B)** deposits, capital inflows remained low. This strategy led to a significant depletion of **forex reserves**, underscoring the high cost of defending the rupee in volatile times. (Click here to read article)

- The **RBI** has approved the **largest-ever surplus transfer** of ₹**2.68 lakh crore** to the **Central Government** for **FY 2024-25**. This financial boost follows an increase in the **Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB)** to **7.5%** under the **revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF)**. The RBI Board, led by **Governor Sanjay Malhotra**, assessed the **macroeconomic outlook** and approved the transfer based on strong financials and prudent provisioning. The surplus will significantly support **government expenditure**, reduce **fiscal deficit**, and reflect the **post-COVID economic rebound**. (Click here to read article)

- The RBI's establishment of the Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) marks a significant advancement in India's payment system governance. The PRB includes six members, combining RBI officials and government nominees for the first time, fostering closer collaboration in regulating and supervising the payment ecosystem. The R**BI Governor chairs the board, maintaining central bank leadership**. This structural reform responds to the growth and complexity of digital payments, aiming to enhance regulation, security, and innovation in India's rapidly evolving financial landscape. (Click here to read article)

Appointments/Resignations

- Justice Kempaiah Somashekar, a seasoned legal professional with over three decades of service, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court by the President of India, following the recommendation of the Supreme Court collegium. The appointment comes in light of the retirement of Justice D. Krishnakumar and marks a critical leadership transition in one of India's relatively new High Courts. **Key highlights** include the **judicial experience** of Justice Somashekar, the **consultation with CJI**, and the **significance of strong judicial leadership in Northeast India**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Ram Mohan M K** has been appointed as the **Director of MPEDA**, an organization under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. An expert in **marine exports**, with a strong academic background and over two decades of experience in MPEDA—including as **Resident Director in Tokyo**—he is expected to boost **India's seafood export potential**. His role in **infrastructure development**, **quality assurance**, and membership in **marine development boards** signals a strategic push for enhancing **marine export efficiency and global compliance**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **KSDL's decision** to appoint **Tamannaah Bhatia as its brand ambassador represents** a strategic effort to modernize and expand the company's reach both nationally and internationally. With a solid turnover of ₹1,785.99 crore in FY 2024–25 and a workforce predominantly from Karnataka, KSDL aims to blend heritage with contemporary marketing through Tamannaah's strong pan-India appeal and digital presence. This endorsement forms a key part of KSDL's broader transformation strategy focusing on enhancing packaging, engaging younger audiences, and boosting global brand visibility. ([Click here to read article](#))

