



THE

HINDU REVIEW

JUNE 2025

NEWS COVERED

- Population Census 2027
- Chenab Rail Bridge
- 55th Monetary Policy Committee Meeting
- Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025
- QS World Rankings 2026
- Global Peace Index 2025
- Axiom-4 on ISS



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National News

Important Current Affairs of June**India to Conduct Population Census 2027 in Two Phases with Caste Enumeration**

After a 16-year gap since the last official population count, the Government of India has announced the Population Census 2027, to be conducted in two phases along with caste enumeration. The reference date for most regions will be 00:00 hours on March 1, 2027, while for the Union Territory of Ladakh, and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be October 1, 2026. This marks a significant step in reviving the decadal census process, which was postponed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why in News?

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently announced that the Population Census 2027 will include caste enumeration and will be conducted in two phases, reaffirming the government's intent to modernize and update demographic data crucial for governance, planning, and social welfare schemes. The notification of the census will be published in the Official Gazette on June 16, 2025, under Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948.

Background of Census in India

- The Census of India is governed by the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990.
- The last full population census was conducted in 2011, with over 1.2 billion people enumerated.
- The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite all preparatory work being completed.

Key Features of Census 2027**Conducted in Two Phases**

- **Phase I:** House Listing Operations
- **Phase II:** Population Enumeration

Reference Date

- March 1, 2027 for most of India.
- October 1, 2026 for Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

Inclusion of Caste Enumeration

- For the first time in decades, caste enumeration will be officially conducted alongside the population count.
- Aimed at gathering granular socio-economic data for evidence-based policy making and social justice programs.

Objectives and Importance

- Update population figures to reflect the current demographic trends.
- Aid in planning public infrastructure, allocating welfare schemes, and electoral management.

- Caste data will help in evaluating the effectiveness of reservation policies and identifying marginalized communities.

Static and Legal Facts

- **Legal basis:** Section 3 of Census Act, 1948
- **Notification Date:** 16 June 2025

Last census phases

- **2011:** House Listing (Apr–Sep 2010), Enumeration (Feb 2011)
- **2021 (Postponed):** Planned for Apr 2020 and Feb 2021

PM Modi Inaugurates Chenab Rail Bridge, Completing Kashmir's Rail Link to India

On June 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab rail bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir. This marks the completion of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), a 42-year-old project aimed at integrating the Kashmir Valley with the national railway network. The bridge, part of a fully electrified 272-km rail corridor, not only overcomes one of the most difficult Himalayan terrains but also opens new doors for trade, tourism, and economic development in the region.

Why in News?

On June 6, 2025, PM Modi inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge, completing the USBRL project. The bridge is now the highest railway arch bridge in the world, surpassing even the Eiffel Tower in height. The project was initiated over four decades ago to connect Kashmir with the rest of India. It enables all-weather, electrified rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley for the first time.

Aims and Objectives

- Provide seamless all-weather railway connectivity to the Kashmir region.
- Strengthen infrastructure and integration of remote areas with the national mainstream.
- Boost trade, tourism, and employment in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Demonstrate India's engineering and technological prowess.

Project Timeline and Completion

USBRL Total Length: 272 km (Udhampur to Baramulla)

Key milestones

- **Qazigund-Baramulla (118 km):** Commissioned in Oct 2009
- **Qazigund-Banihal (18 km):** June 2013
- **Udhampur-Katra (25 km):** July 2014
- **Banihal-Sangaldan (48.1 km):** Feb 2024
- **Chenab Bridge inaugurated:** June 2025

Highlights of the Chenab Rail Bridge

- **Height:** 359 meters (higher than the Eiffel Tower)
- **Span:** 467 meters (arch span)
- **Design:** Steel and concrete arch

Features

- Designed to withstand high seismic activity and wind speeds
- Built in challenging Himalayan terrain with 36 tunnels and 943 bridges
- Electrified line to promote green, efficient transportation
- Built over Chenab River, a major Indus tributary

National and Regional Significance

- A symbol of national integration and development in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Expected to reduce travel time, improve freight movement, and support security logistics.
- Encourages sustainable tourism in the Kashmir Valley.
- Enhances disaster management response with year-round accessibility.

Major Infrastructure Projects

Chenab Bridge

- **Height:** 359 metres above Chenab River — taller than the Eiffel Tower.
- **Length:** 1,315 metres.
- **Structure:** Steel arch designed to withstand seismic activity and high wind speeds.
- **Significance:** Seamless rail link between Jammu and Kashmir; enhances border area connectivity.

Anji Bridge

- India's first cable-stayed railway bridge.
- Built in challenging Himalayan terrain.
- Facilitates rail link to Katra and Kashmir Valley.

USBRL (Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link)

- **Total length:** 272 km
- **Objective:** Provide all-weather rail connectivity to the Kashmir Valley.
- Strategic for economic development and national security.

Vande Bharat Trains

- New services between Katra and Srinagar.
- Reduced travel time to approx. 3 hours (saves 2-3 hours).
- Enhances tourism, trade, and pilgrimage routes.

Healthcare Boost

- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence
- **Investment:** ₹350 crore.
- **Location:** Katra (Reasi district).
- First medical college in the region; improves access to quality healthcare.

RBI Announce 55th Monetary Policy Committee Meeting (June 2025)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) convened its 55th Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting from June 4 to 6, 2025, under the chairmanship of Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra. This meeting was of significant importance as it came amid a changing global economic environment and evolving domestic macroeconomic conditions. The key outcomes of the meeting signal a policy recalibration aimed at supporting growth while maintaining price stability.

