

**Weekly One Liners 21st to 27th April, 2025**

**Maharashtra Governor Presents Yashraj Bharti Samman Awards 2025**

Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan conferred the 3rd edition of the 'Yashraj Bharti Samman' awards to three notable grassroots-level organizations for their exemplary contributions in the fields of healthcare, education for sustainable development, and governance. The award ceremony, held in Mumbai, recognized the impact of Jan Swasthya Sahayog (Chhattisgarh), Pratham Education Foundation, and the Services Plus platform developed by the National Informatics Centre. The event witnessed the presence of dignitaries such as former Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Dilip Walse Patil and India's G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant. Governor Radhakrishnan highlighted the pressing need to improve education quality, enhance healthcare in tribal areas, and promote ethical governance to drive true social change.

**Key Highlights of the Yashraj Bharti Samman 2025**

**Award Overview**

- The Yashraj Bharti Samman is presented to individuals or organizations contributing meaningfully at the grassroots level.
- This is the 3rd edition of the award.

**Awardees and Their Contributions**

Jan Swasthya Sahayog (Chhattisgarh)

- Recognized for delivering expert-led healthcare services in remote and tribal regions.
- Focuses on equity in health services and access to affordable care.

Pratham Education Foundation

- Honored for promoting sustainable development through education.
- Known for innovative programs like ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) to monitor and improve learning outcomes across India.

Services Plus Platform (NIC)

- Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- A digital platform aimed at enhancing good governance by providing citizen-centric e-services efficiently and transparently.

**Event Insights**

- Held in Mumbai, organized by the Raj Bhavan.

Attended by key dignitaries including,

- Dilip Walse Patil, Former Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker.
- Amitabh Kant, India's G-20 Sherpa.

**Governor's Address**

- **Education:** Expressed concern over falling standards of education despite the large number of schools in Maharashtra.
- **Healthcare:** Stressed the importance of specialist-led care to improve the quality of life in tribal areas.
- **Governance:** Emphasized the need to combat corruption through public awareness and to achieve ethical governance as a foundation for social transformation.

**Laureus World Sports Awards 2025: Check Complete Winners List**

The 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards celebrated its 25th anniversary with a grand ceremony in Madrid, honoring outstanding athletes and teams for their exceptional performances over the past year. The event recognized both individual brilliance and collective achievements across various sports disciplines.

The Laureus World Sports Awards, often dubbed the "Oscars of Sports", celebrated the most remarkable athletes and sporting achievements of the past year. Held in the vibrant city of Madrid, the 2025 edition of the event brought together legends, rising stars, and game-changers across various disciplines.

Mondo Duplantis: The Vaulting Legend

Mondo Duplantis, the 25-year-old Swedish-American pole vaulter, was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year, a title he clinched for the first time after being nominated three years in a row.

- Duplantis is hailed as the greatest pole vaulter of all time. He surpassed top contenders like:
- Carlos Alcaraz (Tennis – Spain)
- Léon Marchand (Swimming – France)
- Tadej Pogačar (Cycling – Slovenia)
- Max Verstappen (Formula 1 – Netherlands)

In 2024, Duplantis:

- Won his **second World Indoor Championship gold**.
- **Broke his own world record for the ninth time**.
- Won **Olympic gold in Paris**.

His award was even more memorable with **Usain Bolt**—the only other track-and-field athlete to win this honour—paying a special tribute to him.

Simone Biles: The Queen Returns

After a period of absence from competition, **Simone Biles** made a heroic comeback at the **Paris Olympics**, winning:

- **Three gold medals**
- **One silver medal**

She was honoured with the **Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award**, making it her **fourth win**, a feat that **equals Serena Williams' record**.

- This win affirms her status as **one of the most decorated gymnasts in history**.
- Biles and Duplantis both previously earned the **Comeback of the Year** honour, showcasing their resilience.

Full List of Laureus World Sports Awards 2025 Winners

| Category                        | Winner          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| World Sportsman of the Year     | Mondo Duplantis |
| World Sportswoman of the Year   | Simone Biles    |
| World Team of the Year          | Real Madrid     |
| Breakthrough of the Year        | Lamine Yamal    |
| Comeback of the Year            | Rebeca Andrade  |
| Sportsperson with a Disability  | Jiang Yuyan     |
| Action Sportsperson of the Year | Tom Pidcock     |
| Sport for Good Award            | Kick4Life       |
| Sporting Icon Award             | Rafael Nadal    |
| Lifetime Achievement Award      | Kelly Slater    |

**IISc Tops Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025**

The **Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025** were unveiled on **April 23**, showcasing the top universities in Asia. With 853 universities from 35 countries and territories included in this year's rankings, the list highlights the leading institutions excelling in research, teaching, and innovation across the continent. **The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) continues to shine, securing the top spot for Indian universities, ranked 38th overall in Asia.** However, many Indian institutions saw a drop in their rankings compared to last year, signaling the evolving competition in higher education.

**Key Highlights of THE Asia Rankings 2025**

- IISc is the highest-ranked Indian university at 38th position, despite a drop from 32nd place in 2024.
- Anna University and IIT Indore follow at 111th and 131st positions, respectively, marking a slight decline from their previous rankings.

- Mahatma Gandhi University ranks at 140th, slightly down from 134th last year.
- Other prominent Indian universities such as Shoolini University, Saveetha Institute, and Jamia Millia Islamia also feature in the rankings.
- In the broader regional context, China continues to dominate the rankings, with Tsinghua University and Peking University leading the charge at first and second places. Universities from Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong also make up significant portions of the top 10 spots.

Detailed Breakdown of Indian Universities in the Rankings

- 38th - Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- 111th - Anna University
- 131st - Indian Institute of Technology Indore
- 140th - Mahatma Gandhi University
- 146th - Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
- 149th - Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
- 161st - Jamia Millia Islamia
- 184th - Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
- 184th - KIIT University
- 188th - Aligarh Muslim University
- 188th - UPES
- 191st - Indian Institute of Technology Patna
- 191st - National Institute of Technology Rourkela
- 200th - International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad

**International Trends in the Rankings**

- **China's dominance:** Tsinghua University and Peking University retain the top two positions.
- **Singapore's rise:** National University of Singapore ranks 3rd, followed by Nanyang Technological University at 4th.
- **Japan and Hong Kong:** Universities such as The University of Tokyo and The University of Hong Kong continue to perform well in the rankings.
- **New entrants:** Four countries, including Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Mongolia, and Syria, are featured for the first time in the rankings.

**Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India**

In a significant development in the Indian legal landscape, **Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari**, a former **Supreme Court judge**, has been appointed as the **Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India** in **April 2025**. The announcement marks a crucial step in the government's ongoing efforts to review and recommend reforms in various aspects of Indian law, particularly the long-debated **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.