Defence News

- The **Indian Navy**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture** and **M/s Hodi Innovations**, is inducting an **Ancient Stitched Ship**, a replica of a **5th-century CE vessel** inspired by **Ajanta cave paintings**. Built using **traditional hand-stitching techniques** by **Kerala artisans**, and supported technically by **IIT Madras**, the ship highlights India's **maritime heritage** and **naval craftsmanship**. A planned **voyage from Gujarat to Oman** will retrace **historic trade routes**, reinforcing India's ancient identity as a **seafaring nation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The **58th Jnanpith Award**, India's **highest literary honour**, was presented by **President Droupadi Murmu** to **Gulzar**, a renowned **poet and lyricist**, and **Rambhadracharya**, a **spiritual scholar and Sanskrit poet**, in **May 2025**. The event held at **Vigyan Bhavan** honoured their unique and lasting contributions to **Indian literature**—Gulzar for his emotional **lyrics and screenwriting**, and Rambhadracharya for his **devotional writings** and **work in education** for the **visually impaired**. This recognition reflects the diversity and depth of India's **cultural and literary heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Banu Mushtaq, an Indian author, activist, and lawyer, has won the **International Booker Prize 2025** for her **Kannada-language short story collection *Heart Lamp***. Translated by **Deepa Bhasthi**, the book delves into the struggles, resistance, and resilience of **Muslim women in southern India**. Her personal experiences, association with the **Bandaya movement**, and firm stand against patriarchy are central to her powerful storytelling. This marks a **historic win** for Kannada literature and emphasizes the **importance of marginalized voices** in world literature. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **President Murmu**, during the **Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025**, conferred **6 Kirti Chakras** and **33 Shaurya Chakras** on personnel from the **Indian Army**, **Navy**, **Air Force**, **CRPF**, and **J&K Police** for their **gallantry** in **anti-terror** and **counter-insurgency** operations in **Jammu & Kashmir**, the **North-East**, and other strategic regions. ([Click here to read article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The **International Tea Day Convention 2025** in **New Delhi** celebrated the cultural, economic, and strategic significance of **Indian tea**. With vibrant participation from stakeholders, the event emphasized the need for **branding**, **youth engagement**, **organic innovation**, and expanding **export potential**. Through **panel discussions**, a **tea appreciation zone**, and **interactive tasting sessions**, the convention spotlighted India's effort to strengthen its leadership in the **global tea market** and promote **sustainable and inclusive growth** within the sector. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India demonstrated strong global leadership at the **78th World Health Assembly** by advocating for **health equity**, **universal coverage**, and **pandemic preparedness**. Union Health Secretary **Punya Salila Srivastava** highlighted the achievements of **Ayushman Bharat**, India's recognition in maternal and child health by **UN bodies**, and its WHO certification as **Trachoma-Free**. India also called for a **legally binding global pandemic agreement** with a focus on **equity, transparency, and technology transfer**, especially for the **Global South**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India has assumed the **Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO)** for **2025–26** at the **67th Governing Body Meeting** in **Jakarta**, with a strategic focus on **sustainability, innovation, digital transformation**, and the **Green Productivity 2.0** framework. Led by **Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia**, India reaffirmed its commitment to **APO Vision 2030** and regional collaboration. As a **founding member**, India contributes significantly through the **National Productivity Council (NPC)**, supporting **MSMEs, Industry 4.0**, and inclusive growth. The APO, headquartered in **Tokyo**, comprises **21 member economies** working to enhance productivity across the **Asia-Pacific**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Wings India 2026**, scheduled for January 28-31 in **Hyderabad**, represents a significant platform for India's civil aviation sector, bringing together diverse stakeholders such as airlines, manufacturers, investors, and government agencies. The event will highlight technological innovations, investment prospects, and skill development initiatives across commercial and general aviation, business jets, and advanced air mobility. Organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India, and FICCI, Wings India aims to reinforce India's global aviation stature while supporting sustainable growth and regional connectivity. [(Click here to read article)](#)

- **The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025,** inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi, marks a crucial milestone in the development of India's North Eastern region. With a focus on sectors such as tourism, textiles, agro-food processing, and energy, the summit aims to attract investments and foster sustainable economic growth. Emphasizing the region's cultural diversity and strategic importance, the event aligns with the government's "Act East" policy, promoting regional integration and creating employment opportunities. The summit represents a forward-looking approach to transforming the Northeast into a vibrant hub of prosperity and development. [(Click here to read article)](#)

- The **Fisheries Secretaries Conference 2025** in **New Delhi** marked a strategic push for innovation in India's fisheries sector. The event reviewed progress under **PMMSY**, **FIDF**, and **PM-MKSSY**, with emphasis on **drone transport of live fish**, **aquaculture insurance**, and **satellite-based fisher safety**. Discussions addressed **credit barriers**, post-harvest gaps, and the need for **digital outreach** through **NFDP**. The conference reiterated India's commitment to a **tech-driven**, **sustainable**, and **inclusive fisheries sector**. [(Click here to read article)](#)

