# Weekly One Liners 28th April to 4th May, 2025

## India's Battle Against Poverty: 171 Million Lifted from Extreme Poverty in a Decade

In a remarkable display of progress, **India has successfully lifted 171 million people from extreme poverty between 2011-12 and 2022-23.** According to the World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief, the proportion of people living on less than $2.15 a day fell dramatically from 16.2% to just 2.3% during this period. The reduction in poverty across both rural and urban areas reflects the success of government-led initiatives and economic reforms designed to empower the marginalized sections of society.

Why in the news?

- India has made remarkable progress in combating poverty, **lifting 171 million people out of extreme poverty over the last decade,** according to the **World Bank's Spring 2025 Poverty and Equity Brief.** This achievement not only underscores India's commitment to poverty reduction but also highlights the effectiveness of various government policies and welfare programs aimed at inclusive development.

### Key Findings from the World Bank Report

Sharp Reduction in Extreme Poverty

- The percentage of people living in extreme poverty (defined as living on less than $2.15 per day) dropped from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23.
- This sharp decline has resulted in 171 million people being lifted from extreme poverty over the past decade.

Rural and Urban Areas

- **Rural Areas:** Extreme poverty fell from 18.4% in 2011-12 to 2.8% in 2022-23.
- **Urban Areas:** Extreme poverty reduced from 10.7% to 1.1% during the same period.
- The gap between rural and urban poverty has narrowed from 7.7 percentage points to 1.7 percentage points.

Poverty at Lower-Middle-Income Level

- The poverty rate at the $3.65 per day level (lower-middle-income) dropped from 61.8% in 2011-12 to 28.1% in 2022-23, lifting 378 million people out of poverty.
- Rural poverty at this level declined from 69% to 32.5%, while urban poverty fell from 43.5% to 17.2%.
- The gap between rural and urban poverty narrowed from 25 to 15 percentage points.

Key States Driving Poverty Reduction

Top States Contributing to Progress,

- The five most populous states — Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh — represented 65% of India's extreme poor in 2011-12.
- These states contributed to two-thirds of the overall reduction in extreme poverty by 2022-23.

Reduction in Multidimensional Poverty

Multidimensional Poverty

- Non-monetary poverty, measured by the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), dropped from 53.8% in 2005-06 to 16.4% by 2019-21.
- The World Bank's MPI stood at 15.5% in 2022-23, reflecting ongoing improvements in key living conditions such as education, health, and living standards.

Revised Poverty Estimates

- Revised international poverty lines (based on 2021 Purchasing Power Parities) show India's extreme poverty at 5.3% and lower-middle-income poverty at 23.9% for 2022-23.

## UDAN Scheme Completes 8 Years of Success

India's aviation sector has traditionally been dominated by large cities, with air travel often being a luxury only accessible to the elite. However, with the launch of the UDAN scheme in 2016, this narrative has changed. UDAN, an abbreviation of "Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik," aims to democratize aviation and make air travel affordable for the common man. This initiative aims to connect Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities and underserved regions of India with major cities, boosting regional connectivity and economic development.

Why in the News?

- On April 27, 2025, the scheme celebrates eight years of success, with notable progress in expanding India's aviation network and bringing affordable travel to the masses. The UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, launched by the Government of India on October 21, 2016, has completed significant milestones in making air travel affordable and accessible for all.

**Key Components and Stakeholder Incentives**

The UDAN scheme's success is attributed to a combination of financial support, strategic partnerships, and a clear vision to foster regional connectivity. Below are the key components and incentives that have driven the scheme's evolution:

1. Viability Gap Funding (VGF)

- The government provides financial support to airlines under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism, which ensures that airlines can operate flights on less profitable routes without raising ticket prices beyond the affordable limit.

2. Airfare Cap

- To ensure that air travel remains accessible, UDAN has imposed an airfare cap on regional routes, making it financially feasible for the average citizen.

3. Collaborative Governance

- The success of UDAN hinges on the collaborative efforts between the central government, state governments, Airports Authority of India (AAI), and private airport operators. This multi-tier collaboration allows for streamlined operations and increased participation from private players.

4. Stakeholder Incentives

- **Airport Operators:** Airports under the UDAN scheme waive landing and parking charges, and AAI does not levy Terminal Navigation Landing Charges (TNLC) on RCS flights.
- **Central Government:** Capped excise duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at RCS airports and encourages code-sharing agreements between airlines.
- **State Governments:** Support includes reducing VAT on ATF and providing essential services at reduced rates.

**Evolution of UDAN: A Journey of Expansion**

The UDAN scheme has expanded significantly since its inception, with each phase contributing to the growth of India's regional air connectivity.

UDAN 1.0 (2017)

- **Launch Milestone:** The first UDAN flight between Shimla and Delhi took off on April 27, 2017.
- **Coverage:** 5 airlines operated 128 routes connecting 70 airports, including 36 new airports.

UDAN 2.0 (2018)

- **Expansion:** The second phase connected 73 underserved and unserved airports and incorporated helipads into the UDAN network.

UDAN 3.0 (2019)

- **Tourism Focus:** Introduced tourism routes and seaplane operations, including North-Eastern regions.

UDAN 4.0 (2020)

- **Targeted Regions:** Focused on hilly areas, the North East, and island territories with increased helicopter and seaplane services.

**Key Innovations and the Future of UDAN**

1. UDAN Yatri Cafes

- **Inclusive Travel:** Cafes at Kolkata and Chennai airports offer affordable food, with tea at ₹10 and samosas at ₹20, promoting inclusive air travel.

2. Seaplane Operations

- **Last-Mile Connectivity:** The UDAN scheme introduced guidelines for seaplane operations, focusing on safety, security, and viability, enhancing regional connectivity.

3. Revamped UDAN (2025)

- **Expansion:** The revamped UDAN will add 120 new destinations, targeting remote areas and Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, ensuring access for an additional 4 crore passengers.

4. Krishi UDAN Scheme

- Agricultural Logistics: This initiative supports farmers by providing cost-effective air logistics for agri-produce, especially from North-Eastern and hilly regions.

5. Infrastructure Development

- The government plans to build 50 new airports in the next five years to cater to increasing demand and further boost regional growth.

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## National Supercomputing Mission: Powering India's Technological Future

**The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** is one of India's flagship initiatives designed to make the country self-reliant in the field of high-performance computing (HPC). Launched in **2015**, it aims to enhance India's technological capabilities by setting up supercomputers in academic and research institutions across the country. The supercomputers are connected through the National Knowledge Network (NKN), allowing access to a wide range of scientific research, development, and innovation.

**Why in the News?**

Recently, as published in PIB the current progress under NSM and As of March 2025, the mission has successfully deployed 34 supercomputers, providing computational power to over 10,000 researchers and fostering innovation in fields like climate modeling, drug discovery, and energy security. The National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is a crucial initiative launched by the Government of India in 2015 to position India as a global leader in supercomputing.

**Mission Overview**

- **Launched:** 2015 by the Government of India
- **Primary Goal:** Build and deploy indigenous supercomputing capabilities in India

**Focus Areas**

- Enhancing R&D capabilities
- Promoting Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in supercomputing
- Supporting sectors like education, medicine, energy, astronomy, and climate science

**Key Components**

- Installation of supercomputers in academic and R&D institutions
- Development of indigenous high-speed communication networks like Trinetra
- Creation of training centers to foster the development of skilled professionals in HPC and artificial intelligence (AI).

**Current Status and Achievements**

Supercomputers Deployed

- As of March 2025, 34 supercomputers with a combined capacity of 35 petaflops have been deployed.
- Institutions like IISc, IITs, and C-DAC are major beneficiaries.
- These systems support over 10,000 researchers, including 1,700+ PhD scholars.

Impact on R&D

- Researchers have completed 1 crore compute jobs and published 1,500+ papers in leading journals.

The supercomputers have facilitated breakthroughs in critical research areas,

- Drug discovery
- Disaster management
- Energy security
- Climate modeling
- Astronomical research
- Material research

Indigenous Development

- The PARAM Rudra supercomputers, built using indigenous technology, are now operational in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata.
- Trinetra, India's high-speed communication network, is improving data transfer between computing nodes.