Tenure and Composition of the 23rd Law Commission

The **23rd Law Commission** was formally constituted on **September 1, 2024**, with its term extending until **August 31, 2027**. It comprises a total of **seven members**, including:

- **One Chairperson:** Justice (Retd.) Dinesh Maheshwari
- **Four full-time members:** Including **Hitesh Jain** (a lawyer) and **P. Verma** (an academician who was also part of the 22nd Law Commission)
- **Two ex-officio members:** From the **Department of Legal Affairs** and **Legislative Department**

In addition, the government may appoint up to **five part-time members**, and **serving judges**, if included, will function as **full-time members** until their **retirement or end of the Commission's term**.

Focus on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

A major agenda for the 23rd Commission will be to **examine the feasibility of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**—a politically and socially sensitive subject in India. The UCC aims to **replace personal laws based on religion or community** with a **common set of civil laws** applicable to all citizens.

**Background of UCC Consultations:**

- The **22nd Law Commission**, formed earlier, initiated **nationwide consultations** on the UCC in **2023**, collecting **public input** from **over 70 consultations**.
- It had **drafted a 749-page preliminary report**, but the process was **incomplete** after its then-chairperson, **Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi**, was appointed as **Lokpal**.
- The **21st Law Commission**, in its **2018 report**, had opined that **UCC was “neither necessary nor desirable at this stage”**, creating a divergence in policy direction.

The **23rd Commission** is now expected to **revisit and finalize recommendations** on this contentious issue, taking into account the changing **socio-legal environment** in the country.

Political Significance of the UCC Agenda

The **Uniform Civil Code** has long been a part of the **Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) core agenda**, along with:

- The **abrogation of Article 370** (granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir)
- The **construction of the Ram Mandir** in Ayodhya

Both of these promises were **fulfilled during BJP's second term (2019–2024)**. The UCC now remains the **final pillar** of the party's ideological roadmap.

**Developments in States**

- **Uttarakhand** became the **first Indian state to implement a UCC**, passing its own **Uniform Civil Code Bill**.
- **Gujarat** has also formed a **drafting committee** to explore the adoption of a similar code.

In **2022**, the **Central Government** told the **Supreme Court** that the existence of different personal laws is an **“affront to the nation's unity”**, indicating its strong support for legal uniformity.

Financial and Operational Structure

To support its functioning, the **23rd Law Commission** has a well-defined compensation and operational structure:

- The **Chairperson (Retired)** will receive a **monthly honorarium of ₹2.5 lakh**, inclusive of pension benefits.
- The **Retired full-time members** are entitled to **₹2.25 lakh per month**, also inclusive of pension.

The Commission is expected to work independently but in close coordination with the **Ministry of Law and Justice**, as well as other legal stakeholders and civil society organizations, to ensure **inclusive and practical legal recommendations**.

### Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2025: Resumption After Five Years

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) is a significant annual pilgrimage symbolizing deep religious and cultural ties between India and China. It holds immense importance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of the Bon religion. Circumambulating Mount Kailash is believed to bring spiritual merit, and bathing in Lake Mansarovar is thought to cleanse one's sins. The pilgrimage was suspended in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions. Its resumption after five years marks a positive development in religious tourism and bilateral cooperation.

**Why in News?**

- On April 26, 2025, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- The pilgrimage will be conducted between June and August 2025.
- A total of 750 pilgrims will be allowed, divided into batches traveling via Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim).

**What is Kailash Mansarovar Yatra?**

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is an annual government-organized pilgrimage for Indian citizens to visit Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar in Tibet Autonomous Region, China. It has deep religious significance:

- **Hindus** consider Mount Kailash as the abode of Lord Shiva.
- **Buddhists** regard it as the dwelling of Buddha Demchok.
- **Jains** believe it is where their first Tirthankara attained liberation.
- **Bon religion** followers worship it as a sacred mountain.

The main objective of the yatra is to promote religious pilgrimage and cultural exchange between India and China.

**Key Details or Features**

There are two official routes for the pilgrimage:

- **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):** Traditional route operational since 1981.
- **Nathu La Pass (Sikkim):** Motorable route introduced in 2015.

Pilgrim details:

- Five batches of 50 pilgrims each will travel via Lipulekh Pass.
- Ten batches of 50 pilgrims each will travel via Nathu La Pass.

The registration process is fully computerized through <https://kmy.gov.in>, ensuring a fair, random, and gender-balanced selection. The yatra is coordinated by multiple agencies, including the MEA, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), and the state governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Delhi, along with Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN).

**Impact/Significance**

The resumption of the yatra carries several important implications:

- **Religious and Cultural:** Reinforces spiritual traditions and the faith of devotees.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** Symbolizes improving India-China ties through people-to-people interaction.
- **Economic Benefits:** Boosts tourism in Uttarakhand and Sikkim, generating local employment in hospitality, transport, and logistics sectors.
- **Strategic Value:** Enhances border infrastructure and connectivity, strengthening national security in sensitive regions.

**Challenges or Concerns**

Despite the positive developments, several challenges persist:

- **Security:** Continued tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) pose risks.
- **Logistics and Safety:** Harsh terrain, high altitudes, and unpredictable weather endanger pilgrims' health.
- **Diplomatic Sensitivity:** Fragile relations with China mean that adverse incidents could escalate tensions.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Increased pilgrim traffic may lead to ecological degradation in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

**Way Forward/Solutions**

A holistic approach is needed to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the yatra:

- **Enhance Safety Measures:** Strengthen medical screening, emergency facilities, and rescue operations.
- **Maintain Diplomatic Dialogue:** Sustain engagement with China to avoid misunderstandings and promote cooperation.

- **Sustainable Infrastructure Development:** Improve roads, communication, and shelter facilities with minimal ecological damage.
- **Ecological Protection:** Enforce strict waste management and promote eco-friendly tourism practices.
- **Pilgrim Training:** Provide high-altitude acclimatization and environmental awareness programs to participants.

