

THE HINDU REVIEW



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National News

Most Important Current Affairs Articles

UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025: Top 10 Best and Worst Performing Countries

Global Ranking: A Tale of Two Worlds

Top 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

Europe, particularly the Nordic countries, continues to lead global efforts toward sustainable development. Finland has retained the top position, followed closely by Sweden and Denmark.

Rank	Country	Score (2025)
1	Finland	87.0
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.3
4	Germany	83.7
5	France	83.1
6	Austria	83.0
7	Norway	82.7
8	Croatia	82.4
9	Poland	82.1
10	Czechia	81.9

These countries have demonstrated high performance in areas such as quality education, gender equality, climate action, and peace and justice.

Bottom 10 Countries in SDG Index 2025

At the other end of the spectrum, countries facing conflict, political instability, and economic challenges rank lowest in the index.

Rank	Country	Score (2025)
167	South Sudan	41.6
166	Central African Republic	45.2
165	Chad	46.0
164	Somalia	46.1
163	Yemen, Republic	47.7
162	Congo, Dem. Rep.	48.2
161	Sudan	49.1
160	Afghanistan	49.1
159	Niger	50.3
158	Madagascar	51.0

India's Historic Rise in SDG Ranking

India Breaks into Top 100

In a remarkable improvement, India has ranked 99th in the 2025 SDG Index, with a score of 67.0. This marks India's first time entering the top 100, a significant milestone considering its past positions:

- 109th in 2024
- 112th in 2023
- 121st in 2022
- 120th in 2021

This steady climb reflects India's growing focus on sustainable development, particularly in clean energy, digital public infrastructure, and financial inclusion.

India in Regional Comparison

Despite entering the top 100 globally, India still lags behind several South Asian peers, indicating both progress and challenges.

Country	Rank (2025)	Score
Maldives	53	Not provided
Bhutan	74	70.5
Nepal	85	68.6
India	99	67.0
Sri Lanka	93	Not provided
Bangladesh	114	Not provided
Pakistan	140	Not provided

PM Modi Honoured in Ghana with 'Order of the Star'

In a historic diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with Ghana's highest civilian award, the "Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana", during his landmark visit to the country. The honour, bestowed by President John Dramani Mahama, recognizes PM Modi's global statesmanship, commitment to South-South cooperation, and his role in elevating India-Ghana bilateral ties. The Indian Prime Minister dedicated the award to India's youth, its diverse cultural legacy, and the shared democratic values between the two nations.

Why in News?

PM Modi received Ghana's top civilian honour on July 3, 2025, during his first state visit to Ghana. The honour celebrates his leadership and strengthens diplomatic engagement between India and Ghana, especially in sectors like trade, healthcare, education, and digital connectivity.

About the Honour

- **Name of the Award:** Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana
- **Conferred by:** President John Dramani Mahama
- **Reason:** In recognition of PM Modi's distinguished global leadership, diplomatic outreach, and efforts to build South-South cooperation.

Key Agreements & Announcements

During the joint press conference in Accra, the two leaders unveiled a range of strategic initiatives to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Education & Youth Development

- Doubling of ITEC and ICCR scholarships for Ghanaian students
- Establishment of a Skill Development Centre in Ghana to offer vocational education and training for youth

Agriculture & Food Security

- India pledged support to Ghana’s ‘Feed Ghana’ programme, sharing expertise and resources to boost agricultural productivity

Healthcare

- Proposal to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras in Ghana, providing affordable generic medicines
- Discussions on vaccine production cooperation

Digital & Financial Integration

- India to offer its Bharat UPI digital payment platform to Ghana, enhancing financial inclusion and digital public infrastructure

Trade Relations

- Agreement to double bilateral trade volume in the next five years through new business and investment avenues

Significance of the Visit

- First Indian PM to visit Ghana in over 30 years.
- Reinforces India’s strategic outreach to Africa and the Global South.
- Builds upon historical bonds initiated by Jawaharlal Nehru and Kwame Nkrumah.
- Deepens cooperation based on shared democratic ideals and mutual development goals.

PM Modi Receives Trinidad and Tobago’s Highest Civilian Award

On July 4, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the country’s highest civilian award. The ceremony took place during his two-day visit to the Caribbean nation. This award was given for his global leadership and strong connection with the Indian diaspora. It is an important moment in strengthening India’s ties with Trinidad and Tobago.



A Historic First Visit

This is PM Modi’s first official visit to Trinidad and Tobago as Prime Minister. It is also the first Indian Prime Ministerial-level visit to the country since 1999. The visit is part of Mr. Modi’s five-nation tour, and it highlights the long-standing bond between India and the island nation.

Reason for the Honour

The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was given to Mr. Modi to recognize his global leadership, his work in supporting the Indian community abroad, and his help during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago announced the award and said Mr. Modi’s visit marks a moment of pride and connection between the two nations.

PM Modi’s Response and Gifts

PM Modi said he was honoured to receive the award and accepted it on behalf of 140 crore Indians. As part of the visit, he also gave holy water from the Mahakumbh and a replica of the Ram Mandir to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, symbolizing cultural and spiritual unity.

Visit to Ghana Beforehand

Before arriving in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Modi visited Ghana, where he received another top honour – the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said this honour was given for his strong leadership and contribution to global cooperation.

India and Trinidad & Tobago Sign Six New Agreements to Boost Ties

On July 4, 2025, India and Trinidad & Tobago signed six key agreements in Port of Spain to improve their partnership in many areas. These include work in infrastructure, medicine, culture, and sports. The deals were signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the country. This visit is seen as a big step toward building stronger ties between the two nations.

First Prime Ministerial Visit in Over 25 Years

This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Trinidad & Tobago since 1999. PM Narendra Modi met with Trinidad & Tobago’s Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and held important talks to improve cooperation. The two leaders discussed future work in agriculture, education, digital payments, and healthcare. They also shared views on major global issues like climate change, cyber security, and disaster response.

Both leaders showed great warmth and respect during the visit. PM Bissessar said that Mr. Modi’s visit was a “landmark moment” that will give new energy to the friendship between the two countries.

Six Agreements Signed

The two nations signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These deals cover cooperation in,

1. Pharmaceutical standards
2. Quick development projects
3. Cultural exchange
4. Sports promotion
5. Diplomatic training
6. Sharing of official documents and research

The aim of these agreements is to create more jobs, better services, and stronger people-to-people connections between India and Trinidad & Tobago.

PM Modi also announced that people of Indian origin living in Trinidad & Tobago can now apply for OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) cards, even if they are from the sixth generation. This will help families stay connected with their roots in India.

Meetings with National Leaders

PM Modi also met President Christine Carla Kangaloo, who recently received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for her service to the Indian community. Their meeting was friendly and respectful. PM Modi praised her for her public service and leadership. Both leaders also agreed to work together on issues that affect the Global South, such as climate problems and fair international cooperation.

PM Modi also thanked Trinidad & Tobago for its support to India after the Pahalgam terror attack and said both countries stand united against terrorism.

PM Modi Gets Namibia's Top Civilian Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given Namibia's highest civilian award during his one-day state visit to the African nation on Wednesday. The award, called 'The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis', was presented by Namibia's President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. This honour shows the strong and growing relationship between India and Namibia.

Modi Receives Top Honour in Namibia

During his visit to Namibia on Wednesday, PM Modi was honoured with the country's top civilian award – The Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis. The ceremony took place in the capital and was led by Namibia's President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. The award is named after a rare desert plant found only in Namibia, which stands for strength, long life, and resilience.

Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this special award. In his acceptance speech, he said, "I accept this honour with deep gratitude and dedicate it to the 1.4 billion people of India and the strong friendship between India and Namibia."

Meaning and History of the Award

The Welwitschia Mirabilis Award was started in 1995. It is given to people who show great leadership and work to build strong ties between nations. The plant it is named after survives in the desert for many years, which is why it is used as a symbol of endurance and unity.

This is PM Modi's 27th international award and the fourth during his current five-nation trip. Interestingly, it is also his second award within 24 hours, showing the global appreciation he is receiving on this tour.

A New Chapter in India-Namibia Relations

This honour marks a new milestone in the bond between India and Namibia. India and Namibia have worked together in areas like education, healthcare, defence, and technology. The award is a symbol of Namibia's respect for India's support and its interest in building even stronger ties in the future.

With this honour, both countries are expected to deepen their cooperation further in the coming months, especially in trade, green energy, and digital innovation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Honoured with Brazil's Highest Civilian Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with Brazil's highest civilian award, the **Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross**. This recognition was presented by **Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** as a mark of respect for the growing diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between **India and Brazil**.

This honour represents not just an individual achievement for the Prime Minister, but also reflects the **international recognition of India's leadership** and its growing influence on the global stage.

About the Award: Brazil's Top Civilian Honour

The **Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross** is the most prestigious civilian honour in Brazil. It is awarded to heads of state and government leaders who have made **outstanding contributions to strengthening Brazil's relations with other countries**.

By conferring this honour upon Prime Minister Modi, Brazil has acknowledged his efforts in enhancing **India-Brazil strategic partnership**, as well as his role in advancing cooperation through **international platforms** like BRICS, G20, and the **United Nations**.

A Symbol of Strong India-Brazil Relations

This honour is a powerful reflection of the deepening ties between the two democracies. India and Brazil share common values, such as respect for sovereignty, sustainable development, and a multipolar world order. Over the years, the two countries have collaborated in areas such as:

- Trade and investment
- Renewable energy
- Agricultural technology
- Space research
- Global governance

Prime Minister Modi's leadership has helped in building stronger bridges between the two nations, especially through multilateral forums and regional dialogues.

Pride for India on the International Stage

This is the **26th international award or honour** given to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** by a foreign nation since he assumed office in **May 2014**. These recognitions highlight India's **diplomatic strength, growing economic power**, and the **global trust** in its leadership.

By honouring Prime Minister Modi, Brazil has also shown respect for **India's growing role in shaping global policies**, especially in the Global South.

Widespread Appreciation from Indian Leaders

The announcement of this award has been widely celebrated in India. Leaders from across the country have expressed their appreciation for the honour, calling it a proud moment for all Indians. Many have acknowledged that this award is not only a recognition of Modi's diplomacy but also a sign of India's **growing stature in international affairs**.

India's Maratha Forts Added to UNESCO World Heritage List

Maratha Military Landscapes of India were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris. This important recognition covers 12 historic forts built by the Maratha rulers between the 17th and 19th centuries. The listing highlights their unique military design and the rich history of India's fort architecture.

What Is the Maratha Military Landscapes?

The Maratha Military Landscapes are a group of 12 forts that show the smart planning and strength of the Maratha Empire. These forts were built across different terrains — hills, coasts, and plains — to protect the kingdom and control trade routes. They include Salher Fort, Shivneri Fort, Lohgad, Khanderi Fort, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala Fort, Vijay Durg, Sindhudurg (all in Maharashtra) and Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

These forts were known for their clever use of nature, water storage systems, and strong walls. Built mostly between the 1600s and 1800s, they show how Marathas used military skills to build powerful defense structures.

UNESCO's Decision and the Committee Meeting

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee took this decision during its 47th session in Paris. On X (formerly Twitter), UNESCO posted: "New inscription on the @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List: Maratha Military Landscapes of India, #India."

This nomination was part of the 2024–25 UNESCO World Heritage cycle, and Indian officials had worked hard to present the historical and cultural importance of these forts to the world. The recognition gives international importance to India's fort heritage and adds value to future conservation efforts.

India's Pride and Historical Significance

The Maratha forts were not just buildings — they were symbols of resistance, planning, and unity. Leaders like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj used them to build and protect the Maratha Empire. Some of these forts, like Raigad and Pratapgad, are especially famous in Indian history.

For example, Pratapgad Fort, located about 22 km from Mahabaleshwar, played a key role in many battles and still stands strong today.

Indian historians, heritage experts, and government officials have welcomed this decision, saying it will help promote tourism, boost local pride, and ensure better care of these monuments.

PM Modi Honored With 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires'

On July 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with the 'Key to the City of Buenos Aires' during his official two-day visit to Argentina. This symbolic award was given in recognition of his efforts to strengthen the relationship between India and Argentina. The visit was historic, as it was the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years.

Symbolic Honour for PM Modi

PM Modi was presented with the 'Key to the City' by Jorge Macri, the Chief of the City Government of Buenos Aires. This is a ceremonial gesture of trust and friendship. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the honour reflects PM Modi's role in building closer ties between India and Argentina. PM Modi expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and shared photos and messages on his official X (formerly Twitter) account.

Tributes to Icons and Cultural Connections

During his visit, PM Modi paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore by visiting their statues in Buenos Aires. He said Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence continues to inspire the world. Modi also honoured General Jose de San Martin, Argentina's national hero, at Plaza San Martin. He praised his leadership in the fight for freedom in South America. The visit focused on cultural respect and shared values.

Strengthening India-Argentina Ties

PM Modi met President Javier Milei and held high-level talks. Both leaders celebrated 75 years of diplomatic relations and agreed to expand ties in defence, energy, agriculture, mining, and trade. Argentina will supply lithium and shale gas to help India's energy needs. Modi also requested easier entry for Indian medicines into Argentina. They discussed collaboration in sports and education, and Modi invited President Milei to visit India.

Warm Welcome from Indian Diaspora

PM Modi received a grand welcome from the Indian community in Buenos Aires. People gathered outside his hotel, waving Indian flags, singing songs, and dancing. PM Modi interacted warmly with them and said that distance can never break cultural bonds. He appreciated their love and said their presence added special joy to the visit.

Union Government Notifies Transfer & Repatriation of 18 High Court Judges

To maintain the balance, efficiency, and impartiality of the judiciary in India, the Union Government on July 14, 2025, issued official orders transferring and repatriating 18 High Court judges across various states. This development follows recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium on May 26, 2025. These strategic appointments aim to enhance judicial functioning, promote uniformity in case disposal, and address regional imbalances in judicial staffing.

Background

The transfer and repatriation of High Court judges in India are governed by Article 222 of the Constitution, which empowers the President to transfer a judge from one High Court to another after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by the CJI, plays a crucial role in suggesting such movements. The current transfer notifications are part of this long-standing administrative mechanism and reflect an effort to uphold the independence and integrity of the judiciary by rotating judges across states.

Significance of the Transfers

These judicial reshuffles are not merely administrative—they serve multiple significant purposes,

- **Impartiality:** By relocating judges to states other than their parent High Courts, potential local pressures and regional biases are minimized.
- **Efficiency:** High Courts with a heavier caseload can benefit from additional or experienced judges from other jurisdictions.
- **Expertise Sharing:** Transferred judges bring their diverse legal experience and judicial perspectives to the host High Court, enriching its jurisprudence.
- **National Integration:** These transfers foster a pan-Indian judicial culture, ensuring that judges are familiar with diverse legal interpretations across the country.

List of Transfers

1. Justice Tadakamalla Vinod Kumar transferred from Telangana HC to Madras HC.
2. Justice Jayant Banerji moved from Allahabad HC to Karnataka HC.
3. Justice Arun Monga (Punjab & Haryana cadre) transferred from Rajasthan HC to Delhi HC.
4. Justice Anil Kshetarpal shifted from Punjab & Haryana HC to Delhi HC.
5. Justice Sudhir Singh (Patna cadre) transferred from Punjab & Haryana HC to Patna HC.
6. Justice Shree Chandrashekhar (Jharkhand cadre) moved from Rajasthan HC to Bombay HC.
7. Justice Om Prakash Shukla transferred from Allahabad HC to Delhi HC.

8. Justice Battu Devanand (Andhra Pradesh cadre) repatriated from Madras HC to Andhra Pradesh HC.
9. Justice Vivek Kumar Singh (Allahabad cadre) moved from Madras HC to Madhya Pradesh HC.
10. Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh (Allahabad cadre) transferred from Kerala HC to Karnataka HC.
11. Justice Vivek Chaudhary moved from Allahabad HC to Delhi HC.
12. Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma (Rajasthan cadre) returned from Punjab & Haryana HC to Rajasthan HC.
13. Justice Suman Shyam transferred from Gauhati HC to Bombay HC.
14. Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra moved from Allahabad HC to Punjab & Haryana HC.
15. Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre transferred from Bombay HC to Delhi HC.
16. Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak moved from Gauhati HC to Orissa HC.
17. Justice Lanusungkum Jamir transferred from Gauhati HC to Calcutta HC.
18. Justice V Kameswar Rao (Delhi cadre) transferred from Karnataka HC to Delhi HC.

Objectives of the Transfers

The core objectives behind these transfers include,

- Promoting national judicial coherence
 - Decongesting overburdened courts
 - Ensuring transparency and integrity through regular reshuffling
 - Balancing judge strength across High Courts
 - Facilitating fair trial environments free from local interference
- These actions support the larger goal of judicial reform and strengthen public trust in the judiciary.

Ahmedabad Declared Cleanest City In Swachh Survekshan 2024–25:

The Swachh Survekshan 2024–25, India’s largest cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), has declared Ahmedabad as the cleanest city in the category of cities with a population of over 10 lakh. The annual ranking, which has evolved significantly since its launch in 2016, now includes special recognitions such as the Super Swachh League Cities, and it saw participation from 4,589 cities. This year’s results showcase a renewed thrust on sustainable sanitation practices and citizen-centric cleanliness initiatives across urban India.

Background of Swachh Survekshan

- Launched in 2016 with 73 cities.
- Conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U).

- Aims to foster competitive spirit among cities to improve urban sanitation.
- Annual survey with independent third-party assessment based on citizen feedback, waste processing, and service-level progress.

Highlights of Swachh Survekshan 2024–25

- Ahmedabad ranked 1st in the category of cities with population over 10 lakh.
- Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai inducted into Super Swachh League Cities, a new category for consistent top performers over the past 3 years.
- 4,589 cities covered in the survey (April 2024 – March 2025).
- Cities classified in 5 population-based categories for the first time.
- **Focused categories:** Ganga Towns, Cantonment Boards, Safai Mitra Suraksha, Mahakumbh, and state-level awards.

Significance of Super Swachh League

- Introduced in 2024–25 to recognize cities with sustained top-three performances in their categories over the past 3 years.
- A move to create a benchmark league of model cities.
- Promotes long-term commitment over one-time wins.

Objectives of the Survey

- Promote healthy competition among cities for urban cleanliness.
- Encourage citizen participation in sanitation efforts.
- Measure outcomes in terms of waste segregation, scientific waste processing, and behavioral change.
- Foster innovation through categories like Safai Mitra Suraksha.

Special Initiatives

- Launch of one-year campaign from August 15 to tackle legacy landfill remediation.
- Classification of cities into population-based categories for fairer assessments.
- Emphasis on sustainability and inclusion of Ganga towns and religious centers.

A. Super Swachh League Cities Winners

Sr. No	Population Category	State	City
1	>10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
2	>10 Lakh	Gujarat	Surat
3	>10 Lakh	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai
4	>10 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada
5	3–10 Lakh	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
6	3–10 Lakh	Chandigarh	Chandigarh

Sr. No	Population Category	State	City
7	3–10 Lakh	Karnataka	Mysuru
8	3–10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
9	3–10 Lakh	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10	3–10 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur
11	50,000–3 Lakh	Delhi NDMC	New Delhi
12	50,000–3 Lakh	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati
13	50,000–3 Lakh	Chhattisgarh	Ambikapur
14	50,000–3 Lakh	Maharashtra	Lonavala
15	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Vita
16	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Saswad
17	20,000–50,000	Maharashtra	Deolali Pravara
18	20,000–50,000	Rajasthan	Dungarpur
19	<20,000	Maharashtra	Panchgani
20	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Patan
21	<20,000	Maharashtra	Panhala
22	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Bishrampur
23	<20,000	Madhya Pradesh	Budni

B. Presidential Awardees: Swachh Shehar by Population Category

Sr. No	Population Category	State	City
1	>10 Lakh	Gujarat	Ahmedabad
2	>10 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
3	>10 Lakh	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
4	3–10 Lakh	Maharashtra	Mira-Bhayandar
5	3–10 Lakh	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur
6	3–10 Lakh	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
7	50,000–3 Lakh	Madhya Pradesh	Dewas
8	50,000–3 Lakh	Maharashtra	Karhad
9	50,000–3 Lakh	Haryana	Karnal
10	20,000–50,000	Goa	Panaji
11	20,000–50,000	Odisha	Aska
12	20,000–50,000	Chhattisgarh	Kumhari
13	<20,000	Chhattisgarh	Bilha
14	<20,000	Odisha	Chikiti
15	<20,000	Madhya Pradesh	Shahganj

C. Ministerial Awardees: Special Category

Sr. No	Special Initiative Recognized	State	City
1	Swachh Mahakumbh 2025 Recognition	—	—
2	Ganga Town	Andhra Pradesh	GVMC Visakhapatnam
3	Ganga Town	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur
4	Ganga Town	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur
5	Cantonment Board	Telangana	Secunderabad Cantt.
6	Ganga Town	Uttar Pradesh	Prayagraj

D. Promising Swachh Shehar of States/UTs

Sr. No.	State/UT	City
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Sri Vijaya Puram
2	Andhra Pradesh	Rajahmundry
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Jairampur
4	Assam	North Lakhimpur
5	Assam	Guwahati
6	Bihar	Patna
7	Chhattisgarh	Raipur
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman	Diu Daman
9	Goa	Sanquelim
10	Gujarat	Vadodara
11	Haryana	Sonapat
12	Himachal Pradesh	Theog
13	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu
14	Jharkhand	Bundu
15	Karnataka	Davanagere
16	Kerala	Mattannur
17	Ladakh	Kargil
18	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
19	Maharashtra	Pimpri Chinchwad
20	Manipur	Jiribam
21	Meghalaya	Shillong
22	Mizoram	Lunglei
23	Nagaland	Jalukie
24	Odisha	Bhubaneswar
25	Puducherry	Oulgaret-Ozhukarai
26	Punjab	Bathinda
27	Rajasthan	Jaipur Greater
28	Sikkim	Mangan
29	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal

Sr. No.	State/UT	City
30	Telangana	Greater Hyderabad
31	Tripura	Khowai
32	Uttar Pradesh	Agra
33	Uttarakhand	Lalkuan
34	West Bengal	Baidyabati

Historic Day! India-UK FTA Signed: ₹ Trillions to Be Gained – Here's What It Means

On July 24, 2025, India and the United Kingdom signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the UK. This deal marks the culmination of over three years of negotiations, and is expected to significantly boost trade, create jobs, and deepen strategic ties across multiple sectors. As India's most comprehensive FTA to date and the UK's most important since Brexit, it signals a new era in bilateral relations.

Background

Talks for the India-UK FTA began in January 2022, following the announcement of the UK-India Enhanced Trade Partnership. After 14 rounds of negotiations and a political change in the UK, the deal finally materialized under the leadership of PM Keir Starmer and PM Modi. It comes amid growing geopolitical shifts, post-pandemic recovery efforts, and both nations' search for robust global trade partners.

Significance

This agreement is strategically important for both countries,

- For India, it opens access to high-tech UK goods like medical devices and aerospace components at affordable prices.
- For the UK, it unlocks new markets in India's massive consumer base.
- It reflects a rules-based, democratic partnership that aims to set a model for future global cooperation.

Objectives

- Eliminate or reduce tariffs on a wide range of goods and services.
- Promote investment, innovation, and technology exchange.
- Strengthen cooperation on security, climate change, defence, and education.
- Push bilateral trade towards the \$120 billion target by 2030.

Key Features

- India's average tariffs on UK goods will drop from 15% to 3%.
- Key beneficiary sectors in India: textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, engineering goods, gems and jewellery, auto parts, and organic chemicals.
- UK products like medical equipment and aerospace parts will become more affordable in India.

A new strategic partnership – India-UK Vision 2035 – has been unveiled to expand cooperation beyond trade, including,

- Defence Industrial Roadmap
- Technology Security Initiative
- Climate Change Action
- Educational Collaborations

Economic & Strategic Impact

- £25.5 billion boost to bilateral trade annually.
- Thousands of new jobs expected in both countries.
- British companies such as Airbus and Rolls-Royce will begin aircraft deliveries to Indian airlines.
- Enhanced intelligence sharing and cooperation on fraud, crime, and migration issues.
- Both nations condemned terrorism and extremism, affirming shared values of security and democracy.

UK-India FTA Signed: Who Wins, What’s Cheaper, and How It Impacts You!

The recently signed India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 24 July 2025 marks a transformative moment in bilateral economic ties. With this deal, tariffs on a wide range of products will be reduced or eliminated, making numerous imported goods cheaper for Indian consumers, while simultaneously boosting Indian exports. Key items such as Scotch whisky, British luxury cars, chocolates, and cosmetics will see significant price drops over time. The agreement is expected to benefit both nations’ consumers, industries, and employment landscape.

Background

Negotiations for the FTA began in January 2022, and after over three years of talks and several rounds of diplomacy, it was officially signed during PM Narendra Modi’s visit to the UK in July 2025. This FTA is being hailed as India’s most comprehensive trade pact and the UK’s most important bilateral trade deal post-Brexit.

Significance of the Agreement

- It eliminates duties on 99% of Indian exports to the UK.
- For Indians, high-end imports like whisky, cars, chocolates, and medical devices will become more accessible.
- The agreement is forecasted to boost UK’s GDP by £4.8 billion (\$6.5 billion) annually.
- Aims to double Indian exports to the UK by 2030.

Objectives

- Promote affordable and wider access to goods and services.
- Encourage investment and innovation.
- Support MSMEs and exporters in both nations.
- Facilitate temporary movement of skilled professionals.
- Reduce non-tariff barriers and improve market access.

What Will Become Cheaper for Indians?

- 1. Scotch Whisky & Gin**
 - Tariffs on Scotch whisky and gin will be reduced from 150% to 75% initially, and to 40% over the next 10 years.
 - Major boost for premium liquor brands like Diageo.
- 2. British Luxury Cars**
 - Import duties on UK-made cars, currently above 100%, will reduce to 10% under a quota-based system.
 - This benefits carmakers like Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin.
- 3. Chocolates, Biscuits & Salmon**
 - Lower duties on British-made chocolates, biscuits, and salmon, bringing them to supermarket shelves at better prices.
- 4. Cosmetics & Personal Care**
 - Reduced tariffs on cosmetics and skincare products, especially from leading British brands.
- 5. Medical Devices**
 - Easier access to UK-manufactured medical devices and diagnostic equipment at reduced costs.

Who Benefits in India?