**Noteworthy Achievements**

- **AIRAWAT Project:** India's AI supercomputing infrastructure, capable of 200 petaflops, ranked 75th globally in ISC 2023.
- **Param Pravega:** Installed at IISc, Bengaluru, this supercomputer is one of the most powerful in India with a capacity of 3.3 petaflops.
- **Param Shivay**: The first indigenously built supercomputer, installed at IIT BHU, Varanasi in 2019.

**Infrastructure Phases**

- **Phase 1**: Focused on building the initial supercomputing infrastructure by installing six supercomputers and initiating system component assembly within India.
- **Phase 2:** Shifted towards indigenous manufacturing of supercomputers and local software stacks, with India contributing 40% value addition.
- **Phase 3:** Aims for complete indigenization in supercomputing design, development, and manufacturing, setting up advanced HPC systems at major institutions.

**Strengthening NSM through the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**

- The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) will support NSM by enhancing India's capacity to produce essential supercomputing components like processors, memory chips, and accelerators.
- ISM aims to make India self-reliant in semiconductor production, thus contributing to faster, more efficient, and affordable supercomputers tailored for India's needs.

## India Remains 4th Largest Economy In World, US at No. 1

India, poised to become the third-largest economy by 2030, is currently one of the most dynamic economies globally. The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook highlights India's growth trajectory and compares it with other leading economies. Despite a global economic slowdown, India continues to perform as the fastest-growing major economy. This article examines the global economic rankings, India's current standing, and its future growth outlook.

**Why in the News?**

India is currently the fourth-largest economy in the world, on par with Japan, according to the latest data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country is expected to maintain its status as the fastest-growing major economy, with a projected growth rate of 6.2% in 2025.

**Significance**

- The article provides insights into the current global economic landscape, with a special focus on India's position.
- It also offers information on economic growth projections, comparing India with other leading economies like the United States and China.

**Background**

- **Global Economic Growth:** The IMF's World Economic Outlook (April 2025) revised the global growth forecast for 2025 down to 2.8%, mainly due to trade conflicts and policy uncertainties.
- **India's Economic Growth**: India is projected to have a growth rate of 6.2% in 2025, continuing to lead global growth despite a downward revision from 6.5%.

**Key Facts**

**Top 10 Economies (2025)**

- The United States is the largest economy at $30.34 trillion.
- China follows at $19.53 trillion, with a projected growth of 4.6%.
- India is in the fourth position with a GDP of $4.39 trillion and is expected to continue growing at 6.2%.

**GDP Per Capita**

- India's GDP per capita is estimated at $4.19 thousand, comparable to Japan.
- United States has the highest GDP per capita at $30.51 thousand.

## India's Growth Outlook

- India remains the fastest-growing major economy, with significant growth in private consumption, especially in rural areas.
- Despite a downward revision in growth, India continues to be a key driver of global economic stability.

| Rank | Country | GDP (USD) | Projected Growth (2025) | GDP Per Capita (USD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | United States | $30.34 trillion | 2.70% | 30.51 thousand |
| 2 | China | $19.53 trillion | 4.60% | 19.23 thousand |
| 3 | Germany | $4.92 trillion | 80% | 4.74 thousand |
| 4 | India | $4.39 trillion | 6.20% | 4.19 thousand |
| 5 | Japan | $4.27 trillion | 6.50% | 4.19 thousand |
| 6 | United Kingdom | $3.73 trillion | 1.60% | 3.84 thousand |
| 7 | France | $3.28 trillion | 0.80% | 3.21 thousand |
| 8 | Italy | $2.46 trillion | 0.70% | 2.42 thousand |
| 9 | Canada | $2.33 trillion | 2.00% | 2.23 thousand |
| 10 | Brazil | $2.31 trillion | 2.20% | 2.13 thousand |

### CareEdge State Rankings 2025: Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka Lead the Way

In the latest CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka have emerged as the top three states based on their overall performance across seven key pillars: economic, fiscal, infrastructure, financial development, social, governance, and environment. The rankings, which are based on a detailed evaluation of 50 indicators, shed light on the diverse strengths and challenges of Indian states.

**Why in the News?**
The CareEdge Ratings State Ranking 2025 has placed Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka as the top-performing states in India, based on their performance across multiple metrics.

**Aim of the Rankings**
- **Evaluate performance:** The CareEdge Rankings aim to assess the overall development and sustainability of Indian states using a comprehensive set of indicators.
- **Focus on holistic growth:** The rankings are based on seven pillars, offering a multi-dimensional view of each state's progress.
- **Encourage informed decision-making**: The rankings provide insights into the investment attractiveness of states, making them a valuable resource for businesses and policymakers.

**Significance of the Report**
- Investment attractiveness: States with high rankings are likely to attract greater investment due to their favorable fiscal, economic, and governance conditions.
- **Regional development insights**: The rankings highlight the regional disparities in development, showcasing the dominance of western and southern states in economic, fiscal, and environmental indicators.
- **Policy formulation:** The rankings provide a foundation for policy-making, encouraging states to focus on areas where they lag, such as social development or environmental governance.

**Key Findings**
- **Maharashtra:** Ranked first overall, benefiting from a strong performance across financial, economic, fiscal, and social metrics.
- **Gujarat:** Excelled in economic performance, driven by high per capita GSDP, strong FDI inflows, and high gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) for industries.
- **Karnataka:** Ranked third with significant achievements in industrial and environmental indicators.
- **Goa:** Highest-ranked among small states, showing strong performance in fiscal, financial development, and infrastructure metrics.

**Regional Patterns**
- **Western States:** States like Gujarat and Maharashtra dominate economic and fiscal parameters due to their strong industrial bases and investments.
- **Southern States:** Karnataka, in particular, excels in governance and environmental indicators, reflecting its policies on sustainable growth and good governance.

### Madhya Pradesh Introduced India's First AI-Powered Real-Time Forest Alert System

Madhya Pradesh has taken a significant leap towards forest conservation with the launch of India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system. This system uses satellite data, AI, and mobile-based field reporting to detect land encroachment, deforestation, and other changes in forest areas. The initiative is being piloted in five forest divisions and is poised to become a model for effective forest management in India.

**Why in the News?**
**Madhya Pradesh has launched India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system, a** groundbreaking initiative aimed at enhancing forest conservation efforts. By leveraging advanced technologies like satellite imagery, mobile feedback, and artificial intelligence (AI), this system promises to strengthen forest monitoring and improve responses to land encroachment and forest degradation.

## Aim of the System

- Proactive Monitoring: The system aims to detect changes in land use, deforestation, and encroachment, facilitating immediate corrective actions.
- Real-Time Alerts: Alerts are generated from satellite images and sent to field staff for immediate verification and action.

## Significance of the Initiative

- **First of Its Kind:** Madhya Pradesh is the first state to integrate AI and satellite data for forest monitoring, setting a precedent for other states.
- **Efficiency:** The use of real-time data allows forest officers to act swiftly to address issues like illegal logging and land encroachment.
- **Sustainability:** By identifying and responding to environmental changes faster, the system contributes to better conservation and sustainable forest management.

## Background

- The project is a response to frequent issues like illegal logging and land encroachment in forest-rich areas of Madhya Pradesh.
- The system uses satellite imagery from the Google Earth Engine and AI algorithms to track land use changes like vegetation shifts, construction, or agricultural encroachment.

## Key Facts

- **Pilot Project**: The system is currently being tested in five sensitive forest divisions: Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur, and Khandwa.
- **AI Integration:** Machine learning models continuously improve the accuracy of alerts and predictions based on field data.
- **Data Features**: Each alert includes over 20 data points, including GPS-tagged photos, voice notes, and survey comments from mobile apps.