Key Updates from RBI's 55th Monetary Policy Meeting (June 2025)

1. Policy Rate Cut

- **Repo Rate:** Reduced by 50 basis points (bps), from 6.00% to 5.50%.
- **Reason:** To support growth while CPI inflation is well below target.
- This is the second cut in 2025, totaling 100 bps since February.

2. Adjusted Policy Corridor

- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate:** Cut to 5.25% (25 bps below repo rate).
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and Bank Rate:** Lowered to 5.75% (25 bps above repo rate).

3. Shift in Policy Stance

- From "Accommodative" to "Neutral".
- RBI indicates it will now take a data-dependent approach, reducing scope for further aggressive rate cuts.

Next Meeting Date

August 5-7, 2025
September 29-30, 2025 and October 1, 2025
December 3-5, 2025
February 4-6, 2026

GDP Growth Forecast

GDP at 6.5%, says Governor. There is no change in GDP forecast:

Period	Current Forecast	Earlier Forecast
FY26	6.5%	6.5%
Q1 FY26	6.5%	6.5%
Q2 FY26	6.7%	6.7%
Q3 FY26	6.6%	6.6%
Q4 FY26	6.3%	6.3%

Inflation Forecast (CPI) – Revised Downward

FY26 CPI Inflation now projected at **3.7%**, down from 4.0%.

Period	Current Forecast	Earlier Forecast
FY26	3.7%	4.0%
Q1 FY26	2.9%	3.6%
Q2 FY26	3.4%	3.9%
Q3 FY26	3.9%	3.8%
Q4 FY26	4.4%	4.4%

11 Years of Digital India: A Tech Revolution Empowering the Poorest

As India marks 11 years of the Digital India initiative, the country reflects on a technological revolution that has redefined governance, transparency, and service delivery. Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Digital India aimed to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. Over the past decade, it has become the backbone of many public welfare schemes, ensuring that the benefits of development reach even the remotest corners of the country.

Why in News?

June 2025 marks the 11th anniversary of the Digital India mission. PM Modi highlighted its transformative impact, especially in empowering the poor and promoting transparency. The initiative is now deeply embedded in policy-making and public welfare delivery across sectors.

1. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): Speed & Transparency

- 322+ schemes under 56 ministries integrated.
- ₹44 lakh crore transferred directly to beneficiary accounts.
- ₹3.48 lakh crore saved by eliminating leakages and middlemen.
- 90x increase in DBT volumes over the past decade.



2. Aadhaar: World’s Largest Digital Identity

- Over 140 crore citizens have a 12-digit Aadhaar number.
- Aadhaar authentication transactions have crossed 150 billion.
- Critical for DBT, digital signatures, banking KYC, and more.

3. DigiLocker: Making Governance Paperless

- 52+ crore users.
- 852+ crore documents issued.
- Enables secure access to certificates (e.g., PAN, driving licenses, education).

4. Jeevan Pramaan: Easing Pensioner Lives

- Digital Life Certificates eliminate the need for in-person bank visits.
- Over 10 crore pensioners registered.
- 143 lakh Digital Life Certificates submitted since Nov 2024.

5. UMANG App: One Nation, One Digital Gateway

- Offers 2,000+ services across departments on a single app.
- 8.21 crore users, 597+ crore transactions.

6. Rural Digital Empowerment

- Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA):
- Aims to make 6 crore rural Indians digitally literate.
- Reduces the digital divide and boosts digital awareness at the grassroots.

Nine years of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) – Key Facts

- **Launched:** June 2016 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- **Objective:** Reduce **Maternal and Neonatal Mortality** by providing **free, quality ANC services** to pregnant women in their **2nd and 3rd trimesters**
- **ANC Day:** 9th of every month
- **Coverage (till June 2025):** Over **6.19 crore** pregnant women examined

Major Features

- **Free check-ups,** diagnostics, counselling, nutritional support
- **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) identification & referral**
- **Public-Private Partnership:** 6,813 private specialists voluntarily involved
- **Facilities Offering Services:** 20,752

Extended PMSMA (E-PMSMA) – Launched Jan 2022

- **Tracks HRP cases till delivery + 45 days postnatal**
- **HRPs identified:** Over **78.27 lakh** (as of Dec 2024)
- **Name-based tracking,** SMS alerts, 4 sessions/month for HRP

Impact on Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

- **MMR 2014–16:** 130 per 1 lakh live births
- **MMR 2021–23:** 80 per 1 lakh live births

Related Schemes

- **JSY:** Institutional deliveries via cash benefits – 11.07 crore beneficiaries
- **JSSK:** Free delivery & newborn care – 16.60 crore served
- **LaQshya:** Improves labour room & ICU quality
- **SUMAN:** Respectful maternity care – 90,015 facilities (as of Mar 2025)
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan:** Malnutrition reduction – 6.97 crore Poshan Pakhwadas
- **PMMVY:** ₹5,000 cash support for maternal health

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

The **Sahitya Akademi**, India’s premier literary institution and an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has made a significant announcement regarding children’s literature in the country. Under the distinguished chairmanship of **Sri Madhav Kaushik**, the Executive Board convened in its recent meeting to finalize the recipients of the prestigious **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025**.