- 1. Textile & Leather Exporters**
 - Removal of UK duties (up to 12%) on garments, home textiles, and leather goods will boost exports and create jobs.
- 2. Gems & Jewellery Sector**
 - Zero tariffs on gold, diamonds, and jewellery will benefit Indian exporters and promote Indian craftsmanship.
- 3. Agro, Pharma & Processed Foods**
 - Sectors like rice, spices, shrimp, tea, and processed food will see tariff reductions.
 - Indian pharma companies gain easier entry into the UK market.
- 4. Electric & Hybrid Vehicles**
 - Preferential access for EV and hybrid vehicle makers under a quota system.
 - Companies like Tata Motors, Mahindra Electric, and Bharat Forge stand to gain.
- 5. Professionals & Skilled Workers**
 - UK will streamline visa and work permits for Indian professionals including chefs, yoga instructors, musicians, and more.
 - Social security exemption for Indian workers in the UK for up to 3 years, saving approx. ₹4,000 crore annually.

Divya Deshmukh Creates History: Wins FIDE Women’s Chess World Cup 2025

India’s rising chess star Divya Deshmukh scripted history on July 28, 2025, by defeating veteran Koneru Humpy in the tiebreaks to win the FIDE Women’s Chess World Cup held in Batumi, Georgia. At just 19 years old, Divya not only clinched one of the most prestigious titles in women’s chess but also became India’s fourth female Grandmaster (GM).

A Battle of Generations

The final of the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup was a clash between experience and youthful brilliance. Koneru Humpy, India's first woman Grandmaster and a legend in women's chess, brought her immense experience, being currently ranked World No. 5. Divya Deshmukh, ranked World No. 18, entered the event as an underdog, but showed remarkable determination and composure against her senior. The two classical games played earlier had ended in draws, pushing the match into rapid tiebreaks.

The Decisive Tiebreaks

In the first rapid game, Divya held Humpy to a solid draw. The second game proved decisive,

- Playing with black pieces, Divya capitalised on a critical endgame mistake by Humpy.
- She converted the advantage with precision to claim victory.
- This win not only gave her the World Cup title but also fulfilled her dream of becoming a Grandmaster, a feat she described as "fate."

Divya's Journey to the Top

Early Achievements

- Divya was crowned World Junior Champion in the girls' section in 2024.
- She was instrumental in India's gold medal win at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, where she also bagged an individual gold.

Grandmaster Title

With this win, Divya joins an elite list of Indian women who hold the Grandmaster title,

- Koneru Humpy
- R. Vaishali
- Harika Dronavalli
- Divya Deshmukh (the youngest among them at present).

Overcoming Odds

Despite her lower FIDE ranking and Humpy's status as the World Rapid Champion, Divya remained fearless. She admitted that her draw in the first classical game "felt like a loss" as she missed winning chances, but she kept her composure to seize the opportunity in the rapid format.

Koneru Humpy: The Veteran Opponent

At 37 years old, Koneru Humpy remains one of the greatest ambassadors of Indian chess. She was once the youngest woman to become a GM, breaking Judit Polgar's record at the age of 15 years and 27 days.

Even though she lost the final, Humpy praised Divya's preparation and acknowledged that the youngster was "clearly better" during stretches of the match.

The Significance of the Win

Divya's victory is a landmark for Indian chess,

- It underscores India's growing dominance in the global chess arena.
- The win adds another Grandmaster to India's roster.
- For women's chess in India, it is a generational milestone, inspiring young players to dream bigger.
- Her triumph also adds momentum to India's recent surge in the chess world, where young talents are increasingly making their mark in prestigious international tournaments.

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the **National Sports Policy (NSP) 2025**, replacing the **2001 policy** to transform India into a **global sporting powerhouse** with a vision toward the **2036 Olympic Games**. The policy is based on **five pillars** – Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement, and Integration with Education (NEP 2020) – and focuses on **grassroots to elite training, sports science & technology, sports tourism, indigenous games, mass participation, and school-level sports integration**. A **strategic framework** with **KPIs, PPP models, and a national monitoring system** will guide implementation, serving as a **model for States and UTs**.
- The Cabinet has approved the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** with a **₹1 lakh crore corpus** to promote **private sector investment** in **sunrise and strategic sectors**. Managed by the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**, the scheme offers **long-term concessional loans, equity support, and a Deep-Tech Fund of Funds** to boost **R&D, technology acquisition, and commercialisation** of innovations. It aims to enhance **global competitiveness, self-reliance, and adoption of emerging technologies**, with governance oversight by the **Prime Minister-led ANRF Board** and implementation by the **Department of Science & Technology**.
- The Cabinet has cleared the **Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme** with an outlay of **₹99,446 crore** to create over **3.5 crore jobs in two years** (Aug 2025 – Jul 2027), focusing on the **manufacturing sector** and **first-time employees**. Under **Part A**, first-time employees will get **one month's wage up to ₹15,000** in two instalments, while under **Part B**, employers will receive **₹1,000–₹3,000 per month** for each **additional employee** maintained for at least six months (extended to four years for manufacturing). All payments will be via **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**, aiming to **formalise the workforce, boost job creation, and strengthen social security coverage**.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a 4-lane Paramakudi–Ramanathapuram Section of NH-87 in Tamil Nadu at a cost of ₹1,853 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM). Covering 46.7 km, this project will decongest the existing 2-lane highway, improve traffic safety, and connect major routes such as NH-38, NH-85, NH-36, NH-536, NH-32 and SH-47, SH-29, SH-34. It will enhance multi-modal connectivity to Madurai Airport, Rameshwaram & Pamban ports, and key towns like Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram, Rameshwaram. The project is expected to boost regional economic growth, promote tourism to Rameshwaram and Dhanushkodi, and generate around 8.4 lakh person-days of direct and 10.45 lakh person-days of indirect employment.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana for six years (2025–31), targeting 100 districts to boost agriculture and allied sectors. The scheme, inspired by NITI Aayog’s Aspirational District Programme, focuses on crop diversification, sustainable farming, better irrigation, enhanced post-harvest storage, and improved credit access. It will be implemented through the convergence of 36 schemes across 11 departments, in partnership with state governments and the private sector. Districts will be selected based on low productivity, low cropping intensity, and low credit disbursement, with a minimum of one district per state. Monitoring will be done using 117 performance indicators via a digital dashboard. The scheme aims to increase agricultural productivity, create local livelihoods, promote organic and natural farming, and contribute to self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has granted NLC India Limited (NLCIL) a special exemption from investment limits applicable to Navratna CPSEs, allowing it to invest ₹7,000 crore in its subsidiary NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL) for renewable energy projects without prior approvals. This supports NLCIL’s goal to develop 10.11 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and 32 GW by 2047, aligning with India’s COP26 commitments to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070. The move will accelerate India’s shift to clean energy, reduce coal imports, ensure 24x7 power supply, and strengthen its position as a green energy leader. Currently, NLCIL operates 2 GW of renewable capacity, which will be transferred to NIRL. This investment will also generate significant direct and indirect employment, supporting sustainable economic growth and climate action goals.
- Cabinet Approves Enhanced Delegation of Power to NTPC for Renewable Energy Expansion – The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an enhanced delegation of investment powers to NTPC Limited from the earlier limit of ₹7,500 crore to ₹20,000 crore for its subsidiary NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) to invest in NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) and other joint ventures/subsidiaries. This will accelerate renewable energy (RE) capacity addition towards NTPC’s target of 60 GW RE capacity by 2032, helping India move

towards its 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity goal by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070. The initiative will strengthen power infrastructure, ensure 24x7 reliable electricity access, and create employment opportunities during both construction and operation & maintenance stages, benefiting local suppliers, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs. NGEL currently holds a portfolio of around 32 GW RE capacity including 6 GW operational, 17 GW contracted/awarded, and 9 GW pipeline projects.

- Cabinet Approves ‘Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana’ – The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana aimed at improving agricultural productivity in low-yield districts by converging schemes from 11 central departments, state governments, and other partners. Around 100 districts will be identified, with at least one district from each state, focusing on those with low productivity or limited use of Agri Credit Cards (ACC). Each district will have a nodal officer, and NITI Aayog will track progress via a dashboard. The campaign will launch in Rabi season (October 2025) and will involve district-level committees led by Gram Panchayats/District Collectors, with state- and central-level teams ensuring effective scheme convergence. The focus will be on crops, fruit cultivation, fisheries, beekeeping, animal husbandry, and agroforestry with the goal of raising productivity to national or top-level benchmarks while promoting socio-economic development in rural areas.

Parliament News

State-wise July Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- BITS Pilani will set up India’s first ‘AI Plus Campus’ in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, announced on July 14, 2025. The project will cost Rs 1,000 crore, and admissions will begin in 2027. The new campus will teach AI, Data Science, Robotics, and more, with a focus on green energy and global exposure. CM Chandrababu Naidu and BITS Chancellor Kumar Mangalam Birla praised the project, calling it a key step in advanced education. The campus design will blend heritage and modern features, while Project Vistar will further expand BITS’ existing campuses. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Machilipatnam Greenfield Port in Andhra Pradesh is under fast construction, with 48% work completed and plans to start operations by the end of 2026. Built by MEIL, the port will boost exports and jobs in the region. The ₹5,155 crore project has faced delays since 2007 but is now back on track under the Machilipatnam Port Development Corporation Ltd. Both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are investing in related infrastructure, like dry ports and freight corridors. Locals are hopeful about better land prices and employment. The port is expected to handle 36 million tonnes of cargo every year and support large ships, becoming a key trade hub on the east coast. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC)** has partnered with **Mastercard** to enhance the state's global tourism profile. Following a commitment made at **Davos**, the partnership aims to attract **international tourists** by integrating **Mastercard's global user base** into Andhra Pradesh's tourism circuit. Plans include **targeted promotions, digital payment support, and increased visibility for hotels and resorts**, with a focus on both **coastal destinations and cultural heritage sites**. This collaboration is expected to position Andhra Pradesh as a **premium global travel destination**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Assam

- **CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** inaugurated **India's first Aqua Tech Park** in **Sonapur, near Guwahati, Assam**. Developed by **Kolong Kopili NGO** with support from **NABARD, ICAR-CIFA**, and others, the park features new technologies like **biofloc, aquaponics, and ornamental fish breeding**. The park aims to **empower fish farmers, boost production, and create jobs**. Assam has already **doubled its fish output** between 2019 and 2024 and is now the **fourth-largest fish producer** in India. The government has also launched **10 fishery clusters** worth **₹8 crore** to support this growth. ([Click here to read article](#))

Bihar

- The **Bihar Cabinet**, chaired by **CM Nitish Kumar**, approved major schemes including the **Mukhya Mantri Pratigya Yojana** for internship support, offering up to **₹6,000/month**, and the **Kalakar Pension Yojana** granting **₹3,000/month** to senior artists. Additionally, **₹882.87 crore** was sanctioned for the **integrated development** of the **Punaura Dham temple** in **Sitamari**. The Cabinet also amended the **Bihar Factory Rules** to enable **women's participation** in hazardous industries. These moves aim to boost **employment, support cultural heritage, and enhance religious tourism** ahead of the **2025 Assembly elections**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 8, 2025**, the **Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government** approved a significant **policy shift**, granting **35% reservation in government jobs exclusively for women domiciled in Bihar**. Earlier available to **all women**, the **new domicile-based policy**—proposed by the **General Administration Department (GAD)**—restricts this **horizontal reservation to native women only**, across **all state government cadres**. **Women from other states** will now be considered under the **general category**, aiming to **empower local women and boost their participation in governance and administration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** has announced **free electricity** for domestic users up to **125 units/month**, effective **August 1, 2025**, benefiting **16.7 million families**. Under the **Kutir Jyoti scheme**, the **state will install solar panels** for poor

households, aiming for **10,000 MW solar capacity** in 3 years. The move offers **economic relief, boosts clean energy**, and aligns with **inclusive governance and poll strategy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **PM Modi inaugurated ₹7,200 crore** worth of **infrastructure projects** in **Motihari, Bihar**, under the **Viksit Bharat Mission**. These developments aim to make **Bihar a growth hub**, ensure **urban parity**, and provide **housing and infrastructure support**. The move highlights **increased central funding, NDA-led development focus**, and Bihar's inclusion in India's long-term growth vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar** has announced the formation of the **Bihar Rajya Safai Karmachari Ayog** to protect the **rights, welfare, and social upliftment** of sanitation workers. The commission, consisting of a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, five members, and a woman or transgender representative**, will focus on **rehabilitation, grievance redressal, and welfare scheme monitoring**. The move aims to bring sanitation workers into the **social and economic mainstream** and improve their living conditions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant move to strengthen **rural healthcare services**, **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has announced a **substantial increase in incentives** for **ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists)** and **Mamta workers**. **ASHA workers** will now receive **₹3,000 per month** (up from ₹1,000), while **Mamta workers** will earn **₹600 per safe delivery** (up from ₹300). The decision, announced via social media, aims to **boost morale and enhance healthcare access** for mothers and newborns across Bihar's villages. ([Click here to read article](#))

Gujarat

- **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel** launched the **Jan Suraksha Santruption Abhiyan** to **expand the reach of key government welfare schemes** such as **PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY, and Jan Dhan Yojana**. Running from **July 1 to September 30, 2025**, the campaign targets **100% coverage** of eligible individuals, with added focus on **KYC updates, digital fraud awareness, and financial inclusion**. With **1.93 crore Jan Dhan accounts** and over **₹21,000 crore disbursed** in Gujarat alone, the campaign underscores a robust effort to ensure **equity in public service delivery**, making it a cornerstone in India's **social welfare architecture**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gujarat** has become the **third state** in India, after **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**, to cross **one crore stock market investors**, as per **NSE data**. Together, these states account for **36% of India's investor base**, showing rising **financial participation**. As of **May 2025**, India has nearly **11.5 crore investors**, with **11 lakh new additions** in May alone, reflecting renewed growth after a **slowdown**. **North India** leads regionally with **4.2 crore investors**, followed by **West, South, and East India**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Gujarat** has become the **first state** in India to officially align with the **Cruise Bharat Mission**, launched on **September 30, 2024**, by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**. The mission aims to boost **cruise tourism tenfold by 2029**. Gujarat plans to create multiple **coastal cruise circuits**, linking destinations like **Diu, Porbandar, Dwarka, and Padala Island**. This move not only supports India's tourism goals but also helps **develop Gujarat's maritime economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Goa

- **Goa** launched **India's first RoRo ferry service** on the **Mandovi River**, with two high-tech ferries, **Gangotri and Dwarka**. These vessels, built by **Vijai Marine Shipyards**, cut travel time between **Chorao and Ribandar** to just **12–13 minutes** and can carry **passengers and vehicles**. Launched by **CM Pramod Sawant**, the project comes at **no cost to the government** and promises to improve water transport and **support tourism and local travel**. The ferries have **modern features** like **AC cabins, vehicle lanes, and emergency kits**, offering a **safe and fast journey** for all. ([Click here to read article](#))

Himachal Pradesh

- **Himachal Pradesh** has launched **India's first Aadhaar-based Face Authentication (FaceAuth)** system for **ration distribution** under the **Public Distribution System (PDS)** in **July 2025**. The system uses a **smartphone camera** to verify a person's face instead of **OTP or fingerprints**. This new method, led by the **Department of Digital Technologies and Governance (DDTG)** and supported by **Gokul Butail**, aims to fix past issues and ensure smoother and faster service. **Himachal's initiative** marks a big move toward **digital and inclusive governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Himachal Pradesh government**, led by **CM Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu**, launched the **'My Deed' NGDRS (National Generic Document Registration System)** pilot project to **digitize land registration** and promote **paperless, presence-less, and cashless governance**. The system allows citizens to apply for land registration **online**, requiring only a **single visit** to the tehsil office. Initially rolled out in **10 tehsils across 10 districts**, the project is supported by complementary **digital revenue reforms**, including a **new Jamabandi format** in Hindi, **e-Roznamcha Vakyati** (digital diary), and **Kaarguzari** (online attendance). ([Click here to read article](#))

Jharkhand

- **Jharkhand** will soon launch **India's first Mining Tourism Project**, with support from **Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)** and oversight by **Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation (JTDC)**. The **pilot phase** includes tours to the **North Urimari (Birsa) coal mine** via two routes—**Rajrapa and Patratu**—covering **mines, temples, and valleys**. The initiative aims to promote **alternative tourism**, create **employment**, and preserve **industrial heritage**, with further plans for **Eco-Mining Circuits** and a **Religious Circuit**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Karnataka

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has decided to rename **Bengaluru City University** after former Prime Minister **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, acknowledging his significant role in the city's **infrastructure development**. From laying foundations for the **Bengaluru Metro and Elevated Highway** to inaugurating the **Kempegowda International Airport**, Singh's contributions to the city are deeply embedded in its progress. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated the **2.44 km long Sigandur bridge** in **Shivamogga, Karnataka**, built over the **Sharavathi backwaters** at a cost of over **₹470 crore**. Named after **Goddess Chowdeshwari Devi**, the bridge connects **Sagara and Marakutika**, restoring links lost due to the **Linganamakki dam**. Gadkari also highlighted that **National Highway length in Karnataka** has increased significantly, with major upcoming road projects worth **₹5 lakh crore**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **Swachh Survekshan 2024–25**, **Bengaluru** rose to **36th among Million-Plus Cities**, improving from last year's **125th**, but lagged in **toilet cleanliness** and **landfill remediation**. **Mysuru**, meanwhile, made headlines by joining the **Super Swachh League**, highlighting its **long-term cleanliness, community participation, and sanitation excellence**. These outcomes reflect Karnataka's progress and gaps in implementing effective **urban waste management, public hygiene**, and the overarching goals of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Kerala

- **Kerala's first skin bank** is opening on **July 15, 2025**, at the **Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College Hospital**. The facility, approved by **K-SOTTO** and costing **Rs 6.75 crore**, will collect **donated skin** to treat **burn victims**. **Health Minister Veena George** also announced future plans to open a similar bank in **Kottayam**. **Burn centres and plastic surgery units** have already been launched in **Alappuzha, Kollam, and Kannur**. This new step will improve **burn care services** and provide **relief to patients across Kerala**. ([Click here to read article](#))



- **Arthunkal Police Station** in Alappuzha, Kerala, became the first police station in India to receive the **IS/ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification** from the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**. The award acknowledges the station's excellent service in **crime control, law and order, public response, and grievance redressal**. The certification is part of the **Modernised Cherthala Police Programme**, led by **ASP Harish Jain**, which aims to upgrade policing standards. Senior police officers, including **State Police Chief Ravada Azad Chandrashekhar**, attended the event, highlighting the importance of quality standards in public safety. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ambrosia beetle (*Euplatypus parallelus*)**, first reported in India in 2012, is now threatening Kerala's rubber plantations. It carries **Fusarium fungi**, which degrade wood and reduce **latex yield**. Symptoms include **leaf fall, trunk drying**, and latex loss. Current **control methods**—like traps and antifungals—have **limited success**. The pest also endangers other **broadleaf crops** like **cashew, teak, and coconut**. Experts recommend **localized strategies**, use of **antagonistic fungi**, and **policy-level intervention** for sustainable management. ([Click here to read article](#))

Maharashtra

- **Mumbai's Carnac Bridge**, originally built in 1868, has been rebuilt and renamed as **Sindoor Bridge** to honour **Operation Sindoor**, a military strike on terror camps in Pakistan. The new name also reflects an effort to erase the **colonial legacy** of **Governor Carnac**, who was linked to **atrocities against Indians**. The **new 328-metre-long bridge**, inaugurated on **July 10, 2025**, by **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis**, will improve traffic in South Mumbai. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maharashtra** has become the **first Indian state** to grant **agricultural status** to **livestock and poultry farming**, allowing over **37 million farmers** to access **subsidised electricity, agricultural credit, tax relief, and solar equipment subsidies**. This decision will benefit the **poultry, dairy, fisheries, and small ruminant sectors**, potentially adding over **₹7,000 crore annually** to the rural economy, while aligning with national goals for **scientific livestock development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Maharashtra** has unveiled **Vidarbha's first integrated steel plant** by **LMEL** in **Gadchiroli**, featuring a **4.5 MnTPA steel facility**, a **5 MnTPA iron ore grinding plant**, and the **state's inaugural 10 MnTPA slurry pipeline**. This initiative promises major advancements in **industrial growth, green logistics, job generation**, and puts **Vidarbha** on the map as a rising **manufacturing and infrastructure hub** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The launch of the **Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT)** in **Mumbai** by **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** and **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis** signals a transformative shift in India's **creative tech economy**. The institute will provide **industry-aligned education** in **VFX, XR, animation, and gaming**, in partnership with global leaders like **Google, Meta, Microsoft, and Apple**. Aimed at nurturing **skilled professionals**, IICT is expected to catalyze growth in the **AVGC-XR sector**, positioning India as a **global digital content hub**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Maharashtra government** will observe **August 7**, the birth anniversary of **Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan**, as **Sustainable Agriculture Day**. A **Government Resolution** directs agricultural universities to set up **Dr. MS Swaminathan Bio-Happiness Research Centres** focusing on **sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and food security**. The day will also feature **statewide events and awards** in his honor, recognizing the **Father of India's Green Revolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Madhya Pradesh

- The **Central Government** has announced that a new **Akashvani Kendra** will be set up in **Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**, under the **BIND** scheme. The decision was made during a meeting on **July 8, 2025**, between **Union Minister L. Murugan** and **Chief Minister Mohan Yadav**. The goal is to improve **regional broadcasting**, reach more people with reliable information, and boost **media infrastructure** in the state. **Akashvani Ujjain** will help share **news, education, culture, and government messages** more effectively with the public. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** has introduced a new **monthly stipend scheme** offering **₹6,000 to unemployed women** and **₹5,000 to men**, tied to **internships in registered industries**. It builds upon the **Ladli Behna Yojana**, aims to enhance **skill development**, and supports **local job creation** via **industrial expansion in areas like Acharpura**. Over **1,600 jobs** are expected initially. This initiative blends **social welfare** with **industrial growth**, with a focus on **gender inclusion, economic self-reliance, and youth empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur** will host **India's first Hindi-medium MBBS college** from the **2027–28 academic session**, offering **50 MBBS seats** initially. Approved by the **Madhya Pradesh Medical University's executive council**, the college will use **already translated Hindi textbooks** and provide **clinical training** at the existing government hospital. With plans to expand to **MD and MS courses in Hindi**, this pioneering step aims to break **language barriers in medical education**, making healthcare studies more **inclusive and accessible**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Odisha

- Puri will become the sixth municipal corporation in Odisha, as announced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on July 5, 2025, ahead of the Bahuda Yatra. The decision is aimed at providing better services in the city, which welcomes lakhs of visitors every year. Areas around Puri city will be added to the corporation, and the government has also planned a Jagannath Museum, Library, and Research Centre to promote Odia culture. This move supports the state's vision to make Puri a major tourist and spiritual centre by 2036. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Odisha signed 33 MoUs worth \$902 million under its Apparel & Technical Textile Policy 2022 during Odisha-TEX 2025, aiming to create over 1 lakh jobs by 2030 and establish textile clusters in six districts. The state enhanced employment subsidies, with ₹6,000 for men and ₹7,000 for women, to attract investors and strengthen workforce participation, positioning Odisha as the textile hub of eastern India. ([Click here to read article](#))

Tamil Nadu

- The Union Cabinet's approval of the ₹1,853 crore project to upgrade the Paramakudi–Ramanathapuram road in Tamil Nadu marks a significant step toward infrastructure modernization. Developed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), the project will convert 46.7 km of NH-87 into a four-lane corridor, improving connectivity between key towns and religious destinations like Rameshwaram. This initiative is expected to decongest traffic, boost tourism, enhance road safety, and generate over 18 lakh employment person-days, making it a cornerstone for regional development and economic integration in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The PM MITRA Textile Park in Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, is a landmark initiative under India's textile growth strategy. With a ₹1,900 crore investment from the Central Government, this 1,052-acre facility will offer advanced infrastructure, including ZLD effluent treatment, worker dormitories, and industrial workspaces. Expected to attract ₹10,000 crore in private investments and generate over one lakh jobs by 2026, the park will significantly enhance export-oriented and sustainable textile manufacturing in the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Gingee Fort, located in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on July 11, 2025, as part of the Maratha Military Landscapes. The decision was made during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris. Known as the "Troy of the East", the fort stands out for its unique architecture, strong military design, and deep historical roots. The recognition brings global attention, expected tourism boost, and preservation support to one of India's iconic heritage sites. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Tamil Nadu government has approved a Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve with ₹1 crore funding from the Endangered Species Conservation Corpus Fund. The project targets four hornbill species and includes population monitoring, habitat restoration, community-based nest adoption, and collaborative research. It also introduces citizen science tools and educational support to promote conservation awareness. This initiative addresses key issues like habitat loss, climate change, and biodiversity decline in the Western Ghats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- PM Modi inaugurated the new terminal of Tuticorin Airport (capacity: 20 lakh passengers annually) and launched projects worth ₹4,800 crore in Tamil Nadu. Key works include highway upgradation (NH-36 and NH-138), Kollidam bridge, North Cargo Berth-III at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, and railway electrification and doubling projects. These initiatives aim to boost multi-modal connectivity, reduce logistics costs, enhance tourism, and promote port-led industrial growth, positioning Tamil Nadu as a key driver of Viksit Bharat. ([Click here to read article](#))

Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the launch of 'Operation Kalanemi', a police campaign to catch fake saints and religious impersonators in the state. The operation is named after Kalanemi, a demon from Hindu mythology who disguised himself as a saint to mislead others. Dhami said these individuals cheat people, especially women, and harm the image of Sanatana Dharma. ([Click here to read article](#))

Uttar Pradesh

- President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, visited Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for several major projects at Mahayogi Gorakhnath University. She opened a new Auditorium, Academic Block, and Panchkarma Kendra, and laid the foundation stone for a Girls' Hostel, aimed at boosting women's education. Praising the University's efforts to integrate modern Allopathy and traditional Ayurveda, she highlighted its role in holistic medical education. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The 75th Pradhan Mantri Divyasha Kendra (PMDK) will be inaugurated on July 15, 2025, at Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, by Union Minister Shri B.L. Verma. This centre will help persons with disabilities and senior citizens by giving them free aids like wheelchairs, tricycles, and hearing aids under the ADIP Scheme and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). With this new centre, 75 PMDKs are now working across India, having already supported over 1.40 lakh people. This move shows the government's strong focus on inclusive growth and last-mile service delivery. ([Click here to read article](#))