## National Affairs

- India has made a major breakthrough in cervical cancer screening with the launch of **indigenously developed HPV test kits** on **April 23, 2025**, led by **DBT** and **AIIMS Delhi** in collaboration with **NICPR**, **NIRRCH**, and **WHO-IARC**. These **RTPCR-based kits**, targeting the **seven to eight most common cancer-causing HPV types**, offer a **cost-effective**, **efficient**, and **rapid** solution tailored to India's needs, addressing the challenges of **late diagnosis** and **limited screening accessibility**. (Click here to read article)
- In a significant step for **sustainable urban river management**, the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved **Action Plan 2025** under the **River Cities Alliance (RCA)**, a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**, now comprising **145 cities**. The plan emphasizes **river-sensitive urban planning**, development of **Urban River Management Plans (URMPs)**, **capacity-building**, **technical support**, and **knowledge-sharing** through platforms like **DHARA** events and the RCA website. (Click here to read article)
- **Kirthiga Reddy**, former **Meta India head** and now CEO of **Verix**, has launched **AI Kiran** on **April 21, 2025**, in partnership with the **Indian government and global bodies**, to **empower Indian women in AI**. The initiative offers **mentorship**, **funding access**, and **blockchain-verified recognition**, targeting sectors like **healthcare**, **education**, and **sustainability**. Despite high female representation in **STEM education**, the share of women in **GenAI roles** is low—just **33% at junior levels** and **19% at senior levels**—a gap AI Kiran aims to bridge. (Click here to read article)
- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam** has issued **India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond**, raising ₹**150 crore** to build a **40 MLD Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP)** using **microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and RO technologies**. The plant supplies recycled water to **1,400+ industrial units**, promoting **urban water sustainability**. Developed under the **PPP-HAM model**, the project won the **Best Municipal Treated Water Reuse Award** and reflects Ghaziabad's leadership in **green finance** and **smart city initiatives**. (Click here to read article)
- **CSR spending by Indian listed companies rose 16% to ₹17,967 crore in FY 2023-24**, led by **HDFC Bank**, **Reliance Industries**, **TCS**, and **ONGC**. This was driven by an **18% rise in average net profit**, and 98% of companies complied. **Education** and **healthcare** received the most funds, while **environmental spending rose by 54%**. Experts suggest revising CSR eligibility limits due to increased corporate profitability. (Click here to read article)

- The **Supreme Court of India** has suggested that candidates declared elected **unopposed** under **Section 53(2)** of the **RPA, 1951** should secure a **minimum percentage of votes** (10–15%) to maintain **democratic legitimacy**. This came in response to a **petition by Vidhi Centre**, which argued that **denying voters the NOTA option** violates **Article 19(1)(a)**. The **Election Commission** opposed the petition, citing the rarity of such cases post-1989 and asserting that any changes would need **legislative amendments**. The Court stressed that democracy requires **voter consent**, not automatic wins. (Click here to read article)

- The **Draft Greenhouse Gases Emissions Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025**, issued by the **Ministry of Environment** on **April 16, 2025**, aim to regulate **GHG emissions intensity** in **high-emission industries** like **cement, aluminium, pulp & paper**, and **chlor-alkali**. These rules support India's **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023**, and are key to meeting the **Paris Agreement** commitment of a **45% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP by 2030**. The rules offer **incentives** through **carbon credits**, enforce **compliance**, and promote **clean technology adoption**. (Click here to read article)

- **Election Commission of India (ECI)** launched a **two-day capacity-building training** in **New Delhi** for **369 Electoral Registration Officers (EROs)** and **Booth Level Officers (BLOs)** from **Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh**. The initiative aims to ensure **accurate electoral rolls**, boost **poll preparedness**, and educate officials on tools like the **Voter Helpline App**, aligning with the **Representation of the People Act, 1950**, to strengthen **electoral integrity** ahead of key **state assembly elections**, especially in **Bihar**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by PM **Narendra Modi**, has approved a **166.80 km Greenfield High-Speed Corridor** on **NH-06**, from **Mawlyngkhung (Meghalaya)** to **Panchgram (Assam)** at a **capital cost of ₹22,864 crore** via the **Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM)**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved an **FRP of ₹355/qtl** for sugarcane for the **2025–26 season**, offering a premium of **₹3.46/qtl** for higher recovery rates and protecting farmers from deductions below **9.5% recovery**. The price is **105.2% above** production cost and **4.41% higher** than 2024–25 rates, benefiting **5 crore farmers** and **5 lakh sugar workers**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Supreme Court of India** has directed the **Centre and RBI** to revise **digital KYC norms** to ensure inclusivity for **persons with disabilities**, especially those with **visual impairments** and **facial disfigurement** such as **acid attack survivors**. Citing **Article 21** of the Constitution, the court ruled that the **right to digital access** is integral to the **right to life and liberty**, urging both public and private entities to create **accessible digital platforms**. The decision, arising from two writ petitions, marks a **landmark shift** in recognizing **digital inclusion as a constitutional right**, aligned with **SDG 10** and international human rights standards. (Click here to read article)

- **Maharashtra government** acquired the **legendary sword of Raghuji Bhosale I** for Rs 47.15 lakh at a **London auction**, marking a significant step in reclaiming **Maratha heritage**. The **firangi-style sword**, featuring a **Mulheri hilt**, **gold inlays**, and a **Devanagari inscription**, symbolizes the valor of **Raghuji Bhosale I**, founder of the **Nagpur Bhosale dynasty**, who expanded **Maratha rule** across **Odisha**, **Berar**, and **Central India**. Likely looted after the **1817 Battle of Sitabuldi**, the sword's return reflects efforts to **preserve India's cultural legacy**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has introduced **three key reforms**—electronic access to death registration data, **revamped voter information slips (VIS)**, and **standard photo identity cards for Booth Level Officers (BLOs)**. These initiatives, guided by **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, aim to boost **electoral roll accuracy**, improve **voter communication**, and enhance **field-level transparency**. The integration with the **Registrar General of India**, compliance with **electoral laws**, and improved BLO visibility collectively strengthen the **voter-centric approach** of India's democratic process. (Click here to read article)

- The Government of India has introduced the **Sugar (Control) Order, 2025** to replace outdated laws and ensure a **transparent, efficient, and tech-enabled** sugar ecosystem. Key provisions include **API integration** with sugar mills, regulation of **khandsari sugar**, inclusion of **raw sugar and by-products** like ethanol, and **standardized definitions** aligned with **FSSAI**. The reforms aim to safeguard **farmers' rights**, enhance **data accuracy**, and **streamline sugar governance** in line with national and international standards. (Click here to read article)

- The **statue unveiling** and **road naming** in honor of **Bodofa Upendranath Brahma** on his **35th death anniversary** represents a **symbolic tribute** to his **non-violent struggle** for **tribal identity, cultural preservation**, and **equal rights**. As the architect of peaceful mobilization for **Bodoland**, Bodofa's legacy continues to inspire **tribal youth** across India. The government emphasized progress on the **2020 Bodo Accord**, peaceful integration of over **10,000 former insurgents**, and the vision of **"Live and Let Live"** rooted in Bathou religion. (Click here to read article)

- On **May 2, 2025**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **₹8,800 crore Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, marking India's **first deepwater transshipment port** capable of handling the **world's largest cargo ships**. Strategically located near international shipping routes, it aims to **reduce dependency on foreign ports**, boost **maritime trade**, and position India as a **global logistics hub**. The port aligns with national initiatives like **Sagarmala**, **PM-Gati Shakti**, and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, while also promoting **economic growth, employment**, and Kerala's historic maritime role. (Click here to read article)

## States in the News

- The **Kalaignar Centenary Park** in **Chennai**, inaugurated in **February 2024**, offers a blend of **entertainment**, **education**, and **relief from the heat**. The park, built on land reclaimed from the **Agri Horticultural Society**, features attractions like a **500-metre zipline**, **aviary**, **treehouses**, **botanical exhibits**, and a **children's play area**. (Click here to read article)