Sports News

- **Miss Estonia, Eliise Randmaa**, made history by winning **gold** at the **Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge** in **Hyderabad**, securing a **fast-track spot** in the **Top 40 quarter-finalists**. The event saw **108 contestants** compete in diverse sports like badminton and sprinting, and featured a **cultural showcase** of **Mallakhamb**, **yoga**, and **skating**. Dignitaries like **Jupally Krishna Rao** and **Rajeev Shukla** graced the occasion. This historic win highlights Estonia's re-entry into the Miss World limelight after **25 years**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India clinched their second SAFF U-19 Championship title** by defeating **Bangladesh 4-3 on penalties** after a **1-1 draw in regulation time** at the **Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh** on **May 18, 2025**. **Captain Shami Singamayum** gave India an early lead with a **2nd-minute free-kick**, while **Md Joy Ahamed** equalized for Bangladesh in the **61st minute**. This victory not only marks **India's second SAFF U-19 title** (after 2023) but also reflects the country's **rising strength in youth football**, supported by the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)** to promote regional talent and build a pipeline for senior teams. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Carlos Alcaraz** clinched his **first Italian Open title** after defeating **Jannik Sinner** in straight sets, marking his **7th ATP Masters 1000** win. The match showcased Alcaraz's evolving **tactical intelligence** and **mental resilience**. With this win, he ended Sinner's **26-match unbeaten run** and asserted dominance in their growing **rivalry**. Alcaraz's victory sets the stage for a strong performance at **Roland Garros 2025**, positioning him as the clear **favorite on clay**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **Olympian javelin thrower**, **Shivpal Singh**, has failed a **second dope test**, with the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** placing him under **provisional suspension**. His **urine sample**, collected during **out-of-competition testing** earlier this year, tested positive for a **banned substance**. A repeat offence under **WADA and NADA rules** could lead to an **eight-year ban**, threatening to end his sporting career. Shivpal previously served a **reduced one-year ban** after testing positive in 2021 and had made a successful comeback in 2023. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Pepe Reina, one of Spain's most respected goalkeepers, will retire at 42 after a 25-year football career. His journey includes playing for elite clubs, winning **international championships**, and earning individual honors like the **Premier League Golden Glove**. His **final appearance for Como** against Inter Milan in Serie A will mark the end of a celebrated era in world football. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Tottenham Hotspur** created history by winning the **2025 UEFA Europa League Final** against **Manchester United** with a 1-0 victory. **Brennan Johnson** scored the decisive goal, while a stunning goal-line clearance by **Micky van de Ven** and crucial saves from **goalkeeper Vicario** sealed the win. After **17 years without a trophy**, Spurs have now secured a spot in next season's **Champions League**. The victory is a major breakthrough for manager **Ange Postecoglou** and brings renewed hope to fans after a challenging **Premier League season**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Joe Root, during a Test against **Zimbabwe** at **Trent Bridge** on **May 22, 2025**, became the **fastest cricketer to reach 13,000 Test runs**. Surpassing **Jacques Kallis'** record, Root achieved this feat in **153 innings**, further solidifying his stature as one of the modern greats of **Test cricket**. (Click here to read article)

- **Kanak Budhwar**, a **17-year-old Indian shooter**, claimed **gold in the 10m air pistol** event at the **ISSF Junior World Cup 2025** in **Suhl, Germany**, defeating **European champion and Olympian Anna Dulce**. Her journey from being **underweight** to becoming a **World Cup winner** is marked by **technical improvements**, **family support**, and **expert coaching**. With earlier medals in **Asian Championships** and the **Junior World Championships**, this win strengthens India's future in **international shooting** and may inspire her **Olympic dreams**. (Click here to read article)

- **Napoli won the 2024–25 Serie A title** with a decisive 2-0 win over Cagliari, propelled by goals from **Scott McTominay** and **Romelu Lukaku**. Despite Inter Milan's victory, Napoli stayed a point ahead. **Antonio Conte**, coaching from the stands due to suspension, created history by winning Serie A titles with **Juventus, Inter, and Napoli**. With the **Scudetto secured**, Inter Milan now turns its attention to the **Champions League final** against PSG. (Click here to read article)

Schemes and Committees News

- The Ministry of Education has raised **concerns** over a substantial **drop in student enrolment** in **government and government-aided schools** across **23 states and UTs** during 2024–25. This was revealed during a **PM-POSHAN scheme** review, where states like **Uttar Pradesh**, **Bihar**, and **Rajasthan** showed massive declines. Officials have attributed the trend to ongoing **data cleansing**—which eliminated **ghost entries**—and a **reverse shift to private schools** post-pandemic. The drop has also impacted **midday meal coverage**, with states like **Delhi** and **West Bengal** witnessing a sharp fall. The MoE has instructed states to submit findings by **June 30, 2025**, highlighting the need for improved **data accuracy**, **meal quality**, and **public education trust**. (Click here to read article)