Complete List of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Winners

Language-Wise Award Recipients

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

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Mahabharathar Padya (Poetry)	Surendra Mohan Das
Bengali	Echhara Gaye Katha Daye (Stories)	Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
Bodo	Khanthi Boronn Ang Abhu Duhui (Stories)	Binay Kumar Brahma
Dogri	Nachi Tor (Poetry)	P.L.Parihar “Shaad”
English	Dibakar Sinha Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories)	Nitin Kushalappa MP
Gujarati	Trivak (Poetry)	Kirtida Brahmabhatt
Hindi	Ek Kaley Bara (Short Stories)	Sushil Shukla
Kannada	Notebook (Short Stories)	K. Shivaling gappa Harisdhal

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Kashmiri	Shure Ta Toturu Gyash (Short Stories)	Ishar Mubaashir
Konkani	Betekaddo Shankar Aani Haar Karyo (Stories)	Nayima Adankar
Maithili	Oudika (Short Stories)	Murari Kanaik
Malayalam	Rangamandalache Yaadravadi (Novel)	Sreejith Moolkodaan
Manipuri	Anganganginage Shamahungsida (Play)	Shanta M.
Marathi	Aathamanga (Poetry)	Sudish Sawant
Nepali	Shanti Van (Novel)	Sangmu Lepcha
Odia	Kete Phula Phutachi (Poetry)	Rajkishore Parhi
Punjabi	Jadoo Patka (Novel)	Pal Khadim, Bhagwant Singh, Daryopal Kailash
Rajasthani	Panahravansh Ni Pira (Drama)	Jitendra Sharma
Sanskrit	Balviyaam (Poetry)	Preeti Pujara
Santali	Sona Mou-ag Sandesh (Poetry)	Hansda Murmu
Sindhi	Asman Hari (Poetry)	Heena Agranis “Veer”
Tamil	Ottrai Sirago Orva (Novel)	Vishuguram Sarvanain
Telugu	Kakurla Devatha (Story)	Ganjarotti Sivakumar
Urdu	Quami Sitare (Articles)	Ghazanfar Iqbal

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 Winners

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

Complete List of Yuva Puraskar 2025 Recipients

Comprehensive Winner’s Table

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

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

QS World Rankings 2026: Top 10 & Best Indian Universities

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

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

In a press release, **QS (Quacquarelli Symonds)** confirmed that nearly **500 institutions** have **improved their positions** compared to the previous year. This improvement is based on metrics like **citations per faculty, international student ratio, and sustainability**.

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

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

Top 10 Universities in QS World University Rankings 2026

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

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

Top Indian varsities in the global list

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

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

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

Why in News?

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

About the Award

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

Categories of distinction

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

PM Modi’s Response

“Humbled to receive the ‘Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III’ of Cyprus. I dedicate it to the friendship between our nations.” Shared this on X.

Strengthening Bilateral Ties

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

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

Both nations expressed intent to,

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

Historic Visit Highlights

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

India to Launch First All-India Household Income Survey in 2026

In a landmark step towards strengthening data-driven policymaking, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has announced that it will conduct the first-ever All-India Household Income Survey in 2026. This move will help understand income distribution, assess technological impacts on wages, and fill existing gaps in welfare and economic inequality data. The survey will be guided by a Technical Expert Group (TEG) chaired by Surjit Bhalla, former Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Why in News?

The Ministry of Statistics has confirmed the launch of a nationwide household income survey in 2026, a first-of-its-kind effort to capture accurate income data from Indian households. It seeks to address longstanding data gaps, particularly in income, wage patterns, and technology’s influence on earnings, which are crucial for welfare and economic policies.

Objectives and Aims

- To capture income distribution patterns across Indian households.
- To assess the impact of technology adoption on household wages and earnings.
- To enable better targeting of welfare schemes through accurate income data.
- To align with international best practices in income data collection.

Technical Oversight

- Technical Expert Group (TEG) set up under the leadership of Surjit Bhalla.

The TEG will provide guidance on,

- Survey concepts and definitions
- Sampling design
- Estimation methods
- Incorporating global best practices from countries like the US, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.

Implementation and Strategy

- Survey to be executed by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- Expected to include diverse income sources – wages, self-employment, remittances, and digital earnings.
- Will improve upon earlier efforts that faced field-level data reliability issues.
- Efforts will be made to ensure transparency, accuracy, and granular regional insights.

Significance

- First dedicated income-centric survey in independent India.
- Will help bridge gaps in existing economic surveys, which primarily focus on consumption or employment.
- Useful for policymakers, economists, and planners to tackle income inequality and improve social safety nets.
- Could lead to restructuring of income-based welfare schemes like PM-KISAN, subsidy targeting, or DBT frameworks.

Global Peace Index 2025: A Deep Dive into Global Stability and Rising Tensions

The **Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025**, now in its **19th edition**, remains the world’s leading measure of **national and regional peacefulness**. Developed by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, the index offers invaluable insight into the **peacefulness of 163 countries**, covering **99.7% of the global population**. In a world experiencing an uptick in geopolitical instability, the GPI serves as a crucial indicator of current global trends in **conflict, safety, and militarisation**.

What is the Global Peace Index?

The **Global Peace Index** is an **annual quantitative analysis** that evaluates peace based on **23 indicators** across **three main domains**:

- **Societal Safety and Security**
- **Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict**
- **Degree of Militarisation**

Published by the **Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)**—a non-partisan, independent think tank based in Sydney—the GPI has become a widely respected benchmark for governments, researchers, and institutions working towards **sustainable peace and security reforms**.

Top 10 Most Peaceful Countries in 2025

Despite widespread unrest, some nations maintain high levels of peace:

Rank	Country	GPI Score	Region
1	Iceland	1.095	Europe
2	Ireland	1.260	Europe
3	New Zealand	1.282	Oceania
4	Austria	1.294	Europe
5	Switzerland	1.294	Europe
6	Singapore	1.357	Asia
7	Portugal	1.371	Europe
8	Denmark	1.393	Europe
9	Slovenia	1.409	Europe
10	Finland	1.420	Europe



Most Peaceful Nation: Iceland

Iceland has retained its position as the world’s most peaceful country since 2008, credited to its **low crime rates, stable politics, and lack of military forces.**

Least Peaceful Countries in 2025

The bottom of the GPI ranking highlights ongoing crises:

Rank	Country	GPI Score	Region
163	Russia	3.441	Eurasia
162	Ukraine	3.434	Europe
161	Sudan	3.323	Africa
160	DRC	3.292	Africa
159	Yemen	3.262	Middle East

Least Peaceful Nation: Russia

Due to the prolonged war in Ukraine, sanctions, and internal political repression, **Russia ranks last**, followed by Ukraine.