- The **State government** has sanctioned an additional **₹40 crore** for the ongoing **Kallapu-Sajipa riverfront road project** in **Mangaluru**, bringing the total sanctioned amount to 25% of the **₹160 crore** project cost, said **Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader**. The road will enhance **connectivity** to areas like **Harekala**, **Pavoor**, **Innoli**, and **Ranipura**. Approval has also been given for a **₹12 crore Pavoor-Uliya hanging foot bridge** and **₹200 crore** earmarked for **sea erosion prevention** along Karnataka's coast. (Click here to read article)

- **Cheetah Nirva** has given birth to **five cubs** at **Kuno National Park**, **Sheopur district**, **Madhya Pradesh**, announced **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**, raising the park's cheetah and cub count to **29** and the national total to **31**. Earlier, two cheetahs were shifted to **Gandhi Sagar sanctuary**. Mr. Yadav hailed the births as a success for the **Cheetah Project**, highlighting **India's rich biodiversity** and credited the achievement to the conservation efforts under **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** guidance. (Click here to read article)

- **Mizoram** is facing a severe **African Swine Fever (ASF)** outbreak, with over **3,050 pigs dead** in the past month across **Siaha, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, and Mamit** districts, prompting the declaration of **46 infected zones** and the **culling of nearly 1,000 pigs**. **Siaha** is the worst-hit, recording **1,651 deaths**. The outbreak has caused a massive **economic loss of ₹336.49 crore in 2024**, following similar losses in **2021 (₹334.14 cr), 2022 (₹210.32 cr), and 2023 (₹15.77 cr)**. Authorities are enforcing **quarantine, culling, and compensation** to affected families to control the spread. (Click here to read article)

- Karnataka's **Lakkundi temples**, built during the **Kalyana Chalukya** era, are being considered for inclusion in the **UNESCO tentative list of World Heritage Sites**. The state has collaborated with **INTACH** to draft and finalize the proposal, focusing on the **architectural significance**, especially the **Vesara temple style** and **stepwells**. These monuments meet key **UNESCO criteria** for showcasing cultural exchange and historical value. If accepted, the full **nomination dossier** will be submitted after a year. This move marks a major step in conserving and globally recognizing India's **ancient architectural heritage**. (Click here to read article)

## International Affairs

- Prime Minister **Mark Carney** has secured a **fourth term** for Canada's **Liberal Party**, though early results indicate a possible **minority government**, potentially requiring support from the **Bloc Québécois**. The **New Democratic Party (NDP)** lost seats, weakening its influence. This election saw **record voter turnout**, with **7.3 million early votes**, driven by public frustration over U.S. politics under **President Trump**. (Click here to read article)

- On **April 18, 2025**, the **Government of Nepal** introduced a **draft law** to **restrict Mount Everest access** only to climbers who have previously summited a peak above **7,000 meters**, aiming to improve **safety**, reduce **fatalities**, control **overcrowding**, and address **environmental degradation**. This move is part of the **Integrated Tourism Bill**, promoting **responsible mountaineering** and aligning with **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)** by enhancing **waste management** and **sustainable tourism** on the world's highest peak. (Click here to read article)

- Kamla Persad-Bissessar has returned as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago after her party, the **United National Congress** (UNC), ousted the **People's National Movement** (PNM). Her leadership comes at a critical time, as the country faces **economic hardships**, **crime surges**, and growing **public dissatisfaction**. With promises to create jobs, reopen hospitals, and address the needs of **senior citizens**, her win represents a significant shift in the political landscape. (Click here to read article)

- Vietnam marked the **50th anniversary** of the **Vietnam War's end** with **military parades**, an **air show**, and **international participation** in **Ho Chi Minh City**. The event commemorated the **fall of Saigon** in 1975, which symbolized the **reunification of North and South Vietnam**. While Vietnam now shares **strong diplomatic ties** with the **U.S.**, these are being tested by recent **tariff threats**, highlighting the nation's complex **geopolitical** position and **historical journey**. (Click here to read article)

- The **AIM4NatuRe initiative**, launched by the **FAO**, is a global effort to improve **ecosystem restoration monitoring** across diverse landscapes like **forests**, **wetlands**, **marine ecosystems**, and **agricultural lands**. Funded by the **UK** and aligned with **Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework**, the initiative will operate from **2025 to 2028** and use **FERM (Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring)** to enhance **data transparency**, **interoperability**, and **accountability**. It also supports **Indigenous Peoples'** role in **biocentric restoration**, ensuring a more holistic and inclusive approach to **global biodiversity goals**. (Click here to read article)

## Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a major move to boost **investor education and protection**, the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** has signed an **MoU with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** to promote **financial literacy**, **fraud prevention**, and **investor rights** via Kotak's **digital and physical platforms**—including **ATMs, kiosks, mobile apps, and social media**—at **zero cost to IEPFA**. The initiative, to be implemented in **FY 2025–2026**, aims to reach a wide audience through Kotak's **2,000+ branches and 3,000+ ATMs**, empowering citizens with responsible investment knowledge. (Click here to read article)

- In a move to boost **financial inclusion**, **India Post** has signed an **MoU with SBI Mutual Fund** to provide **doorstep KYC verification services** across India. The initiative will leverage India Post's **nationwide network of 1.64 lakh post offices** to collect KYC documents from investors, especially in **rural and remote areas**, ensuring **convenient and secure access** to mutual fund investments. The project supports the goals of **Jan Nivesh** and **Digital India**, and builds on India Post's prior success in completing over **5 lakh KYC verifications** in earlier collaborations. (Click here to read article)

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** and the **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** have signed an MoU to strengthen **banking infrastructure** across **26 land ports** in border states. These ports handle over **₹70,000 crore in trade** and witness **31 lakh people** in annual cross-border movement. SBI aims to upgrade banking services like **forex, insurance, and digital banking**, boosting trade capacity to **₹2 trillion by 2030**, aligned with the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision. (Click here to read article)

- India, Denmark, **renewed**, **energy cooperation**, **net-zero emissions**, **2070**, **MoU**, **knowledge exchange**, **technological collaboration**, **renewable energy**, **electric vehicle infrastructure**, **partnership**, **accelerating**, **clean energy transition**.The MoU will promote **knowledge exchange and technological collaboration**, particularly in renewable energy and electric vehicle infrastructure. The partnership is a significant step toward accelerating India's clean energy transition. (Click here to read article)

## Books and Authors

- **The Kashmir Shawl** by **Rosie Thomas** (pseudonym for **Janey King**) is a **dual-timeline historical fiction** novel, set in **Wales**, **Kashmir**, and **Ladakh**, that explores **love, loss, identity**, and **colonial history**. The story follows **Mair Ellis**, who uncovers her grandmother **Nerys Watkins'** mysterious past through the discovery of a **Kashmiri shawl**. (Click here to read article)

- The **National Archives of India**, in collaboration with **Vani Prakashan**, will launch the book **"Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician"** on **April 30, 2025**. Authored by **Arun Singhal** and **Devendra Kumar Sharma**, the book explores **Srinivasa Ramanujan's genius, struggles**, and **legacy** in mathematics. It highlights his remarkable contributions, drawing from rare **original documents** and **personal letters**. (Click here to read article)

## Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Fitch Ratings** has downgraded **India's GDP growth forecast** for the current fiscal year to **6.4%**, citing **global trade tensions** and the **US-China trade war**. The global growth outlook for 2025 has also been lowered to **below 2%**, the weakest since 2009. The **US** and **China** have seen their growth projections cut, with **China's growth** expected to stay below **4%** and **US GDP growth** projected at **1.2%**. (Click here to read article)

- The Indian government has formed an inter-ministerial committee, led by **Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam**, to develop a comprehensive framework for the **National Manufacturing Mission**, announced in the **2025 Union Budget**. The mission aims to increase the manufacturing sector's contribution to India's GDP (currently at **16-17%**) through initiatives focused on **ease of doing business**, **workforce development**, **strengthening MSMEs**, **technology integration**, and ensuring **high-quality manufacturing**. (Click here to read article)