- The government's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), launched on May 1, 2025, has attracted 70 applications in a short span, with 80% coming from small and medium enterprises. Aimed at minimizing **electronic import dependence**, the ₹22,805 crore scheme supports domestic production of sub-assemblies like **PCBs, camera modules**, and **lithium-ion cells**. It aligns with **Digital India**, **Make in India**, and the goal of achieving **$500 billion electronics output** by 2030. Industry giants like **Tata Electronics** and **Foxconn** have reportedly shown interest. (Click here to read article)

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** has launched a **pilot apprenticeship scheme** for **youth in India's northeast**, offering **₹1,500 extra stipend** under **NAPS**. The program, inaugurated in **Aizawl**, aims to tackle **mobility barriers**, promote **industry exposure**, and ensure **employment readiness**. With a budget of **₹43.94 crore**, the scheme will be jointly implemented by **IIE Guwahati** and **NSDC**, supporting **26,000 youth**, especially **women**, in gaining meaningful apprenticeships. (Click here to read article)

- The **Government of India** has implemented a **4% reservation** for **Persons with Disabilities (PwD)** in **General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA)** to support disabled central government officials. This policy, enforced by the **Directorate of Estates**, aligns with the **RPWD Act, 2016**. Eligible officials with a **UDID card** will now receive **priority in monthly housing allotments**, especially significant in light of the **15–18 year waiting periods** currently faced by new officials. This marks a **critical milestone in accessible housing and administrative inclusion**. (Click here to read article)

Science and Technology News

- Doctors at CHOP and Penn Medicine used **customized CRISPR-based gene editing** to treat a **rare liver disorder** in baby KJ, making him the **first person to receive a personalized therapy of its kind**. The technique, known as **base editing**, precisely corrected his unique DNA mutation, showing promising results with improved health and minimal side effects. This breakthrough lays the groundwork for the treatment of **thousands of rare diseases** worldwide. (Click here to read article)

- NASA's **GRAIL mission**, launched in **2011**, has helped solve the puzzle of the Moon's **asymmetrical appearance**. Using dual satellites **Ebb** and **Flow**, the mission mapped the Moon's **gravity field**, revealing that the **nearside** has a **thinner crust**, **higher heat levels**, and was more **volcanically active** due to **heat-producing elements** like **thorium** and **titanium**. In contrast, the **farside** has a **thicker crust** and fewer lava plains. These differences are due to **gravitational asymmetry** and **tidal flexing**, caused by **Earth's gravitational pull**—a key insight into the Moon's **internal structure and thermal evolution**. (Click here to read article)

- On **May 18, 2025**, ISRO faced a **rare launch failure** with its **PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission** due to a **fall in pressure** in the **third-stage motor**. The **Earth observation satellite EOS-09**, equipped with **Synthetic Aperture Radar** and weighing over **1,696 kg**, could not be placed into its **targeted orbit**. The **setback** is notable as it breaks ISRO's **long-standing streak** of **successful PSLV launches**, with **post-failure analysis** currently underway to identify the **technical root cause** and strengthen **future mission reliability**. (Click here to read article)

- GS1 has announced the **introduction of new-generation QR codes** from **2027** as part of its **Vision 2030** initiative. These QR codes, tested in **Australia** and other nations, will provide greater **transparency**, **traceability**, and **product information**. **India**, set to become the **third-largest economy**, plays a crucial role in GS1's roadmap, with the rollout depending on the **digital readiness of retailers and manufacturers**. The **GS1 General Assembly** was hosted in India for the first time, reinforcing the country's importance in **digital standardisation and consumer safety**. (Click here to read article)

- The butterfly species **Euthalia malaccana** has been newly documented in **Arunachal Pradesh**, India, after extensive fieldwork and scientific validation. This discovery extends its known range from Southeast Asia into India and contributes significantly to the understanding of **butterfly biodiversity** in the northeast. The study also highlights the role of **citizen scientists** in advancing ecological knowledge. Important keywords include **Euthalia malaccana**, **Arunachal Pradesh**, **butterfly biodiversity**, **citizen science**, and **Indo-Australian region**. (Click here to read article)