**National Affairs**

- India's **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** system has significantly boosted welfare efficiency, saving ₹3.48 lakh crore from 2009 to 2024. The system reduced subsidies from 16% to 9% of total government expenditure, while the number of beneficiaries surged 16-fold. Key programs like **PDS, MGNREGS, PM-KISAN**, and fertilizer subsidies saw major savings, with a strong **correlation** between beneficiary growth and savings. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 22, 2025**, a **terrorist attack** in **Baisaran, Pahalgam (Anantnag, South Kashmir)** claimed **26 lives** and injured many, targeting **tourists** during the **peak season** in a major blow to **J&K's tourism revival**. The attackers, believed to be **2-3 terrorists**, opened **indiscriminate fire** at the scenic, foot-access-only meadow. This first such **tourist-targeted attack in 2025** has triggered **travel cancellations**, jeopardized the **local economy**, and raised serious **security and political concerns**, with condemnation from **national and regional leaders** and intensified calls for policy reassessment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, in collaboration with **Microsoft**, launched the **'AI Careers for Women'** initiative on **April 22, 2025**, aiming to train **20,000 women** from **Tier-II and Tier-III towns** across **six states** in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. Through a **240-hour curriculum** developed with **NCVET**, and delivered via a **Hub-and-Spoke model** (30 **Centres of Excellence** and 150 spoke centers), the program promotes **digital inclusion, leadership, and entrepreneurship** among rural women. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **US Vice President JD Vance** began his **first official visit to India** on **April 21, 2025**, receiving a **Guard of Honour** at **Palam Airport, New Delhi**, accompanied by **Second Lady Usha Vance** and their children. Welcomed by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the **four-day visit** aims to enhance **India-US strategic ties** in **trade, defence, and economic cooperation**. A key meeting with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **April 21 at 6:30 PM** at **7, Lok Kalyan Marg** is set to explore deeper **bilateral relations** and a potential **trade agreement**. The itinerary also includes cultural visits to **Jaipur** and **Agra**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India's largest cruise terminal**, the **Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT)**, was inaugurated by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** on **April 21, 2025**, marking a major boost to **cruise tourism** and **maritime infrastructure**. With an annual **capacity of 1 million passengers** and the ability to handle **five ships simultaneously**, the **Rs 556 crore** terminal supports ships up to **300 meters** in length. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In response to the **Pahalgam terror attack** that killed 26 people, including a **foreign national**, the **Indian government** has implemented a **5-point action plan** targeting **Pakistan**. Key measures include the **suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty**, **closure of the Attari-Wagah border**, **cancellation of the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme** for Pakistani nationals, **expulsion of Pakistani military advisors**, and a **reduction in diplomatic staff** at the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. These steps aim to **isolate Pakistan diplomatically** and curb cross-border terrorism. The attack, executed by **Pakistani nationals**, is under investigation, with a **massive manhunt** launched for the perpetrators. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major diplomatic fallout after the **Pahalgam terror attack**, **Pakistan has suspended the 1972 Simla Agreement**, **closed the Wagah border**, **banned Indian airlines from its airspace**, and **halted all trade with India**, citing alleged Indian involvement in terrorism. This follows **India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty**, **downgrade of diplomatic ties**, **visa cancellations**, and **closure of the Attari post**. With all **bilateral agreements now effectively frozen**, tensions between the nuclear neighbors have sharply escalated, with **Pakistan warning that any diversion of Indus water would be an "Act of War."** ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India is set to allow 49% foreign investment** in its **nuclear power sector**, marking a major **policy shift** to boost **clean energy**, reduce **coal dependency**, and achieve its **carbon reduction goals**. The government aims to **amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (2010)** and the **Atomic Energy Act (1960)** by the **Monsoon Session 2025**, enabling **foreign and private firms** to invest, build, and operate nuclear facilities. ([Click here to read article](#))

### States in the News

- The '**Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025**' was inaugurated by **Tripura CM Manik Saha** on **April 21, 2025**, at **Swami Vivekananda Maidan, Agartala**. The two-day festival celebrates the **Garia Puja**, a key religious event for the **Tripuri and Reang communities**, dedicated to **Lord Shiva** for peace and prosperity. The festival features **traditional dances, folk songs, Rabindra Sangeet**, and **magic shows**, alongside **local food stalls** showcasing regional cuisine. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **SJVN Ltd** has released **₹269.97 crore** as **land compensation** for the **3,097 MW Etalin Hydro Electric Project** in **Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**, marking a major boost for India's **renewable energy** goals. The payment, made on **March 26, 2025**, supports the construction of **two dams** on the **Dri and Talo Rivers**, along with an **underground powerhouse**, with commissioning set for **December 2033**. **CM Pema Khandu** praised SJVN's efforts and affirmed full **state support** for project clearances. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Under **NEP 2020 reforms**, **Maharashtra** will implement a **new curriculum framework** from **2025-26**, making **Hindi mandatory** as a **third language** for **Classes 1 to 5** in **English and Marathi-medium schools**. This aligns with the **three-language formula** aimed at **multilingual proficiency** and **national integration**, and follows the **5+3+3+4 education structure** outlined in NEP. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** launched the "**Mahila Samvad**" campaign, a state-wide initiative focused on empowering rural women by connecting them with **welfare schemes** and amplifying their voices in **policy discussions**. The campaign aims to **educate women** about government schemes, encourage their active use of **public resources** (healthcare, education, livelihood), and establish a two-way communication channel with **government officials**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights) Act, 2025** introduces a landmark reform in land governance, addressing issues from the earlier **Dharani portal** system. The Act focuses on **decentralisation, citizen participation**, and **transparency** to improve land administration. It aims to correct errors in land records, decentralise **grievance redressal**, and ensure **accurate documentation** of ownership. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Amaravati**, the planned capital of Andhra Pradesh, is set to become the world's first city powered entirely by **renewable energy**, with a focus on **solar, wind, and hydropower**. Covering 217 sq km along the Krishna River, the project, costing ₹65,000 crore, aims to generate **2,700 MW** of clean energy by 2050, with at least 30% from solar and wind. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Maharashtra State Wildlife Board** has declared **DPS Flamingo Lake** as a **conservation reserve**, marking the first formal protection for a wetland linked to the **Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary**. This significant move aims to preserve the **fragile wetland ecosystem** of **Navi Mumbai**, reflecting the state government's commitment to **wildlife conservation** amidst rapid **urban development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Similipal**, a rich ecological region in **Odisha**, was officially declared the **107th National Park of India** and **second in Odisha** on **April 24, 2025**, covering **845.70 sq km** across **11 forest ranges**. Known for its **biodiversity**—including **55 mammals, 361 bird species**, and being a **major tiger reserve**—this move marks a milestone in **conservation**. Proposed in **1980**, the park's core area was cleared of human habitation, except for **Bakua village**, which was excluded. The new status ensures **stronger protection laws**, more **funding**, and aligns with the vision of "**Viksit Odisha**" and "**Viksit Bharat**", as noted by **CM Mohan Charan Majhi**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### International Affairs