- India's **factory output**, measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, grew **3% in March 2025**, slightly improving from **February's 2.7%** but much lower than **5.5% in March 2024**. For the full **FY25**, **industrial growth** slowed to **4%** from **5.9% in FY24**, driven by weak **mining** (0.4%) and moderate **manufacturing** (3%) gains, despite stronger **electricity output** (6.3%) and a **17-month high 8.8%** growth in **infrastructure industries**. **Capital goods** growth weakened to **2.4%**, while **consumer durables** rose by **6.6%** and **consumer non-durables** contracted by **(-)4.7%**, reflecting mixed investment and consumption trends. (Click here to read article)

- To enhance **public convenience** and promote **financial inclusion**, the **RBI** has directed **banks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs)** to ensure regular dispensing of **₹100 and ₹200 denomination notes** through ATMs. By **September 30, 2025**, **75% of ATMs** must comply, increasing to **90% by March 31, 2026**, addressing the widespread issue of inaccessibility to smaller denominations for daily transactions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed fines on **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** (₹63.60 lakh) and **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL)** (₹71.30 lakh) for **non-compliance** with regulatory norms. IOB violated **collateral-free loan guidelines** for **agricultural** and **MSME** loans, while MMFSL was penalized for issues like **non-disclosure of fees**, lack of **loan agreement transparency**, and **multiple customer IDs**, highlighting RBI's role in **consumer protection** and **regulatory discipline**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a major **leadership shakeup**, **Sumant Kathpalia**, MD & CEO of **IndusInd Bank**, resigned with immediate effect, citing **moral responsibility** for severe **accounting discrepancies** in the bank's **derivatives portfolio**, leading to a cumulative **loss of ₹1,959.98 crore**. The irregularities, uncovered through an **internal review** and confirmed by **external audits** (PwC and **Grant Thornton**), involved incorrect accounting of **early-terminated internal derivative trades**, which falsely recorded **notional profits** and distorted financial statements. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated that from **May 1, 2025**, all **regulated entities** including banks, **NBFCs**, and payment operators must use the **PRAVAAH portal** (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation and Authorization) to submit applications for **licenses**, **approvals**, and **authorizations**. Launched on **May 28, 2024**, the portal aims to enhance **transparency**, improve **efficiency**, and provide a **unified digital interface** for regulatory communications. With over **4,000 applications** already processed, the RBI is now ensuring complete compliance with this **digital-first platform**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Nvidia**, led by CEO **Jensen Huang**, has announced a **$500 billion investment** to set up **AI chip manufacturing** infrastructure in the **United States**, shifting from its reliance on **Taiwan-based production**. The initiative, supported by the **Trump administration**, includes collaboration with global giants like **TSMC, Foxconn, Amkor, Wistron, and SPIL**, and aims to create over **a million sq. ft** of facilities and **thousands of jobs**. This move underscores the strategic importance of **domestic tech manufacturing**, **AI-driven development**, and **supply chain resilience**, positioning the U.S. as a leader in next-gen **supercomputing and AI infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on **April 29, 2025**, launched **three key surveys**—the **Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)**, the **Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS)**, and the **Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)**—to collect **public sentiment on inflation, employment, income, and economic confidence**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's **coal sector** reported a **3.63% rise in production** in **April 2025**, reaching **81.57 MT**, as per the **Ministry of Coal**. Significant growth was seen in **captive mining** and **coal stock levels**, especially with **Coal India Limited**. This growth supports **energy security**, promotes **self-reliance**, and reduces **import dependence**, reinforcing coal's importance in **India's power and industrial sectors**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **CCI** has approved the acquisition of **HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd. (HCG)** by **KKR**, through **Hector Asia Holdings** and **KIA EBT II Scheme**, allowing for a combined stake of up to **77%**. The transaction activates an **open offer** under **SEBI's SAST Regulations**, highlighting India's robust regulatory framework for mergers and acquisitions. The move reinforces India's growing appeal in the **healthcare investment landscape**, supported by institutions like **CCI**, **SEBI**, and global players like **KKR**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **CCI's approval** of the acquisition of a **40% stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH)** by **Jubilant Beverages Limited (JBL)** and investment in **compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS)** by Jubilant BevCo and **Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM)** marks a strategic alignment between **India's Jubilant Bhartia Group** and **The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC)**. The move highlights growing **foreign direct investment**, collaboration in **India's FMCG sector**, and an evolving **beverage distribution landscape**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's total exports rose to **$824.9 billion** in FY 2024–25, showing a **6.01% increase**, driven by record **services exports** of **$387.5 billion** and a surge in **non-petroleum merchandise exports**. The growth reflects India's strong positioning in global trade, boosted by reforms under **Foreign Trade Policy**, **Make in India**, and **Atmanirbhar Bharat**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In FY25, the **RBI** enhanced its **gold reserves** by **57.5 tonnes**, responding to escalating **global uncertainties**, a volatile **US dollar**, and rising **gold prices**. This marks the second-largest yearly gold acquisition since RBI began buying gold in **2017**. With gold surpassing **₹1 lakh per 10 grams**, the move underscores a broader trend among **central banks** to shift from the dollar towards **safe-haven assets**, aiming to **diversify** and **stabilize** national reserves amid geopolitical risks and market instability. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's coal sector has shown **robust growth** in **April 2025**, with **14.01 MT production** and **16.81 MT dispatch** from **captive and commercial mines**. The success is attributed to **policy reforms**, **newly operational mines**, and improved **coordination** by the **Ministry of Coal**, marking a key milestone in India's push for **energy self-reliance** and **reduced coal imports**. ([Click here to read article](#))

## Appointments/Resignations

- **Justice B.R. Gavai** has been **appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India** by **President Droupadi Murmu** and will **take oath on May 14, 2025**. He is the **second Scheduled Caste judge** to hold this post after Justice **K.G. Balakrishnan**. Justice Gavai has contributed to several **landmark constitutional rulings**, including on **Article 370**, **demonetisation**, and **electoral bonds**. He is known for his **progressive legal stance** and strong record in protecting **constitutional values** and **social justice**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Election Commission of India** has appointed **IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal**, a **2007-batch Bihar cadre officer**, as the new **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Bihar**, replacing **H R Srinivas**. Gunjiyal, a **Mechanical Engineering graduate**, brings a wealth of experience, having served as Secretary of the **Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department**, and Director of **Animal Husbandry** and **Fisheries**. His appointment comes ahead of the **Bihar Assembly elections in Oct–Nov 2025**, aiming to ensure **transparent, fair, and efficient electoral administration** in the state. (Click here to read article)

- Amid rising **India–Pakistan tensions** following the **Pahalgam terror attack**, the Indian government has **restructured the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** to strengthen national defense. **Ex-RAW Chief Alok Joshi** has been appointed as the **Chairman**, heading a team of retired **top military, police, and diplomatic officials**. The move aims to **bolster India's security strategy**, address **cross-border terrorism**, and implement **critical policy recalibrations**, marking a significant step in **national security enhancement**. (Click here to read article)

- **Sujata Chaturvedi**, a **1989-batch IAS officer from Bihar cadre**, has **assumed charge as Member, UPSC**, the premier recruitment body for civil services in India. Known for her **vast administrative experience**, she has served as **Secretary in the Department of Sports**, where she initiated landmark events like **Khelo India Games**, the **Anti-Doping Bill**, and various sports development policies. (Click here to read article)

- **Sunil Bharti Mittal** has joined the **World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL)** as part of its expanded phase launched on April 24, 2025. The initiative aims to attract private investments, improve regulatory frameworks, and enhance job creation across developing nations. With a strategic focus on five priority areas, PSIL integrates top global leaders to deliver sustainable economic impact. (Click here to read article)

- Kapil Dev, the iconic **1983 World Cup-winning captain**, has joined **SoBo Mumbai Falcons** as **brand ambassador** for the **T20 Mumbai League 2025**, which runs from **May 26 to June 8** at **Wankhede Stadium**. His role is expected to bring **prestige**, **experience**, and **fan engagement** to the team and the tournament. Other notable players like **Suryakumar Yadav** and **Ajinkya Rahane** will also feature in the event, which will be broadcast on **Star Sports** and **Jio Hotstar**. (Click here to read article)