Union Territories

- The Government of India is poised to transform Jammu and Kashmir's fisheries and livestock sectors with a proposed ₹100-crore Integrated Aqua Park under PMMSY Phase-II. Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh also inaugurated a 50,000-litre UHT Milk Plant in Jammu, underscoring the focus on rural income generation, cold-water aquaculture, and dairy productivity. The region has seen 800% growth in trout production and substantial increases in milk output, aided by strategic investments and seed imports from Denmark. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) will soon replace its pink ticket system with a new 'Saheli Smart Card' for free bus travel. Only women and transgender persons living in Delhi will be able to get the card, using Aadhaar and address proof. The card aims to stop misuse, ensure the benefit goes to the right people, and support a modern, cashless, and connected transport system. The Saheli Card, along with Zero KYC and Full KYC Cards, is part of a larger digital plan that includes QR-based tickets, NCMC integration, and mobile apps for smoother travel across Delhi's public transport network. ([Click here to read article](#))
- NeVA Seva Centre was inaugurated by Speaker Vijender Gupta at the Delhi Legislative Assembly to promote paperless governance. The first phase of the NeVA project was completed, offering digital tools, training, and smartphones to MLAs. The initiative supports Digital India, aims for transparency, and enhances legislative efficiency through technology-driven solutions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Puducherry's One-Time Regularisation Scheme 2025 aims to legalise unauthorised constructions made between May 1, 1987 – July 16, 2025. Applications are accepted online via OBPS, with fixed fees and scrutiny charges. Government buildings are exempt, while aided schools receive 50% fee relief. Encroachments and plots without legal ownership are excluded. This move will improve urban planning compliance and offer legal protection to existing property owners. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Delhi Government has hiked cash rewards for Olympic and Paralympic medalists under the Mukhyamantri Khel Protsahan Yojana, offering ₹7 crore for Gold, ₹5 crore for Silver, and ₹3 crore for Bronze, along with Grade A jobs for top Olympic winners. The scheme also includes ₹3 crore for Asian Games Gold, and introduces the Mukhyamantri Digital Education Scheme to provide laptops to 1,200 meritorious students and upgrade computer labs in government schools. ([Click here to read article](#))

July Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Turmeric Board Headquarters in Nizamabad, Telangana, on June 30, 2025. This move fulfills a long-pending demand of turmeric farmers and aligns with the Centre's ambitious goal of reaching \$1 billion in turmeric exports by 2030. The board will focus on research, branding, marketing, and ensuring fair prices for farmers. Backed by ₹200 crore in funding, it holds significant value for agriculture, exports, and rural livelihoods. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India has introduced Model Rules for Felling of Trees in Agricultural Lands to promote agroforestry, streamline tree harvesting permissions, and support sustainable agricultural practices. The upcoming National Timber Management System (NTMS) Portal will facilitate online registration of plantations using geo-tagged data and enable ease of doing business in rural areas. This initiative, guided by State Level Committees and monitored by Divisional Forest Officers, will enhance timber production, empower farmers, and support climate resilience. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The C-FLOOD Unified Inundation Forecasting System, launched by Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil, is a web-based platform offering advanced flood predictions up to the village level. Developed jointly by C-DAC, CWC, and NRSC, the system integrates hydrodynamic modelling, HPC simulations, and satellite data under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). It currently covers three major river basins—Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi—with plans for wider rollout. The initiative enhances disaster management capabilities, enabling timely evacuations and reducing risks from flood disasters through scientific forecasting and inter-agency coordination. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Ministry of Coal will launch the RECLAIM Framework to promote inclusive and sustainable mine closures in India. Designed with field-tested tools and methodologies, the framework emphasizes community engagement, gender equity, and representation of vulnerable groups. It aligns with Panchayati Raj Institutions to ensure local relevance and foster long-term livelihood security and repurposing of mining lands. With this, India takes a progressive step toward just transitions in the mining sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Agritech Innovation Hub and Agritech Startup & Technology Showcase at SVPUAT, Meerut, marking a major step in digitally transforming agriculture. The initiative connects farmers, startups, technologists, and academia to develop sustainable, region-specific solutions. Equipped with IoT-enabled sensors, smart irrigation, automation tools, and real-time analytics, the Agritech Hub promotes precision farming and climate-resilient agriculture. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Indian Army** has launched **Operation SHIVA 2025** to ensure the **safe conduct of the Amarnath Yatra** in Jammu and Kashmir. The operation began on **July 12, 2025**, and includes the deployment of **8,500+ troops, anti-drone systems, medical facilities, and engineering support**. With coordination from **CAPFs and civil administration**, the operation addresses **security threats from Pakistan-backed groups**. The Army's efforts include **surveillance, disaster readiness, and emergency response**, reflecting its **dedication to the safety of pilgrims** during this sacred journey. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh**, inaugurated by **Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal** in July 2025, is a **women-exclusive wellness space** launched by the **Department of Legal Affairs**. Located at **Shastri Bhawan**, it includes a **gym and lactation room**, promoting **fitness, mental well-being, and inclusive workplace culture** under the **Fit India Movement and Viksit Bharat** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major success, Indian security forces launched **Operation Mahadev** in **Jammu and Kashmir's Dara region**, neutralising **three Pakistani Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists** after a fierce encounter. Conducted jointly by the **Indian Army, CRPF, and J&K Police**, the operation began after intelligence inputs of militant movement near **Dachigam National Park**, with reinforcements and **drone surveillance** deployed. Authorities are investigating whether the slain militants were linked to the **April 22 Pahalgam attack** that killed 26 people. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the '**Gyan Bharatam Mission**' on **July 27, 2025**, to **digitise and preserve over one crore ancient manuscripts** through a **National Digital Repository**. With enhanced funding of **₹60 crore**, the mission aims to make India's **civilisational knowledge** accessible to students and researchers globally. PM Modi called the manuscripts "**Chapters of India's soul**", aligning the initiative with the '**Viksit Bharat**' vision. He also hailed **UNESCO's recognition of 12 Maratha forts as World Heritage Sites**, further highlighting India's cultural richness. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **Sanchar Saathi mobile app** in **Hindi and 21 regional languages** to extend its reach across India. With over **46 lakh downloads**, the app allows users to **report suspicious communications, block or trace lost/stolen phones, and check unauthorized mobile connections**. The launch, held during a stakeholders' meeting in **New Delhi**, involved representatives from **law enforcement, telecom providers, financial institutions, C-DOT, RPF, and DoT**, marking a major step in combating **telecom-related cyber frauds** and ensuring **inclusive digital safety**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Festival

- Ladakh recently concluded its **first Astro Tourism Festival**, held in **Leh** and organized by the **Tourism Department** in collaboration with the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics**. The two-day event featured **night sky observations, expert-led sessions, and educational outreach programs**, aiming to transform Ladakh into a hub for **astro tourism**. With ideal conditions like **clear skies, high altitude, and low light pollution**, this initiative not only promotes **scientific awareness** but also aligns with sustainable tourism development. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Maharashtra government**, on **July 10, 2025**, declared **Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav** as a **state festival**, as announced by **Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar** in the **Legislative Assembly**. The festival, started by **Lokmanya Tilak in 1893**, is a symbol of **unity, culture, and pride** in Maharashtra. The government will now **fund and promote** the grand celebrations across the state. This step aims to support traditional **community spirit**, enhance **cultural heritage**, and involve more people in the joyful occasion. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Behdeinkhlam Festival** was celebrated with energy and joy in **Jowai, Meghalaya**, in **July 2025**. The festival is important to the **Pnars**, a sub-tribe of the **Jaintia** community, and is a prayer for **health and a good harvest**. Rituals include carrying the **Symbud Khnong**, dancing, food offerings by women, and playing the unique game **Dad-lawakor**. It also spreads messages on **drug-free living, climate awareness, and tradition preservation**. The festival plays a big role in keeping the **Niamtre faith** alive and in uniting the community. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Saaral Vizha 2025**, held in **Courtallam, Tamil Nadu**, is a vibrant **monsoon festival** that celebrates **culture, tradition, and community welfare**. Inaugurated by **Revenue Minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran**, the event featured **cultural performances, a flower exhibition, and public competitions**, blending nature with heritage. With strong **government support**, participation from **local officials**, and engagement through **traditional arts** and youth events, the festival underscores Tamil Nadu's focus on **inclusive cultural development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Aadi Thiruvathirai Festival (23–27 July 2025)** at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram** honors **Rajendra Chola I's birth anniversary**, marking **1,000 years** of his **maritime expedition and temple construction**. The event includes **Bharatanatyam, Devaram chanting, ASI exhibitions, and a performance by Ilayaraja**, with **PM Modi** as Chief Guest. The festival promotes **Shaiva Siddhanta, Tamil Bhakti tradition, and Chola heritage**, highlighting the ruler's visionary **cultural and political impact**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Uttarakhand will celebrate the Harela festival on July 16, 2025, by planting over 5 lakh saplings across the Garhwal and Kumaon regions. The event, guided by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, will focus on the themes “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” and “Harela Ka Tyohar Manao, Dharti Maa Ka Rin Chukao.” The plantation drive will involve students, villagers, and government bodies. This green initiative aims to break the previous record and highlight the state’s commitment to environmental protection and community participation. ([Click here to read article](#))

Miscellaneous National News

- In a significant step toward digital transformation in railway services, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the ‘RailOne’ mobile application on July 2, 2025. Developed as a comprehensive, one-stop platform, the app provides passengers with unified access to services such as ticket booking, PNR enquiry, journey planning, meal booking, and freight enquiries, enhancing the convenience and digital experience for millions of users.
- From August 2025, all post offices in India will begin accepting digital payments using dynamic QR codes linked to the UPI system, as part of the Department of Posts' IT 2.0 upgrade. The move follows a successful pilot in Karnataka and aims to promote financial inclusion, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. Replacing static QR codes, the new real-time dynamic system ensures secure, seamless, and cashless transactions at postal counters, aligning with the goals of Digital India and a cashless economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On Statistics Day 2025, the National Sample Survey Office (NSO) under MoSPI launched the GoStats mobile app, a digital tool offering real-time, on-the-go access to official government statistics like GDP, inflation, and employment. With features such as interactive dashboards, infographics, CSV downloads, and a user-friendly design, the app promotes data transparency, citizen empowerment, and supports Digital India and Viksit Bharat missions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a sweeping reform move, the Election Commission of India (ECI) is de-listing 345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that have not contested elections since 2019 and are untraceable. While registered under Section 29A of the RP Act, 1951, many RUPPs exploit benefits like tax exemptions, common symbols, and star campaigners despite being inactive. The ECI lacks explicit de-registration powers, but parties are being removed for non-compliance and non-existence. Legal and electoral reform bodies like the Law Commission and the ECI’s 2016 Memorandum have recommended amending the RP Act to empower de-registration. This clean-up drive supports electoral transparency and curbs misuse of public provisions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India’s first wooden Gurdwara, Sri Nanak Niwas, constructed in Fazilka, Punjab, is a remarkable fusion of spirituality, architectural brilliance, and personal devotion. Made from Finnish Deodhar wood, it was conceptualized and built by SSP Bhupinder Singh Sidhu in just three months, making it a beacon of faith and an example of inclusive, sustainable religious architecture. With its daily rituals, global devotees, and community role, the shrine stands as a testament to seva, resilience, and unity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development has officially renamed NIPCCD as the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development, paying tribute to the legendary reformer. Along with this, a new Regional Centre in Ranchi will be launched on July 4, 2025, aimed at strengthening training and outreach for key schemes like Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, and Poshan 2.0 in Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Digital House Address Project by the Indore Municipal Corporation marks a major step in India’s smart city evolution. By using QR codes linked to GPS and integrating with the Digipin system, Indore has created a modern, efficient, and scalable address solution. This digital transformation ensures real-time service access, enhances emergency responses, and lays the groundwork for data-driven urban planning. With low-cost digital plates and user-friendly systems, this initiative holds the potential to be replicated across Indian cities, supporting the vision of Digital India and urban inclusivity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- With rising life expectancy but increasing age-related diseases like Parkinson’s and dementia, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru launched BHARAT in 2023 — a research project under the Longevity India Program. BHARAT (Biomarkers of Healthy Aging, Resilience, Adversity, and Transitions) aims to build a scientific health baseline specific to Indians, addressing the problem of misdiagnosis caused by using Western biomarkers. The project collects extensive data, including genomic, proteomic, metabolic, environmental, and socio-economic indicators, to understand how Indians age and why some age healthier than others. The ultimate goal is to establish the Bharat Baseline, enabling personalized healthcare and early disease detection tailored to India’s diverse population. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On July 2, 2025, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) revised its toll rule to cut charges by up to 50% on National Highway sections with tunnels, bridges, flyovers, and elevated roads. The new formula bases toll on the lesser of two values, easing the cost for drivers. A senior NHA official confirmed that this will help both the public and the infrastructure system. The change is set to lower travel costs and promote the use of highways with big structures. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Haryana government will build Asia's largest jungle safari in the Aravalli Hills, as announced on July 6, 2025. The safari will be spread over 10,000 acres and will focus on wildlife protection, green tourism, and job creation. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and other top leaders are working hard to make this project a success. The plan will not only bring tourists but also help in saving nature. The safari is expected to be a model of eco-friendly tourism and conservation in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On July 8, 2025, NTPC Simhadri celebrated its 28th Raising Day at its Parawada campus in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh, marking nearly three decades of service, innovation, and community development. Executive Director Sameer Sharma led the celebrations by hoisting the NTPC flag and highlighting Simhadri's journey since its establishment in 1997 as NTPC's first coastal-based power station. Beyond power generation, the plant has achieved 100% ash utilization, showcasing its commitment to sustainability, environmental conservation, and social responsibility through green initiatives and community outreach programs. ([Click here to read article](#))
- PM Narendra Modi, during his state visit to Brazil, set a target to raise India-Brazil trade to \$20 billion by 2030. He proposed expanding the Mercosur trade agreement and announced Brazil's adoption of India's UPI digital payment system. Modi received Brazil's highest civilian honour, the Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross. Key deals included cooperation in biofuels, renewable energy, intelligence sharing, pharmaceuticals, and rare earth minerals, marking a stronger strategic partnership between the two Global South nations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A commemorative postage stamp was released on July 9, 2025, by the Department of Posts to mark the 125th Birth Anniversary of Syama Prasad Mookerjee. The event was held at Siri Fort Auditorium, Delhi, and featured cultural performances, an exhibition, and a short documentary. The stamp, designed by Smt. Nenu Gupta, reflects Mookerjee's work in education, national unity, and constitutional development. The launch was attended by Union Ministers and other top officials. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced at India Energy Storage Week (IESW) in New Delhi that India's solar capacity has grown by 4,000%, with total renewable energy capacity now at 227 GW. He spoke about major schemes like PM Surya Ghar Yojana and PM Kusum Yojana, and introduced a ₹1 lakh crore Innovation Fund to support next-generation battery technologies. The government also stressed the need for strong supply chains and energy storage systems to support India's clean energy goals ([Click here to read article](#))
- National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) and UNICEF India launched TALASH, a digital program aimed at helping tribal students in Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) across 28 states and 8 union territories. TALASH includes aptitude tests, career counselling, life skills training, and support for teachers. Over 1.38 lakh students are expected to benefit. The program supports the goals of NEP 2020 and will be fully rolled out by the end of 2025, making it a big step towards inclusive and holistic education for tribal youth. ([Click here to read article](#))
- President Droupadi Murmu has nominated four new members—Ujjwal Nikam, C. Sadanandan Master, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, and Dr. Meenakshi Jain—to the Rajya Sabha on July 12, 2025, based on the Council of Ministers' advice. The announcement was made under Article 80 of the Constitution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated them and praised their contributions in fields such as law, education, foreign policy, and history. These nominations aim to ensure that the Rajya Sabha includes experts from diverse fields who can offer unique and informed viewpoints during discussions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Yakten village in Sikkim became India's first digital nomad village under the 'Nomad Sikkim' project. With strong internet, power backup, and homestays run by locals, it gives remote workers a peaceful and connected place to live and work. This move supports rural income, promotes sustainable tourism, and shows how India's villages can grow with the digital economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Gujarat has emerged as the top state in India for processed potato production, with Banaskantha leading the way, followed by Sabarkantha and Aravalli. The state produced 48.59 lakh tonnes of potatoes in 2024-25, with more than 25% used for processing. With strong government support, high-quality varieties, and cold storage systems, Gujarat is now meeting domestic needs and entering global markets. The success shows how modern farming and smart policies can help rural economies grow. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Health Ministry of India started a new Snack Nutrition Awareness Campaign at AIIMS Nagpur. The campaign includes posters beside food stalls showing how much sugar, fat, and trans fat is in common snacks like samosas and biscuits. It warns about health risks and promotes moderation. The Health Secretary asked all government offices to join by sharing health messages and offering healthier food. A The Lancet study says India may have 450 million obese people by 2050. This campaign is part of a larger plan to fight obesity and lifestyle diseases by helping people make informed food choices. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India is set to be the **first country outside Japan** to launch the latest **E10 Shinkansen** bullet trains, beginning with the **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR)** in the **early 2030s**. Until then, two **E5 trains**, arriving in **2026**, will be used for **trial runs** and testing under **Indian conditions**. The **E10**, also called **Alfa-X**, is capable of **400 kmph** and offers **advanced safety and comfort**. The **₹1.1-lakh-crore** MAHSR project has made strong construction progress, with **310 km of viaducts**, **15 bridges**, and **5 stations** completed so far. This major step highlights **India-Japan collaboration** in building **world-class railway infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Gujarat** launches **India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project**, sequencing **2,000 individuals** across **17 districts** to detect **genetic diseases** like **sickle cell anaemia**. Led by **GBRC**, the project creates a **reference genome database**, enabling **personalised healthcare**. Approved under the **2025–26 budget**, it bridges **science and tribal welfare**, setting a national example in **genomic medicine**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NCSSTI 2.0**, launched on **July 18, 2025** by **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, is a revamped framework developed by the **Capacity Building Commission** under **Mission Karmayogi**. It simplifies **evaluation metrics**, incorporates **digital tools and AI**, and aligns with models like **KCM and AGK**. Adaptable across **all government levels**, the framework supports **outcome-based assessments**, **cross-learning**, and **institutional excellence**, positioning India as a **leader in civil services reform**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025**, India ranked **7th globally** out of **110 countries**, winning **three golds**, **two silvers**, and **one bronze**, while setting a **national score record of 193/252**. With strong support from **HBCSE**, and under the guidance of expert leaders like **Prof. Shanta Laishram**, India's performance highlights the **growing success** of its **Olympiad ecosystem**, and the country's **consistent rise** in **global mathematics competitions**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will undertake a **two-nation tour** to the **United Kingdom** and the **Maldives** from **July 23–26, 2025**, focusing on strengthening the **India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and advancing the **India-Maldives Maritime Security Partnership**. In the UK, Modi will hold talks with **PM Keir Starmer** and meet **King Charles III**, covering areas such as **trade**, **technology**, **defence**, and **climate action**. In the Maldives, he will be the **Guest of Honour** at the **60th Independence Day celebrations** and review bilateral progress under **Vision MAHASAGAR**. The visit reflects India's emphasis on **Neighbourhood First**, **strategic engagement**, and **regional leadership**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar's** resignation on **July 21, 2025**, has temporarily transferred the **Rajya Sabha** chairmanship to **Deputy Chairperson Harivansh** under **Article 91**. The **Vice Presidential election**, mandated under **Articles 63–71** and the **Vice-President (Election) Rules, 1974**, must occur within **60 days**, involving **788 MPs** as the electoral college. The next Vice President must be an **Indian citizen**, **35+ years old**, and **Rajya Sabha eligible**. Dhankhar's resignation not only initiates a crucial election but also reflects the evolving dynamics within the **executive-legislature framework**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has asserted that **Aadhaar**, **voter ID**, and **ration cards** are *not valid standalone documents* for establishing **voter eligibility** during the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in Bihar. Citing powers under **Article 324**, the ECI emphasized its authority to manage elections independently. The exercise aims to **purify electoral rolls**, and as of July 18, over **7.11 crore electors** had submitted forms. The Commission stated that **citizenship**, not mere possession of ID, is the key eligibility criterion, and **denial of registration** does not affect one's **citizenship status**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **IP filings rose by 44%**, led by major reforms in **patent laws**, **fee concessions** for **startups/MSMEs**, **digitized IP offices**, and awareness through **NIPAM**. The **380% growth** in **GI applications**, **AI tools**, **IP Dashboard**, and **SIPP scheme** reflect a modern and inclusive IP ecosystem aimed at encouraging **innovation**, **ease of filing**, and **economic value creation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Article 67(a)** of the Indian Constitution enables the **Vice President to resign** by writing to the **President**. Along with clauses (b) and (c), it ensures a **well-defined exit mechanism** for the office. If the Vice President resigns or is removed, **Article 68(2)** mandates an election within **60 days**. The Vice President is elected by an **electoral college** of both **Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** members. The recent resignation of **Jagdeep Dhankhar** highlights the working of these provisions in practice. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has warned **ICAR scientists and senior officials** over the **rampant sale of fake biostimulants** in India. These **unregulated products**, which claim to improve **plant productivity**, have come under scrutiny due to **numerous farmer complaints**. The minister called for **tougher regulations**, **scientific review**, and **accountability**, stating that **farmers must not be misled** by corporate interests. The issue gained prominence after his **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan** tour, where he personally engaged with affected farmers. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **World's Largest Grain Storage Plan in Cooperative Sector** focuses on creating **agri-infrastructure at PACS level**, such as **godowns, processing units, and Fair Price Shops**, with support from **NABARD and governments**. Over **500 PACS** have been identified under this scheme, aiming for **universal coverage** across villages. With a financial outlay of **₹2,925 crore for computerization**, the plan enhances **grain storage, farmer empowerment, and supply chain resilience** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Under the **National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission**, **6 crore individuals** have been screened using **POCT kits**, with **2.15 lakh diagnosed**, and **2.6 crore health cards** distributed. The mission, launched in **July 2023**, aims to **eliminate sickle cell anemia by 2047** through **universal screening, awareness, and counselling**. States like **Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Odisha** are leading the initiative. A **digital portal** consolidates nationwide data and tracks mission progress. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Cooperation Policy – 2025** aims to **triple GDP contribution**, bring in **50 crore active members**, and promote **grassroots-led development** through at least **one cooperative per village and five model villages per tehsil**. It prioritizes **technology-enabled, transparent, and youth-driven cooperatives** in new sectors like **insurance, tourism, taxi services, and green energy**. With **White Revolution 2.0, Sahkar Taxi, and a dedicated cooperative university**, the policy seeks to build an **inclusive, self-reliant, and future-ready cooperative ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **India-UK Vision 2035** is a strategic blueprint to transform India-UK ties through enhanced cooperation in **trade (CETA, BIT), defence (10-year roadmap, joint R&D), technology (AI, biotech, semiconductors), climate (green finance, clean energy, SMRs), and education (transnational degrees, youth exchange)**. It supports **people-to-people links**, reinforces a **rules-based international order**, and promotes **multilateral reform**. The partnership is guided by annual reviews and high-level dialogues, ensuring dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready collaboration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025**, five years ahead of the **2030 target**, marking a major step in its **clean energy transition**. The blending level rose from **1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025**, saving **₹1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange**, reducing **CO₂ emissions by 698 lakh tonnes**, and providing **₹1.18 lakh crore to farmers**. Derived mainly from **sugarcane**, ethanol production has boosted the **biofuel industry**, rural incomes, and supported India's **climate goals and energy security**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Narendra Modi** has officially become **India's second-longest serving Prime Minister**, completing **4,078 consecutive days** in office on **July 25, 2025**, surpassing **Indira Gandhi's record**. He is the **first non-Congress PM to serve two full terms**, the **longest-serving leader from a non-Hindi-speaking state**, and the **first post-independence born PM to achieve this feat**, marking a **historic moment** in Indian political history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered train coach** at **ICF Chennai**, marking its entry into the group of nations using **hydrogen rail technology**. Under the **Hydrogen for Heritage initiative**, Indian Railways plans to run **35 hydrogen trains**, each costing **₹80 crore**, with **₹70 crore** for supporting infrastructure. A **pilot project** on the **Jind–Sonipat section** is also underway. The **1,200 HP hydrogen train** in development reinforces India's vision of **net-zero emissions and green transport innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **60th anniversary of India-Maldives diplomatic ties** was marked by the **release of commemorative stamps** by **PM Modi and President Muizzu**. The stamps showcased the **Indian Uru boat and Maldivian Vadhu Dhoni**, representing the **shared maritime culture, historical Indian Ocean trade, and the deep bilateral relationship** established since **1965**. India was one of the first nations to recognize Maldives' independence. These stamps symbolize the **mutual heritage, regional cooperation, and strengthening of people-to-people ties**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PM Modi** gifted a **Sonoma dove tree sapling** to **King Charles III** at **Sandringham Estate** under the initiative '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**', promoting **environmental awareness and India-UK green diplomacy**. The tree, known for its **early and beautiful flowering**, will be planted in **autumn**. This initiative aims to **encourage tree plantation, honour mothers, and strengthen bilateral ties** on shared **ecological values**. Other key topics discussed included **CETA, Yoga, Ayurveda, and people-to-people connections** through sports. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is finalising a **Green Steel Procurement Policy** to mandate **25% public steel purchases from low-emission sources**. Green steel, produced using **hydrogen-based DRI, electric arc furnaces, and renewable energy**, is crucial since the steel industry contributes **10–12% of India's emissions**. Key initiatives include the **Steel Scrap Recycling Policy, PAT Scheme, and National Solar Mission**. Challenges include high costs, evolving technologies, and limited demand-side incentives. The policy aims to make India a **global leader in sustainable steel production**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The NCERT is introducing new curriculum modules for **Classes 3 to 12** featuring **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla's space mission** aboard the ISS and India's **Operation Sindoor**, highlighting the nation's strength in **defence and space exploration**. Along with these, the modules will include **Mission LiFE** to promote **sustainable living** and lessons on the **Partition** to provide historical context. This initiative, guided by the **Ministry of Education**, aims to make learning more **contextual, contemporary, and rooted in national identity**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Remona Evette Pereira**, a **20-year-old Catholic student from Mangalore**, created history by performing **Bharatanatyam for 170 hours**, entering the **Golden Book of World Records**. Her seven-day marathon, completed on **July 28, 2025**, broke the previous record of 127 hours. Trained under **Guru Sri Vidya** for 13 years, she combined **spiritual devotion** with cultural artistry, wearing a **rosary throughout the performance**. Supported by **St. Aloysius University** and blessed by church leaders, her feat was hailed as a **tribute to India's classical dance heritage** and a symbol of cultural unity. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** celebrated the **Aadi Thiruvathirai festival** at **Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Tamil Nadu**, marking the **birth anniversary of Emperor Rajendra Chola I**. He released a **commemorative coin** in the king's honour, performed **rituals at the Cholivaram temple**, and admired its **Chola-era architecture**. The event also celebrated the **millennial anniversary of Rajendra Chola's naval expedition to Southeast Asia**, with cultural highlights including hymns by **odhuvars** and a performance by **Ilayaraja**. The Prime Minister lauded **Rajendra Chola I's maritime legacy, architectural brilliance, and cultural contributions**, calling the Chola dynasty a **golden chapter in Indian history**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- According to **Crisil Ratings**, India's **private sector will invest ₹77,000 crore in thermal power projects between FY26 and FY28**, boosting its share to nearly one-third of total investments. Overall, **thermal power investments will double to ₹2.3 lakh crore** in the next three years. With **Adani, Tata, JSW, and Vedanta** leading mostly **brownfield expansions**, and long-term **25-year PPAs** signed by state discoms, projects are expected to be financially viable. **Vedanta Power**, post-demergence, plans a **15 GW expansion**, including revival of a 2,200 MW portfolio, backed by a tariff ensuring **15% IRR**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Lok Sabha on July 30, 2025**, approved the **extension of President's Rule in Manipur** for another six months beyond **August 13**. Minister of State **Nityanand Rai** stated that **peace is prevailing**, with only **one fatality and no casualties** in the

last four months. Assured that the **law and order situation is under control**, and the government is working through **dialogue** to end ethnic tensions and establish **permanent peace** in the state. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- India has achieved a **Gini Index of 25.5**, ranking as the **4th most equal country in the world**. This progress, supported by welfare schemes like **Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PMGKAY, and DBT**, has lifted **171 million people out of poverty** since 2011. However, challenges such as **wealth disparity, outdated poverty lines, and unequal access to opportunities** remain. India's achievement showcases a major step toward **inclusive growth**, but sustaining and deepening this equity will require **continued reforms**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Kaziranga National Park in Assam** has conducted India's **first-ever Grassland Bird Census (March–May 2025)**, using **acoustic technology** to identify and monitor bird species. Conducted by **forest officials, researchers, and conservationists**, the survey recorded **43 species**, including **critically endangered and endemic birds** like **Finn's Weaver**. The census marks a **breakthrough in biodiversity monitoring**, highlighting both **conservation successes** and ongoing **threats** like **habitat loss and climate change**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha**, discovered in **1898 in Uttar Pradesh**, have been **repatriated to India** after nearly being auctioned in Hong Kong in May 2025. This was made possible through a **public-private partnership** between the **Government of India** and the **Godrej Industries Group**. Union Culture Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** credited the success to the **vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, while **Pirojsha Godrej** highlighted the company's commitment to cultural preservation. The relics will soon be on **public display**, symbolizing India's role as a **global guardian of heritage and peace**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)



GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose (Detailed)
SPREE 2025	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Promotes voluntary registration of employers and employees under the ESI Act via a digital, inspection-free process. Removes fear of retrospective penalties and aims to extend ESI benefits to informal workers.
Amnesty Scheme – 2025	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Resolves long-pending legal disputes related to ESIC compliance. Encourages voluntary compliance, reduces litigation, and fosters a cooperative approach to social security enforcement.
AYUSH Integration with ESIC	Ministry of Labour and Employment (ESIC)	2025	Enhances healthcare by integrating AYUSH systems (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy) into ESIC facilities and partnering with charitable hospitals for holistic treatment.
Small Savings Interest Policy	Ministry of Finance	2025	Keeps interest rates unchanged for PPF, NSC, Sukanya Samridhi, etc., to ensure predictable returns, boost public trust, and support household savings amid economic uncertainties.
Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)	Ministry of Agriculture	—	10-year review shows progress in covering non-loanee farmers, though reach has flattened. Recommendations include higher central funding, a national-level model, and third-party evaluation for affordability, transparency, and effectiveness for small farmers.
PM E-DRIVE Initiative	—	—	First electric truck scheme offering up to ₹9.6 lakh incentive per vehicle for N2/N3 category e-trucks. Targets 5,600 deployments, promotes cleaner freight transport, mandates scrapping of old diesel trucks, and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat and net-zero goals.
Employment-linked Incentive Scheme	—	2025	₹1 lakh crore scheme to generate 3.5 crore jobs (1.92 crore first-time workers) from Aug 2025–Jul 2027. Offers ₹3,000/month per employee to employers and up to ₹15,000 wage support for new employees.
Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY)	—	2025	Six-year plan (₹24,000 crore/year) to enhance agriculture in 100 low-performing districts via crop diversification, irrigation, credit, and storage. Converges 36 schemes from 11 ministries with NITI Aayog guidance, benefiting 1.7 crore farmers.
ADEETIE Scheme	Ministry of Power (BEE)	—	₹1,000 crore scheme to improve industrial energy efficiency in MSMEs across 60 clusters and 14 sectors, targeting 30–50% energy savings. Includes interest subvention, technical audits, and supports low-carbon growth.
VCF Settlement Scheme 2025	SEBI	2025	One-time scheme (July 21, 2025 – Jan 19, 2026) for Venture Capital Funds to settle violations during migration to the AIF regime. Promotes voluntary compliance, investor protection, and smooth regulatory transition.
New Employment Scheme	—	2025	Provides ₹15,000 incentives to first-time private sector employees from Aug 1, 2025. Funded with ₹1 lakh crore, targeting youth employment, especially in eastern states like Bihar, to boost formal sector job creation.
Bima Sakhi Scheme	LIC	2024	Empowers rural women as Mahila Career Agents with a stipend (₹7,000–₹5,000) for the first 3 years plus commissions. Over 2 lakh enrolled, ₹520 crore FY 2025–26 budget. Offers career growth and enhances insurance penetration.
Palna Scheme	—	2022	Supports working mothers with day-care/crèche facilities for children (6 months–6 years), integrated with Anganwadi centres for nutrition, health monitoring, and early learning. Targeting 17,000 centres, 14,599 approved.

Name of Initiative	Ministry	Year	Purpose (Detailed)
Skill India Mission	—	2015–2025	Trained over 6 crore people, integrating PMKVY 4.0, PM-NAPS, and JSS. Focuses on AI, robotics, and green energy skills. Major achievements: 1.63 crore under PMKVY, 26 lakh under JSS, 43.47 lakh apprentices under PM-NAPS.
‘Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana’			The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has launched the ‘Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana’ in Srinagar to strengthen legal aid for defence personnel and their families, coinciding with NALSA’s 30 years of service. Announced by Justice Surya Kant, the scheme will use Sainik Boards at Zilla, Rajya, and Kendra levels as legal aid centres, involve defence families as paralegal volunteers, and address routine challenges like land disputes, matrimonial issues, and service entitlements, ensuring that soldiers remain focused on their duty while their legal rights are protected.
Setubandha Scholar Scheme			The Setubandha Scholar Scheme, launched by the Ministry of Education through the IKS division of Central Sanskrit University, integrates traditional gurukul scholars into IIT research without requiring conventional degrees. With fellowships up to ₹65,000/month and grants up to ₹2 lakh annually, it opens elite research opportunities in 18 fields. Eligible candidates must have at least five years of gurukul study, proven excellence in Shastras, and be under 32 years of age.

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	State Government /	Purpose (Detailed)
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Poverty-Free Village Scheme	Rajasthan Government	Launched on July 4, 2025, to support BPL families in 5,000 villages. Provides up to ₹1 lakh for job/business support and ₹15,000 for women in SHGs. Families moving out of poverty get ₹21,000 as a reward and Atmanirbhar Parivar Cards. Village-level plans link families to skill and job programs, aiming to reduce rural poverty and promote self-reliant villages.
Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana	Punjab Government	Launched on July 8, 2025, offering free and cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per year for every family in the state. Covers ~65 lakh families, including farmers, workers, pensioners, businessmen, and government employees. Digital health cards enable treatment for 2,000+ diseases at both government and private hospitals. Includes ₹5 lakh top-up for Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries.
Gajah Mitra Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Approved on July 11, 2025, to reduce human-elephant conflicts in 80 problem areas. Includes planting elephant-friendly vegetation, rapid response teams, and community awareness programs. Aims to reduce deaths of both humans and elephants caused by conflicts, often linked to illegal fencing and human encroachment.
Digi-Lakshmi Scheme	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Launched on June 30, 2025, to empower urban poor women as entrepreneurs. Establishes 9,034 Common Service Centres (CSCs) in Urban Local Bodies, run by SHG women, offering ~250 public services. Women receive training and loans of ₹2–2.5 lakh to start their centres, supporting the ‘One Family, One Entrepreneur’ mission and digital job creation.
Prerona Aasoni Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Provides ₹300 per month to Class X students to support education. Part of broader welfare measures to boost rural pay, support traditional workers, and promote education.
Monthly Pay Enhancement for Rural Workers	Assam Cabinet	Increased monthly pay for Gaon Pradhans from ₹9,000 to ₹14,000, Anganwadi workers to ₹8,000, and Anganwadi helpers to ₹4,000. Recognises and strengthens grassroots workforce contributions.

Name of Initiative	State Government /	Purpose (Detailed)
Monk Stipend Scheme	Assam Cabinet	Provides a ₹1,500 monthly stipend to monks in Satras, supporting cultural and religious institutions.
GST Refund Scheme for Bell Metal Artisans	Assam Cabinet	Offers GST refunds to bell metal artisans to boost traditional industries and support rural craftsmanship.
Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya	Assam Cabinet	Renaming of Rabindranath Tagore University to Rabindranath Thakur Vishwavidyalaya, honouring cultural heritage.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- India has restricted **jute imports from Bangladesh** through all land and sea ports except Nhava Sheva to protect its domestic industry from **subsidized and dumped products**. The move follows growing concerns over **rural unemployment, depressed prices, and underutilized jute mills**. India also blocked any **re-export routes** via Nepal or Bhutan, ensuring that unfair trade practices cannot harm Indian economic interests. This is the second such action after similar apparel restrictions in May 2025. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **G7's decision to exempt U.S. multinational companies** from the **global minimum tax** marks a pivotal shift in international tax diplomacy. This **"side-by-side" taxation model**, driven by **President Trump's legislative push**, allows American corporations to be taxed solely by the **U.S.**, insulating them from external levies. While this benefits domestic businesses, it raises **concerns over OECD consensus, potential retaliatory taxes, and uneven competition** in the global economy. The deal's final acceptance now hinges on OECD's approval, making it a key development in **international economic governance**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **QUAD nations—India, Japan, the US, and Australia—**have launched their first-ever **'At Sea Observer Mission'**, marking a strategic leap in **maritime cooperation** under the **Wilmington Declaration**. The mission, carried out aboard the **USCGC Stratton**, features **cross-deck participation** of officers, including women, from each country. It aims to enhance **interoperability**, promote a **rules-based Indo-Pacific**, and align with India's **SAGAR vision** and **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative**. As maritime challenges intensify, this initiative strengthens collective readiness, fosters mutual trust, and sets a blueprint for future **QUAD coast guard collaborations**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India and the **UAE have initiated strategic cooperation** in the production of **green steel** and **high-grade aluminium** under the **India-UAE CEPA** framework. The meeting between **Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy** and **UAE Economy Minister Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri** highlighted joint goals in **sustainable manufacturing, resource security, and expanding trade in automotive and strategic sectors**. Key Indian **CPSEs**

- like **SAIL, NMDC, and MECON** are set to anchor this partnership, with plans for a **joint working group** to streamline collaboration and contribute to India's **\$5 trillion economic vision**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Pakistan has assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for July 2025** as part of its **non-permanent membership**. Ambassador **Asim Iftikhar Ahmad** and Foreign Minister **Ishaq Dar** will lead key **debates** focused on **multilateralism, peaceful dispute resolution, and OIC cooperation**. The presidency aligns with Pakistan's additional leadership of the **Taliban Sanctions Committee** and comes at a crucial time of **global instability**, positioning Pakistan to play a central role in fostering **peace, dialogue, and inclusive diplomacy**.
 - [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
 - Zohran Mamdani's victory in the NYC Democratic Mayoral Primary** marks a **major political upset**, defeating former Governor **Andrew Cuomo** by a **12-point margin** after a **ranked choice vote**. His **progressive platform**, including **free public services, rent freeze, and higher taxation on the wealthy**, resonated with working-class voters. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
 - On **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**, **Pakistan** assumed the role of **President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for the month of July. This rotating presidency is a key responsibility, as the **UNSC is the primary body** for maintaining **global peace and security**. Pakistan stated it will lead with **"purpose, humility, and conviction"**, focusing on fairness and cooperation. As a **non-permanent member** of the Council since **January 2025**, Pakistan was elected with strong support—**182 out of 193 votes**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
 - In a **major diplomatic shift**, **Russia** has become the **first country** to officially **recognise the Taliban government in Afghanistan** since it took power in **August 2021**. On **July 3, 2025**, Russia removed the **Taliban** from its **list of banned organisations** and accepted the credentials of **Afghan Ambassador Gul Hassan Hassan**. The move aims to boost **bilateral cooperation**. The **Taliban** hailed the recognition as a **historic step** and urged **other nations** to follow Russia's example. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The **European Union (EU)** on **July 2, 2025**, shared its **2040 climate goal** to cut **greenhouse gas emissions by 90%**, aiming for **carbon neutrality by 2050**. To gain wider support, the plan allows using **international carbon credits** from 2036, up to **3%**. This has raised concerns among **climate groups** about weakening the effort. Key EU leaders like **Wopke Hoekstra** and **Ursula von der Leyen** defended the plan as **ambitious yet flexible**. The final decision will come after **discussions in July** and a **vote in September**, with hopes of passing it before **COP30 in Brazil**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 6, 2025**, **Jennifer Geerlings-Simons** was elected as **Suriname's first female President**. She will take office on **July 16** and faces the **huge task** of fixing the country's **troubled economy**. The previous government had taken help from the **IMF** and reduced subsidies, which caused **protests**. Simons plans to improve **tax collection** and manage the country's **debt**. Suriname is also waiting for its **offshore oil** production to begin in **2028**, which could bring **economic relief**. The country hopes her leadership will bring **stability and progress**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Mauna Loa Observatory** in Hawaii, which has been **measuring atmospheric CO₂** for over **65 years**, may soon shut down due to a **lack of U.S. government funding**. Known for producing the iconic **Keeling Curve**, this observatory has provided crucial evidence of **human-caused climate change** by showing a steady rise in **carbon dioxide** levels—mainly from **burning fossil fuels**. Its long-term data is vital for **tracking global warming** and guiding climate action worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Elon Musk** has announced the formation of a new US political group called the **America Party**, aiming to change the country's traditional **two-party system**. This move comes after a major public argument with **former President Donald Trump**, where Musk criticized Trump's financial plans and left his role in the government. Musk wants the **America Party** to fight waste and give people more power. So far, the party has not been officially registered, and it's not clear who will lead it. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **United Nations General Assembly** passed a **resolution** with **116 votes** urging **Afghanistan's Taliban rulers** to stop their **oppression of women and girls** and to remove **terrorist groups** from the country. While **Germany** led the effort, the **United States** and **Israel** voted against it, and **12 countries** including **India, China, and Iran** abstained. The resolution also asked for more **economic support** for Afghanistan and suggested that **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** appoint a **coordinator** to lead global actions. The resolution is **not legally binding**, but it shows strong **world opinion** and concern about **human rights and terrorism in Afghanistan**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Colombia and Uzbekistan** have joined the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, taking the total number of members to **11**. This announcement comes ahead of the **17th BRICS Summit**. The **NDB**, led by **Dilma Rousseff** and based in **Shanghai**, funds projects in **infrastructure, clean energy, and digital development**. The bank aims to support the **Global South** and help countries keep pace with modern technology. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 7, 2025**, **Trinidad and Tobago** became the **eighth country** and the **first in the Caribbean** to adopt **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** for Indian travelers. The move was announced during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit**, and it allows Indian visitors to **pay in rupees** by **scanning QR codes** at partner stores using UPI-enabled apps. Other countries with **UPI access** include **UAE, Singapore, France, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius**. To use UPI abroad, travelers need a **linked UPI app, international roaming, and UPI Global access**. The **conversion fees are minimal**, making UPI a **low-cost and simple way** to pay while traveling. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **EU finance ministers** approved **Bulgaria's adoption of the euro**, making it the **21st member of the eurozone** starting **January 1, 2026**. Bulgaria will shift from the **lev to the euro** at a **fixed rate of 1.95583 lev per euro**. Prime Minister **Rossen Jeliaskov** called it a **"landmark moment"**, while top EU leaders like **Ursula von der Leyen, Christine Lagarde, and Valdis Dombrovskis** praised the move. Though **economic criteria** have been met, the transition faces **domestic opposition**, with **protests in Sofia** over **inflation and loss of purchasing power**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **United States** has imposed sanctions on **Francesca Albanese**, the **UN Special Rapporteur** on human rights in the **occupied Palestinian territories**, accusing her of **anti-Israel bias** and links to **extremism**, which she denies. The move, announced amid the **Gaza conflict**, has drawn condemnation from the **UN, NGOs, and legal experts** for threatening the **independence of UN investigators**. Albanese, a seasoned **international human rights lawyer**, has accused Israel of **genocide and apartheid** and supported **ICC arrest warrants** against Israeli leaders. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 9, 2025**, during the **47th session** in **Paris**, **UNESCO** removed three African sites—the **Rainforests of Atsinanana** in **Madagascar**, **Abu Mena** in **Egypt**, and the **Old Town of Ghadames** in **Libya**—from the **World Heritage in Danger List**. These sites had faced **serious threats** such as **illegal logging, rising water levels, and war damage**. UNESCO's **Director-General Audrey Azoulay** praised the countries for restoring their sites and noted that **Africa is receiving special support**. This success shows the positive results of ongoing global efforts to protect **cultural and natural heritage**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- UNESCO added three sites in Cambodia—Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, M-13 prison, and Choeung Ek Killing Fields—to its World Heritage List on July 11, 2025 during its 47th committee session in Paris. These places were once used by the Khmer Rouge regime (1975–1979) for torture and executions. The move comes on the 50th anniversary of the regime’s rise to power. Prime Minister Hun Manet and several leaders welcomed the recognition. This marks Cambodia’s first modern historical nomination and aims to educate youth, honor victims, and promote peace. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India became the first country to launch the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), earning praise from the World Health Organization (WHO). The platform uses AI to protect and expand India’s traditional medicine systems like Ayurveda and Unani. The WHO’s report highlighted India’s success in merging ancient knowledge with modern technology, mentioning innovations like Ayurgenomics, AI diagnostics, and digital health platforms. These efforts support PM Modi’s vision of AI for all and make India a leader in digital health and traditional medicine integration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- France announced a new agreement with New Caledonia that would make the territory a state within the French Republic, giving it more freedom while staying under French control. The plan must be approved by both the French Parliament and New Caledonian voters. The move comes after 2024 protests over voting rights and aims to ease tensions between Indigenous Kanak people and French authorities. The agreement introduces New Caledonian nationality, dual citizenship, and plans for a new referendum. It highlights President Emmanuel Macron’s effort to balance unity and respect for local identity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- US Department of Defense (DoD) gave \$200 million contracts to OpenAI, Google, Anthropic, and xAI to boost national security with advanced AI systems. These companies will develop autonomous software tools for military use, guided by the Pentagon’s Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO). The goal is to stay ahead in global defence by using safe, smart, and mission-ready AI. This move also follows recent White House guidance to build a strong and innovative AI ecosystem in the United States. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In 2024, South Asia reached a record high in childhood immunisation, as reported by UNICEF and WHO. The region saw 92% DTP3 vaccine coverage, a 27% drop in zero-dose children, and a 39% decline in measles cases. India and Nepal showed significant progress, while Bangladesh and Sri Lanka expanded HPV vaccinations. This success is driven by government leadership, community health workers, and global partnerships. However, with over 2.9 million children still un- or under-vaccinated, continued efforts are needed to ensure universal vaccine access across South Asia. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Yuliia Svyrydenko, a seasoned economist and diplomatic negotiator, has been appointed the Prime Minister of Ukraine, replacing Denys Shmyhal, who now serves as Defence Minister. Her appointment amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war marks a critical moment in Ukraine’s political landscape, reflecting President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s strategy to reinforce trusted leadership, economic recovery, and international partnerships. Known for her role in securing a mineral deal with the US, Svyrydenko brings both competence and loyalty to one of Ukraine’s most challenging leadership roles during wartime. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India’s UN Voting Pattern has experienced a significant transformation, with abstentions hitting a record 44% in 2025, reflecting a shift towards strategic autonomy amid a polarised global order. This change underscores India’s role as a middle power, opting for nuanced diplomacy over alignment. By abstaining on contentious resolutions involving issues like Russia-Ukraine, Myanmar, and Israel-Palestine, India maintains bilateral relations and avoids global power blocs, thereby strengthening its non-aligned yet assertive foreign policy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Gita Gopinath, the First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, will step down in August 2025 to return to Harvard University as an economics professor. Known for her role during the pandemic and global economic disruptions, she advanced the IMF’s work in fiscal policy, international trade, and debt analysis. Her resignation offers the U.S. Treasury a chance to name a successor amid changing global economic dynamics. Gopinath leaves a lasting legacy of intellectual leadership, with her next chapter focused on research and training future economists. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A replica of the Ashoka Pillar was unveiled at Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya, Sri Lanka. Sponsored by Kyabje Ling Rinpoche and supported by the Government of India, the project honors Emperor Ashoka’s role in spreading Buddhism to Sri Lanka. This act reinforces India-Sri Lanka Buddhist ties, complementing India’s other initiatives such as Pali language promotion, solar support for temples, and preservation of Buddha relics. The temple’s housing of Kapilavastu relics further enhances its spiritual value, making it a symbol of bilateral cultural unity. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 2025, formally called CETA, aims to boost trade to USD 120 billion by 2030 by removing tariffs on key exports like textiles, leather, and reducing import duties on UK goods. It includes provisions on services, innovation, social security, and IPR, with ratification pending from the UK Parliament. The Double Contribution Convention Agreement further supports Indian professionals abroad. This deal reinforces India’s global economic engagement and sets the stage for future FTAs with major economies. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **United States**, under **President Donald Trump**, has withdrawn from **UNESCO** for the second time, citing **“woke” and anti-Israel biases**. This aligns with the **America First** policy and mirrors the 2017 decision, later reversed by **Joe Biden**. UNESCO’s recognition of **Palestine**, alleged **politicization**, and **ideological conflicts** were key reasons. The move has been welcomed by **Israel**, criticized by **UNESCO officials**, and may **reduce US influence** in global education and heritage policy while enhancing **China’s role** within the agency. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A series of **earthquakes** hit Russia’s **Kamchatka Peninsula**, the strongest at **7.4 magnitude**, highlighting the region’s location along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**. The peninsula is a **tectonic meeting point** between the **Pacific and North American plates**, prone to frequent **seismic activity**. Despite an initial **tsunami alert**, no major wave threat emerged. Kamchatka’s unique geography, with its **UNESCO-listed volcanoes** and **mountain ranges**, makes it both scientifically significant and disaster-prone. ([Click here to read article](#))
- China has started building the **Motuo Hydropower Station** on the **Yarlung Tsangpo River**, aiming to create the **world’s largest dam**, triggering **geopolitical and environmental concerns** in **India and Bangladesh**. The project, costing **\$167 billion**, involves diverting river flow through tunnels to power **five cascading stations**. While it aligns with China’s **energy strategy**, it raises fears over **river control, livelihood impacts, biodiversity loss, and seismic vulnerability**, making it a key **geo-environmental issue** in the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **resumed tourist visas for Chinese citizens** after a **five-year suspension** caused by COVID-19 and diplomatic tensions. Chinese nationals can apply online and visit Indian consulates in **Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou** for processing. The move comes soon after the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** resumed, reflecting efforts to boost **people-to-people ties**, improve **bilateral relations**, and revitalize **India’s tourism sector**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **France** will formally recognise the **State of Palestine** in **September 2025**, becoming the **first G7 nation** to do so. This move aims to push for a **ceasefire, rebuild Gaza**, and promote a **two-state solution**. It has been **welcomed by Palestine**, condemned by **Israel**, and **rejected by the US**. The recognition carries **symbolic and diplomatic weight** but faces several **geopolitical challenges**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India extended a **₹4,850 crore Line of Credit** to the **Maldives** during **PM Modi’s state visit** in July 2025, reinforcing the **Neighbourhood First** and **MAHASAGAR vision**. Talks for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** and **Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)** were launched. A key development was the restructuring of earlier credit terms, reducing the Maldives’ **debt repayment burden by 40%**. This outreach reflects India’s role as a **development partner**, aiding **infrastructure** and **regional security** in the face of geopolitical competition with **China**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Syria** will hold its **first parliamentary elections** since the fall of **Bashar al-Assad** from **15–20 September 2025** under interim President **Ahmad al-Sharaa**. The **temporary constitution (March 2025)** created a **People’s Assembly of 210 seats**, with one-third appointed and two-thirds elected via provincial electoral colleges. The polls face hurdles due to **sectarian violence in Sweida**, reports of **atrocities by government forces**, and **Israeli intervention**. Success could pave the way for a **permanent constitution** and long-term stability. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **US and EU** have reached a historic **trade deal**, setting a **15% tariff on EU exports to America**, down from the threatened 30%. The deal includes **\$600 billion EU investment in the US** and **\$750 billion in American energy imports**, aiming to cut reliance on **Russian power sources**. While hailed as a major win for the US, the EU views it as a stabilizing yet **unbalanced agreement**. The move averts a damaging trade war and reshapes global trade dynamics. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Turkey** has unveiled its most powerful **non-nuclear bomb, Gazap**, at the **IDEF 2025 defence fair** in **Istanbul**. Weighing **970 kg**, it disperses over **10.16 fragments per metre**, three times more than standard bombs, creating a massive **kill radius**. With **thermobaric properties reaching 3,000°C**, it is compatible with **F-16s and F-4s** and could soon be drone-deployable. Alongside **Gazap**, Turkey also revealed the **NEB-2 Ghost**, a deep-penetration bunker-buster capable of piercing **7 metres of reinforced concrete**. Both weapons showcase Turkey’s **growing defence ambitions** and near-nuclear conventional capability. ([Click here to read article](#))



- At the **World Artificial Intelligence Conference 2025** in Shanghai, Chinese Premier **Li Qiang** urged the world to build a **global consensus** on balancing **AI development and security risks**. He stressed the importance of **open-source AI**, warning against **technological monopolies**. This comes as the **US, under President Trump, pursues a low-regulation strategy** to cement its AI dominance, while continuing to restrict chip exports to China. The conference also heard warnings from experts like **Geoffrey Hinton** and calls from **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** for stronger international cooperation, underscoring the growing urgency of ethical and safe AI governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A massive **8.7-magnitude earthquake** struck off **Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula**, triggering widespread **tsunami warnings** across the **Pacific**, including **Japan, Alaska, Hawaii, and the US West Coast**. Waves of up to **4 metres** were recorded in Kamchatka, with **Japan issuing a tsunami advisory** and several Pacific nations bracing for unusual currents. While **minor injuries and property damage** were reported, no major casualties have occurred so far. Experts warn of ongoing aftershocks and stress that the **Pacific Ring of Fire** remains a highly volatile seismic zone. ([Click here to read article](#))
- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer** has declared that the UK will **recognise a Palestinian state** unless **Israel halts its military operations in Gaza**, ends **West Bank annexation plans**, and commits to a **peace process** toward a **two-state solution**. With **140 countries already recognising Palestine** and **France pledging support**, the move highlights growing international momentum for Palestinian statehood amid a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. ([Click here to read article](#))
- US President Donald Trump** has announced a **25% tariff on India**, effective **August 1, 2025**, along with an **additional penalty** for India's continued **oil and defense purchases from Russia** amid the **Ukraine war**. Trump criticized India for imposing some of the **highest tariffs and non-monetary trade barriers in the world** and for maintaining **close ties with Moscow**. The move follows months of speculation and comes after India declined to finalize a trade deal within Trump's 90-day suspension period. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has sent **5 Metric Tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Syria**, including **anti-cancer medicines, antibiotics, and anti-hypertensives**, according to **MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal**. This consignment is part of India's **continued humanitarian assistance**, reflecting its commitment to supporting the **Syrian people** during their ongoing health crisis. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Australia has decided to **include YouTube in its under-16 social media ban**, reversing an earlier promise to treat the platform as an educational tool. Backed by alarming findings from the **eSafety Commission**, the move aims to reduce children's exposure to **harmful content**. While the law will enforce **age verification** and impose **massive fines** for non-compliance, critics warn of **privacy risks** and unintended consequences for young users. **YouTube Kids** remains unaffected. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The US has announced a **25% tariff on Indian imports** while signing a deal with **Pakistan to develop its oil reserves**. The move, linked to India's **BRICS membership** and **oil purchases from Russia**, highlights Washington's aim to **counter China, strengthen Pakistan ties, and reduce its trade deficit**. It has major implications for **India-US trade relations, Pakistan's energy sector, and the geopolitical balance in South Asia**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **July 30, 2025**, Russia's remote **Kamchatka Peninsula** experienced a massive **8.8 magnitude earthquake**, followed just hours later by the fiery **eruption of the Klyuchevskoy volcano**, the tallest active volcano in **Europe and Asia**. The volcano, standing **4,700 metres high**, spewed **lava, ash, and explosions**, creating a brilliant night spectacle. While the **lava flow** was dramatic, the impact was limited as the region is **sparsely populated**. The earthquake triggered a **tsunami warning** across Kamchatka and as far as **Japan**, but it was lifted 11 hours later when no destructive waves reached **populated areas**. ([Click here to read article](#))

BANKING & FINANCE

Bank Name	Purpose
Karnataka Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karnataka Bank witnessed a leadership transition as both its Managing Director & CEO and Executive Director resigned citing personal reasons and relocation issues. The bank quickly formed a search committee and appointed a Chief Operating Officer (COO) to maintain operational stability. It addressed investor concerns over financial audits and reassured that it remains well-capitalized and committed to its transformation journey. This change highlights the importance of succession planning, regulatory compliance, and strategic governance in the Indian banking sector.
State Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a major step towards supporting India's clean energy transition by launching a Solar Rooftop Programme that will solarize 4 million homes by FY27. This aligns with India's Net Zero 2070 targets and showcases SBI's expanded role beyond banking — from agricultural support and CSR outreach to sustainable infrastructure development. With over ₹610 crore in social investments, a vision for green technology finance, and a deep commitment to environmental sustainability.