- Assam's debut of **AI anchor Ankita** marks a pivotal move in **digital governance** and **AI in media**. Unveiled by CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma**, Ankita presented **Cabinet highlights** in **Assamese**, including the **renaming of Dibrugarh Airport** and a **time grant for tea garden workers**. While the initiative showcases **technological innovation**, it also raises concerns about **employment displacement** in traditional media roles. (Click here to read article)

- On **May 22, 2025**, the **MoEFCC** announced the **21 winning ideas** under its **'Ideas4LiFE'** initiative, a citizen-driven program developed under the umbrella of **Mission LiFE**. In partnership with **UNICEF YuWaah**, the Ministry selected ideas focused on **seven sustainability themes**, including energy, water conservation, plastic reduction, and healthy lifestyles. The initiative drew **1384 entries** and was evaluated through a **rigorous three-phase selection process** to identify **innovative, feasible, and scalable solutions** aligned with India's commitment to **sustainable living** and **climate action**. (Click here to read article)

Important Days News

- **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) 2025**, observed on **May 17**, highlights the role of **communication and information technologies** in fostering **inclusive development** and closing the **digital divide**. It commemorates the founding of the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in **1865**, and this year's theme, **"Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development"**, focuses on using tech for **climate action**, **educational access**, **economic equity**, and **healthcare inclusion**. Through global **events**, **policy dialogues**, and **tech showcases**, WTISD promotes the idea that **digital access is a necessity**, not a privilege. (Click here to read article)

- **International Museum Day** is celebrated on **May 18** to highlight the **role of museums** in **preserving heritage**, promoting **education**, and fostering **cultural exchange**. Established by **ICOM** in **1977**, it is observed in over **158 countries**. The **2025 theme** is **"The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities,"** focusing on **innovation**, **digital transformation**, and **community engagement**. Museums serve as **educational hubs**, **cultural bridges**, and promote **sustainability** and **inclusivity** worldwide. (Click here to read article)

- **World Bee Day 2025**, themed **"Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all"**, focuses on the importance of pollinators in agriculture, biodiversity, and climate resilience. With nearly 90% of wild flowering plants and 75% of food crops relying on animal pollination, the decline of species like bees threatens global food security. UN agencies like FAO are leading efforts to conserve pollinators through sustainable practices and international cooperation. Individuals, farmers, and policymakers alike are urged to act to protect pollinator populations and restore ecosystem balance. (Click here to read article)

- May 19 has been officially designated as **World Fair Play Day** beginning in 2025 by the United Nations General Assembly. This global observance recognizes the **power of sport to bridge divides**, foster **equality and inclusion**, and promote a **more peaceful and just world** by instilling values like **fairness, honesty, and mutual respect**. (Click here to read article)

- On **World Metrology Day 2025**, India commemorated the **150 years of the Metre Convention** with transformative announcements in the field of **Legal Metrology**. Highlights included India becoming the **13th country authorized to issue OIML certificates**, mandating **1 mg precision in gold weighing**, launching the **eMaap portal** for digital governance, and rolling out time synchronization under the **"One Nation, One Time"** initiative. These steps reflect India's commitment to enhancing **consumer protection**, **trade accuracy**, and **ease of doing business**, while aligning with **international standards** in metrology. (Click here to read article)