## Defence News

- On **01 May 2025**, new appointments were made across major commands of the **Indian Armed Forces**, marking a crucial phase in India's **military leadership transition**. **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** became the **AOC-in-C, Training Command**, while **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took over as **CISC**, and **Lt Gen Pratik Sharma** assumed command of the **Northern Command**, succeeding **Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar**. These transitions strengthen the armed forces' **training**, **strategic operations**, and **inter-service coordination**, essential for addressing evolving national security challenges. (Click here to read article)

- The **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv**, manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, has been **cleared for operational use** by the **Indian Army and Air Force**. The fleet had been **grounded since January 2025** after a **fatal crash** involving a Coast Guard Dhruv. The clearance follows the **Defect Investigation Committee's** report, and the helicopters are now being deployed, especially after the **Pahalgam terror attack**. The clearance marks a significant step in restoring **helicopter availability** for India's armed forces and validates HAL's indigenous aviation capability. (Click here to read article)

- **Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari PVSM AVSM VM** has taken charge as the new **Vice Chief of the Air Staff, IAF**, on **2 May 2025**. A veteran **fighter pilot** with over **3600 flying hours**, he has held key positions in **testing**, **training**, and **strategy**. His notable contributions include involvement in **Kargil operations** and **LCA Tejas testing**. A recipient of **PVSM**, **AVSM**, and **VM**, he is expected to guide the **IAF** in achieving new **operational heights**. (Click here to read article)

## Awards and Recognitions

- **Madhusudan Sai** was honored with **Fiji's highest award**, the **'Companion of the Order of Fiji,'** by **President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu** on **April 25, 2025**, recognizing his humanitarian contributions, especially the establishment of the **Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital** — the **South Pacific's first fully free, state-of-the-art children's hospital** — which has significantly improved **healthcare access** for children in **Fiji**, alongside broader initiatives by the **Sai Prema Foundation** in **healthcare**, **education**, and **social welfare**. (Click here to read article)

- The **National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)** was honored with the **Udyog Vikas Award** by **Janmabhumi Daily** for its significant role in **India's industrial transformation**, particularly through the development of the **Palakkad Industrial Smart City**. Spanning **1,710 acres**, this project aims to reshape **Kerala's industrial landscape** with **multi-modal connectivity** and cutting-edge **technological integration**. (Click here to read article)

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **Padma Awards 2025** on **71 distinguished individuals** at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, recognizing excellence in fields like **art, public service, sports, and literature**. Highlights include **L. Subramaniam** receiving the **Padma Vibhushan** for music; **Pankaj Udhas (posthumous)**, **Nandamuri Balakrishna**, **S. Ajith Kumar**, and **P.R. Sreejesh** receiving the **Padma Bhushan** for contributions to **cinema and sports**; and **Jaspinder Narula**, **Ravichandran Ashwin**, **Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid**, and **Stephen Knapp** receiving the **Padma Shri** for achievements in **music, cricket, Vedic scholarship**, and **literature**. (Click here to read article)
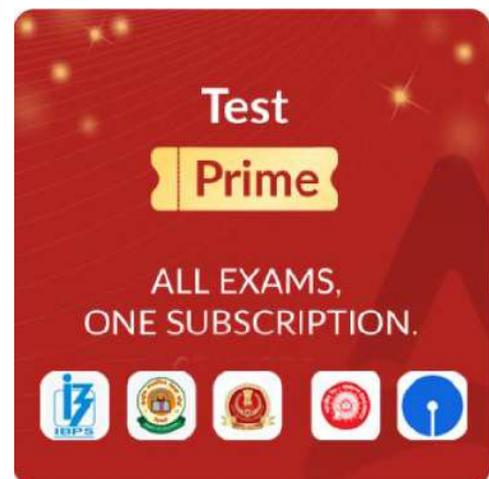
## Summits and Conferences News

- The **11th BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers' Meeting** on April 25, 2025, in Brasília, focused on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and **climate change** impacts on work, with the theme "Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance." **India's contributions** included promoting **ethical AI adoption**, workforce **upskilling**, and initiatives like **FutureSkills Prime**, **Namo Drone Didi**, and the **National Career Service (NCS)** platform. (Click here to read article)
- India and Bhutan held the **6th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting** on **24–25 April 2025** in **Thimphu**, reaffirming their commitment to **Customs cooperation**, **trade facilitation**, and **secure border management**. Co-chaired by **Mr. Surjit Bhujabal** (CBIC, India) and **Mr. Sonam Jamtsho** (Bhutan), discussions included **automation of transit**, **Coordinated Border Management (CBM)**, **Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS)**, and the **Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA)**. (Click here to read article)
- **WAVES 2025**, inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **May 1, 2025**, at **Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai**, is a landmark event aiming to position India as a global leader in the **media and entertainment sector**. With over **100,000 participants** from **60+ countries**, the summit features initiatives like the **Create in India Challenge**, **Creatosphere**, and the **Bharat Pavilion**, showcasing India's rich cultural heritage and technological advancements. Major global and Indian companies are participating, reflecting the country's growing influence in the global entertainment landscape. (Click here to read article)
- India's **opposition to banning Chlorpyrifos** under the **Stockholm Convention** has brought into focus the trade-off between **food security** and **chemical safety**. Despite scientific evidence and **global support for eliminating** the pesticide due to its **toxic and bioaccumulative nature**, India maintains its usage due to a **lack of viable alternatives**. The issue remains critical in the context of **sustainable agriculture**, **environmental health**, and **international chemical governance**. (Click here to read article)

- India is hosting the **Global Media Dialogue (GMD)** during **WAVES 2025** in Mumbai, with participation from **over 60 countries**, including **UK, Russia, and Japan**. The event, supported by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** and the **Ministry of External Affairs**, aims to promote **international cooperation**, **media innovation**, and **policy alignment**. A major outcome of the Dialogue is expected to be the **WAVES Declaration**, reaffirming global commitment to a collaborative and forward-looking **media and entertainment sector**. This initiative strengthens India's position as a key player in **media diplomacy** and **soft power projection.** (Click here to read article)
- India displayed **strong leadership** at the **BRS COPs 2025** in Geneva, advocating **global chemical and waste management**, **technology support for developing nations**, and promoting a **plastic treaty**, in line with its **domestic environmental laws** and **international environmental diplomacy** under the **leadership of PM Modi**. (Click here to read article)

## Ranks and Reports

- The **ICIMOD 2025 report** released on **April 21, 2025**, reveals a **23.6% decline in snow persistence** in the **Hindu Kush Himalaya** region, the lowest in 23 years, posing serious threats to **water security** across South Asia. This reduced snow cover impacts major rivers like the **Ganga**, **Brahmaputra**, and **Indus**, and threatens the water supply, agriculture, and **hydropower generation** for over **2 billion people**. The report highlights the risks of **droughts**, **groundwater over-extraction**, and the need for better **cross-border river management** to mitigate the effects of **accelerated glacier melting**. (Click here to read article)
- According to the **SIPRI report**, **global military expenditure** surged to **$2,718 billion in 2024**, the steepest rise since the **Cold War**, driven by escalating **geopolitical tensions**. The **top five spenders** were the **United States ($997B)**, **China ($314B)**, **Russia ($149B)**, **Germany ($88.5B)**, and **India ($86.1B)**, with India accounting for **3.2% of global defense spending** and ranking fifth. India's defense budget grew by **1.6%**, highlighting its focus on **modernization** amid regional threats, with spending now **nine times that of Pakistan**. (Click here to read article)

- The **World Social Report 2025**, published by the **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**, emphasizes **economic insecurity** faced by 60% of people, rising **global inequality**, **declining trust** in institutions, and the impact of **climate change and conflict**. It highlights that the **richest 1% hold more wealth than 95% of the global population**, and calls for a **rebuilding of social contracts**, **fair taxation**, and **stronger institutions** to meet the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially in health, education, poverty reduction, and inequality. The report underscores urgent global cooperation to reverse regressive trends and foster **inclusive growth and security**. (Click here to read article)