Bank Name	Purpose
State Bank of India (SBI),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, has launched two Global Trade Finance Centres—one in Kolkata and the other in Hyderabad—to boost import and export services. These centres aim to support businesses by making inland and cross-border trade faster and more efficient. With over 800 trained staff, the centres will use digital tools like AI, ML, blockchain, and document digitization to replace traditional paper-based processes. This shift will offer quicker, safer, and more reliable services, giving customers a better experience with reduced delays and improved accuracy.
Indian Bank and Punjab National Bank (PNB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Bank and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have waived minimum balance penalties for savings account holders starting from July 7 and July 1, 2025, respectively. Indian Bank also reduced its one-year lending rate to 9%, offering relief to loan borrowers. These steps are aimed at boosting financial inclusion and making banking easier, cheaper, and more accessible for all—especially students, senior citizens, farmers, and low-income families.
NSDL Payments Bank Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSDL Payments Bank Limited was added to the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, making it a scheduled bank. This status enables the bank to access RBI facilities, gain clearinghouse membership, and enhances its regulatory credibility. Specializing in digital savings and remittance services for underserved populations, NSDL Payments Bank's inclusion reflects its financial health, regulatory compliance, and alignment with RBI's public interest criteria.
State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's largest lender, the State Bank of India (SBI), executed a ₹25,000 crore QIP, which was oversubscribed 4.5 times, with LIC and other domestic investors receiving two-thirds of the allotment, and foreign investors accounting for 64.3% of demand. The capital raised will boost SBI's CET-1 ratio to 11.50%, enabling credit growth in retail, MSME, and corporate sectors. The QIP underscores strong investor confidence, the robustness of India's banking sector, and the country's economic resilience.
Fino Payments Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fino Payments Bank has launched GATI, a zero-balance digital savings account, aimed at boosting UPI transactions in West Bengal. Customers can open accounts instantly at any of 40301 merchant points, with an affordable fee structure and eKYC-based onboarding. The initiative promotes financial inclusion, targets rural and semi-urban populations, and supports features like auto UPI ID, FinoPay app, and access to insurance, digital gold, and loans. GATI caters to the digitally curious segment, especially the youth, women, and senior citizens.
State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of World's Best Consumer Bank for 2025 by Global Finance magazine, based on global expert analysis. The award acknowledges SBI's digital innovation, vernacular voice banking, omni-channel engagement, and AI-based personalization, particularly benefiting rural and semi-urban customers. This achievement showcases SBI's role in shaping the future of consumer banking and enhancing India's financial reputation globally.
State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of June 2025, unclaimed deposits in Indian banks stood at ₹67,003 crore, with SBI (₹19,329.92 crore) and ICICI Bank (₹2,063.45 crore) topping the list. To tackle this, the RBI launched the UDGAM portal for tracing deposits. The government ruled out ETFs for Virtual Digital Assets, citing RBI warnings about crypto risks. Meanwhile, the Bima Sakhi Yojana has enrolled 1.48 lakh women, with 60% of premiums from rural areas, boosting financial inclusion across India. (Click here to read article)

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India has rolled out new security measures for the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) to curb increasing cases of fraud, especially in rural areas. Effective from January 1, 2026, the revised framework mandates strict KYC at onboarding, reactivation checks, a one-operator-one-bank policy, and continuous monitoring of transaction patterns by acquiring banks. These steps aim to enhance the security, traceability, and accountability of AePS operators and are legally backed by the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI's sectoral credit report for May 30, 2025, shows a slowdown in bank credit growth across key segments. Industrial credit rose by only 4.9%, while personal loans, services sector lending, and NBFC loans also experienced declines. However, medium enterprises and renewable energy sectors showed strong growth. This trend underscores cautious lending practices, reduced investment appetite, and changing sectoral dynamics in the Indian economy.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India has announced that, effective January 1, 2026, prepayment penalties will no longer be applicable on floating rate loans availed by micro and small enterprises (MSEs). This move aims to support financial inclusion, credit affordability, and lender accountability by eliminating unjust clauses and promoting borrower freedom. It builds on RBI's continuing efforts to streamline loan frameworks and promote healthy competition in India's credit landscape.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India has announced that, effective January 1, 2026, prepayment penalties will no longer be applicable on floating rate loans availed by micro and small enterprises (MSEs). This move aims to support financial inclusion, credit affordability, and lender accountability by eliminating unjust clauses and promoting borrower freedom. It builds on RBI's continuing efforts to streamline loan frameworks and promote healthy competition in India's credit landscape.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a critical step in advancing digital security by mandating all financial institutions to adopt the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI) developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). This AI-supported system allows real-time detection of high-risk mobile numbers linked to cybercrime and financial fraud, drawing data from platforms like the NCRP and Chakshu. With major institutions like PhonePe, HDFC Bank, and Paytm already on board.
6.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 30, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed all banks—including NBFCs and UPI platforms—to start using the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), made by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). The FRI detects fraud-prone mobile numbers using data from platforms like NCRP, Chakshu, and bank reports. Banks like HDFC, ICICI, and apps like PhonePe and Paytm are already using it. This step will strengthen India's digital banking safety, offer real-time protection, and help stop cyber-enabled financial frauds.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on July 1, 2025, that ₹2000 notes worth ₹6,099 crore are still in circulation, even though it announced their withdrawal on May 19, 2023. Out of the original ₹3.56 lakh crore, 98.29% has been returned. People can still deposit or send these notes through RBI offices or post offices. The ₹2000 note is still legal but is being gradually removed from use.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
8.	RBI's e-Kuber system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From July 16, 2025, all government payments above ₹75 crore must be made through the RBI's e-Kuber system to improve transparency, speed, and real-time tracking. The earlier limit of ₹500 crore has now been lowered, with some transactions needing e-Kuber from ₹100 crore onward. The move will shorten the time for account reconciliation to just 24 hours and could further reduce the payment limit to ₹50 crore next year, making public finance systems more efficient and accountable.
9.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will hold an auction on July 11, 2025, to sell two government bonds worth ₹25,000 crore through its e-Kuber platform in Mumbai. One bond is new, and the other is a re-issue of an older one. These dated securities will pay interest every six months and are used to help the government raise money. The auction will follow a multiple-price method, and both big and small investors can take part. The settlement will be done on July 14, 2025.
10.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on HDFC Bank and Shriram Finance for violating regulatory norms. HDFC Bank was fined ₹4.88 lakh for issues involving foreign investment in term loans, while Shriram Finance was penalised ₹2.70 lakh for digital lending rule violations discovered during a routine inspection. The action highlights RBI's commitment to ensuring that all financial entities follow proper rules and maintain transparency in their operations.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI Financial Inclusion Index (FY25) improved to 67.0 from 64.2 in the previous year. This growth across Access, Usage, and Quality sub-indices reflects the success of government schemes, digital financial platforms, and financial literacy programs. It is a comprehensive tool that measures inclusion in banking, pensions, insurance, postal services, and more, helping shape India's inclusive financial ecosystem.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI held a surprise ₹50,000 crore VRR auction on July 23, 2025, accepting bids worth ₹50,001 crore at a 5.58% average rate, addressing tight liquidity caused by GST outflows and VRRR locks. This reflects RBI's proactive liquidity management and signals policy consistency.
13.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI has approved Warburg Pincus to invest ₹4,876 crore in IDFC First Bank via its affiliate Currant Sea Investments B.V., acquiring up to 9.99% stake through Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS). The move, already cleared by the CCI, will boost the bank's capital base, expand its lending ability, and accelerate its growth trajectory, marking a major foreign investment milestone in India's banking sector. (Click here to read article)

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- Indian public sector banks will raise around ₹45,000 crore in FY26 through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP) of shares, starting with SBI. The government also plans to complete its stake sale in IDBI Bank by October 2025 and sell shares in several other PSU banks. These moves are part of the government's ₹47,000 crore disinvestment plan announced in the Union Budget 2025–26, aimed at strengthening banks and encouraging private investment. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Taiwan's largest private bank, CTBC Bank, has applied to set up an IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City, Gujarat. The application was filed with the IFSCA and proposes using 3,100

sq ft of office space in Brigade Towers. The bank already operates in New Delhi and now plans to expand its services through GIFT City. Other banks from Taiwan, UAE, and France have also made similar moves. As of March 2025, 31 IBUs have been set up in GIFT City, showing strong international interest. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The UPI-PayNow linkage, expanded by NPCI International on July 17, 2025, now includes 19 Indian banks, aiming to boost real-time cross-border remittances between India and Singapore. Supported by the RBI and Monetary Authority of Singapore, this initiative enhances financial inclusion, especially for migrant workers and students, and showcases India's progress in global digital payment innovation. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- **EximPe**, a leading fintech startup, has secured RBI's in-principle PA-CB licence, enabling it to facilitate cross-border payments for e-commerce, digital services, and B2B trade. The firm plans to expand 10X by FY26, with over \$450 million in processed transactions and support from \$3.5 million in equity funding. This milestone enhances India's presence in the Asian cross-border payment corridor, and strengthens the role of regulated fintech solutions for SMEs. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **HSBC's withdrawal from the NZBA** makes it the first UK bank to quit the coalition, following a trend set by major US and Canadian lenders. The exit has sparked widespread criticism from climate campaigners and investors, raising doubts about HSBC's climate priorities and signalling potential risks for global climate coordination within the banking sector. While HSBC reaffirms its net zero 2050 target, the move has exposed deepening divides in how banks handle climate risks, disclosures, and sector-wide accountability. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** have identified 1,629 wilful defaulters with outstanding dues of ₹1.62 trillion as of March 31, 2025, as per the Union Finance Ministry. The government has implemented several legal and administrative measures to recover NPAs, including action through SARFAESI, IBC, and public disclosure via credit bureaus like CIBIL and Experian. This issue remains a major concern for the health of the banking sector, especially given the slowing deposit growth and rising credit risk.
- India's workforce expanded by 17 crore jobs between 2017-18 and 2023-24, taking total employment to 64.33 crore, as per RBI's KLEMS database. The Labour Force Participation Rate rose to 60.1%, the unemployment rate fell to 3.2%, and youth unemployment dropped to 10.2%, below the global average. Notably, female participation surged to 40.3%, highlighting a significant shift towards inclusive employment growth, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS). [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Reliance Jio has launched JioPC, a cloud-based virtual desktop service that converts any television into a personal computer using the Jio Set-Top Box. With Ubuntu OS, LibreOffice, browser-based Microsoft Office, Adobe Express, and AI tools, JioPC enables web browsing, programming, learning, and document editing. Available through affordable plans starting at ₹599 per month, JioPC features 4 CPUs, 8GB RAM, and 100GB cloud storage. It offers a cost-effective, contract-free alternative to traditional computers, though it currently lacks support for webcams and printers and requires a stable internet connection. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The SEBI and stock exchanges have revised the Enhanced Surveillance Mechanism (ESM) for firms with a market cap below ₹1,000 crore, effective July 28, 2025. The changes include monitoring based on a three-month positive price trend and a PE ratio limit of twice the Nifty 500 index. Companies under Stage 1 face 100% margin requirements, a trade-for-trade system, and tight price bands. Covering 28 firms, the move aims to reduce speculative trading, enhance market integrity, and safeguard retail investors. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Between FY21 and FY25, 11 public sector banks collected around ₹9,000 crore in penalties for failure to maintain minimum balance in savings accounts, according to Finance Ministry data presented in the Rajya Sabha. While SBI discontinued such charges in March 2020, and seven PSBs followed suit from FY26, private sector banks continue to levy them. The DFS has advised rationalisation, particularly to support semi-urban and rural customers, with RBI guidelines ensuring fairness and transparency in imposing such charges. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- India's external debt rose to \$736.3 billion in FY25, registering a 10% growth over the previous year, with the external debt-to-GDP ratio climbing to 19.1%. Major contributors include non-financial corporations and government borrowings, while US dollar-denominated loans dominate the composition. Despite a decline in the short-term debt share, its ratio to forex reserves increased, raising questions about vulnerability to external shocks. The RBI also noted a valuation effect of \$5.3 billion due to currency movements. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In FY25, India added \$297 billion to the global economy, making up 6.7% of global GDP growth, according to SBI Research. Out of this, the State Bank of India (SBI) contributed \$44 billion, which is 1.1% of global growth and 16% of India's total. SBI also added ₹1.38 lakh crore in value to India's financial services. This highlights the growing importance of India and its key institutions in the world economy. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India's retail inflation fell to 2.1% in June 2025, the lowest in 77 months, thanks to cheaper vegetables and pulses. Wholesale inflation also turned slightly negative. While food prices dropped, costs in healthcare, transport, and gold stayed high. The RBI has already cut rates this year and may wait before making more changes. Economists expect inflation to remain low, but global trends and local price changes will decide what happens next. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- India aims to raise the **tourism sector's contribution to GDP to 10% by 2047**, from the current 5–6%, aligning with its vision of a **\$32 trillion economy**. Key types include **spiritual, adventure, medical, and cultural tourism**. Challenges such as **infrastructure gaps, environmental concerns, and lack of standardization** are being addressed through initiatives like **Swadesh Darshan, PRASHAD, and medical tourism promotion**. The government also focuses on **employment generation, e-visa facilitation, and sustainable practices** to ensure inclusive and resilient tourism growth.
- India's **core sector grew 1.7% in June 2025**, marking a **three-month high**. Positive growth was seen in **steel (9.3%), cement (9.2%), and refinery products (3.4%)**, while **coal (-6.8%), electricity (-2.8%), and natural gas (-2.8%)** saw declines. The **April–June growth stood at 1.3%**, reflecting an overall **sluggish industrial trend**. The **Index of Core Industries**, which represents **40.27%** of the IIP, remains a key indicator for economic planning and assessment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Between **March 2021 and March 2025**, **Gross NPAs dropped from 9.11% to 2.58%**, thanks to **IBC reforms, amendments to SARFAESI & DRT Acts, RBI's prudential framework, and specialized bank mechanisms**. Use of **e-auctions, valuation norms, and penalties for misvaluation** have increased **transparency and efficiency** in NPA recovery. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** has cut **India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%**, citing **global headwinds like US tariff hikes and weak investment climate**. Despite **monetary easing, low CPI inflation (expected at 3%), and above-normal rainfall projections**, sectors like **telecom and manufacturing** may see a capex slowdown. However, **power, logistics, and retail real estate** are likely to retain growth. The **RBI's target inflation of 4%** has been consistently undercut, boosting **rural demand and easing loan burdens**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **net FDI inflows dropped by 98% YoY to \$35 million in May 2025**, due to **24% rise in repatriation and 11% fall in gross inflows**, as per the **RBI Bulletin**. **Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, and USA** were major sources, with inflows into **manufacturing, financial, and IT services**. **Outward FDI rose to \$2.1 billion**, mainly into **transport and business services**. Despite this dip, **India's FX reserves stood at \$696.7 billion**, covering **11 months of imports and 95% of external debt**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has raised **India's growth forecast to 6.4% for both 2025 and 2026**, up from earlier estimates of 6.2% and 6.3%. This revision reaffirms India as the **fastest-growing major economy**, far outpacing **China (4.8% in 2025) and the US (1.9% in 2025)**. The improved outlook is attributed to a **benign external environment, weaker US dollar, and improved global financial conditions**. Based on financial year data, **India's growth is projected at 6.7% in FY2025 and 6.4% in FY2026**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Between **FY19 and FY25**, India recorded **65,000 crore digital payments worth ₹12,000 trillion**, driven by **UPI adoption and government-backed initiatives**. With over **4.77 crore digital touch-points deployed under the RBI's PIDF**, and a **Digital Payments Index of 465.33 (Sept 2024)**, India has expanded digital inclusion to rural and remote areas. Government schemes for **MSMEs and small merchants** have further accelerated this growth, reducing cash dependency and increasing access to **formal credit channels**. ([Click here to read article](#))

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's **gross GST collections surged to a record ₹22.08 lakh crore in FY25**, marking a **9.4% growth** from the previous year and **doubling the revenue** seen in FY21. With **average monthly collections rising and the taxpayer base expanding to over 1.51 crore**, the GST system has significantly contributed to **fiscal consolidation and tax transparency**. Celebrating **eight years of GST**, this achievement showcases India's success in building an **efficient, unified tax framework** that supports its economic ambitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **state-wise GST collection for June 2025** saw **Maharashtra** leading with ₹30,553 crore, followed by **Karnataka (₹13,409 crore) and Gujarat (₹11,404 crore)**, reflecting strong **industrial, commercial, and service sector** activities. Southern states like **Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh** showed robust contributions, while **Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha** drove revenues in the east and north. Smaller and northeastern states had modest collections, underlining their **developing economic bases** but highlighting strategic potential in **logistics, tourism, and regional consumption**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Over the past **11 years**, **India's income tax refunds** have grown by **474%**, touching **₹4.77 lakh crore in 2024–25**. This is mainly due to **digital improvements** that cut refund time from **93 to 17 days**. **More people are filing returns**, and the share of refunds in tax collections has also increased. The government's **online systems and reforms** have helped build a faster, more **transparent tax system**, making life easier for taxpayers. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Between **FY16 and FY25**, **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** wrote off **₹12.08 lakh crore in non-performing assets (NPAs)**, following **RBI guidelines**, yet continued **loan recovery** efforts via **DRT, SARFAESI, and IBC** routes. While **10 PSBs** reduced write-offs, **SBI and Canara Bank** saw an increase. As of March 2025, **1,629 wilful defaulters** owed over **₹1.62 lakh crore**, with assets worth **₹25,000+ crore** recovered under **PMLA and FEOA**. Moreover, **48,570 employees** are being recruited, as **PSBs maintain 96% staff coverage**, reflecting focused efforts in both asset recovery and human resource management. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) forecasts India's GDP to grow at 6.5% in 2025 and 6.7% in 2026, driven by strong domestic demand, a normal monsoon, and monetary easing. Inflation is projected to stay within RBI's target range, with CPI at a six-year low in June. While the broader Asia-Pacific outlook has weakened due to trade tensions and geopolitical risks, India remains the world's fastest-growing major economy, according to the Asian Development Outlook 2025. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's concert economy is set to create 12 million jobs by 2030–2032, transforming the live events sector into a major employment and economic engine, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Large-scale concerts, festivals, and live events are fueling growth in hospitality, logistics, tourism, and digital media, while boosting local economies with revenues like ₹641 crore from Coldplay's Ahmedabad concert alone. With an estimated ₹15,000 crore industry value, the sector holds massive potential but requires urgent skilling initiatives to address the shortage of trained professionals in production, lighting, and event technology. ([Click here to read article](#))

BUSINESS NEWS

- Adani Green Energy Ltd has made history by becoming the first Indian company to cross 15 GW of installed renewable energy capacity, marking a key achievement in India's clean energy journey. With flagship projects like Khavda, the world's largest renewable plant under development, and plans to touch 50 GW by 2030, AGEL is setting the pace for a sustainable energy transition. In FY25 alone, it added 3,309 MW, a national record. The company's progress reflects India's broader ambition to be a global green energy leader. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's farm sector has demonstrated strong economic growth, with its Gross Value of Output (GVO) rising to ₹29.49 lakh crore in FY24, a 54.6% increase since FY12, as per the NSO report released on June 27, 2025. This reflects the resilience of Indian agriculture, supported by various government schemes and a diversified rural economy. The data offers critical insight for policymakers, economists, and agricultural planners, reinforcing the importance of sustained agri-investment and reform-oriented planning. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Reliance Defence and Coastal Mechanics Inc. have announced a strategic joint venture to set up a defence MRO facility in Nagpur, targeting India's ₹20,000 crore upgrade market. The venture aims to modernize critical air and land platforms like Jaguar, MiG-29, Apache helicopters, and L-70 guns, enhancing asset longevity. With India's defence production hitting ₹1.46 trillion in FY25 and exports touching ₹24,000 crore, this initiative supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision and may offer future US defence contract access through the FMS route. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian commercial vehicle industry is expected to register 3–5% growth in FY26, as per ICRA, driven by a revival in construction, infrastructure, and mining activity. While M&HCV and LCV truck sales may see moderate improvement, the bus segment is forecasted to post the strongest gains at 8–10%. However, high inventory levels, geopolitical issues, and a shift toward pre-owned vehicles are restraining factors. The outlook suggests gradual recovery but with sector-specific risks. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's UPI ecosystem recorded 18.40 billion transactions worth ₹24.04 lakh crore in June 2025, reflecting a minor monthly dip but strong yearly growth. Experts attribute this moderation to seasonal effects and believe UPI is now reaching a mature scale, preparing for its next expansion through innovative use cases like IoT-based payments, embedded credit, and B2B transactions. With an average of 613 million daily transactions, UPI remains a cornerstone of India's digital economy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has increased the Cost Inflation Index (CII) to 376 for FY2025–26, allowing for higher tax relief on long-term capital gains (LTCG). While the Finance Act 2024 reduced the availability of indexation benefits, a grandfathering clause allows continued relief for taxpayers selling assets bought before July 23, 2024. Eligible individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) can choose between a 20% indexed tax or a 12.5% flat tax. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Reliance Jio has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the world's largest Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) provider, surpassing T-Mobile. Through its affordable Jio AirFiber broadband, launched in September 2023, and rapid 5G expansion, Jio now serves over 20 million users. This has revolutionized internet accessibility across India, especially in rural and underserved regions, promoting digital inclusion, and laying a blueprint for global telecoms seeking to expand in developing markets. ([Click here to read article](#))
- SAIL has inaugurated its first international Representative Office in Dubai, UAE, marking a key step in its global expansion. The move aims to strengthen India's steel exports and enhance trade ties with the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and top officials attended the event. Dubai was chosen for its strategic location, strong infrastructure, and access to emerging steel markets, supporting SAIL's goal to become a globally competitive steelmaker. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recorded 229.33 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions in June 2025, a 7.8% increase from last year, signaling Aadhaar's growing role in digital identity verification. Cumulatively, Aadhaar has now enabled over 15,452 crore transactions since launch. A notable highlight is the rise in AI-powered Face Authentication, which hit 15.87 crore transactions in June 2025, up from 4.61 crore in June 2024. This secure, real-time modality, developed by UIDAI, has now crossed 175 crore face authentications, driving digital inclusion and ease of access to public services. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Microsoft has closed its Pakistan office after 25 years as part of its global restructuring plan. The decision was made on July 4, 2025, and came along with 9,100 job cuts worldwide. The company is moving to a cloud-based model and depending more on local partners. Experts like Jawwad Rehman and leaders like Arif Alvi called the move a troubling sign for Pakistan's economy and blamed instability for losing business opportunities to countries like Vietnam. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Mashreq, a top UAE bank, has received IFSCA's in-principle approval to open an International Banking Unit (IBU) in GIFT City, Gujarat, becoming the first UAE-based bank to do so. The branch, expected to start by Q4 of 2025, will offer foreign currency loans, trade finance, and risk management services. With support from the UAE Central Bank and Indian SEZ bodies, this step will boost UAE-India financial relations, improve international banking services, and show confidence in India's financial hub. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- On July 4, 2025, the liquidity surplus in India's banking system rose to ₹4.04 trillion, its highest since May 2022, thanks to increased government spending and a ₹2.69 trillion surplus transfer by the RBI. A 7-day VRRR auction saw bids of ₹1.7 trillion, with ₹1 trillion accepted at 5.47%. The RBI's 0.50% CRR cut earlier had also added ₹1.16 trillion to the system. These developments show strong bank liquidity, likely leading to cheaper loans and more credit flow in the economy. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Adani Power Ltd has acquired the 600 MW Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd in Butibori, Nagpur for ₹4,000 crore, increasing its total capacity to 18,150 MW. The deal was approved by the NCLT and completed on July 7, 2025. The company is building several new brownfield and greenfield power plants and aims to reach 30,670 MW by 2029-30. CEO SB Khyalia said the company remains focused on providing reliable, affordable electricity to support India's development goals. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Nvidia became the first publicly traded company to reach a \$4 trillion market value, thanks to a 1,350% rise in its stock since October 2022. The company now has the largest share in the S&P 500, showing its growing power in the stock market. Other tech giants like Microsoft, Apple, and Amazon are also close behind, with the technology sector now making up one-third of the S&P 500. This event proves how important Nvidia and other tech companies have become to the global economy. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Indian government extended the tax exemption for Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) and Pension Funds on their investments in India until March 31, 2030. This policy covers dividends, interest, and long-term capital gains and aims to attract long-term foreign investment in sectors like telecom, logistics, and energy. The rule was first introduced in 2020 under Section 10(23FE) of the Income Tax Act, and the latest extension was officially notified by the Department of Revenue. According to NSDL, assets held by SWFs in Indian companies have grown by 60% year-on-year, reaching ₹4.7 lakh crore by April 2024, showing strong investor confidence. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- PhonePe led the UPI market in June 2025, handling over 8.54 billion transactions and securing 46.46% of the market, as per data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It was followed by Google Pay (35.56%) and Paytm (6.90%). While total UPI transactions slightly fell to 18.39 billion, new apps like Navi and Super.money showed steady growth. State-wise, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh contributed the most to UPI volume. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- ACKO has been chosen as the official insurance partner for Tesla in India, ahead of the electric car giant's market launch. The partnership will offer digital insurance services that are smooth, quick, and made especially for Tesla owners. This deal reflects both companies' shared goal of using technology to simplify vehicle ownership, promote clean mobility, and help grow the electric vehicle market in India. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Tesla has inaugurated its first India showroom at Mumbai's BKC, debuting the Model Y at a starting price of ₹59.89 lakh. With imported variants, rapid charging solutions, and robust safety features, Tesla aims to catalyze India's electric vehicle ecosystem despite high import tariffs and regulatory challenges. The move reinforces Mumbai's position as an automotive innovation hub and signals broader opportunities for clean mobility in India's future. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)