- **International Tea Day 2025**, celebrated on **May 21**, recognizes the **cultural**, **economic**, and **health** significance of **tea**, the world's most consumed beverage after water. Originating in **ancient China**, tea has grown into a global tradition and a source of **livelihood** for millions, especially in countries like **India**. This year's theme, **"Tea for Better Lives,"** emphasizes tea's role in promoting **sustainability**, **health**, and **poverty reduction**, while also celebrating its role in **women empowerment** and **rural development**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **National Anti-Terrorism Day**, observed on **May 21** in India, marks the **death anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated in 1991 by the **LTTE**. The day aims to raise **awareness against terrorism**, promote **peace**, **unity**, and **non-violence**, and honor the **victims of terrorist attacks**. Citizens take an **anti-terrorism pledge**, and various programs are organized in **schools**, **colleges**, and **public institutions** to reinforce the nation's stand against **violence and extremism**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development**, observed annually on **May 21**, was established by the **United Nations in 2002** following the **2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity**. It aims to promote **intercultural dialogue**, **peace**, and **sustainable development** by advancing four key **UNESCO goals**: supporting **cultural governance**, enabling the **flow of cultural goods and artist mobility**, integrating **culture in development**, and protecting **human rights**. Organizations celebrate the day by hosting **cultural awareness activities**, sharing **diversity resources**, and reaffirming commitment to **inclusive workplaces**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **International Day for Biological Diversity 2025**, observed on **May 22**, brings renewed focus to the **urgent need to conserve nature**. With the theme **"Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development,"** this year's observance aligns with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Through global events, campaigns, and policy initiatives, the day reminds us of the essential role of **biodiversity** in supporting life systems, **ecosystem stability**, **climate resilience**, and human well-being. Protecting biodiversity is no longer optional—it is a **global necessity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Observed annually on 23 May, the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula draws global attention to one of the most preventable childbirth-related health conditions—obstetric fistula. With the 2025 theme **"Her Health, Her Right,"** this observance calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and aims to end the gender-based disparities that allow such a condition to persist in impoverished regions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Turtle Day**, celebrated annually on **May 23**, raises **global awareness** about the **conservation** of **turtles and tortoises**, which are among the **oldest and most threatened species** on Earth. Founded in **2000** by **American Tortoise Rescue**, the day highlights their **ecological importance**, such as **maintaining marine balance** and **aerating soil**, and their **cultural symbolism** of **wisdom and longevity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Obituaries News

- Dr. **Jayant Vishnu Narlikar**, a renowned **astrophysicist**, **science communicator**, and **Padma Vibhushan** awardee, passed away at 87 in Pune. Known for his foundational role in Indian science, he was a **Cambridge-educated** scholar who expanded theoretical astrophysics at **TIFR** and founded the globally acclaimed **IUCAA** in Pune, fostering **interdisciplinary research** and academic collaboration across India and the world. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Dr. **M.R. Srinivasan**, a pioneer in India's **atomic energy** journey, passed away on **May 20, 2025**, at the age of **95**. As a former **Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)** and the **Founder-Chairman of NPCIL**, he played a critical role in constructing India's first nuclear research reactor **Apsara** and developing **18 nuclear power units**. His leadership and technical brilliance earned him the **Padma Vibhushan** and left a lasting impact on India's **nuclear self-reliance** and **energy security**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Dr. **Saroj Ghose**, the **visionary pioneer** of India's **science museum movement**, passed away on **May 17, 2025**. As the **founding Director General of NCSM**, he was instrumental in creating a **decentralised network** of **science centres** to promote **scientific temper** and **informal education** across the country. His post-retirement work on landmark institutions like the **Parliament Museum** and the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum** solidified his legacy. The **NCSM**, under the **Ministry of Culture**, remains committed to carrying forward his mission of **democratizing science** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	Tripura	**Governor** - N. Reddy **CM** - Manik Saha **Capital** - Agartala
2	Mizoram	**Governor** - V k Singh **CM** - Lalduhoma **Capital** - Aizawl
3	Uttar Pradesh	**Governor** - Anandiben Patel **CM** - Yogi Adityanath **Capital** - Lucknow
4	Tamil Nadu	**Governor** - R N Ravi **CM** - M K Stalin **Capital** - Chennai
5	Gujarat	**Governor** - Acharya Devvrat **CM** - Bhupendra Patel **Capital** - Gandhinagar
6	Rajasthan	**Governor** - Haribhau Bagade **CM** - Bhajan Lal **Capital** - Jaipur
7	Assam	**Governor** - Lakshman Achrya **CM** - Hemanta Biswa Sarma **Capital** - Dispur
8	USA	**President** - Donald Trump **Capital** - Washington D. C.
9	China	**President** - Xi Jinping **Capital** - Beijing
10	Indonesia	**President** - Prabowo Subianto **Capital** - Jakarta
11	Cambodia	**President** - Heng Samrin **Capital** - Phnom Penh
12	WHO	**HQ -** Geneva
13	ISRO	**Chairman -** V Narayanan
14	RBI	**Governor -** Sanjay Malhotra
15	SBI	**Chairman -** Challa Sreenivaalu Setty
	PNB	**MD -** Ashok Chandra