- **Klaus Schwab**, the **87-year-old founder** of the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, has **resigned as Chairman** after leading the institution since **1971**. Known as the face of the **Davos Summit**, Schwab's departure on **April 21, 2025**, marks the end of an era as WEF faces criticism of **elitism, internal workplace issues**, and a broader **globalisation backlash**. **Peter Brabeck-Letmathe** has taken over as **interim Chair**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Operation ATALANTA**, launched by the **European Union** in 2008, is a key maritime security initiative focused on the **Western Indian Ocean** and **Red Sea** regions. Initially created to combat the rise in **piracy** off the coast of **Somalia**, the operation has since evolved to address broader security challenges. A notable development includes a proposed **joint exercise** with the **Indian Navy** in May 2025 to strengthen cooperation and combat regional piracy threats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **UNESCO added 16 new Global Geoparks**, bringing the total to **229 across 50 countries**, covering **855,000 km<sup>2</sup>**. These geoparks span **Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America**, showcasing exceptional **geological heritage**—from **volcanic formations** and **fossil sites** to **glacial landscapes**. Notable new entries include **Mt Paektu (North Korea)**, **Kanbula (China)**, **Arran (UK)**, and **Tungurahua Volcano (Ecuador)**. While **India has no**

**UNESCO Global Geoparks yet**, these sites support **conservation, education, and sustainable development**, under the **Global Geoparks Network (GGN)** launched in 2015 by UNESCO. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **China's testing of a fissile-free hydrogen bomb** using **magnesium hydride-based fusion** marks a radical shift in nuclear weaponry, bypassing traditional **uranium/plutonium fission** and exploiting **Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF)** and **magnetic compression (Z-pinch)**. This raises serious **arms control, proliferation, and legal challenges**, as it circumvents **NPT and CTBT** definitions. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Books and Authors

- The **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**, in collaboration with the **International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE)**, launched the **'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book** on **23 April 2025**, showcasing **30 groundbreaking Indian innovations** in the **circular economy**. Curated around core themes—**Design to Last, Work with Nature, and Use Existing Resources**—the book highlights innovations like **e-waste recycling, IoT-enabled circular systems, and biodegradable packaging**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **April 18, 2025**, the book '**Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay**' (The Fifth Chapter of Culture), a compilation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speeches**, was launched at the **IGNCA** in New Delhi. The event, attended by prominent figures such as **Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Pujya Swami Avdheshanand Giri Maharaj, Shri Harivansh, and Shri Ram Bahadur Rai**, celebrated India's **cultural, spiritual, and traditional heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's **core sector output** grew by **3.8%** in **March 2025**, driven by **electricity (+6.2%)** due to early summer heatwaves and increased power demand. **Steel (+7.1%)** and **cement (+11.6%)** also saw growth, supported by **government spending** and **private sector investment**. However, **natural gas (-12.7%)** and **crude oil (-1.9%)** declined due to higher imports and weak global prices. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Effective **April 22, 2025**, the **Income Tax Department** has mandated a **1% Tax Collected at Source (TCS)** on the sale of **luxury goods priced above ₹10 lakh** under **Section 206C of the Income Tax Act**, as announced in the **Finance Act (Union Budget)**. This move aims to **enhance transparency and tax compliance** in high-value retail. Covered items include **luxury watches, handbags, antiques, yachts, and more**. The **seller collects 1% TCS**, deposits it under the buyer's **PAN**, and buyers can **claim it as tax credit** while filing their **ITR**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On its **131st Foundation Day** (April 12, 2025), **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched **34 new products and services** to enhance **financial inclusion, digital banking, and cybersecurity awareness**. Key highlights include **12 deposit schemes** for diverse groups like **women, farmers, NRIs, and pensioners**, and **10 digital tools** such as the **AI-powered assistant “Pihu”** and **QR-based feedback system**. The **“Cyber Run” Half Marathon** promoted safe digital practices under the theme **“Empowering a Secure Digital India.”** ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has issued **revised guidelines** permitting **minors aged 10 and above** to **independently open and operate savings and term deposit accounts**, aiming to foster **early financial literacy**. While **guardian-operated accounts** remain an option for all minors, banks may allow independent operation based on their **risk management policy**, ensuring **no overdraft** and maintaining a **credit balance** at all times. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To **protect India’s domestic steel industry**, the government has imposed a **12% provisional safeguard duty** on specific **steel imports** effective **April 21, 2025**, targeting low-cost inflows from **China, South Korea, and Japan**. Triggered by a **DGTR investigation** into **unfairly priced imports** causing **“serious injury”** to local manufacturers, this move addresses a surge in steel imports—**9.5 million metric tons** in FY 2024–25—making India a **net importer for the second year**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India’s **smartphone exports** crossed a record **₹2 lakh crore** in FY25, marking a major milestone driven by the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**. Announced by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, this **54% export growth** highlights India’s rising role in **global supply chains**, with **Apple’s iPhone exports** being a key contributor. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced a new customer engagement initiative by deploying **'Grahak Mitras'** at select branches. These trained personnel, from SBI’s subsidiary **State Bank Operations Support Services (SBOSS)**, assist customers with **digital banking and self-service platforms**, aiming to **decongest branches** and promote **alternate banking channels**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Zepto**, a leading **quick-commerce startup** in India, has rebranded its parent company from **Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited** to **Zepto Private Limited**. This name change, approved by the **Registrar of Companies (RoC)** in Mumbai, aligns the company’s **corporate identity** with its **consumer-facing brand** in preparation for a potential **Initial Public Offering (IPO)**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** has made history as the first coal PSU in India to implement **paste fill technology** for **underground coal mining**, marking a significant leap in **sustainable mining practices**. This initiative, aimed at minimizing environmental impact while extracting coal in surface-constrained areas, is backed by a **₹7040 crore partnership** with **TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **World Bank** has revised **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY26** downward to **6.3%**, citing **global economic weakness** and **domestic policy uncertainty**. This follows a similar move by the **IMF**, which reduced its forecast for **FY26** to **6.2%** and **FY27** to **6.3%**. These revisions reflect concerns about a **slowing global economy** and an **uncertain investment climate**, despite **supportive domestic measures** like **monetary easing**. The **RBI's growth projection** of **6.5%** for **FY26** also indicates a slowdown across the year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian life insurance industry** recorded a **5.13% growth** in **new business premium** for **FY25**, collecting **₹3,97,336 crore**, up from **₹3,77,960 crore** in **FY24**. The **individual new business premium** rose sharply by **11.17%** to **₹1,66,590.81 crore**, driven by increased **first-time policyholder** participation. **LIC** led the sector with **₹2,26,669 crore** in total new business premium and a **record ₹62,404 crore** in individual premium, capturing a **57.05% market share**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **IMF** has revised **India's FY26 GDP growth forecast** down to **6.2%** (from 6.5%) and **FY27** to **6.3%**, citing **US-imposed 26% tariffs** and **trade tensions** as key factors. Despite the downgrade, **India remains the fastest-growing major economy**, outperforming **China (4%)** and the **US (1.8%)**. The **global growth forecast for 2025** was also lowered to **2.8%** (from 3.3%), with **tariffs contributing to rising inflation** and slowing economies worldwide. **Strong domestic consumption**, especially in **rural India**, is expected to **cushion India** against global headwinds. ([Click here to read article](#))