India’s Performance in Global Peace Index 2025

India ranks **115th out of 163** nations, with a GPI score of **2.229**, reflecting a **0.58% improvement** over the previous year. India’s trajectory has shown gradual improvement over recent years:

- 2025: Rank 115
- 2024: Rank 116
- 2023: Rank 126
- 2020: Rank 139
- 2019: Rank 141

Despite **internal unrest, cross-border tensions,** and **militarisation,** India has seen improvements in **crime perception, political stability,** and **terrorist impact** indicators.

India vs South Asia

While South Asia remains the **least peaceful region,** India has outperformed several regional neighbours:

Country	GPI Rank
India	115
Bangladesh	123
Pakistan	144
Afghanistan	158

Shubhanshu Shukla Pilots Axiom-4 on SpaceX Falcon 9 to ISS

On **25 June 2025 at 12:01 pm IST,** **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** began his ascent to the International Space Station on board **SpaceX’s Falcon 9 Block 5** from **Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center.** This marks the **second time an Indian** has ventured into space and the **first Indian to live and work onboard the ISS.**

Who Is Shubhanshu Shukla? A Pilot Turned Astronaut

Born on **10 October 1985** in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh,** Shukla graduated from the **National Defence Academy** in 2005 and was commissioned into the IAF’s Fighter Stream in **June 2006.** By **March 2024,** he had risen to the rank of **Group Captain,** accruing over **2,000 hours of flight time** in combat aircraft like Su-30 MKI, MiG-21/29, Jaguar, and Hawk. He joined **ISRO’s Gaganyaan astronaut cadre in 2019,** trained in Russia and Bengaluru, and was named to the **Ax-4 mission crew** in early 2024.

Falcon 9 Block 5 & Crew Dragon: A Trusted Pair

The **Falcon 9 Block 5,** certified by NASA in November 2020, is a reusable, medium-lift rocket noted for its **100% crewed mission success rate** and redundant systems. The mission uses a **new Crew Dragon capsule,** piloted autonomously, ferrying a **four-member international crew** to the ISS.

A Global Crew and Mission Objectives

Axiom-4’s command structure includes former NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson** and mission specialists from **Poland** and **Hungary,** alongside pilot Shukla. Over **14 days,** the crew will conduct **around 60 scientific experiments,** seven of which are **Indian-designed,** spanning microgravity, biology, and materials science.

A Milestone for India’s Space Odyssey

This mission represents India’s **first government-backed presence on the ISS** and the nation’s long-awaited return to human spaceflight since **Rakesh Sharma’s 1984 mission.** It also complements the **Gaganyaan programme,** positioning India alongside global spacefaring nations.

Technical Delays and Final Countdown

The launch was postponed multiple times due to **weather, technical, and safety checks** including a **liquid oxygen leak in early June.** Ultimately, the team resolved all issues, and the **final launch window opened on 25 June .**

10 Years of AMRUT: Transforming Urban India

India celebrates 10 years of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), launched on June 25, 2015, as a flagship scheme to improve urban living standards by ensuring water supply, sewerage, green spaces, and urban mobility. With more than 2 crore tap connections, 1.5 crore sewer links, and ₹2.73 lakh crore worth of projects sanctioned, AMRUT has become a cornerstone of India’s urban transformation story.

Why in News?

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) marked a decade of AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 on June 25, 2025, showcasing key milestones and outcomes in improving water supply, sanitation, stormwater drainage, and urban mobility across Indian cities. The scheme’s success demonstrates India’s progress towards sustainable and inclusive urban development.

Objectives of AMRUT

- Provide tap water and sewerage connections to every urban household.
- Create green spaces and parks to enhance livability.
- Promote non-motorized transport and reduce urban pollution.
- Empower Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) through reforms and capacity building.

Achievements (2015–2025)

Water Supply

- **2.03 crore** tap connections provided.
- 3,568 projects worth ₹1.14 lakh crore approved under AMRUT 2.0.
- 10,647 MLD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) capacity sanctioned.
- SCADA technology adopted in 1,487 projects for real-time monitoring.

Sewerage & Septage Management

- 1.50 crore sewer connections achieved.
- 592 projects worth ₹67,607 crore approved under AMRUT 2.0.
- 6,739 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity approved.
- Use of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and decentralized networks promoted.

Energy Efficiency

- 99 lakh LED streetlights installed.
- Annual savings: 666 crore kWh and reduction of 46 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Green Spaces

- Parks with child- and elderly-friendly features in cities.
- 544 water bodies rejuvenated under AMRUT, covering 9,511 acres.
- Additional 3,032 water bodies approved under AMRUT 2.0 for rejuvenation.

Urban Mobility

- Facilities for non-motorized transport (walkways, cycle paths, BRTS).
- Focus on ferry vessels, footbridges, and multi-level parking.

Financing & Capacity Building

- ₹4,984 crore raised by 13 ULBs via municipal bonds.
- Over 90,000 personnel trained including plumbers, plant operators, and officials.
- Introduction of Technology Sub-Mission and support to 120 start-ups for urban innovation.

AMRUT 2.0 Highlights (Launched October 1, 2021):

- Covers all ULBs, aims for universal water and sewerage coverage.
- Outlay: ₹2.99 lakh crore (₹76,760 crore Central share).
- Promotes water reuse, recycling, and sustainable resource use via initiatives like “Jal Hi AMRIT”.