- In July 2025, HSBC exited the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), sparking backlash from green clients like Ecotricity, who questioned the bank’s climate credibility. The move, prompted by internal concerns over bias against carbon sectors, contrasts sharply with growing global expectations for sustainable finance. This development puts HSBC at the center of a critical debate on the future of net-zero banking, ethical investing, and the financial sector’s role in climate action. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India’s tea exports rose by 2.85% in FY 2024–25 to 257.88 million kg, led by North India’s 8.15% growth. South India saw a 4.92% decline. The average export price increased by 12.65% to Rs 290.97 per kg, boosting value realization. In calendar year 2024, total exports stood at 256.17 million kg, a 10.57% rise [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India’s net FDI inflows dropped by 98% YoY to \$35 million in May 2025, due to 24% rise in repatriation and 11% fall in gross inflows, as per the RBI Bulletin. Singapore, Mauritius, UAE, and USA were major sources, with inflows into manufacturing, financial, and IT services. Outward FDI rose to \$2.1 billion, mainly into transport and business services. Despite this dip, India’s FX reserves stood at \$696.7 billion, covering 11 months of imports and 95% of external debt. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

MoU’s & AGREEMENTS

S. No.	Level	MoU Parties	Field / Purpose
1	Country	India – Sri Lanka	Launch of Hindi Language Learning Programme at General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) in partnership with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC); promotes cultural & educational ties.
2	Country	India – Saudi Arabia	Long-term fertilizer supply agreements with Maaden for 3.1M MT DAP annually (5 years); strengthens fertilizer security; boosts cooperation in health, pharmaceuticals, research, and investments.
3	Organisation	DEPwD – Sri Aurobindo Society (SAS)	Launch of Project Inclusion under Rupantar Programme; online teacher training for inclusive education for children with disabilities; reaches remote areas; aligned with RPwD Act 2016.
4	Organisation	NESTS – UNICEF India, Tata Motors, Ex-Navodayan Foundation	Initiatives for 1.3 lakh tribal students: TALASH career guidance, Kaushalya skill program, IIT-JEE/NEET coaching; aims to improve education & job readiness.
5	Organisation	Prasar Bharati – Handball Association of India (HAI)	Three-year deal to produce & broadcast national/international handball events; promotes the sport via DD Sports, Waves OTT, etc.
6	Organisation	NCDEX – IMD	Launch of India’s first weather derivatives (rainfall-based futures contracts); helps farmers & climate-sensitive sectors hedge against weather risk; includes training & research.
7	Organisation	Vimananu Ltd – CYGR	Advanced drone manufacturing partnership; produces ISR, nano & fixed-wing UAVs; supports defence self-reliance & Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision.
8	Organisation	NIEPID – Jai Vakeel Foundation	DISHA Abhiyan curriculum for Children with Intellectual Disabilities; includes IEPs, multisensory tools, digital portal & teacher training; aligned with SDGs & inclusive education.
9	Organisation	Ministry of Rural Development – LIC	Bima Sakhi Yojana; stipend-based LIC agency for rural women under DAY-NRLM; promotes women-led financial inclusion & rural income generation.
10	Organisation / State	Centre of Excellence on PESA – Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, IGNTU	Strengthens grassroots governance in tribal areas; capacity building, research, participatory planning, preservation of tribal heritage; aligned with PESA Act & LSDGs.
11	Country	India-Maldives	Focuses on sustainable tuna and deep-sea fisheries, aquaculture advancement, value chain development, eco-tourism, trade facilitation, and skill development. Includes cold storage infrastructure, hatchery development, research, and training in aquatic animal health, biosecurity, and marine engineering. Aims to strengthen bilateral ties, economic growth, and regional food security

S. No.	Level	MoU Parties	Field / Purpose
12	Organisation	Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) – Ather Energy	Part of the Startup Policy Forum’s Build in Bharat initiative to strengthen EV manufacturing and the clean mobility ecosystem in India. Provides mentorship, infrastructure support, innovation programs, and skill development for startups to accelerate sustainable transport solutions and position India as a leader in EV innovation.
13	Country	India – UAE	Signed during the 13th Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting. Strengthens cooperation in maritime search and rescue, law enforcement, combating maritime crimes, pollution response, and capacity building. This is the 10th such agreement with Friendly Foreign Countries, reflecting strong commitment to regional peace and maritime safety.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Ravi Agrawal	Chairman	Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Reappointed till June 2026; 1988-batch IRS officer; took over in June 2024 after Nitin Gupta's retirement; key in tax policy, administration, and Finance Ministry.
Parag Jain	Chief	Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)	Appointed after Ravi Sinha's retirement on June 30, 2025; played crucial role in Operation Sindoor following April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.
Kesavan Ramachandran	Executive Director (ED)	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	Assumed role on July 1, 2025; over 30 years of experience; oversees Prudential Regulation Division under the Department of Regulation.
Air Marshal S. Sivakumar	Air Officer-in-Charge Administration (AOA)	Indian Air Force Headquarters, New Delhi	Joined IAF in June 1990; 35+ years of service; expert in air traffic control and base operations; served on UN missions in Congo.
Sunil Kadam	Executive Director (ED)	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Nearly 30 years at SEBI; strengthens efforts in market integrity and investor protection.
Amitabh Kant	Non-Executive Director	IndiGo Airlines	Former NITI Aayog CEO, G20 Sherpa; known for Make in India, Startup India; aims to support IndiGo's global growth and innovation.
Sahil Kini	CEO	Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), Bengaluru	IIT Madras alumnus, co-founder of Setu; brings experience with IndiaStack, Aadhaar, and UPI to enhance fintech innovation.
Sukanya Sonowal	Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassador (2025–2027)	Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network	IIT Guwahati student; Lead - Communications & PR at CYPAN; co-founder of STEMvibe; known for youth leadership and peacebuilding.
Sanjog Gupta	CEO	International Cricket Council (ICC)	Former head at Star India and JioStar; selected from 2,500+ applicants; focus on Olympics 2028, women's cricket, and tech innovation.
Aditya Mangla	CEO - Food Ordering & Delivery Division	Eternal (Zomato)	Internal leader since 2021; replaces Rakesh Ranjan; will lead amid antitrust case; praised for customer and partner-focused leadership.
Hardeep Singh Brar	President and CEO	BMW Group India	30+ years in auto industry; succeeds Vikram Pawah; reflects BMW’s focus on Indian market growth.

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Sabih Khan	Chief Operating Officer (COO)	Apple Inc.	Apple veteran since 1995; expertise in supply chain and operations; succeeds Jeff Williams.
Priya Nair	CEO and Managing Director	Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)	Current President of Beauty & Wellbeing at Unilever; succeeds Rohit Jawa; with the company since 1995.
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Member, Executive Committee	US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)	Chairman of Aditya Birla Group; honored with 2025 Global Leadership Award; \$15B investment in the US.
Abhijit Kishore	Chairperson (Reappointed)	COAI (Vodafone Idea)	Will guide 5G and telecom growth; deep regulatory and operational experience.
Rahul Vatts	Vice Chairperson (Reappointed)	COAI (Bharti Airtel)	Will support telecom expansion; noted for leadership in digital and regulatory affairs.
Babitha B P	Deputy Chief Information Security Officer (GM - Security)	State Bank of India (SBI)	Leads cybersecurity and digital safety; represents growing role of women leaders in tech and finance.
Dr Abhijat Sheth	Chairperson	National Medical Commission (NMC)	Succeeds Dr B N Gangadhar; appointed July 13, 2025; takes over amid CBI probe into bribery in medical college inspections
Sonali Mishra	Director General	Railway Protection Force (RPF)	First woman DG; replaces Manoj Yadava; term till Oct 31, 2026; 1993 batch IPS; extensive BSF & MP Police experience
Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh	Governor	Haryana	Appointed July 14, 2025; brings administrative & political experience
Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju	Governor	Goa	Appointed July 14, 2025; part of key reshuffle to boost governance
Kavinder Gupta	Lieutenant Governor	Ladakh	Appointed July 14, 2025; succeeds Brig. (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)
R Doraiswamy	MD & CEO	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Term till Aug 28, 2028; replaces interim CEO Sat Pal Bhanoo; over 38 years in LIC
Raghavendra S Bhat	Interim MD & CEO	Karnataka Bank	Appointed July 16, 2025; senior executive since 1981; replaces Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma; interim for 3 months
Hemant Rupani	CEO	Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt Ltd (HCCB)	Joins Sept 8, 2025; from Mondelez International; replaces Juan Pablo Rodriguez; wide FMCG experience
Sanjay Kaul	MD & CEO	GIFT City, Gandhinagar	Appointed July 15, 2025; 2001 batch IAS (Kerala cadre); replaces Tapan Ray; 3-year deputation
Manish Chopra	CEO	Sabyasachi Couture	Former Shein India & Meta exec; strategic move for luxury brand's global expansion; majority-owned by ABFRL
Ajay Kumar Shrivastava	Director (Engineering & R&D)	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)	37 years in aircraft design; led major upgrades & certifications; aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals
Nitu Chandra	SVEEP Icon	Bihar (Election Commission of India)	Promotes voter awareness for upcoming Assembly elections
Kranti Prakash Jha	SVEEP Icon	Bihar (Election Commission of India)	Promotes voter awareness under ECI's SVEEP programme
Dr J Ravishankar	Managing Director	Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL)	2001 batch IAS; replaces Maheshwar Rao; aims for timely execution & better connectivity

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Sanjay Kaul	MD & Group CEO	GIFT City (India's first smart city & IFSC)	Seasoned IAS officer with expertise in public policy, infrastructure, and technology; expected to boost GIFT City's transformation into a global financial hub, strengthen international collaborations, and enhance India's footprint in the financial services sector.
Deepak Bagla	Mission Director	Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog	Former CEO of Invest India; represented India in global forums like WAIPA; will drive outcome-oriented innovation initiatives aligned with India's development priorities.
Ajay Seth	Chairman	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)	1987-batch IAS officer, former Finance Secretary; experienced in economic affairs, fiscal policy, and infrastructure; aims to enhance insurance penetration, strengthen regulatory oversight, and support policy innovation.
Prof Uma Kanjilal	Vice-Chancellor	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	First woman VC of IGNOU since 1985; over 36 years in Open and Distance Learning; led digital education initiatives as National Coordinator of SWAYAM and SWAYAM PRABHA; global experience through Fulbright Fellowship and work with UNRWA.
Anuradha Thakur	Director, RBI Central Board	Reserve Bank of India	Replaces Ajay Seth; focuses on price stability, policy flexibility, and regulation ahead of MPC meet.
Utpal Kumar Singh	CEO	Sansad TV	Ex-Lok Sabha Sec-Gen, led Kedarnath redevelopment; aims to boost parliamentary outreach.
Shailesh Jejurikar	Global CEO (from Jan 1, 2026)	Procter & Gamble	First Indian CEO of P&G; currently COO; known for innovation and global growth.
Nikhil Ravishankar	CEO (from Oct 20, 2025)	Air New Zealand	Indian-origin tech leader; digital expertise; to tackle aviation cost, climate, and service challenges.
Anant Ambani	Executive Director (5-year term)	Reliance Industries Ltd.	Part of RIL succession plan; on boards of Jio, Reliance Foundation, and renewable energy units.

AWARDS

Award Name	Winner	Field	Key Notes
Honouring Ceremony at <i>Foundation of Future</i>	Radhanath Swami	Spiritual Leadership	Honoured by New York City for contributions to spiritual leadership, community service & interfaith harmony; American-born ISKCON leader.
NASA–NSS Space Settlement Design Contest 2025	S.R.N. Mehta CBSE School, Kalaburagi	Space Science / Education	1st prize for project "IRA" by 11 students; presented at ISDC-2025, Orlando; visited NASA Kennedy Space Center.
Hollywood Walk of Fame (Class of 2026)	Deepika Padukone	Cinema / Global Recognition	First Indian actress to receive a star; celebrated for global success; boosts Indian cinema's global profile.
Tamil Wikki Suran Award	V. Vedachalam	Archaeology / Tamil Epigraphy	51 years in archaeology; supported Keeladi excavations; authored 25 books; public history outreach.
Fisheries Department Excellence Award 2025	Kasaragod District	Fisheries / Aquaculture	Best district in Kerala for sustainable aquaculture; strong inland fish production.
Chintha Raveendran Award 2025	Sarankumar Limbale	Literature / Dalit Writing	Recognised for Dalit literature and social thought; awarded in Kozhikode.
IESA Industry Excellence Award 2025	Telangana (State)	Battery Manufacturing / Green Energy	For leadership in EV policy & energy storage; awarded during India Energy Storage Week.

Award Name	Winner	Field	Key Notes
United Nations Population Award 2025	Varsha Deshpande	Gender Equality / Social Justice	For work on saving girl children, legal reform & Dalit women empowerment; honoured by UNFPA in New York.
Hem Bahadur Malla Award 2080	Kalyan Shrestha	Judicial Leadership	Awarded in Kathmandu for judicial leadership & democracy promotion; includes Rs 2 lakh & certificate.
PEN Pinter Prize 2025	Leila Aboulela	Literature	Sudanese-Scottish author recognised for works on faith, migration & Muslim women's lives.
Kalinga Ratna Award 2024	Dharmendra Pradhan	Public Service / Education	Conferred by President Murmu in Odisha; celebrates contributions to education & cultural unity.
National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025	INCOIS	Geospatial Technology	For innovative marine GIS use in forecasting, disaster alerts & sustainable resources.
State Kathakali Award 2023	Kuroor Vasudevan Namboothiri	Performing Arts (Kathakali)	Recognised by Kerala for Kathakali excellence.
Pallavur Appu Marar Vadya Puraskaram 2023	Sankara Warriar	Performing Arts (Chenda)	Honoured for mastery in Chenda percussion.
Pallavur Appu Marar Vadya Puraskaram 2023	Mattannur Sankarankutty Marar	Performing Arts (Maddalam)	Honoured for mastery in Maddalam percussion.
Keraleeya Nritta-Natya Puraskaram 2023	Girijadevi	Performing Arts (Koodiyattam)	For contributions to Koodiyattam theatre.
WSIS Prizes 2025 Champion Award	Meri Panchayat App (MoPR & NIC)	E-Governance / Technology	Recognised for multilingual rural governance app used in 2.65 lakh Gram Panchayats.
Best Magic Creator 2025 (FISM)	Suhani Shah	Magic / Performing Arts	First Indian to win at FISM; blends magic with psychology & storytelling.
GP Birla Memorial Award 2025	Dr. V. Narayanan (ISRO)	Space Science	Honoured for cryogenic propulsion advances & strategic missions.
PEN Translates Award 2025	Geetanjali Shree (tr. Daisy Rockwell)	Literature / Translation	For <i>Once Elephants Lived Here</i> ; promotes Hindi literature & global cultural exchange.
Sansad Ratna Awards 2025			Honoured 17 MPs for outstanding parliamentary performance, including Supriya Sule, Ravi Kishan, Nishikant Dubey, and Arvind Sawant. Special Jury Awards went to Bhartruhari Mahtab, N.K. Premachandran, Supriya Sule, and Shrirang Appa Barne for consistent excellence since the 16th Lok Sabha. The Standing Committees on Finance and Agriculture were also recognised, highlighting the awards' role in strengthening democracy, ensuring accountability, and motivating quality parliamentary work.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue	Chennai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue hosted by India. 30+ delegates from ASEAN & Timor Leste. Promote maritime cooperation & sustainable cruise tourism. Linked to Sagarmala, Act East Policy & Viksit Bharat 2047. Aim: Make India a regional cruise hub.
Summits	17th BRICS Summit	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM Modi called for reforms in UN, IMF, World Bank, WTO. Condemned terrorism; referred to April 2025 Pahalgam attack. Supported peace via dialogue in West Asia & Europe conflicts. Proposed: BRICS Science Repository, mineral supply chain security, responsible AI. 'Rio Declaration' adopted on global reforms & technology.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summits	11th India Maize Summit	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched plan for Maize Revolution. Promote research, technology, and field programs. UP's success under Accelerated Maize Development Program. Maize key for ethanol, livestock feed, climate-smart farming. Goal: Make India a global maize leader.
Conference	National Conference of Urban Local Bodies	Manesar, Gurugram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First ULB Chairpersons' conference. Focus: democratic governance, inclusive growth, women empowerment. Strengthening grassroots institutions & participatory democracy.
Conference	Global Conference on Manuscript Heritage	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First global meet on manuscript heritage (Sept 11–13, 2025). Theme: "Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy." 500+ delegates, rare exhibitions, digitisation & AI archiving sessions. Linked to Swami Vivekananda's 1893 speech anniversary.
Conference	Trade Facilitation Conference 2025	New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Scientific Excellence for Seamless Trade." Focus on improving testing infrastructure. 400+ participants from trade & industry. Aim: Boost trade efficiency, compliance & economic growth.
Conference	United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP33)	India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has set up a COP33 Cell under the MoEFCC To prepare for hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP33) in 2028. With BRICS support, India aims to showcase its climate initiatives, strengthen global cooperation, and advance the Paris Agreement goals. Hosting COP33 would enhance India's international climate leadership, promote sustainable development, and foster multilateral climate action.
Conference	AHRR-hosted SHAPE 2025 conference		

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Topic / Report	Key Data & Achievements
Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025: Top 10 Countries	<p>Top countries by unicorn count: 1. United States – 758 (San Francisco, New York, Boston, Austin) 2. China – 343 (Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou) 3. India – 64 (Bengaluru, Mumbai, Gurugram) 4. UK – 61 (London) 5. Germany – 36 (Berlin) 6. France – 30 (Paris) 7. Canada – 28 (Toronto) 8. Israel – 20 (Tel Aviv) 9. South Korea – 18 (Seoul) & Singapore – 18 (Singapore). Notes: USA & China host 72% of global unicorns; San Francisco is the "Unicorn Capital." India ranks 3rd with startups like Zerodha, Dream11, Razorpay.</p>
India's Under-Five Mortality & Immunization Progress	<p>UN IGME 2024: India achieved a 78% reduction in under-five mortality (global avg: 61%). Neonatal mortality down 70%. Key drivers: Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), outreach to underserved areas. Significant drop in zero-dose children. Supports progress toward SDGs.</p>
Prajakta Koli in TIME100 Creators 2025	<p>Prajakta Koli (<i>MostlySane</i>) – only Indian on 2025 TIME100 Creators List. 7M+ YouTube subscribers, Netflix & Bollywood roles, debut novel, collaborations with UN & WEF. She thanked her fans and her younger self.</p>
Forbes: African-Born US Billionaires 2025	<p>Forbes (Jul 13, 2025): 8 African-born billionaires among America's 125 richest immigrants. Countries: South Africa (Elon Musk, Patrick Soon-Shiong, Rodney Sacks), Nigeria, Egypt, Morocco, Kenya. Immigrant billionaires = 14% of US-based billionaires, controlling 18% of total wealth. Elon Musk is world's richest at \$393.1B. Most are self-made.</p>

Topic / Report	Key Data & Achievements
India's Most Polluted & Cleanest Cities 2025	CREA report (Jan–Jun 2025): Most polluted: Byrnihat & Delhi (PM2.5 > 40 µg/m³). 259 of 293 cities already exceed safe annual limit. Cleanest city: Aizawl, Mizoram. Highlights urgent pollution control need.
QS Best Student Cities 2026	Delhi – world's most affordable student city. Mumbai (98th), Delhi (104th), Bengaluru (108th), Chennai (128th) improved ranks. Reflects India's strength in affordability, employability, and academic quality per NEP 2020.
Hurun India U30 List 2025	79 under-30 entrepreneurs recognized (e.g., Zepto founders). Raised \$5.2B+, created 64,000+ jobs. Mostly first-generation founders across software, FMCG, fintech. Highlights India's rising young entrepreneurial spirit.
World Bank: Indian Urbanization Risks 2025	Cities to generate 70% of new jobs by 2030, but climate risks (heat, floods) may cause \$5B annual loss by 2030. \$2.4T needed for resilient infrastructure by 2050. High-risk cities: Delhi, Chennai, Surat, Lucknow. Success stories: Ahmedabad, Indore, Kolkata.
CSMIA Among Top 10 Airports 2025	Travel + Leisure 2025: Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ranked in world's top 10. Reader score: 84.23. Handles 55M+ passengers/year, 121 destinations. Best single-runway airport. Repeated winner for 3 years; recent digital upgrades.
Henley Passport Index India Ranking 2025	India rose from 85th to 77th globally – biggest rise. Visa-free/VOA access to 59 countries (Malaysia, Thailand, Maldives, Sri Lanka, etc.). Reflects stronger diplomacy. Still behind leaders like Singapore (193 destinations).
World Bank: India Gini Index & Poverty Progress	Gini Index 2025: India is 4th most equal globally (score: 25.5) ahead of China (35.7) & US (41.8). Extreme poverty down to 2.3% (from 16.2% in 2011–12); \$3/day poverty at 5.3%. 171M lifted out of poverty in 12 years. Key schemes: Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, DBT, Ayushman Bharat, Stand-Up India, PMGKAY.
NITI Aayog SDG Index NE Districts 2023–24	2nd edition (Jul 7, 2025): 121 districts assessed; 85% improved SDG score. Best: Hnahthial (Mizoram) – 81.43. Lowest: Longding (Arunachal) – 58.71. All Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura districts = "Front Runners." Sikkim had most consistent scores.
2025 Prix Versailles	The 2025 Prix Versailles named Yantai Penglai International Airport's Terminal 2 (China) as the world's most beautiful airport , with its coastal-inspired design, E-shaped layout, and eco-friendly architecture . Other top entries included Marseille (France), Réunion Island, Kansai (Japan), Portland (USA), and San Francisco (USA) . This recognition emphasizes sustainability, culture, and innovation in global airport design.

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Jaa Mata'	Chennai Port	The Japanese Coast Guard Ship JCGS Itsukushima reached Chennai Port on July 7, 2025 , as part of the Global Ocean Voyage Training . The six-day visit includes joint training, official meetings, and a sea exercise named 'Jaa Mata'. Senior officials like Captain Naoki Mizoguchi, Vice Admiral Hiroaki Kaosue, and Director General Paramesh Sivamani are part of the engagement. This visit strengthens the India-Japan maritime partnership and supports regional goals like SAGAR and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative .
Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025	Australia	India has taken part for the first time in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 , held in Australia from July 13 . This major military exercise includes over 35,000 troops from 19 nations , such as the US, UK, Japan, and France . Activities include live firing, amphibious landings, and air combat drills across various Australian regions and in Papua New Guinea . India's involvement is a key step in strengthening defence ties with Australia and boosting cooperation in the Indo-Pacific .
Prachand Shakti	Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	Indian Army's Ram Division held a high-impact tech demo called ' Prachand Shakti ' at the Kharga Corps Field Training Area in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh . The event highlighted the use of AI-enabled systems, UAVs, autonomous platforms, and loitering munitions in Strike Corps operations . This is part of the Army's ' Year of Tech Absorption ' initiative, aiming to use more Indian-made technology in defence. The demonstration showed how these tools can improve the speed, power, and safety of soldiers in complex missions, supporting the Army's goal of becoming more future-ready and self-reliant .

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
PASSEX (Passing Exercise)	Mumbai	Indian Navy and the Greek Navy held a PASSEX (Passing Exercise) near Mumbai in the Arabian Sea, led by INS Tarkash and HS Psara. The drill included tactical operations, firing practice, and helicopter landings. This exercise is part of growing India-Greece defence ties, especially after both countries became strategic partners in 2023. INS Tarkash, inducted in 2012, is a Talwar-class stealth warship equipped with BrahMos missiles and is built to handle a wide range of missions. The PASSEX boosted teamwork and understanding between the two navies and marks a step forward in maritime cooperation.
SIMBEX 2025	India-Singapore	India's participation in SIMBEX 2025 marks a significant step in advancing India-Singapore naval cooperation. It reflects India's strategic maritime goals under Act East and SAGAR, involving frontline naval platforms like INS Delhi and Satpura. SIMBEX boosts bilateral interoperability, ensures preparedness for maritime challenges, and paves the way for India's leadership in future events like MILAN and the International Fleet Review, reinforcing a rules-based maritime order and regional stability.
'Bold Kurukshetra 2025'	India and Singapore	India and Singapore launched the joint military exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra 2025' in Jodhpur, focusing on urban warfare, counter-terrorism, and interoperability. The drill uses modern weaponry, real-time simulations, and advanced communication systems, reinforcing defence cooperation under India's Act East Policy. This exercise showcases growing regional strategic synergy and highlights the importance of coordinated action in complex battlefield scenarios.