**BANK MAHAPACK**  
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Selection Ka Saathi

- SEBI has revised the **cut-off timings for redemption in overnight and liquid mutual fund schemes**, effective **June 1, 2025**, under its **Upstreaming Framework** (Dec 2023) to enhance **client fund safety**. For **offline mode**, the cut-off is **3:00 PM**, while for **online mode (overnight funds only)**, it's extended to **7:00 PM for same-day NAV**. This move, backed by **AMFI** and SEBI's **Mutual Funds Advisory Committee**, ensures smoother collateral use and tighter fund security, directly impacting **returns** based on redemption timing. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** cancelled the license of **Ajantha Urban Co-operative Bank Maryadit, Aurangabad**, effective **April 22, 2025**, due to **inadequate capital, poor earnings**, and its inability to **safeguard depositors' interests**. The **Registrar of Cooperative Societies** has been directed to **initiate liquidation**, with depositor protection ensured under the **DICGC scheme**, offering up to **₹5 lakh per depositor**, covering **91.55%** of the bank's depositors. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated all banks to migrate their web domains to the new **'bank.in'** domain by **October 31, 2025**, to enhance **cybersecurity** and reduce **fraud** in digital banking. The migration aims to address threats like **phishing attacks** and increase trust in digital banking services. The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)** will serve as the **exclusive registrar** for the new domain, while the **National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI)** and the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** will support the initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Campbell Wilson** is stepping down as **Chairman of Air India Express** as part of a broader **Tata Group airline restructuring** to boost operational and commercial synergy. **Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) of Air India**, will take over as Chairman, aligning both airlines' strategies. **Captain Basil Kwauk** is set to replace Wilson on the board, pending approval. The move follows Tata's **January 2022 acquisition of Air India and Air India Express** and aims to optimize **fleet, routes, and loyalty programs** across the group. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major reshuffle at the **Delhi High Court**, **Special Judge Kaveri Baweja** has been appointed **Registrar (Vigilance)**, while **Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj** will take over as **Registrar General** from **May 1, 2025**. Judge Baweja, known for handling critical cases like the **Delhi excise policy, 1984 anti-Sikh riots, and 2020 Delhi riots**, brings deep **judicial experience and integrity** to her new role. Judge Bhardwaj, noted for exclusively hearing **coal scam cases**, steps into a key administrative position, signaling a focus on robust leadership and accountability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. Mangi Lal Jat** has taken charge as the **Secretary of DARE** and **Director General of ICAR** for a **three-year term**, succeeding **Dr. Himanshu Pathak**. With **25+ years** of expertise in **agronomy, conservation agriculture, and climate-resilient farming**, his leadership is expected to boost **sustainable agricultural practices** and **research innovation** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Government** has appointed **five senior officers** as **Special Directors (SD)** in the **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**, including **four IRS officers** and **one IPS officer**. The appointments were approved by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**, bringing the ED to full strength with **eight Special Directors**. The new SDs, including **Viplav Kumar Choudhry (IPS)** and **T Sankar (IRS)**, will oversee **regional offices** and **special units** in cities like **Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Chandigarh**, playing a crucial role in **economic offenses** and enforcing **financial laws**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Bollywood actress **Ananya Panday** has been named **Chanel's first-ever Indian brand ambassador**, marking a significant moment for both the actress and the **Indian fashion industry**. This milestone follows her attendance at the **Chanel Spring/Summer 2025** show in Paris, strengthening her ties with the brand. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey**, former **Finance Secretary of India** and ex-chief of the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**, has been appointed **Vice-President** at the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**. In this role, he will oversee three key departments: **Investment Solutions, Sustainability and Fiduciary Solutions, and Portfolio Management**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jitendra Mishra**, Festival Director of the **Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY)**, has been unanimously elected as the **President of CIFEJ** (International Centre of Films for Children and Young People) for the **2025–2027 term**. CIFEJ, supported by **UNESCO** and headquartered in **Athens**, focuses on promoting **educational and culturally diverse films** for young audiences globally. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- The **Indian government** has re-appointed **T. Rabi Sankar** as **Deputy Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for a one-year term starting **May 3, 2025**. His re-appointment, marking his second term extension, reflects the government's confidence in his leadership. Mr. Sankar, who was initially appointed in **May 2021**, oversees key RBI functions including **foreign exchange, currency management, and government accounts**. His leadership has been instrumental in ensuring **economic stability, managing monetary policy, and driving financial reforms** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Stacie Sire** has been appointed as the new **Vice President and Managing Director** of the **Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center (BIETC)** and **Chief Engineer for Boeing India**. With **28 years of experience** at Boeing, she succeeds **Ahmed Elsherbini** and brings expertise from her roles in the **787, 767, and 777 aircraft programs**. Sire's new responsibilities include overseeing **engineering strategy, operations, and innovation** for Boeing in India, aiming to support the company's long-term **growth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dreame Technology**, a leading **Chinese smart home appliance** brand, has appointed **Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon** as its **first-ever Indian brand ambassador**, marking a key step in expanding its **Indian market presence**. Founded in **2017**, Dreame is known for innovative products like **robotic vacuum cleaners, cordless stick vacuums, and hair styling tools**, emphasizing **AI-driven smart living and user convenience**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anant Ambani** has been appointed as the **Executive Director (Whole-time)** of **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** for a **five-year term starting May 1, 2025**, marking a key step in the **generational leadership transition**. A **graduate of Brown University**, Anant currently serves as a **non-executive director** and leads RIL's **energy vertical**, focusing on **green energy initiatives**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Defence News