Kerala Sahitya Akademi Announces 2024 Literary Award Winners

The Kerala Sahitya Akademi, the premier literary body of the state, has announced the recipients of its 2024 literary awards, celebrating both emerging talents and veteran writers in Malayalam literature. The awards honour excellence in genres ranging from novels and poetry to drama, biography, and translation, reinforcing the Akademi’s commitment to fostering literary culture in Kerala.

Why in News?

The 2024 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Awards were officially declared on June 26, 2025, in Thrissur, recognizing a wide array of Malayalam literary contributions. The awards hold great cultural significance and are considered among the most prestigious recognitions for Malayalam writers.

Key Awardees and Categories

- **Best Novel:** G R Indugopan for Aano
- **Poetry:** Anitha Thampi for Muringa Vazha Kariveppu
- **Short Story:** V Shinilal for Garisappa Aruvi Athava Oru Jalayathra
- **Essay (Sibi Kumar Endowment Award):** M Swaraj for Pookkalude Pusthakam

Akademi Fellowship & Lifetime Contribution Awards

- **Fellowship:** K V Ramakrishnan
- **Lifetime Contribution:** Ezhacheri Ramachandran

Additionally, six authors were honoured with Lifetime Contribution Awards,

- P K N Panicker
- Payyannur Kunhiraman
- M M Narayanan
- T K Gangadharan
- K E N
- Mallika Yunis

Other Categories

- **Drama:** Sashidharan Naduvil
- **Literary Criticism:** G Dileep
- **Scientific Literature:** Deepak V
- **Biography/Autobiography:** Dr K Rajashekharan Nair
- **Travel Writing:** K R Ajayan
- **Translation:** Chinthu Prakash
- **Children’s Literature:** E N Sheeja
- **Humour:** Nirranjan

Awards Details

- **Regular Awards:** ₹25,000 cash prize, plaque, and certificate.
- **Fellowship & Major Lifetime Awards:** ₹50,000, a two-sovereign gold medal, shawl, citation, and plaque.
- **Other Lifetime Awards:** ₹30,000, plaque, shawl, and certificate.
- Notably, no winner was selected for the Vilasini Award this year.

India's Strategic Autonomy on Display at SCO 2025

At the 2025 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Qingdao, China, India's Defence Minister made headlines by refusing to sign the joint statement at the Defence Ministers' meeting. The draft omitted any reference to the Pahalgam terror attack, despite highlighting the Jaffar Express hijacking in Pakistan, prompting India to reject the final statement. This firm stance underscored India's unwavering commitment to fighting terrorism and maintaining strategic autonomy, sending a strong signal to the international community.

Why in News?

India's refusal to sign the SCO joint statement in June 2025 marks a significant diplomatic shift. The action spotlights India's consistent zero-tolerance stance on terrorism and its readiness to stand alone within multilateral frameworks when core security concerns are diluted or ignored.

Understanding the SCO: Static & Background Facts

- **Founded:** 2001 (evolved from Shanghai Five, 1996)
- **Members (2025):** India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Belarus
- **Headquarters:** Secretariat – Beijing, RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) – Tashkent

Key Focus Areas

- Counter-terrorism
- Regional security
- Economic cooperation

India's Strategic Calculations

- Refusal to sign reflects zero-tolerance for selective treatment of terror incidents.
- Strong message: Peace and terrorism cannot coexist.
- Contextually significant as it was the first Indian ministerial visit to China post the 2020 LAC standoff.
- India took a principled stand despite diplomatic pressure from dominant SCO players.

Implications for Regional Security

- RATS has a record of effective coordination,
- Prevented 20 attacks (2011–2015)
 - Facilitated arrests of extremist elements
 - India's move raises concerns about the credibility of SCO's counter-terror commitments.
 - Highlights fault lines in multilateral cooperation when national interests diverge.

China's Influence & India's Response

- China leveraged its position as 2025 SCO chair, excluded Pahalgam attack.
- Most SCO members back China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), unlike India.

India also resisted,

- BRI endorsements (SCO 2023)
- BRICS currency basket (2023)
- India's approach emphasizes issue-based engagement.

Strategic Autonomy in Action

- India engages in SCO, BRICS, Quad, G20 without being bound by any alliance.
- Strategy: Maximum engagement, minimum entanglement.

SCO is key for,

- Access to Central Asian energy and markets
- Security cooperation, especially against terrorism

Lessons for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

True collaboration requires,

- Unified definitions of terrorism
- Honest acknowledgement of all terror acts
- Bilateral rivalries (India-Pakistan) often disrupt multilateral actions.
- Consensus model of SCO may hinder decisive action in critical areas.

Future Outlook

India likely to pursue,

- Selective engagement within SCO
- Active participation in functional areas (e.g., RATS)
- Continued stand on principled foreign policy
- Despite political challenges, SCO remains useful for India's regional interests.

Cabinet Approvals

- **Cabinet Approves Two Railway Multitracking Projects:** The Cabinet has approved two multitracking railway projects costing ₹6,405 crore—Koderma–Barkakana (133 km) in Jharkhand and Ballari–Chikjajur (185 km) in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh—adding 318 km to the rail network. These will ease travel, lower logistics cost, reduce CO₂ emissions (264 crore kg), and oil imports (52 crore litres). The projects cover 7 districts, benefit 1,408 villages (population ~28.19 lakh), and generate 108 lakh human-days of employment. These strategic projects are aligned with the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan.
- **Cabinet Observes 50 Years Since Emergency:** To mark 50 years of the Emergency (1975–77), the Union Cabinet paid tribute to those who resisted the curtailment of democratic rights, observing a two-minute silence. The resolution reaffirmed India's commitment to constitutional values and democratic resilience, calling for renewed efforts to protect the Constitution and federal spirit.