- **NITI Aayog's** report on **MSMEs highlights key challenges like limited access to credit, skill shortages, and barriers to technology adoption.** By recommending targeted interventions, including a revamped credit guarantee system, enhanced training, and stronger state-level policy frameworks, the report aims to improve the competitiveness of MSMEs and integrate them into global value chains. (Click here to read article)

- The *Forbes India W-Power 2025* list honors India's most dynamic and self-made women across a wide spectrum of fields. From international finance leaders like **Gita Gopinath** to sports champions such as **PV Sindhu** and **Smriti Mandhana**, these women exemplify ambition, resilience, and excellence. By featuring professionals from diverse sectors, the list not only showcases the depth of women's contributions but also highlights the importance of visibility, equality, and opportunity in shaping the future. (Click here to read article)

## Sports News

- In just his third IPL match, **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** made a sensational impact, scoring a **century off 35 balls** against **Gujarat Titans** on **April 28, 2025**. His innings, featuring **7 fours** and **11 sixes**, placed him second on the list for the **fastest IPL centuries**, behind **Chris Gayle**. At just **14 years and 32 days old**, he also became the youngest batter to score a **fifty in T20 cricket**. (Click here to read article)

- **India** reaffirmed its leadership in **yogic sports** by winning a record-breaking **83 gold medals** at the **2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship** held at **KD Jadhav Arena, New Delhi**, with participation from **21 countries**. **Japan** ranked second with only **3 golds**, while **Nepal** stood out with **27 silver medals**. (Click here to read article)

- **Manush Shah and Diya Chitale** created history by winning the **Mixed Doubles title** at the **2025 WTT Contender Tunis**, becoming only the **second Indian pair** after **Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran (2021)** to achieve this feat. They defeated Japan's **Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto** 3-2, avenging their previous loss at WTT Star Contender Doha. (Click here to read article)

- **Liverpool** clinched the **2024–25 Premier League title** with a **5-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur** at **Anfield**, marking their **20th top-flight championship**, tying them with **Manchester United**. The match featured goals from **Luis Diaz**, **Mac Allister**, **Cody Gakpo**, **Mohamed Salah** (his 28th of the season), and an own goal from **Destiny Udogie**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Asian Games 2026** will feature the debut of **Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)** as a medal sport and the continued inclusion of **cricket**. Scheduled to take place in **Aichi and Nagoya, Japan**, from **September 19 to October 4**, these updates will bring about significant changes to the sports programme. **MMA** will have **six medal events** in the **Combat Sports** category, while **cricket** returns after being absent in 2018. These developments underscore the growing popularity of **combat sports** and the enduring prominence of **cricket** in Asia. (Click here to read article)

## Schemes and Committees News

- The **Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme**, launched by the **Delhi government** on April 28, 2025, offers **Rs 10 lakh** health insurance coverage to **senior citizens aged 70 and above**. The scheme provides **free health services**, including treatments, medical tests, and annual check-ups. Each beneficiary receives a **Vay Vandana Health Card**, storing their **medical history** and **emergency health info**. With **Rs 5 lakh coverage from the Centre** and an additional **Rs 5 lakh from the Delhi government**, the initiative aims to ensure **dignified healthcare** and **financial security** for the elderly in Delhi. (Click here to read article)

- On **29 April 2025**, the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** held a **National Workshop in New Delhi** to promote **MSME participation** in the **Green Hydrogen Supply Chain**. Union Minister **Pralhad Joshi** launched the **Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCI)**, a key initiative to ensure **traceability and transparency** in green hydrogen production. The event featured **technical sessions** on technology collaboration, biomass-based hydrogen, investments, and supply chain opportunities. (Click here to read article)

## Science and Technology News

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully conducted a **short-duration hot test** of its **semicryogenic engine** at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**, on **April 24, 2025**. This second major milestone after the **March 2025** test focused on validating the **engine start-up sequence**, achieving **stable ignition** at **60% rated power**, and testing critical subsystems like **low- and high-pressure turbo pumps**, **pre-burner**, and **control systems**. (Click here to read article)

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla**, an **Indian Air Force** officer and **Gaganyaan astronaut-designate**, will fly aboard **Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)** to the **International Space Station (ISS)** on **May 29, 2025**, becoming the **first Indian astronaut to visit the ISS**. The **SpaceX Dragon spacecraft** will carry a multinational crew for **14 days**, conducting **60+ scientific experiments** from **31 countries**, including **7 Indian microgravity studies** shortlisted by **ISRO**. These include research on **microalgae**, **muscle regeneration**, **tardigrades**, and **India-centric food sprouting** like **moong and fenugreek**, reinforcing India's growing contribution to **global space research** and **human spaceflight**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Amazon** launched the **first 27 satellites** for its **Project Kuiper** from **Florida** using a **ULA Atlas V rocket**, aiming to build a **3,236-satellite constellation** for **global broadband coverage**, especially in **rural areas**. The move sets Amazon in direct competition with **SpaceX's Starlink**, which already leads the market. Project Kuiper, backed by a **$10 billion investment**, is expected to begin services **later in 2025**, with plans for up to **five additional launches** this year. The **FCC deadline** requires 1,618 satellites to be in orbit by **mid-2026**, and Amazon hopes its **consumer-focused hardware** and **cloud integration with AWS** will give it an edge. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **GenomeIndia Project**, led by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, has achieved a milestone by completing **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** of over **10,000 individuals**, with data now accessible to Indian researchers as of **April 30, 2025**. Housed at the **Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)**, this dataset—among the **largest in Asia**—includes over **700 TB** of genomic data and **27 phenotype variables**, crucial for advancing **precision medicine**, **healthcare R&D**, and **ancestry research**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India's active role in the **ITER nuclear fusion project** marks a critical step in global **energy innovation**. With the **Central Solenoid** completed and India's pivotal input in manufacturing the **cryostat**, **cooling systems**, and **heating technologies**, the project is moving closer to achieving **self-sustaining fusion energy**. ITER stands as a symbol of **international cooperation**, aiming for a **carbon-free**, **radioactive waste-free**, and **sustainable energy future**. ([Click here to read article](#))

## Important Days News

- **World Intellectual Property Day** is celebrated annually on **April 26** to emphasize the importance of **intellectual property (IP)** rights in promoting **innovation** and **creativity**. The 2025 theme, **"IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP"**, highlights the role of IP in supporting **artists** and the **music industry**. The day underscores how IP protection helps **musicians** and **creators** secure their work, ensuring they are properly **recognized** and **rewarded** for their contributions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Veterinary Day 2025**, celebrated on **April 26** with the theme **"Animal Health Takes a Team,"** honors the vital role of **veterinarians** in promoting **animal health**, **public health**, **food safety**, and **environmental protection**. Established by the **World Veterinary Association (WVA)** in **2000**, the day emphasizes the collective efforts of veterinarians, technicians, researchers, and caregivers. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Day for Safety and Health at Work**, observed annually on **April 28**, promotes **workplace safety** and emphasizes the importance of protecting workers' health globally. Initiated by the **International Labour Organization (ILO)** in 2003, it aims to raise awareness about **occupational safety** and health practices. The **2025 theme**, "Revolutionising Health and Safety: The Role of **AI** and **Digitalisation** at Work," focuses on how **AI** and **digital tools** can enhance safety through **automation**, **virtual training**, and **real-time monitoring**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster**, which occurred on **April 26, 1986**, remains one of the most significant nuclear events in history, causing widespread **radiation contamination** and long-term **health** and **environmental** damage. The explosion at Reactor 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant released dangerous **radionuclides**, affecting **Belarus**, **Ukraine**, and **Russia**. The disaster led to over 31 immediate deaths, while **long-term radiation exposure** impacted **millions**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On April 30, 2025, India celebrates the **155th birth anniversary** of **Dadasaheb Phalke**, the **Father of Indian Cinema**, who created **India's first full-length feature film**, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913). Born in **Trimbak, Maharashtra**, Phalke was inspired by the silent film *The Life of Christ* and overcame immense **financial**, **technical**, and **societal challenges** to pioneer filmmaking in India. With **no support**, he mortgaged assets, learned filmmaking in **London**, and cast men in **female roles** due to taboos—ultimately delivering a cultural milestone that **launched Indian cinema**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **International Labour Day 2025**, observed on **May 1**, commemorates the historic **labour movement** that began with the **1886 Haymarket Affair** in the **United States**, advocating for an **eight-hour workday**. In **India**, the first Labour Day was celebrated in **1923 in Chennai** by the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan**. India's labour protections include constitutional articles and major reforms through **four labour codes**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **International Jazz Day 2025**, observed on **April 30**, is a **UNESCO initiative** started in **2011** with support from jazz legend **Herbie Hancock**. It aims to celebrate **jazz music** as a symbol of **peace**, **freedom**, **diversity**, and **creativity**, uniting people through **global concerts**, **educational workshops**, and **cultural dialogue**. Originating in the **early 20th century** in the **USA**, jazz remains a powerful tool for **social change**, **expression**, and **unity** across the globe. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **World Tuna Day 2025**, observed on **May 2**, highlights the global need for **sustainable tuna fishing** to protect **marine biodiversity**, ensure **food security**, and support **economic development**. Established by the **UN General Assembly** in **2016** and first celebrated in **2017**, the day emphasizes responsible harvesting of tuna species like **Bluefin**, **Yellowfin**, and **Skipjack**, which face threats from **overfishing** and **illegal fishing**. With over **96 countries** involved and tuna contributing **20% of marine fisheries' value**, the initiative aligns with **SDG 14 – Life Below Water**, urging global cooperation, **science-based policies**, and conservation efforts led by organizations like **WWF**. (Click here to read article)