- **INS Sunayna** docked at **Nacala Port, Mozambique**, on April 17, 2025, as part of India's **IOS SAGAR mission**, strengthening **maritime partnerships** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. Launched on April 5, 2025, by India's **Defense Minister**, the mission features multinational participation, with 44 naval personnel from nine countries, including **Mozambique, Kenya, and South Africa**, aboard the ship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed a contingent to **Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE**, for **Exercise Desert Flag-10**, running from April 21 to May 8, 2025. This multinational **air combat exercise** underscores India's commitment to **enhancing military cooperation** and operational capabilities. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted **Exercise 'Aakraman'**, a major military drill involving **Rafale and Su-30MKI fighter jets** to simulate attacks on **mountainous and ground targets**, test **electronic warfare**, and conduct **live fire operations**. With cutting-edge systems like the **Meteor and Rampage missiles**, and the **S-400 air defense system**, the exercise aimed to enhance **combat readiness** amid rising **India-Pakistan tensions** following the **Pahalgam terror attack**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a major breakthrough for **India's hypersonic weapons programme**, **DRDL (a DRDO unit)** successfully conducted a **1,000+ second ground test** of an **Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor** on **April 25, 2025**, at the **Scramjet Connect Test Facility in Hyderabad**. This long-duration test of the **air-breathing scramjet engine**, which enables speeds above **Mach 5**, validates key technologies for future **hypersonic cruise missiles** and marks a leap in **indigenous defence capabilities**, with **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** calling it a testament to India's advanced research commitment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India and France** are set to finalize a **₹63,000-crore G-to-G deal** on **April 28, 2025**, for **26 Rafale-Marine (Rafale-M) jets—22 single-seaters and 4 twin-seater trainers**—to enhance **India's naval aviation**. These jets will be deployed on **INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant**, bridging the capability gap until the indigenous **Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter (TEDBF)** is ready. **Deliveries will begin in 3.5 years**, with full delivery in **6.5 years**, strengthening **India-France strategic defence ties**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- **Achyuta Samanta**, founder of **KIIT and KISS**, was conferred the **Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025** in **Kokrajhar, Assam**, for his exceptional work in **education and social empowerment**. Instituted by the **Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Trust** to honor contributions aligned with the legacy of **Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma—the "Mech Gandhi of Assam"**—the award includes a **citation, memento, and ₹1 lakh cash prize**, which Samanta generously **donated back** to the Trust. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **4th Annual Gold House Gold Gala** will take place on **May 10, 2025**, at the **Music Centre, Los Angeles**, celebrating cultural changemakers under the theme **"First Light"**, which honors pioneers who've opened paths for others. **Priyanka Chopra** will receive the **inaugural Global Vanguard Honor** for her impactful 25-year career bridging **Bollywood and Hollywood**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **PoshanTracker Application**, developed by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)**, received the **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024** under the **Innovation (Centre)** category at the **17th Civil Services Day** on **April 21, 2025**. Accepted by **Secretary Shri Anil Malik**, the award recognizes the app's impact on **tech-driven nutrition governance** under **Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0**, promoting **community empowerment, inter-departmental convergence, and data-centric service delivery**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, Chairman of the **Aditya Birla Group** and **Padma Bhushan** awardee, will receive the prestigious **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2024** on **April 24** in Mumbai, recognizing his **visionary leadership** and contributions to **India's economic growth**. The award, presented by **RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat**, coincides with the **83rd Memorial Day of Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar**, organized by the **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Payal Kapadia**, a Mumbai-based filmmaker, has been awarded the prestigious '**Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**' (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the **French Government**. The ceremony, held at the **French Consulate in Mumbai**, recognizes her significant contribution to cinema. Kapadia's breakthrough came with her film '**All We Imagine As Light**', which won the **Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival** and was nominated for a **Golden Globe**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- The **Union Health Department**, led by **Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava**, launched **Fire Safety Week 2025** from **April 21-25** to strengthen **fire and electrical safety** in India's **public and private healthcare facilities**. In collaboration with **states, UTs, and central ministries**, the initiative includes **mock drills, fire safety audits, training, and awareness campaigns**. Over **3,000 participants** joined, and **webinars** focused on **fire prevention, regulatory compliance, and evacuation strategies**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **GITEX Africa 2025** in **Marrakesh, Morocco** served as a major platform for global discussions on fostering **inclusive growth** in the digital economy. **Shri Jayant Chaudhary**, India's **Minister of State for Skill Development and Education**, highlighted India's achievements in **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)**, particularly **Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC**, and healthcare initiatives. ([Click here to read article](#))



### Ranks and Reports

- The **2025 TIME 100 Most Influential People** list features global figures like **U.S. President Donald Trump**, **Tesla CEO Elon Musk**, **UK PM Keir Starmer**, and **Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus**, recognized for their significant impact on **politics, innovation, and social entrepreneurship**. Notably, **no Indian personalities** were included this year, unlike 2024 when **Alia Bhatt** and **Sakshi Malik** were featured. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Sports News