TESTING

- India has successfully completed user trials of the Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR), a fully indigenous naval weapon designed to detect and destroy enemy submarines, boosting India's maritime defence and self-reliance in defence technology. Conducted from INS Kavaratti between June 23 and July 7, 2025, the trials involved 17 rocket launches across multiple ranges. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the DRDO, Indian Navy, and domestic defence industry for the achievement, stating it will enhance the Navy's striking power. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- DRDO and Indian Air Force successfully conducted flight tests of the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet off the Odisha coast. The missile, equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker, accurately hit high-speed aerial targets in both tests. This success boosts India's defense strength, supports the 'Make in India' initiative, and reduces reliance on foreign technology. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Indian Army's successful trial of Akash Prime at 15,000 feet in Ladakh showcases a major step in enhancing India's indigenous air defence capabilities. With its improved seeker, high-altitude operability, and proven combat role in Operation Sindoor, Akash Prime strengthens India's self-reliance and border defence readiness. The system is poised for future induction and will play a key role in securing India's skies against modern aerial threats. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- India's test-firing of the nuclear-capable Prithvi-II and Agni-I missiles at the Chandipur range validated key operational parameters and boosted its deterrence capability. Developed by the DRDO, both missiles enhance India's nuclear arsenal with their reliable, indigenous design and proven effectiveness, maintaining high standards of military preparedness and strategic security. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India's DRDO has successfully test-fired the UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 at Kurnool, marking a major boost in drone-launched precision strike capabilities. The 12.5 kg missile, powered by a dual-thrust solid motor, uses infrared imaging for day-night targeting, supports two-way datalink, and offers multiple warhead options. Developed with support from MSMEs, startups, and major firms like Adani and BDL, the ULPGM programme has three variants, with V3 (ULM-ER) being the most advanced. This achievement enhances India's defence preparedness and aligns with Aatmanirbhar Bharat goals. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted two consecutive flight tests of the Pralay missile on July 28 and 29, 2025, from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. These user evaluation trials validated the missile's maximum and minimum range capabilities, confirming its high accuracy and reliability. The indigenously developed Pralay missile, equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems, can carry multiple types of warheads, significantly strengthening the Indian Armed Forces' operational readiness. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

DEAL & MoU's

- LCA Tejas Mk 1A, powered by GE F404 engines, is vital for IAF's modernisation, with 12 jets to be delivered by end-2025. HAL plans 16 aircraft per year, pending timely engine delivery. Features include AESA radar, EW suite, and BVR missiles like ASTRA. The ₹5,375 crore engine deal and upcoming ₹67,000 crore order highlight the strategic importance of this indigenous programme.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- Rear Admiral V Ganapathy has taken over as the new Commandant of the Military Institute of Technology (MILIT), Pune, India's top tri-services training institute. His appointment is significant in light of the armed forces' modernization, the push for jointness, and the growing need for cutting-edge defence technology education. ([Click here to read article](#))
- INS Udaygiri, India's latest stealth frigate, was inducted into the Indian Navy on July 1, 2025. Built in a record 37 months under Project 17A, the warship showcases advanced stealth design, indigenous weapon systems, and multi-mission capabilities suited for blue-water operations. With contributions from over 200 MSMEs, this induction highlights India's push for defence indigenisation and the growing strength of its naval shipbuilding ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has commissioned INS Tamal, a state-of-the-art stealth guided missile frigate, in Russia, representing the last foreign-built major warship for the Indian Navy. Built under Project 1135.6, Tamal underscores the shift toward defence indigenisation, integrating systems like BrahMos missiles and HUMSA-NG sonar. The vessel enhances India's blue-water capabilities and reinforces the Indo-Russian defence partnership, having become the 51st ship built under the collaboration. The Western Fleet now gains a powerful asset, while future warships will be constructed domestically, propelling India closer to its Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Sub Lieutenant Aastha Poonia, from Meerut, has become the first woman to be trained as a fighter pilot in the Indian Navy. She received the "Wings of Gold" at a ceremony on July 3, 2025, in Visakhapatnam. She will now train to fly fighter jets like the MiG-29K and Rafale M from aircraft carriers like INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant. This achievement reflects the Indian Navy's push for gender equality, and its aim to promote women's roles in defense and combat aviation. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On July 9, 2025, the Indian Navy received INS Nistar, its first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), from Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) in Visakhapatnam. With 75% indigenous content, INS Nistar can perform deep sea diving up to 300 metres, rescue trapped submariners using DSRV, and carry ROVs for operations up to 1000 metres. This modern ship supports the Navy's underwater missions and reflects the goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- INS Nistar, commissioned on July 18, 2025, is India's first indigenous Diving Support Vessel, designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited. It supports deep-sea diving, submarine rescue up to 300m, and acts as a mother ship for DSRVs. With 80% indigenous content, over 120 MSMEs involved, and advanced technologies, it strengthens India's underwater maritime capabilities and aligns with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat mission.
- India is enhancing military surveillance by sourcing high-resolution satellite imagery from global players like Maxar, following China's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. The SBS-III programme aims to launch 52 satellites by 2029, operated by the Defence Space Agency, with a \$3.2 billion budget. This move ensures real-time monitoring, improved border surveillance, and strategic preparedness, while challenges like data security and external dependency remain. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Air Force will retire MiG-21 fighter jets by September 2025, ending 60 years of service. These Soviet-origin supersonic aircraft, inducted in 1963, played major roles in wars including 1971 and Kargil. Their replacement with the indigenous LCA Tejas Mark 1A signifies a move towards modernization, despite challenges like delays in jet engine supply. The shift supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and strengthens IAF's air defense capability. ([Click here to read article](#))



- The Indian Army has received its first Apache AH-64E helicopters from the United States, aimed at boosting firepower in challenging terrains. These state-of-the-art attack helicopters feature advanced targeting systems, precision strike capabilities, and night operation functionality. The move enhances Army Aviation Corps' autonomy, supports defense modernization, and fortifies India's tactical strength along borders. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Coast Guard's new vessel 'Samudra Prachet', launched on July 23, 2025, is the final Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) to enhance India's oil spill response and maritime pollution control capabilities within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). With a displacement of 4,170 tonnes and cutting-edge response equipment, it supports Atmanirbhar Bharat, aligns with MARPOL obligations, and represents a milestone in indigenous shipbuilding and coastal environmental protection. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India launched the Fast Patrol Vessel 'Atal', the sixth in a series of eight state-of-the-art indigenously designed vessels by Goa Shipyard Limited, at Vasco da Gama in Goa on July 29, 2025. Measuring 52 metres in length and weighing 320 tonnes, the vessel is equipped for coastal patrols, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, search and rescue, and offshore asset protection. The launch strengthens India's maritime security and marks a significant stride in achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in defense shipbuilding. ([Click here to read article](#))

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- Hyderabad-based Ananth Technologies will launch India's first private satellite broadband service by 2028. It has received approval from IN-SPACe, India's space regulator. The company will send a satellite to geostationary orbit over 35,000 km above Earth to provide broadband internet directly from space. This ₹3,000-crore project aims to improve internet access, especially in remote areas, and will compete with international players like Starlink, OneWeb, and Amazon Kuiper. This marks a big change in India's space and telecom sectors, allowing private companies to grow and serve more people. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted two hot tests of the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) on July 3, 2025, at its Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, marking a crucial step for India's first crewed space mission under the Gaganyaan Programme. The SMPS, featuring 5 Liquid Apogee Motors (LAMs) and 16 Reaction Control System (RCS) thrusters, is key for orbital maneuvers, trajectory corrections, and crew safety. ([Click here to read article](#))
- NISAR, to be launched on July 30, 2025 by ISRO's GSLV-F16, is the first joint satellite between ISRO and NASA, featuring dual-frequency SAR (L-band & S-band). Weighing 2392 kg, it will operate from a Sun-synchronous orbit (743 km) and use SweepSAR technology for 12-day global coverage. Key applications include disaster management, climate monitoring, soil moisture tracking, and ice sheet movement, reinforcing its global scientific importance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- NASA has launched the TRACERS Mission with two satellites to study magnetic reconnection in Earth's polar cusp, protecting the planet from solar storms. The satellites will provide real-time data on how space weather affects satellites, communication systems, and power grids. It

launched alongside Athena EPIC, PExT, and REAL satellites on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, and is significant for global space research, including for countries like India. ([Click here to read article](#))

NATIONAL

- In a strategic step towards enhancing India's sovereign space capabilities, SatSure and Dhruva Space have joined hands to offer end-to-end Earth Observation (EO) solutions. This collaboration will unify upstream and downstream segments of the space value chain, integrating KaleidEO's payloads with Dhruva Space's satellite platform infrastructure. With a focus on indigenous innovation, the alliance will provide full-stack space solutions, addressing the demands of commercial and strategic users alike. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Indian researchers have engineered a next-generation energy storage material using lanthanum-doped silver niobate nanoparticles, showing superior performance in supercapacitor devices. The material demonstrated 118% energy retention and 100% coulombic efficiency, making it a promising solution for clean energy storage. This eco-friendly innovation, led by Dr. Kavita Pandey's team at CeNS, Bengaluru, paves the way for future high-density, fast-charging supercapacitors in portable electronics and renewable energy systems. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On July 6, 2025, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh opened the National Biobank at CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi. This project will collect data from 10,000 Indians to support personalized medicine and better disease treatment. It is part of the Phenome India project. The minister also highlighted India's work in genomics, CRISPR technology, and healthcare innovation. Experts like Dr. N. Kalaiselvi and Dr. Souvik Maiti praised the move as a major step toward healthcare self-reliance and global leadership in science. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India became the **fourth-largest biofuel consumer** in the world in **2024**, moving ahead of **China** for the **second year in a row**, according to the **Statistical Review of World Energy 2025**. India consumed **77 kbbloe/d**, a **40% rise** from last year, while **China** consumed **60 kbbloe/d**. However, in **biofuel production**, India made **70 kbbloe/d**, still behind **China's 106 kbbloe/d**. The report also showed that global demand for biofuels rose, especially in the **Asia Pacific** and **North America** regions. While **biofuels** help cut pollution, overall **global emissions** from energy **rose by 1%** in 2024, marking another **record high**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB)** has launched the **Kalaa Setu – Real-Time Language Tech for Bharat Challenge** via its **WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform**. The challenge calls on **AI startups** across India to build tools that turn **text into audio, video, or graphics** in various **Indian languages**. Applications can be submitted on the **WaveX portal** by **July 30**, while the **Bhasha Setu translation challenge** closes on **July 22**. This effort is part of the **WAVES initiative**, aiming to boost **innovation in media and language tech**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of Andhra Pradesh** has introduced the **Smart Mosquito Surveillance System (SMoSS)** to fight **mosquito-borne diseases** like **dengue** and **malaria**. This **AI-powered** project will start in **66 places** across **six major cities** including **Vijayawada** and **Visakhapatnam**. It will use **smart sensors, drones, apps, and hospital data** to track and control mosquito breeding. The system will help officials take quick action by sending alerts and mapping problem areas. This is a **big step** toward **tech-based public health** and can serve as a **model for other states** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **new species, Garcinia kusumae**, has been discovered in **Baksa district, Assam**, by botanist **Jatindra Sarma**, who named it in honour of his **late mother, Kusum Devi**. The discovery was made in **April 2025** and published in the global journal **Feddes Repertorium**. This **evergreen tree** has unique flowers and fruits and is used in **traditional food and medicine**. With this, Assam adds to its record of **12 Garcinia species**. The new finding boosts **India's botanical diversity** and shows how much more is still to be discovered in the country's **rich forests**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **new butterfly species, Zographetus mathewi**, has been discovered in the **Western Ghats of Kerala**, adding to the region's already rich biodiversity. The species was confirmed after careful study by researchers from the **Travancore Nature History Society, Zoological Survey of India**, and others. It is named after **George Mathew**, a well-known Indian entomologist. This butterfly, also called the **Sahyadri Spotted Flitter**, is found in forests below **600 metres**, and its larvae feed on the vine *Aganope thyrsiflora*. The discovery, published in **Entomon**, highlights the importance of **conservation** and continued **field research** in biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **IIM Kozhikode** has launched **Gyanodaya**, a **Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Publishing**, to transform management education through **peer-reviewed content, indigenous knowledge, and collaborative pedagogy**. It uses **Pandulipi**, an in-house platform, and is aligned with **Vision 2047** and **NEP** goals, aiming to build a **global knowledge commons**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A new lichen species, **Allographa effusoredica**, was discovered in the **Western Ghats** by scientists at **MACS-Agharkar Institute**, marking the **first Indian Allographa** supported by **DNA sequencing**. It features **rare chemical traits, a Trentepohlia algal partner**, and mimics other **Graphidaceae** species morphologically. Backed by the **ANRF**, this research emphasizes the role of **integrative taxonomy, symbiotic diversity**, and the need for **molecular studies** in documenting India's rich **lichen biodiversity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **Martian meteorite** named **NWA 16788**, weighing **54 pounds**, was discovered in **Niger** in **2023** and sold at **Sotheby's** for a **record \$5.3 million** in July 2025. The rock, ejected from **Mars** about **5 million years ago**, traveled **140 million miles** to Earth and is now the **largest known Martian meteorite** found. Its journey and discovery highlight key areas of **space science, geology, and global interest in extraterrestrial artifacts**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Indian scientists from Bose Institute** have identified and **overexpressed the AcSERK3 gene** in **pineapple** to enhance resistance against **Fusariosis**, caused by *Fusarium moniliforme*. This is the **first documented case** of such a native gene's overexpression in pineapple, resulting in **stronger stress response, better survival, and potential multi-fungal tolerance**. The genetically modified plants showed **increased levels of stress-fighting enzymes** and may offer a **sustainable disease-resistant crop** for future farming. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **ISRO** will launch **NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05** by **2026** to strengthen **NavIC**, India's regional navigation system. **NavIC**, with **7 satellites** (3 geostationary, 4 inclined), provides **civilian and strategic services** with high accuracy. The **NVS series** brings **indigenous atomic clocks and L1 band support** for better compatibility. Applications include **defense, shipping, railways, disaster alerts, and time synchronization**. This strengthens India's **strategic autonomy and technological leadership** in navigation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will launch the **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)** today at **5:40 pm** from **Sriharikota** using the **GSLV-F16 rocket**. Designed to operate in a **Sun-synchronous orbit** at **747 km**, the mission will use **dual-band radar technology** (L-band from **NASA** and S-band from **ISRO**) to capture highly detailed Earth images every **12 days** for **3 years**. **NISAR** will play a crucial role in monitoring **ecosystems, climate change, disasters, and resource management**, with its data being **freely available worldwide**, marking a new milestone in **India-US space collaboration**. ([Click here to read article](#))

INTERNATIONAL

- **Nvidia** has become the **world's most valuable company**, reaching a **market capitalisation of \$3.92 trillion**, surpassing **Apple's** previous record. Fueled by the **AI boom**, Nvidia's dominance in **AI chip technology** has driven massive growth, with its stock rising **68% since April**. Its value now exceeds the **entire stock markets of Canada, Mexico, and even the UK**, highlighting investor confidence in Nvidia and the future of **artificial intelligence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **HCL Software**, the software arm of **HCL Tech**, has launched **Domino 14.5**, an advanced platform focused on **data sovereignty and enhanced privacy** for **governments and regulated organisations**. Its key feature, **Domino IQ**, is a **sovereign AI solution** designed to safeguard **sensitive national and enterprise data** from **foreign surveillance**. Richard Jefts, Executive VP, emphasized the importance of **local digital control**, especially as nations tighten **data protection frameworks**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Switzerland's health authority, Swissmedic**, has given its **first approval** to a **malaria medicine for infants**, made by **Novartis**. The approval came on **July 9, 2025**, and applies to babies weighing **2 to 5 kilograms**. The decision is important because **malaria kills thousands of children**, especially in **Africa**, where **95% of global malaria deaths** occurred in **2023**. Experts say the new medicine is **safe and effective**, and it will be offered on a **not-for-profit basis** in malaria-hit countries. This move could **help protect the youngest lives** in the fight against one of the world's **deadliest diseases**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A **new study** led by scientists, including **Edward Doddridge** from the **University of Tasmania**, has found that **Antarctica's summer sea ice** is at **record low levels**. The research team used **satellite data, robotic ocean sensors, and computer models** to study the effects. Their findings show rising **ocean**

temperatures, damage to **marine ecosystems**, and growing global risks. This worrying trend began in **2016** and is continuing. The scientists call for **faster climate action** to protect the planet from long-term harm. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Chinese scientists** at the **Beijing Institute of Technology** announced the creation of the **world's lightest mind-controller**, weighing **just 74 milligrams**. This device is used to **control bees**, turning them into **cyborgs** that can follow commands during **military missions, urban combat, drug searches, and disaster rescue**. The controller sends signals through **three tiny needles** inserted into the bee's brain, successfully guiding their flight paths. **Professor Zhao Jieliang**, who led the team, said insect cyborgs offer **better movement, stealth, and endurance** than machines. While battery life remains a problem, the team plans to make future upgrades. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Israel** successfully launched its **Dror-1 communications satellite** on **July 13, 2025**, using a **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from **Cape Canaveral**. Built by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, **Dror-1** weighs **4.5 tons** and is equipped with large antennas and solar panels. It will serve **Israel's communication needs for 15 years**. The launch highlights Israel's efforts to strengthen its **space program**, ensure **technological self-reliance**, and expand **secure communication networks** using **advanced satellite systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Google** is offering **free Gemini AI Pro** access to eligible Indian students until **September 15, 2025**. It includes tools like **Gemini 2.5 Pro, Deep Research, Gemini for Workspace, and 2TB cloud storage**. The offer supports **exam prep, creativity, and digital empowerment**. Visit gemini.google/students to **apply with student ID** and get **one year free**. ([Click here to read article](#))

SPORTSCRICKET

- India achieved a **historic Test victory** at **Edgbaston** on **July 6, 2025**, beating **England** by a **record 336-run margin**, the **biggest overseas win** for India in terms of runs. **Akash Deep** stood out with **10 wickets**, the **best Test figures by an Indian in England**. This was also **India's first Test win at Edgbaston** after **seven losses**. The match saw several records broken, including the **highest total runs** in a Test between the two nations. **India has now leveled the series 1-1**, marking a proud moment in Indian cricket history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **IPL's total value** rose to **\$18.5 billion** in **2025**, showing its growing status as a top sports league. **RCB** became the **most valued franchise** at **\$269 million** after winning the **2025 title**. **Mumbai Indians** and **CSK** followed behind. **Sponsorships** and

viewership also broke records—**JioHotstar** and **Star Sports** saw historic numbers. **Tata Group** extended its sponsorship deal, and **PBKS** showed the highest growth in brand value. The league's success shows that the **IPL** is now a **global sports business**, combining cricket, entertainment, and media in a way few other events do. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **July 10, 2025**, **Sachin Tendulkar's** portrait was officially unveiled at the **MCC Museum at Lord's Cricket Ground** in **London**, a place known as the **Home of Cricket**. The painting was created by **Stuart Pearson Wright**, and **Tendulkar** also **rang the bell** to begin the day's **India vs. England Test match**. He shared memories of his early days in **England** and said the portrait was a special moment in his journey. He also praised **Shubman Gill**, India's new captain, for his calm leadership and good form. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **July 11, 2025**, both **Italy** and the **Netherlands** confirmed their spots in the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** after the final matches of the **Europe Qualifiers**. This will be **Italy's first appearance** at the global event. Despite losing to the Netherlands, Italy ensured qualification by holding their opponents till the **17th over**, maintaining a better **net run rate**. The Netherlands chased down **134/7** with strong performances from **Roelof van der Merwe** and **Michael Levitt**. A total of **15 teams** have qualified so far, with more to be confirmed through upcoming qualifiers. The World Cup will take place in **India and Sri Lanka** in 2026. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **MI New York** defeated **Washington Freedom** by **5 runs** to win the **2025 Major League Cricket (MLC)** title at the **Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas** on **July 14**. After a poor start to the season, MI New York made a strong comeback with help from players like **Quinton de Kock**, **Nicholas Pooran**, **Trent Boult**, and **Rushil Ugarkar**. **De Kock** scored **77 runs**, while **Ugarkar** bowled a brilliant last over to stop Freedom from reaching the target of **181**. This is MI New York's **second MLC title**, making their journey from bottom of the table to champions truly inspirational. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** awarded the **June 2025 Player of the Month** titles to **South Africa's Aiden Markram** and **West Indies captain Hayley Matthews**. Markram scored a match-winning **136 runs** in the **WTC Final against Australia**, helping South Africa win their **first ICC title since 1998**. Matthews impressed with **104 runs and 4 wickets in ODIs**, followed by **147 runs and 2 wickets in the T20I series** against South Africa. This is **Matthews' fourth ICC award**, making her the **second-most awarded female cricketer** in the monthly rankings. Both players expressed pride in their performances and focus on future goals. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Andre Russell** retires from **international cricket**, ending a **15-year career** marked by **two T20 World Cups**, **84 T20Is** (**1,078 runs & 61 wickets**), and a strong global franchise record. His **farewell matches** are on **July 20 & 22, 2025**, against **Australia in Jamaica**. He follows **Nicholas Pooran** into retirement ahead of the **2026 ICC T20 World Cup**, leaving behind a legacy of **power, performance, and pride**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)** has been awarded hosting rights for the **2027, 2029, and 2031 ICC World Test Championship Finals**, following its successful execution of the **2021, 2023, and 2025 finals**. The announcement came during the **ICC Annual Conference 2025** in **Singapore**. This decision, underpinned by England's rich cricketing legacy and strong infrastructure, is set to reinforce the global standing of **Test cricket**, enhance **fan engagement**, and ensure continuity in staging this prestigious event. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Joe Root** has become the **second-highest run-getter in Test cricket**, surpassing **Dravid**, **Kallis**, and **Ponting** in a single innings at **Old Trafford**. With **38 centuries** (equal to **Sangakkara**) and **104 fifties**, he is second only to **Tendulkar** in both major milestones. Root also became the **first batter to score 1,000+ Test runs at Old Trafford**, solidifying his status as a **modern legend** of the game. His form has been particularly dominant in the last five years, marked by consistency and big hundreds. ([Click here to read article](#))

BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **Jannik Sinner** won his **first Wimbledon title** on **July 13, 2025**, by defeating **two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz** in the final. The match ended with a score of **4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4**. This win gave **Sinner his fourth Grand Slam title** and stopped **Alcaraz's 24-match winning streak**. The two players, now the top stars in men's tennis, have shared the last **seven major titles**, showing a growing rivalry. **Sinner's victory** also came after losing to **Alcaraz at the French Open**, making this a sweet comeback. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Iga Swiatek** won her **first Wimbledon title** on **July 12, 2025**, defeating **Amanda Anisimova** with a rare **6-0, 6-0** scoreline in just **57 minutes**. The victory was Swiatek's **sixth Grand Slam title** and made her the **only active women's player** to win on **all three surfaces**. **Anisimova**, playing her **first major final**, couldn't match Swiatek's level. Despite recent struggles and a brief doping ban, Swiatek proved her strength and determination. **Kate, the Princess of Wales**, attended the final, making the event even more special. **This win marks a major comeback and historic moment in women's tennis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Japan Open Badminton 2025**, a key **BWF World Tour** event, saw **Shi Yuqi** of **China** win the **men's singles title**, while **South Korea's An Se-young** claimed her **sixth championship** of the year in the **women's singles**. China emerged as the **top-performing nation**, winning **three gold medals** in total, while **South Korea** and **Malaysia** also registered strong finishes. The tournament reinforced the **dominance of Asian countries in global badminton**, showcasing world-class talent and resilience across all events. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** made **history at the Badminton Asia Junior Championships 2025** as **Tanvi Sharma** and **Vennala Kalagotla** became the **first Indian women's singles duo** to win medals at the same edition. **Tanvi**, the **junior World No. 1**, showcased dominance with straight-game victories, while **Vennala**, ranked **World No. 103**, showed resilience in tight matches. This **unprecedented feat** highlights India's rising stature in **junior women's badminton** and marks a **significant milestone** in the nation's sporting achievements. ([Click here to read article](#))

Chess

- Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh won the rapid title at the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia, on July 4, scoring 14 points. He now leads the Grand Chess Tour ahead of Jan-Krzysztof Duda (11 points) and Magnus Carlsen (10 points). The blitz section begins on July 5, and the overall winner will be decided by the combined scores of both formats. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Magnus Carlsen won the SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz 2025 chess tournament in Zagreb, Croatia on July 7, finishing with 22.5/36. He secured the title one round early. Wesley So of the USA came second with 20/36, and India's D Gukesh took third with 19.5/36. This Grand Chess Tour event tested players in Rapid and Blitz formats. Gukesh, despite challenges in Blitz, showed strong progress. The next event will be held in Saint Louis, Missouri in August 2025. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Harikrishnan A. Ra., a 23-year-old from Chennai, became India's 87th Grandmaster after earning his third GM norm at the La Plagne International Chess Festival in France on July 11, 2025. Coached by Shyam Sundar, Harikrishnan had previously earned GM norms in Switzerland (2023) and Spain (June 2025). His final performance, including a draw with P. Iniyani and a win over Jules Moussard, secured the title. Harikrishnan, who recently finished his M.Com from SRM, plans to compete in Spain and Portugal before pursuing an MBA in the USA. His next goal is to reach an Elo rating of 2600. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The FIDE World Cup 2025 will be held in India from October 30–November 27 with 206 players in a knockout format. The event offers 3 qualification spots for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. India's strong performance in recent international events and its chess culture make it an ideal host. Qualification routes include champions, ratings, continental events, and nominations. With stars like Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, and Erigaisi, India is cementing its role as a chess powerhouse. ([Click here to read article](#))

Grand Prix

- Lando Norris won the British Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 6, 2025, in a wet and exciting race. He took the lead after Oscar Piastri received a 10-second penalty, which helped Norris reduce the points gap in the Formula 1 championship. It was McLaren's first win at Silverstone since 2008. Nico Hülkenberg finished third, and Max Verstappen came fifth after a spin. Many rookie drivers crashed out due to the rain. Norris called the win a dream come true in front of his home fans. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The 2025 Belgian Grand Prix saw Oscar Piastri secure a vital win over teammate Lando Norris, extending his Drivers' Championship lead to 16 points. The wet-dry race at Spa tested tyre strategies, with Leclerc finishing third and Hamilton climbing 11 spots to P7. The victory underscored McLaren's dominance and Piastri's growing title credentials in this season. ([Click here to read article](#))

ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL

- India will place a strategic bid to host the 2029 or 2031 World Athletics Championships, according to AFI official Adille Sumariwalla on July 6, 2025 in Bengaluru. The bidding process starts this year, and final decisions will be made in September 2026. Since Tokyo (2025) and Beijing (2027) are already hosting, India may have a better chance at 2031. India has also shown interest in hosting the 2028 Junior World Championships and future Athletics Relay events. These efforts are part of India's goal to bring the Olympics to the country in 2036. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Mexico defeated the United States 2-1 in the CONCACAF Gold Cup 2025 final held at NRG Stadium, Houston. Chris Richards scored early for the US, but Raul Jimenez and Edson Alvarez scored for Mexico to seal the win. This victory gives Mexico a record 10th Gold Cup title. The match saw dramatic moments, strong performances, and emotional tributes, making it a memorable final for football fans across the region. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Neeraj Chopra won the inaugural Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 in Bengaluru with a best javelin throw of 86.18 metres. The event was held at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium as part of the World Athletics Gold-level series. Kenya's Julius Yego finished second with 84.51 metres, while Sri Lanka's Rumesh Pathirage came third with 84.34 metres. Neeraj impressed the crowd with a strong third throw, keeping his top form ahead of upcoming global competitions. This new event also marks India's growing presence in international athletics. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Indian men's football team has dropped six places to 133rd in the FIFA rankings, marking its worst ranking since December 2016. The decline follows recent defeats to Thailand and Hong Kong in June 2025, which also led to coach Manolo Marquez's exit. India's performance under him saw just one win in eight matches. With the team struggling and qualification for the 2027 Asian Cup at risk, India's next chance to bounce back will come in October against Singapore. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Chelsea FC won the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 by beating PSG 3-0 on July 13, 2025, at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. Cole Palmer was the standout player, scoring two goals and assisting Joao Pedro for the third. Chelsea's tactical game plan, led by manager Enzo Maresca, completely outplayed the Champions League winners PSG. The match also saw Joao Neves get sent off for PSG, adding to their poor night. With this win, Chelsea took home the champion's prize of \$40 million, and Palmer received the Golden Ball as the best player of the tournament. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The England Women's Football Team won the UEFA Euro 2025, defeating Spain in a penalty shoot-out to become the first senior English side to win a major title abroad. Despite losing the opener, the Lionesses, guided by Sarina Wiegman, showcased a never-say-die attitude, with Chloe Kelly, Alessia Russo, Lucy Bronze, and Hannah Hampton playing key roles. The victory highlights resilience, tactical brilliance, and the rising stature of women's football. ([Click here to read article](#))

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- On July 1, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the National Sports Policy to transform India into a global sports powerhouse. The policy emphasizes athlete-centric development, mass fitness participation, sports tourism, and transparent governance. It envisions a robust ecosystem driven by education integration, corporate involvement, and the manufacture of sports goods, aligning sports with economic growth and social well-being. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India made history at the World Boxing Cup 2025 in Astana by winning 11 medals, including 3 gold, 5 silver, and 3 bronze. Sakshi, Jaismine, and Nupur were the gold medal winners who led the team to success. Their wins against strong opponents from the USA, Brazil, and Kazakhstan brought pride to the country. This was India's best medal haul ever at this event and shows the growing power of Indian women boxers on the global stage. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Deepika Sehrawat, 21, became the first Indian to win the Poligras Magic Skill Award for her solo field goal against the Netherlands in the 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League. Her rise

began in Hisar with national-level success and culminated in global recognition. The goal was a turning point, leading India to a draw and shootout win. Her win is a milestone for Indian hockey, reflecting growing global respect for the sport in India. Key terms: Deepika Sehrawat, Poligras Magic Skill Award, FIH Hockey Pro League, Netherlands match, Hisar, Women's Hockey India. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Bihar won the U18 Boys' title at the 10th Junior National Rugby 7s Championship 2025, defeating Odisha 17-15 and completing a historic double victory after claiming the U18 Girls' title earlier. With standout performances from players like Goldan Kumar and Sunny Kumar, Bihar remained undefeated and displayed national dominance alongside top teams like Maharashtra and Delhi. The competition serves as a key talent pipeline for India's future in senior rugby. ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the World University Games 2025 in Germany, Srihari Nataraj set a new Best Indian Performance in 200m freestyle with 1:48.22, while B. Benediction Rohit became the first Indian man to swim the 50m butterfly in under 24 seconds (23.96s), breaking a 7-year-old national mark. These achievements mark a turning point in Indian swimming history. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Fit India Sundays on Cycle program, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is a national-level campaign promoting fitness, youth empowerment, and a drug-free lifestyle. With large-scale participation, including events like the one held at BHU Varanasi, the initiative integrates cycling, yoga, games, and public awareness to support the vision of Viksit Bharat. It fosters healthy habits, encourages community involvement, and delivers a strong social message, making it a cornerstone of India's public health and youth development strategy. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2025 began at Kari Motor Speedway, featuring top performances by teen drivers like Ishaan Madesh, Arjun Chheda, Bhuvan Bonu, and others across F2000, F1600, and Touring Cars. Key names included Biren Pithawalla, Arjun Balu, and Rithwik Thomas. The event marked the rising dominance of youth in Indian motorsport and highlighted India's growing presence in competitive racing circuits. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Riley Powell, a 16-year-old Welsh cueist, defeated Pankaj Advani in the final of the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship 2025 held in Manama, Bahrain, with a 5-4 victory. Advani, on his 40th birthday, was denied his 29th world title. The win is a major milestone for Powell and reflects the rise of young global talent in snooker. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India won its **first gold medal** at the FISU World University Games 2025 as **Parneet Kaur and Kushal Dalal** triumphed in the **compound mixed team archery** event. India also secured a **silver** in **compound men’s team** and a **bronze** in **compound women’s team**. This performance boosts India's prospects ahead of the **LA 2028 Olympics**, where **compound archery** will debut. The event underscores the **rising standards in university-level sports**, especially for **women athletes** and **non-mainstream sports**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Divyanshi Bhowmick**, a **14-year-old Indian paddler**, created history by winning the **U-15 Girls’ Singles gold** at the **Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent**, becoming the **first Indian in 36 years** to do so. Defeating **three Chinese players**, including **Zhu Qihi in the final**, she also secured a berth at the **World Youth Championships**. Trained under the **Dani Sports Foundation and Ultimate Table Tennis programs**, Divyanshi’s triumph marked a **historic resurgence for India in youth table tennis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On its **100th anniversary**, **Hockey India** announced a **significant hike in financial grants** — ₹70 lakh each for senior nationals, ₹30 lakh each for junior and sub-junior nationals, and ₹25 lakh per state for local competitions. To celebrate the milestone, a **nationwide festival on November 7, 2025**

will feature **1,000 matches across districts**, involving over **36,000 players**. HI President **Dilip Tirkey** called this initiative a tribute to hockey’s golden legacy and an investment in India’s future champions. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India finished **20th at the FISU World University Games 2025 in Germany**, winning **12 medals** — **2 gold, 5 silver, and 5 bronze**. Key highlights included victories in **compound archery** (with **Sahil Rajesh Jadhav** and **Parneet Kaur** leading the charge), strong showings in **athletics**, a **historic bronze in badminton**, and a **tennis bronze by Vaishnavi Adkar**, India’s first since 1979. While the tally was lower than the 2023 record in Chengdu, the 2025 performance reinforced India’s growing strength in global university sports. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Starting **1 September 2025**, the **World Athletics Council** will enforce new regulations requiring all female category athletes to undergo a **once-in-a-lifetime SRY gene test** to confirm biological sex. The policy, first applied at the **World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25**, aims to preserve the **integrity and fairness of women’s sport**. The regulations, shaped by the **Gender Diverse Athlete Working Group**, set clear eligibility rules while ensuring **privacy, dignity, and confidentiality** of athletes. ([Click here to read article](#))

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict	Retired IPS officer V.S. Ravi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired IPS officer V.S. Ravi launched his book “Confessions of a Shakespeare Addict” on July 7, 2025, in Hyderabad. • The book is a tribute to William Shakespeare, showcasing Ravi’s long journey with the Bard’s works. Guests like P.S. Ramamohan Rao, S. Chakravarthy, and A.K. Khan praised Ravi’s deep understanding of Shakespeare’s timeless writings. • The Hindu Chairperson Nirmala Lakshman also appreciated Ravi’s literary contributions. The book captures Ravi’s love for Shakespeare and is aimed at making his work accessible to modern readers.
Das Paise ka Postcard	S.N. Ahmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new book titled “Das Paise ka Postcard” by S.N. Ahmed, a retired Indian Army officer, was released on July 10, 2025, in Hyderabad. • The book, which highlights the emotional value of postcards from the past, was launched by actor and director Vinay Varma. • It will soon be adapted into a stage play, aiming to revive the memories of handwritten letters and their role in human connection. The book is a heartfelt tribute to the postcard era, reminding us of the beauty of simple, personal messages.

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
“Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education”		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant step towards promoting student welfare and mental health, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on July 26, 2025, released a book titled “Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education” at a special program held at the Chief Minister’s residence auditorium in Dehradun. The initiative highlights the growing need to address the psychological and social challenges faced by students in higher education institutions.
Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education	Prof. Lata Pandey and Dr. Ramanand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhama launched the book “Sustainable Wellness of Students: A Collective Responsibility in Higher Education” on July 26, 2025, stressing the need for mental health support and welfare initiatives in universities. Edited by Prof. Lata Pandey and Dr. Ramanand, the book outlines strategies to tackle student life challenges and highlights the role of stakeholders in ensuring student wellness. The CM linked the effort to the New National Education Policy, making Uttarakhand a pioneer in holistic higher education.

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE/ Death place	KEY NOTES
1	Dr. BV Pattabhiram	Hypnotist, Psychologist, Motivational Speaker	India	Passed away at 75 in Hyderabad due to cardiac arrest; pioneer in hypnosis and mental wellness; conducted global workshops; founded India’s first magic school; received honorary doctorate.
2	Peter Rufai	Football (Goalkeeper)	Nigeria	Known as Dodo Mayana; AFCON 1994 winner; played in 1994 & 1998 FIFA World Cups; earned 65 international caps; admired for calm, confident style; passed away July 4, 2025, aged 61; sixth loss among Nigeria’s golden 1994 squad.
3	Vatsala	Wildlife (Elephant Conservation)	Nilambur forests, Kerala	Asia’s oldest living elephant (100+ years); worked in timber trade; relocated to MP in 1971, Panna Tiger Reserve in 1993; key in tiger tracking & forest patrols; retired 2003 but mentored younger elephants; symbol of wildlife conservation; died July 8, 2025.
4	Charupara Ravi	Politics (Socialist Leader)	Kerala	RJD State Vice-President; began activism at 18 with ISO; led Yuvajanatha during Janata Party rise in 1977; contested in 1980, 1996, and 2011 Kerala Assembly polls; respected for grassroots activism and dedication to socialist ideals; died July 8, 2025, aged 77.
5	Bismillah Jan Shinwari	Cricket Umpiring	Nangarhar province, Afghanistan	ICC International Panel umpire; debuted 2017 in Afghanistan vs Ireland ODI; officiated 34 ODIs, 26 T20Is, and many domestic matches; known for fairness and precision; died July 7, 2025, aged 41, during surgery; funeral held July 8, 2025.
6	N. Tippanna	Law & Politics	Turuvanur, Karnataka	Veteran leader; Chairman of Karnataka Legislative Council; JD(S) State Unit head; championed education in Ballari; influential in Veerashaiva-Lingayat community; 60-year public career; died July 11, 2025, aged 97; funeral July 12, 2025, in Chitradurga district.

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE/ Death place	KEY NOTES
7	Kota Srinivasa Rao	Telugu cinema actor, former Andhra MLA	Andhra Pradesh, India	Legendary actor with a 40+ year career; played diverse roles; honoured with many awards; major loss to cinema and politics.
8	B. Saroja Devi	Indian cinema actress	Bengaluru, Karnataka, India	Starred in 190+ films across Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi; recipient of Padma Bhushan; remembered for beauty, talent, grace.
9	Muhammadu Buhari	Politician, former Nigerian President	Daura, Katsina State, Nigeria	Military ruler turned elected president (2015–2023); focused on security & anti-corruption; significant figure in Nigerian politics.
10	Fauja Singh	Marathon runner	Beas Pind, Punjab, India	World’s oldest marathon runner; began running at 89; completed many international marathons; symbol of resilience and positivity.
11	Andrea Gibson	Poet, activist	Calais, Maine, USA	Queer poet, former Colorado Poet Laureate; wrote on gender identity, love, cancer survival; subject of award-winning documentary.
12	Felix Baumgartner	Extreme sports, skydiver	Salzburg, Austria	First to break sound barrier in free fall (2012 jump); set global records; inspired aerospace and extreme sports advancements.
13	Tom Lehrer	Renowned musical satirist and mathematician	Cambridge, Massachusetts	Renowned musical satirist and mathematician Tom Lehrer passed away at 97 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A Harvard prodigy who entered college at 15, Lehrer was known for his sharp satirical songs on politics, racism, marriage, and the Cold War before shifting focus to teaching mathematics at Harvard and UC Santa Cruz. He also contributed to The Electric Company, inspired the 1980 revue “Tomfoolery”, and in 2020, made his lyrics free for public use, cementing his legacy as both a cultural icon and dedicated educator.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	PERSON NAME	FIELD	BORN PLACE	KEY NOTES
1	Julian McMahon	Actor	Australia	Passed away at 56 in Florida after cancer battle; known for roles in Fantastic Four, Nip/Tuck, Charmed; son of former Australian PM Billy McMahon; last appeared in Netflix's The Residence.
2	Alan Bergman	Oscar-winning Lyricist	Brooklyn, New York, USA	Won 3 Academy Awards, 16 nominations; collaborated with Marilyn Bergman, Barbra Streisand, Michel Legrand; wrote classics like The Way We Were and Nice 'n' Easy; shaped Hollywood’s musical legacy.
3	V.S. Achuthanandan	Politician (Former Kerala CM, CPI(M) Leader)	Alappuzha, Kerala, India	Rose from coir worker to CM; championed land reforms, farmers’ rights, anti-corruption; part of CPI(M) formation in 1964; known for oratory, simplicity, and ethical leadership.
4	Hulk Hogan	Professional Wrestler, Entertainer	Augusta, Georgia, USA	WWE icon, 2-time Hall of Famer; transformed pro wrestling in the 1980s; headlined 8 WrestleMania main events; famous for “Hulkamania” catchphrases; also actor and pop culture figure.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
July 1, 2025	National Doctor's Day	Theme: <i>"Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"</i> — Focuses on the mental health and emotional well-being of doctors; honours their selfless contribution to public health.
July 1, 2025	National Chartered Accountants Day	Celebrates 76 years of ICAI; recognises the role of CAs in economic governance, taxation, auditing, and nation-building.
July 1, 2025	GST Day	Marks the anniversary of GST implementation in 2017; celebrates tax reform that unified India's indirect tax system with benefits like ITC, online compliance, and simplified tax structures.
July 1, 2025	SBI Foundation Day	Celebrates 70 years of State Bank of India (formed in 1955); acknowledges its ₹61 trillion asset base, digital leadership, and role in India's financial evolution.
July 2, 2025	World Sports Journalists Day	Theme: <i>"Championing Fair Play: Reporting with Integrity and Impact"</i> — Honours sports journalists for promoting ethical storytelling and public engagement with sports.
July 4, 2025	Punyatithi of Swami Vivekananda	Commemorates the death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (1902); honours his spiritual legacy, teachings of nationalism, Vedanta, service, and his iconic 1893 Chicago address.
July 5, 2025	International Day of Cooperatives (CoopsDay)	Theme: <i>"Cooperatives: Driving Inclusive and Sustainable Solutions for a Better World"</i> — Highlights the role of co-ops in empowering communities and achieving sustainable development goals.
July 6, 2025	World Rural Development Day	First-ever celebration by the UN; focuses on empowering rural communities, supporting women, youth, farmers, and small businesses; promotes infrastructure, digital and financial inclusion to achieve SDGs by 2030.
July 7, 2025	World Bioproduct Day	Promotes sustainable bioproducts from renewable materials to protect the environment; highlights India's role in biopharma, agriculture, and bio-industry; supports a cleaner, circular economy.
July 7	World Swahili Language Day	Declared by UNESCO in 2022; celebrates Swahili as a unifying African language spoken by over 200 million; honors leaders like Nyerere and Kenyatta; promotes cultural pride and respect for African languages.
July 11, 2025	World Population Day 2025	Theme: <i>"Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world"</i> ; focuses on youth empowerment, reproductive rights, and gender equality amid India becoming the most populous country.
July 11, 2025	World Horse Day	First-ever celebration by UN; recognizes horses' role in agriculture, culture, therapy, and livelihoods; urges protection of equine welfare; promotes awareness through visits, education, and support for rescue centers.
15 July 2025	World Youth Skills Day 2025	Theme: <i>"Youth Empowerment Through Artificial Intelligence and Digital Skills"</i> — Focus on equipping youth with AI and digital skills, addressing NEET challenges, and promoting TVET for jobs and career growth.
16 July 2025	AI Appreciation Day (India)	Showcasing AI-driven transformation across sectors; highlighting initiatives like Digital India, AI for All, and Skill India AI Portal; emphasis on inclusive, ethical AI innovation.
15 July 2025	World Snake Day 2025	Awareness on snake conservation; sessions at Bannerghatta Biological Park; release of snake-themed postcards; focus on reducing fear/misinformation and empowering youth as ecological stewards.
17 July 2025	World Day for International Justice	Commemorates adoption of the Rome Statute and founding of the ICC; promotes justice, human rights, accountability, and rule of law.
18 July 2025	Nelson Mandela International Day	Theme: <i>"It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequity"</i> — Encourages 67 minutes of community service, honoring Mandela's 67 years of public service and commitment to justice and equality.
20 July 2025	World Chess Day	Marks FIDE's founding in 1924; celebrates chess as a tool for intellectual growth, strategic thinking, and global unity; roots in ancient India.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
20 July 2025	International Moon Day	Marks Apollo 11 Moon landing; promotes peaceful space exploration, sustainable lunar resource use, and global cooperation in space initiatives.
22 July 2025	World Brain Health Day	Theme: <i>Brain Health for All Ages</i> – Promotes early intervention, lifestyle awareness, and equal access to neurological care; encourages quality sleep, exercise, healthy diet, and mental engagement.
22 July 2025	NABARD Foundation Day (44th)	Celebrates NABARD's role in rural development; highlights loans and infrastructure support, cooperative development, digitisation, and climate-resilient growth.
22 July 2025	National Flag Day	Marks the 78th anniversary of adoption of the Indian National Flag; promotes patriotism, national pride, and adherence to the Flag Code of India.
23 July 2025	National Broadcasting Day	Commemorates the history of radio broadcasting in India; honors AIR's role in communication, education, freedom struggle, and disaster management.
25 July 2025	International Day for Women and Girls of African Descent	Highlights challenges faced due to racism, sexism, and socio-economic bias; calls for education, leadership, and policy inclusion.
25 July 2025	World Drowning Prevention Day	Raises awareness on drowning prevention; promotes low-cost interventions, swimming lessons, and rescue training; stresses multi-sectoral action.
25 July 2025	International Day for Judicial Well-being	Highlights the link between judicial wellness and quality justice; combats stigma, encourages institutional reforms, and promotes awareness.
24 July 2025	Income Tax Day	Marks the introduction of income tax in India (1860); highlights modernization of tax administration and voluntary compliance.
26 July 2025	World Mangrove Day	Promotes conservation of mangrove forests; raises awareness on biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.
July 27, 2025	CRPF 87th Foundation Day	Founded in 1939; vital in internal security, counter-insurgency, and VIP security; known for COBRA, RAF, and women battalions.
July 28, 2025	World Hepatitis Day	Theme: <i>"Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down"</i> ; raises awareness on early screening, vaccination, and treatment to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.
July 29, 2025	Global Tiger Day	Urges protection of declining tiger population (~4,000 left); stresses anti-poaching, habitat conservation, and human-wildlife conflict prevention.
July 26–Aug 1, 2025	Hepatitis Awareness Week	Focus on prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment; commemorates Dr. Baruch Blumberg on National Hepatitis Day (July 28).
Aug 3, 2025	Friendship Day (India)	Celebrates friendship's role in peace and cultural understanding; marked by exchanging bands, gifts, and time together.
July 30, 2025	World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	Calls to end human trafficking; stresses law enforcement, victim support, and cross-border cooperation; symbolized by the Blue Heart.

Miscellaneous

- Warren Buffett**, the legendary investor and CEO of **Berkshire Hathaway**, has donated **\$6 billion** in **Class B stock** to five major **philanthropic foundations**, including the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust**. The move brings his **total charitable contributions** since 2006 to **around \$60 billion**. This donation highlights his ongoing commitment to **giving away 99.5% of his fortune**. The **foundations** receiving the donations are known for their work in **global health, education, poverty reduction, and social equity**, making this announcement a significant event in the **world of philanthropy and social impact**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **pioneering step** towards eradicating **tuberculosis (TB)**, **Puducherry** has become the **first Union Territory** in India to link **TB screening** with the **Family Adoption Programme**. Under this **National Medical Commission** initiative, **medical students** adopt 3–5 families and monitor their health over three years. In Puducherry, this outreach now includes **routine TB checks** for all family members. If symptoms are detected, students help with **diagnosis and treatment**, enhancing **early detection** and **access to care**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- In a landmark breakthrough in archaeology and genetics, scientists have successfully sequenced the first complete genome of an ancient Egyptian, marking a major step in understanding early human populations. Published on July 2, 2025, in the journal Nature, the study details DNA extracted from a man buried in Nuwayrat, around 4,500 years ago during Egypt's Old Kingdom period. The individual, likely a physically laboring male aged 44–64 years, had brown eyes, brown hair, dark skin, and lived a relatively affluent life, as suggested by the tomb style. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet Inc., has reached a net worth of \$1.1 billion, driven by Alphabet's soaring stock and heavy AI investments. His rise—from a modest background in Tamil Nadu to leading one of the world's biggest tech companies—illustrates the power of strategic leadership and innovation. With only 0.02% stock ownership, Pichai's wealth stems largely from stock sales and compensation, alongside his pivotal role in Alphabet's AI infrastructure boom. DeepMind's acquisition, a 120% stock rise, and \$50 billion AI investment in 2024 were key factors. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The Bhil community of Mewar, Rajasthan, celebrates the Gavri Festival, a 40-day ritual beginning after Raksha Bandhan, honouring Goddess Parvati and their deity Gorkhiya Mata. In 2025, the festival was showcased through a photo exhibition at India International Centre, highlighting its unique blend of dance-dramas (khels), songs, and spiritual rites. Beyond devotion, Gavri serves as a symbol of tribal identity, community bonding, and social commentary, where performers challenge caste hierarchies, explore gender roles, and temporarily attain an elevated status in contrast to their usual marginalisation.

Static Takeaways

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
1	RBI	Governor – Sanjay Malhotra
2	SBI	MD / Chairman – Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
3	Indian Bank	MD – Binod Kumar
4	PNB Bank	MD – Ashok Chandra
5	Karnataka Bank	MD – Srikrishanan Sarma
6	Adani Green Energy Ltd.	CEO – Amit Singh
7	Adani Power	CEO – Shersingh Khyalia
8	SLICE	CEO – Rajan Bajaj
9	PhonePe	CEO – Sameer Nigam
10	ACKO	CEO – Varun Dua
11	Exim Pay	CEO – Arjun Zazaria
12	Fino Payments Bank	CEO – Rishi Gupta
13	IndiGo India	CEO – Pieter Elbers
14	Hindustan Unilever Ltd.	CEO – Priya Nair
15	NVIDIA	CEO – Huang Jensen
16	Apple	CEO – Tim Cook
17	Tesla	CEO – Elon Musk
18	HSBC India Bank	CEO – Hitendra Dave
19	Birla Group	Chairman – Kumar Manglam Birla
20	Reliance Jio	Chairman – Akash Ambani
21	SAIL	CEO – Amarendu Prakash
22	Asian Development Bank	HQ – Manila, Philippines
23	ISRO	Chairman – V Narayanan
24	NASA	Head – Sean Duffy
25	ICC	Chairman – Jay Shah
26	India	PM – Narendra Modi; Capital – New Delhi
27	Japan	PM – Shigeru Ishiba; Capital – Tokyo
28	USA	President – Donald Trump; Capital – Washington D.C.
29	Australia	PM – Anthony Albanese; Capital – Canberra
30	UAE	Head – Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Capital – Abu Dhabi

Sr. No	Static Name	Static Details
31	France	President – Emmanuel Macron; Capital – Paris
32	Ukraine	President – Volodymyr Zelenskyy; Capital – Kyiv
33	Saudi Arabia	Head – Mohammed Bin Salman; Capital – Jeddah
34	Russia	President – Vladimir Putin; Capital – Moscow
35	Suriname	President – Jennifer Simons; Capital – Paramaribo
36	Colombia	President – Gustavo Petro; Capital – Bogotá
37	Bulgaria	President – Rumen Radev; Capital – Sofia
38	Maldives	President – Mohammed Muizzu; Capital – Male
39	China	President – Xi Jinping; Capital – Beijing
40	Sri Lanka	President – Anura Kumara Dissanayake; Capital – Colombo
41	Odisha	CM – Mohan Majhi; Governor – Kambhupati; Capital – Bhubaneswar
42	Gujarat	CM – Bhupendra Patel; Governor – Acharya Devvrat; Capital – Gandhinagar
43	Uttar Pradesh	CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Anandiben Patel; Capital – Lucknow
44	Karnataka	CM – Siddaramaiah; Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot; Capital – Bengaluru
45	Jammu & Kashmir	CM – Omar Abdullah; L. Governor – Manoj Sinha; Capital – Jammu
46	Bihar	CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Arif Khan; Capital – Patna
47	Tamil Nadu	CM – M.K. Stalin; Governor – R.N. Ravi; Capital – Chennai
48	Sikkim	CM – Prem Singh Tamang; Governor – Om Prakash Mathur; Capital – Gangtok
49	Madhya Pradesh	CM – Mohan Yadav; Governor – Mangubhai Patel; Capital – Bhopal
50	Goa	CM – Pramod Sawant; Governor – Pusapati Ashok Raju; Capital – Panaji
51	Himachal Pradesh	CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu; Governor – Shiv Pratap Shukla; Capital – Shimla
52	Maharashtra	CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Radhakrishnan; Capital – Mumbai
53	Andhra Pradesh	CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor – Abdul Nazeer; Capital – Amravati
54	Kerala	CM – Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor – Arlekar Rajendra; Capital – Thiruvananthapuram
55	Delhi	CM – Rekha Gupta; L. Governor – Vinai Saxena; Capital – New Delhi
56	Uttarakhand	CM – Pushkar Singh Dhama; Governor – Gurmit Singh; Capital – Dehradun
57	Jharkhand	CM – Hemant Soren; Governor – Santosh Gangwar; Capital – Ranchi