- **Cabinet Approves International Potato Centre in Agra:** A South Asia Regional Centre of the International Potato Centre (CIP) will be set up in Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, to boost food security, farmer income, and employment. It will develop high-yielding, climate-resilient potato and sweetpotato varieties and improve post-harvest and value chain systems across India and South Asia.
- **Pune Metro Rail Phase-2 Approved:** The Cabinet has cleared Pune Metro Phase-2—Corridor 2A (Vanaz–Chandani Chowk) and 2B (Ramwadi–Wagholi)—covering 12.75 km with 13 stations at a cost of ₹3,626.24 crore. These extensions will connect major IT hubs and suburbs, ease traffic on key roads, integrate with other metro lines, and boost ridership to 3.49 lakh daily by 2057.
- **Revised Jharia Master Plan Cleared:** A revised plan worth ₹5,940.47 crore has been approved to tackle fire, subsidence, and rehabilitation in Jharia Coalfield. It includes relocation from vulnerable sites, livelihood grants of ₹1 lakh, credit up to ₹3 lakh, and development of roads, electricity, water, schools, and hospitals. A dedicated fund and skill training will ensure sustainable livelihood for affected families.

Parliament News

State-wise October Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **Google inaugurated its first Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad on June 18, 2025,** solidifying India's role in global **cybersecurity and responsible AI development**. Inaugurated by **CM A Revanth Reddy**, the centre will combat **online fraud**, ensure **infrastructure safety**, and develop **AI-driven security solutions** like **real-time scam alerts** and **SynthID watermarking**. With its Hyderabad operations since 2007, Google reaffirmed its commitment to **user safety, job creation, and skilling**. The launch aligns with India's AI transformation strategy and Telangana's vision of becoming a **\$1 trillion economy** by 2035. ([Click here to read article](#))

Assam

- **Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** has announced two **landmark reforms** aimed at **gender inclusion and grassroots empowerment**. The **transgender community** will now be classified under the **Other Backward Classes (OBC)** category, enabling access to **education, jobs, and welfare benefits**. Additionally, **Anganwadi workers** will receive **50% reservation in supervisor-level positions** within the **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, recognizing their contributions in **nutrition and child care**. These initiatives, unveiled during a ceremonial event in Guwahati, mark a **progressive shift** in Assam's welfare and recruitment policy. ([Click here to read article](#))

Bihar

- On **June 10, 2025**, Bihar CM **Nitish Kumar** inaugurated the **Bikram Lock Canal Solar Project**, a **2 MW green energy plant** built at **no cost to the state**. Developed under the **Jal-Jeevan-Hariyali Abhiyan**, the project utilizes canal-side land to produce clean energy at ₹3.10 per unit for 25 years. It not only boosts **renewable energy generation**, but also reduces **carbon emissions**, ensures **affordable rural electrification**, and strengthens **sustainable development** in the state. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic move**, Bihar becomes the **first Indian state** to implement **mobile-based e-voting**, set to launch during the **28th June municipal elections**. Developed by **C-DAC** and the **Bihar State Election Commission**, the **Android-based system** aims to boost **inclusive voting** by enabling **migrant workers, senior citizens, pregnant women, and Divyang voters** to vote remotely. With features like **blockchain technology, live face scan, biometric verification, and audit trails**, the system ensures **digital security, transparency, and tamper-proof voting**, revolutionizing India's democratic process. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **pre-election welfare boost**, Bihar Chief Minister **Nitish Kumar** has raised **social security pensions** from ₹400 to **₹1,100 per month**, benefiting over **1 crore elderly, widows, and disabled citizens** starting **July 2025**. The hike, the first since 2005, coincides with **Assembly elections** later this year and is aimed at strengthening **NDA's political positioning** amid **Opposition welfare promises**. Additional decisions, such as **higher allowances for panchayat leaders** and **enhanced financial powers**, further demonstrate Nitish's strategy to secure support in **rural Bihar**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move**, Union Power Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** announced that Bihar will get its **first nuclear power plant**, based on **Small Modular Reactor (SMR)** technology, making it one of six states selected under India's **₹20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission**. Aimed at tackling Bihar's **power deficit**, this **cost-effective, compact, and scalable SMR system** will boost **energy security, industrial growth, and sustainability**. Complementing this, a **1,000 MW battery storage** project has been approved, alongside praise for Bihar's reforms like **8 million smart meters** and a sharp drop in power losses. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a bold blend of **politics and infrastructure**, Bihar CM **Nitish Kumar** inaugurated a **4.57 km six-lane bridge** over the **Ganges**, linking **Patna to Raghapur**—the political bastion of his rival **Lalu Prasad** and his son **Tejashwi Yadav**. The move, just ahead of elections, signals Kumar's strategic outreach into **opposition territory**, where he was warmly received, highlighting his confidence and the bridge's potential to boost **connectivity, regional development, and his political narrative** of progress and inclusion. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Bihar government has constituted a **nine-member trust** named **Shree Janaki Janm Bhumi Punaura Dham Mandir Nyas Samiti** to oversee the **construction** of a **grand Maa Janaki temple** at **Punaura Dham, Sitamarhi**, believed to be the **birthplace of Goddess Sita**. Chaired by the **Chief Secretary**, the trust includes top officials and religious representatives. Announced after **Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** unveiled the temple's **final design** on June 22, the project aims to boost **religious tourism**, enhance **infrastructure**, and position Sitamarhi as a major **spiritual destination** modeled on the **Ram temple in Ayodhya**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Gujarat