- In the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025**, **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Smriti Mandhana** were named the **Leading Cricketers of the Year** for their exceptional performances. Bumrah, with **200 Test wickets** and a stellar year in **2024**, was hailed for his dominance in **Test cricket** and his role in India's **T20 World Cup** victory. Mandhana set a **record** for women with **1659 runs** across formats, including **four ODI centuries**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Virat Kohli** set a new record in **IPL history** by surpassing **David Warner** for the most **fifty-plus scores** with his 67th score, achieved during **RCB's** victory over **PBKs**. Kohli's **unbeaten 73 off 54 balls** guided RCB to chase down 158, marking his **fourth fifty** of the season. With **322 runs** in 8 innings at an average of **64.40** and a strike rate of **140.00**, Kohli continues his dominance in the IPL, boasting **8,326 runs** in **190 matches** overall. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Oscar Piastrri** clinched his **third win of the 2025 season** at the **Saudi Arabian Grand Prix** held on **April 20, 2025**, at the **Jeddah Corniche Circuit**, overtaking **Max Verstappen** in the **Drivers' Championship** standings. Piastrri, driving for **McLaren**, capitalized on a **5-second penalty** for Verstappen, finishing with a time of **1:21:06.758**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **16-year-old Nishchay** from **Haryana** clinched a **silver medal** in the **boys' shot put** at the **Asian U-18 Athletics Championship** in **Dammam, Saudi Arabia**, with a **personal best throw of 19.59 meters**, surpassing his previous best of 18.93m. His stellar performance on the **third day** of the championship highlights his **rapid progress** and **international promise**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **South Asian Senior Athletics Championships 2025**, set for **May 3-5** in **Ranchi**, has been **postponed again** due to **visa clearance issues** for **Pakistani athletes**, including **Olympic javelin champion Arshad Nadeem**. Originally scheduled for **October 2024**, the event is now tentatively moved to **mid-June 2025**, pending resolution. Hosted at the **Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium**, top athletes from **India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka**, and other South Asian nations were expected, including **sprinter Yupun Abeykoon** and **400m medallist Aruna Darshana** of Sri Lanka. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **India** delivered a stellar performance at the **2025 ISSF World Cup** in **Lima, Peru** (April 13–22), clinching **7 medals—2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 1 Bronze**—to finish **third** in the overall medal tally behind **China** and the **USA**. Standout shooters like **Suruchi Singh** (Women’s 10m Air Pistol, Mixed Team with **Saurabh Chaudhary**) and **Manu Bhaker** helped secure spots for the **ISSF World Cup Final 2025** in **Doha**. With over **400 shooters from 43 nations**, India’s **42-member squad** was one of the largest and most successful at the event. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Rohit Sharma** has become the **second Indian** after **Virat Kohli** and the **eighth player overall** to score **12,000 runs in T20 cricket**, achieving the milestone during an **IPL 2025** match against **Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)**. His consistent performances, especially for **Mumbai Indians (MI)** and earlier **Deccan Chargers**, have been crucial in his team’s success. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- The **Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative**, launched by **Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar**, empowers **women (aged 20–50)**—especially **widows, divorcees, and low-income groups**—by providing **10,000 electric rickshaws** across 8 districts, following a successful **pilot in Pune**. With **₹1 lakh in subsidies** (₹25,000 Central + ₹75,000 State), **10% down payment**, and **70% low-interest bank loans**, the scheme ensures **affordable ownership**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme** in **Karnataka** is set for a major **overhaul**, with an expert committee recommending a **15%–25% increase** in medical procedure rates and a **50% hike** for complex treatments like **paediatric heart surgeries** and **oncology**. The scheme, relaunched in **2022–23** to boost **rural health access**, may also see the addition of **69 new procedures** and removal of **6 outdated ones**. With **45.6 lakh members** and only **782 empanelled hospitals**, the updates aim to **attract more hospitals**, enhance **financial sustainability**, and improve **universal health coverage**, with an **estimated cost of ₹127.5 crore** and a **proposed budget boost of ₹40 crore**. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- **Beijing** hosted the world’s first **Humanoid Robot Half-Marathon**, where **robots and humans** ran in parallel lanes, marking a symbolic blend of **sport and technology**. Featuring **20 robot teams** with machines ranging from **120 cm to 180 cm**, the event highlighted innovations in **robot design, AI endurance, and engineering support** like **battery pit stops**. While the fastest human clocked **1:02 hrs**, the top robot, **Tiangong Ultra**, finished in **2:40 hrs**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Aryabhata**, launched on **April 19, 1975**, was **India’s first indigenously developed satellite**, marking a **historic milestone** in the nation’s space journey. Developed by **ISRO** with a team of just **25 engineers**, it was launched aboard the **Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket** from **Kapustin Yar, Russia**, due to India’s lack of indigenous launch capabilities. Named after the **5th-century mathematician and astronomer**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to establish its **first Quantum Computing Village** in **Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh**, led by the **Real-Time Governance Society (RTGS)** with key collaborators **IBM, TCS, and L&T**. Spanning **50 acres**, the facility will feature the **IBM Quantum System Two**, a cutting-edge quantum computer, housed in an **iconic building** designed by **L&T** and conceptualized by **IBM**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Don Pettit**, the oldest serving U.S. astronaut, returned to Earth on **April 21, 2025**, marking his **70th birthday**. His spacecraft, **Soyuz MS-26**, landed in **Kazakhstan** after completing a **220-day mission** aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)**. Pettit, a **chemical engineer**, has now logged **590 days in space** over four missions, reinforcing his legacy as one of NASA’s most seasoned astronauts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India marked a major **medical breakthrough** with its **first-in-human gene therapy trial for Haemophilia**, led by **BRIC-inStem** and **CMC Vellore**, as highlighted during **Dr. Jitendra Singh’s** visit to BRIC-inStem, Bengaluru. Emphasizing **biotechnology as a national pillar**, he noted the sector’s rapid rise to **\$165.7 billion in 2024** (target: **\$300 billion by 2030**), powered by **10,000+ startups**, innovations like **anti-viral masks** and **Kisan Kavach**, and infrastructure such as the **Biosafety Level III Lab** and **CREATE Centre**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- NASA is developing the **Quantum Gravity Gradiometer Pathfinder (QGGPF)**, a **compact (125 kg)** and **highly sensitive quantum sensor** that will map **Earth’s gravity field** with **ten times** more precision than traditional methods. Designed for **space deployment**, the QGGPF will detect tiny gravitational shifts linked to **subsurface features** like **moving water, earthquakes, and mineral deposits**, with space tests targeted by the **end of this decade**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Bullseye Galaxy (LEDA 1313424)**, located **567 million light-years** away in the **Pisces constellation**, is a **giant elliptical galaxy** about **2.5 times larger** than the Milky Way, spanning **250,000 light-years**. It features an unprecedented **nine glowing star rings**, likely formed after a **blue dwarf galaxy** collided with its core **50 million years ago**, triggering ripple effects and **new star formation**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Spaghetti Bowl Phenomenon**, coined by economist **Jagdish Bhagwati** in **1995**, describes the confusing, overlapping network of **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)** that complicate global trade instead of simplifying it. Caused largely by differing **Rules of Origin (ROO)** in each agreement, this tangled system creates inefficiencies and challenges for businesses navigating multiple FTAs. ([Click here to read article](#))