- **Maharashtra Diwas 2025**, celebrated on **May 1st**, marks the **formation of Maharashtra** in **1960** following the **Bombay Reorganisation Act**, recognizing the **Marathi-speaking community's linguistic and cultural identity**. The day commemorates the state's **struggle for statehood**, celebrates its **heritage, culture**, and **economic progress**, and includes **flag hoisting**, **cultural programs**, and **project inaugurations**. **Mumbai**, the capital, remains the **financial hub** of India, reflecting Maharashtra's significant contribution to the **nation's growth** and **regional pride**. (Click here to read article)

- **Gujarat Formation Day** or **Gujarat Sthapana Divas**, celebrated on **May 1st**, marks the creation of **Gujarat** in **1960** following the **bifurcation of Bombay State** based on **linguistic lines**, driven by the **Mahagujarat Movement** led by **Indulal Yagnik**. The day honors **Gujarati cultural identity**, the **sacrifices of movement leaders**, and showcases the state's progress in **industrialization**, **infrastructure**, and **education**. In **2025**, celebrations in **Godhra, Panchmahal**, featured inaugurations worth **₹644.72 crore** by **CM Bhupendra Patel**, cultural events, and participation from **Governor Acharya Devvrat**, emphasizing Gujarat's status as a hub of **petroleum**, **diamonds**, **SEZs**, and **logistics excellence**. (Click here to read article)

- **Lapu-Lapu Day**, observed on **April 27**, honors **Datu Lapulapu**, the first Filipino hero who led the **Battle of Mactan in 1521**, defeating Spanish explorer **Ferdinand Magellan**. Officially declared a **national holiday in the Philippines** in 2017, it celebrates **Filipino resistance, pride, and heritage**. The day gained **international recognition** in **2023** when **British Columbia, Canada**, also recognized it, highlighting the contributions of the **Filipino-Canadian community**. (Click here to read article)

- **World Press Freedom Day 2025**, observed on **May 3**, celebrates the core democratic value of **press freedom**, rooted in the **1991 Windhoek Declaration**. The day raises awareness about the threats faced by journalists such as **censorship**, **intimidation**, and **violence**, and urges **governments** and **civil society** to create safe environments for **independent journalism**. It also focuses on **ethical reporting**, combating **disinformation**, and reinforcing **freedom of expression** as a universal right. (Click here to read article)

## Obituaries News

- The Malayalam film industry mourns the loss of **Shaji N Karun**, a visionary filmmaker who passed away at **73**, just days after receiving the **J C Daniel Award**. Known for masterpieces like **Piravi**, **Swaham**, and **Kutty Srank**, his works garnered **international acclaim**, including a **Palme d'Or nomination** at Cannes. (Click here to read article)

- **Malayalam actor Vishnu Prasad**, aged **52**, passed away due to **liver disease** in **Ernakulam**, Kerala, on **May 2, 2025**. Despite support from the **Association of Television Media Artists (ATMA)** and fellow actors like **Kishore Sathya** and **Seema G. Nair**, his family struggled to raise **₹30 lakhs** for a liver transplant. Known for his roles in films like *Runway*, *Lion*, and *Pathaka*, Vishnu also contributed to many television serials. His **death** sheds light on the **financial challenges** and lack of structured **healthcare support** for artists in the entertainment industry. (Click here to read article)

- **Dr. Mathew Samuel Kalarickal**, who introduced angioplasty to India and mentored scores of cardiologists, passed away on **April 18, 2025**. A **Padma Shri** recipient, he **was** renowned for performing **India's first angioplasty** in 1986, significantly altering heart care practices. His legacy continues through his trainees and his work across multiple countries. (Click here to read article)

## Miscellaneous News

- The **Department of Posts** will release a **commemorative stamp** to celebrate the **centenary of Pandit Chatur Lal**, a legendary tabla exponent. Known for introducing the **tabla** to Western audiences, he collaborated with notable figures like **Pandit Ravi Shankar** and **Yehudi Menuhin**, and was a pioneer in **fusion music**, working with jazz drummer **Papa Jo Jones**. (Click here to read article)

- The **Papal Conclave 2025**, expected to take place in **Vatican City**, will mark a critical moment in **global religious affairs** as **cardinals under the age of 80** gather in secrecy to elect the next **Pope**, requiring a **two-thirds majority** vote. This sacred event, rooted in centuries-old tradition, gains worldwide attention due to the Pope's influential role in guiding **1.3 billion Catholics** and shaping discussions on **Church reforms**, **secularism**, **abuse scandals**, and **global ethical issues**. (Click here to read article)

## Static Takeaways

| Sr. No | Static Name | Static Details |
|--------|-------------|----------------|
| | | Organizations |
| 1 | RBI | **Governor** - Sanjay Malhotra |
| 2 | SBI | **Chairman** - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty |
| 3 | ISRO | **Chairman** - V. Narayan |
| 4 | NASA | **Acting Head** - Janet Petro |
| 5 | NVIDIA | **CEO** - Jansen Huang |
| 6 | Indian Overseas Bank | **MD** - Ajay Kumar Srivastava<br>**HQ** - Chennai |
| | | Countries |
| 7 | Russia | **President** - Vladimir Putin<br>**Capital** - Moscow |
| 8 | Brazil | **President** - Lula Da SIlva<br>**Capital** - Brasilia |
| 9 | Japan | **PM** - Shigeru Ishiba<br>**Capital** - Tokyo |
| 10 | Bhutan | **PM** - Dasho Thering Tobgay<br>**Capital** - Thimpu |
| 11 | Vietnam | **President** - Luong Cuong<br>**Capital** - Hanoi |
| 12 | Trinidad & Tobago | **PM** - Kamala Persad<br>**Capital** - Port of Spain |
| | | Indian States |
| 13 | Mizoram | **Governor** - V K Singh<br>**CM** - Lalduhoma<br>**Capital** - Aizawl |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | **Governor** - Mangubhai Patel<br>**CM** - Mohan Yadav<br>**Capital** - Bhopal |
| 15 | Karnataka | **Governor** -<br>**CM** - Siddharamaiya<br>**Capital** - Bengaluru |
| 16 | Gujarat | **Governor** - Acharya Devvrat<br>**CM** - Bhupendra Patel<br>**Capital** - Gandhinagar |
| 17 | Maharashtra | **Governor** - C. P. Radhakrishnan<br>**CM** - Devendra Fadnavis<br>**Capital** - Mumbai |