- Justice Neranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda** officially took charge as a **judge of the Gujarat High Court** on **June 9, 2025**, after his **transfer from the Karnataka High Court**. The oath was administered by **Chief Justice Sunita Agrawal** during a ceremony in Vadodara. At **58 years old**, Justice Gowda has had a distinguished legal career since **1989**, and was appointed a **permanent judge in Karnataka in 2021**. His transfer is part of a **Supreme Court Collegium** initiative to promote **diversity** and **judicial efficiency** by redistributing experienced judges across High Courts. ([Click here to read article](#))

Himachal Pradesh

- The **Government of India** has approved a **₹2,006.40 crore relief package** for **Himachal Pradesh** under the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** to support **recovery and reconstruction** following the **2023 monsoon disasters**. Over **550 people died** during the floods and landslides. The decision, made by a **high-level committee led by Union Home Minister Amit Shah**, includes **₹1,504.80 crore** as the **Centre's share**. The state had earlier sought **₹9,042 crore** under PDNA. This move reflects a **national commitment to disaster resilience** and follows similar packages to **Uttarakhand and Sikkim**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Karnataka

- Karnataka has tightened its **tobacco regulations** by enacting the **COTPA (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2024**, which raises the legal age for purchasing tobacco to **21**, imposes a **statewide ban on hookah bars**, prohibits the sale of **loose cigarettes**, and increases the **fine for public smoking** to **₹1,000**. The **High Court upheld** the ban, citing **Article 47** of the Constitution. These reforms are intended to reduce tobacco addiction and improve **public health** standards across the state.

- The **Karnataka Cabinet** has approved a **15% housing reservation for religious minorities**, increasing it from the earlier **10%**, as part of state housing schemes. **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** and **DCM DK Shivakumar** defended the move as a **social welfare measure** aimed at addressing **minority housing shortages** and reducing the number of **vacant homes**. However, the **BJP criticized** the decision as **vote-bank politics** and termed it **unconstitutional**. The Cabinet also made decisions regarding **mango farmer compensation**, scheduling a **cabinet meet at Nandi Hills**, and declaring **Apsarakonda-Mughali** a new **marine wildlife sanctuary**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Kerala

- In a landmark conservation effort, **Kerala** has inaugurated **India's first butterfly sanctuary** by officially renaming the **Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary**. Located in the **Western Ghats**, the sanctuary now harbours over **266 species of butterflies**, including several **rare, endemic, and endangered** varieties. This initiative follows 25 years of **persistent efforts by forest officials, researchers, and nature lovers**. Featuring **seasonal butterfly migrations**, active **research partnerships**, and ongoing species discoveries, the **Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary** is poised to become a cornerstone of **biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Kerala** has secured the top rank in the **Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2020–2025**, becoming the only state rated **"Very Good"** with a score of **76.22%**. **Eravikulam National Park** emerged as the **best-managed protected area** in India with a **92.97%** score, followed closely by **Mathikettan Shola NP**. The evaluation covered **438 National Parks and Sanctuaries**, assessing their **biodiversity conservation, management performance, and ecological sustainability**. The recognition underscores Kerala's leadership in **wildlife protection, habitat management, and community-led conservation** efforts. ([Click here to read article](#))

Maharashtra

- The **Government of Maharashtra** has rolled out a new digital initiative assigning a **geo-tagged 13-digit unique ID** to all **infrastructure projects** in the state. Launched through the **Infra ID portal**, the system will enhance **transparency**, facilitate **inter-departmental coordination**, and prevent **project duplication**. Beginning with **Wardha district** and key development departments, the full rollout will start **October 1, 2025**, with registration of projects from the **last five years** to be completed by **March 2026**. This move leverages the **MRSAC platform** for real-time tracking and ensures each public asset has a **traceable digital identity**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The Maharashtra government's new directive under the **State Curriculum Framework 2024** declares **Hindi as the default third language from Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English medium schools**, with the option to study another **Indian language** if **20 students per class** request it. While aligned with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the move has been criticized by the **opposition and language activists** as a veiled attempt to **reimpose Hindi** despite earlier assurances that it wouldn't be mandatory. ([Click here to read article](#))

Mizoram

- Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi** has become the **first female Aide-De-Camp (ADC)** in Indian history to be appointed to a **Governor**, marking a significant moment in the **Indian Armed Forces**. Appointed to serve the **Governor of Mizoram**, this landmark posting reflects India's **growing commitment to gender inclusivity** in military ceremonial roles. With prior experience across **multiple Air Force stations**, **Padhi's achievement** sets a new precedent for **women officers** aspiring to serve at high-ranking, prestigious posts. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic stride towards educational equity**, Tripura has been declared **fully literate** under the **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram**, joining **Mizoram** and **Goa** in achieving over **95% literacy** among individuals aged **15 and above**. The success is attributed to robust **community participation**, widespread **door-to-door mobilization**, and digital tools like the **ULLAS app**. Launched in **2022**, the ULLAS scheme aligns with **NEP 2020** and supports **Viksit Bharat @2047** by empowering youth and adults with **foundational skills** and **lifelong learning** opportunities. ([Click here to read article](#))

Meghalaya

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) is establishing its **first regional campus in Shillong, Meghalaya**, with funding under the **PM-DevINE** scheme. The ₹100.95 crore investment aims to transform the region into a **policy and training hub**, promoting **corporate governance**, **entrepreneurship**, and **capacity building**. Situated within the **Knowledge City cluster**, the new campus will support national missions like **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and **Vikshit Bharat @2047**, while fulfilling the government's vision of **inclusive and decentralized development** in the **North East region**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh government has made **digital attendance mandatory** for all government school teachers starting **1 July 2025** via the '**Humare Shikshak**' platform. Integrated with the **Education 3.0 portal**, the system ensures

real-time tracking, with penalties such as **casual leave deductions** for non-compliance. Aimed at improving **transparency**, **record-keeping**, and **administrative efficiency**, this move impacts lakhs of education department employees across the state. ([Click here to read article](#))