### Important Days News

- On **24 April 2025**, **National Panchayati Raj Day** was celebrated to honor **grassroots democracy**, marking the enforcement of the **73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993**. Declared in **2010** by **PM Manmohan Singh**, the day emphasizes **local self-governance** and **rural development**. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** visited **Madhubani, Bihar**, launching projects worth over **₹13,480 crore**, including an **LPG plant in Gopalganj**, **power infrastructure**, and **rail connectivity** like the **Amrit Bharat Express** and **Namo Bharat Rapid Rail**. Key schemes highlighted were **PMAY-G, PMAY-U, and DAY-NRLM**, alongside **Panchayat awards** and a push for **digital governance** through initiatives like **e-Panchayat** and **SVAMITVA**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Earth Day 2025**, observed on **Tuesday, April 22**, carries the theme **"Our Power, Our Planet"**, highlighting the **collective responsibility** of individuals and nations to drive **environmental change**. The day promotes **renewable energy, sustainable practices, and climate action policies**, reinforcing the global commitment to **protecting our planet** and fostering **environmental stewardship**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **National Civil Service Day 2025** will be observed on **April 21, 2025**, to honor the **commitment and excellence** of civil servants. The day traces its roots to **April 21, 1947**, when **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** referred to civil servants as the **"steel frame of India"** in his speech to the first batch of **Indian Administrative Service (IAS)** officers. The celebration aims to **recognize exceptional performances**, promote **ethical governance**, encourage **best practices in public administration**, and inspire youth to pursue civil services. The **Father of the Indian Civil Service, Charles Cornwallis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)**, observed annually on **April 21st**, was established by the **United Nations** to raise awareness about the critical role of **creativity and innovation** in human development. The day emphasizes that creativity extends beyond artistic expression to include **problem-solving** skills essential for transforming **economic, social, and sustainable development** structures. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Book and Copyright Day 2025**, observed on **April 23**, celebrates **literature, authors**, and the protection of **intellectual property**. Established by **UNESCO in 1995**, the day honors literary legends like **Shakespeare and Cervantes**, and promotes **reading, literacy, and cultural diversity**. The **2025 theme**, *"The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"*. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Malaria Day**, observed on **April 25** every year, raises awareness about malaria, a deadly yet preventable disease. In **2023**, there were **263 million cases** and nearly **600,000 deaths globally**, primarily in **tropical and low-income regions**. The theme for **2025**, **"Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite,"** calls for renewed efforts in **prevention, treatment, and innovation**. Established by the **WHO** in **2007**, the day honors those fighting malaria and encourages **policy action and investment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **International Delegate's Day**, observed annually on **April 25**, celebrates the pivotal role of **delegates** in fostering **global cooperation, peace, and diplomacy**. It commemorates the **1945 San Francisco conference**, where **50 countries' delegates** met to draft the **UN Charter**, marking the foundation of the **United Nations**. The day highlights the importance of **multilateral diplomacy** in addressing global challenges like **climate change, poverty, and conflict**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **World Immunization Week 2025** (April 24–30), led by **WHO**, promotes the theme **"Immunization for All is Humanly Possible"**, stressing **universal access to vaccines** for all ages. Since **1974**, immunization has saved **154 million lives**, including **6 lives every minute**, with the **measles vaccine alone accounting for 60%** of these. Despite progress, challenges remain—**22 million children missed measles shots in 2023**, and **vaccine misinformation** threatens global health gains. ([Click here to read article](#))



**Obituaries News**

- **Pope Francis**, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, passed away at 88 after battling **double pneumonia**. Elected as the first **Latin American, Jesuit, and non-European pope** in 2013, he led the Catholic Church through significant reform and challenges, including **Vatican dysfunction** and **child abuse scandals**. Known for his **progressive views** on **same-sex couples, climate action, and migrants**, he promoted **interfaith dialogue** and **social justice**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Dr. K. Kasturirangan**, former **ISRO Chairman**, passed away at **84** on **April 25, 2025**, in **Bengaluru**. A **visionary scientist**, he led ISRO from **1994 to 2003**, overseeing key achievements like the **operationalisation of PSLV**,

development of **GSLV**, and launch of **IRS-1A**. He also directed India's first earth observation satellites, **BHASKARA-I & II**. His **four-decade association with ISRO** left a lasting impact on India's space and remote sensing programs. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **M G S Narayanan**, a towering figure in **Indian historiography**, passed away at the age of **92**. Born on **August 20, 1932**, in **Ponnani, Kerala**, he made profound contributions to the study of **Kerala's ancient and medieval history** and broader **South Indian history**. Narayanan served as **Member Secretary** and later **Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)** and was closely associated with the **University of Calicut**, strengthening its research and academic excellence. ([Click here to read article](#))

**Static Takeaways**

| Sr. No               | Static Name                | Static Details   |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Organizations</b> |                            |  |
| 1                    | ISRO                       | <b>Chairman</b> - V Narayanan  |
| 2                    | RBI                        | <b>Governor</b> - Sanjay Malhotra  |
| 3                    | SEBI                       | <b>Chairman</b> - Tuhin Kanta Pandey   |
| 4                    | SBI                        | <b>Chairman</b> - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty  |
| 5                    | PNB (Punjab National Bank) | <b>MD/CEO</b> - Ashok Chandra  |
| 6                    | UNESCO                     | <b>HQ</b> - Paris  |
| 7                    | IMF                        | <b>President</b> - Kristalina Georgieva  |
| 8                    | World Bank                 | <b>President</b> - Ajay Banga  |
| 9                    | Boeing                     | <b>CEO</b> - Kelly Ortberg   |
| 10                   | Air India                  | <b>CEO</b> - Campbell Wilson   |
| 11                   | Reliance Industries        | <b>Chairman</b> - Mukesh Ambani  |
| <b>Countries</b>     |                            |  |
| 12                   | USA                        | <b>President</b> - Donald Trump<br><b>Capital</b> - Washington D.C.<br><b>Currency</b> - USD       |
| 13                   | China                      | <b>President</b> - XI Jinping<br><b>Capital</b> - Beijing<br><b>Currency</b> - Yuan                |
| 14                   | Kazakhstan                 | <b>President</b> - Kassam Tokayev<br><b>Capital</b> - Tenge<br><b>Currency</b> - Astana            |
| 15                   | Saudi Arabia               | <b>President</b> - Mohammed Bin Salman<br><b>Capital</b> - Riyadh<br><b>Currency</b> - Saudi Riyal |
| 16                   | South Africa               | <b>President</b> - Cyril Ramaphosa   |
| 17                   | Kenya                      | <b>President</b> - William ruto<br><b>Capital</b> - Nairobi<br><b>Currency</b> - Shilling          |
| 18                   | Russia                     | <b>President</b> - Vladimir Putin<br><b>Capital</b> - Moscow<br><b>Currency</b> - Ruble            |

| Sr. No               | Static Name    | Static Details  |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| 19                   | France         | <b>President</b> - Emmanuel Macron<br><b>Capital</b> - Paris<br><b>Currency</b> - Euro                  |
| <b>Indian States</b> |                |   |
| 20                   | Andhra Pradesh | <b>Governor</b> - S. Abdul Nazeer<br><b>CM</b> - Chandrababu Naidu<br><b>Capital</b> - Amravati         |
| 21                   | Telangana      | <b>Governor</b> - Jishnu Dev Verma<br><b>CM</b> - Revanth Reddy<br><b>Capital</b> - Hyderabad           |
| 22                   | Bihar          | <b>Governor</b> - Arif Khan<br><b>CM</b> - Nitish Kumar<br><b>Capital</b> - Patna                       |
| 23                   | Maharashtra    | <b>Governor</b> - C. P. Radhakrishnan<br><b>CM</b> - Devendra Fadnavis<br><b>Capital</b> - Mumbai       |
| 24                   | Odisha         | <b>Governor</b> - Hari Babu Kambhupati<br><b>CM</b> - Mohan Charan Majhi<br><b>Capital</b> - Bhubneswar |
| 25                   | Karnataka      | <b>Governor</b> - Thawar Chand Gehlot<br><b>CM</b> - Siddharamaiya<br><b>Capital</b> - Bengaluru        |