Odisha

- On **June 20, 2025**, **PM Modi** launched multiple **rail projects worth ₹2,750 crore** in **Odisha**, marking a significant push toward **regional connectivity and development**. The **inauguration of the Sonepur–Purunakatak rail line** connected **Boudh district** to India's rail network for the first time. Other highlights include **freight facilities**, **road over bridges**, and new **weekly train services**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Punjab

- Punjab has recorded a **20% surge in cotton cultivation** in 2025, expanding to **2.98 lakh acres** across the state. This increase aligns with the government's **crop diversification agenda** aimed at reducing reliance on **water-guzzling paddy**. The state is offering a **33% subsidy on cotton seeds**, and over **49,000 farmers** have registered under the initiative. With **Fazilka, Mansa, Bathinda**, and **Sri Muksar Sahib** leading in cultivation, Punjab's focus on **sustainable agriculture** and **digital farmer outreach** is showing tangible results. ([Click here to read article](#))

Tamil Nadu

- An **ancient Shiva temple**, dating back to the **later Pandya period**, was recently discovered in **Udampatti village**, Tamil Nadu. The **foundation** and **inscriptions from 1217-1218 CE** confirm the site's historical significance. The temple, named **Thennavanisvaram**, was once financially self-sustained and located in a village then known as **Attur**. The detailed **sale deeds** on the stone base shed light on **land ownership**, **water resource management**, and **temple endowments** during Pandya rule. This archaeological finding is a critical window into **medieval Tamil heritage**, **Pandya dynasty administration**, and **temple economy systems**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Tamil Nadu government** declared **Dhanushkodi** as a **Greater Flamingo Sanctuary** to protect migratory birds, particularly **Greater and Lesser Flamingos**, along the **Central Asian Flyway**. Covering **524.7 hectares**, the sanctuary includes **mangroves**, **mudflats**, and **marshes**, forming a rich ecosystem within the **Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve**. With over **10,700 birds** from **128 species** recorded, the sanctuary plays a crucial role in **wetland conservation**, **ecotourism**, and **climate resilience**. The move was inaugurated by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin** during the **World Environment Day** celebration. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Prayoga Institute of Education Research**, in collaboration with the **SBI Foundation** and **SBI Funds Management**, launched the **Kriya programme** in **12 government schools** of **Raichur district** on **June 17, 2025**. Aligned with **NEP 2020**, the initiative aims to provide **experiential science learning** for students from **Classes 6 to 10**, encouraging **critical thinking** and **inquiry-based education**. Having already impacted over **11,000 students** in **Karnataka**, the programme marks a key milestone in Prayoga's mission to **transform rural STEM education** through scalable, **research-backed methods**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Uttar Pradesh

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, led by **CM Yogi Adityanath**, has approved **20% horizontal reservation** for **former Agniveers** in various **police recruitment posts** including Constables and Firemen. The move aligns with the **Agneepath scheme**, offering **age relaxation** and inclusive benefits across categories like **SC, ST, OBC, and General**. Starting in **2026**, this policy ensures continued **employment and recognition** for Agniveers, promoting both **security** and **youth welfare**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Uttar Pradesh has topped the nation in **digital public procurement**, registering a cumulative ₹65,227.68 crore worth of orders on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** between FY 2020 and FY 2025. In FY 2024–25 alone, the state processed **72 lakh orders worth ₹5.43 lakh crore**, showcasing its commitment to **e-governance, transparency**, and **efficient public service delivery**. The **November 2024 reforms**, aligning with **GFR 2017**, enabled **100% GeM adoption**, setting an example for other states under the **Digital India initiative**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 20, 2025**, **U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated the **91.35 km Gorakhpur Link Expressway**, built at a cost of **₹7,283 crore**, highlighting the state's transformation from **BIMARU status** to an **'Expressway State'**. Connecting **Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, and Ambedkar Nagar**, the expressway strengthens **infrastructure, boosts trade**, and paves the way for **investment and regional upliftment**. The initiative reflects the **double-engine government's** focus on **inclusive development**, positioning U.P. as a **national growth engine**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Salkhan Fossils Park** in **Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh**, has been added to **UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites**, recognizing its **1.4 billion-year-old stromatolite and algae fossils**—some of the **oldest known evidence of life on Earth**. The park's nomination was backed by a scientific study conducted by the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences** and is supported by the **UP eco-tourism board** under **CM Yogi Adityanath**. This move is expected to significantly enhance the state's **eco-tourism potential**, bring **international recognition**, and contribute to **scientific research**. ([Click here to read article](#))

West Bengal

- The **Calcutta High Court** has permitted a **15-year-old boy** to adopt his **stepfather's surname**, upholding the rights of **custodial parents** and recognizing **modern family dynamics**. Though the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC)** opposed the change, the court ruled that **surname** falls within the scope of **Section 454** of the **Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act**, which allows for name alterations. However, the court denied the plea to change the **biological father's name** due to the lack of a **legal adoption order**. **Justice Kaushik Chanda** emphasized that statutory time limits can be interpreted **flexibly** when justified by circumstances. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Calcutta High Court** has ordered the **Centre to resume MGNREGA operations in West Bengal** starting **August 1, 2025**, after a **three-year suspension** due to alleged irregularities. The court stressed the need to separate **past misconduct** from the **future right to livelihood**, restoring work opportunities to over **25 million rural workers**. The scheme's revival is seen as a **victory for civil rights**, with advocates hailing it as a turning point for **rural employment, economic justice, and public accountability** in India's flagship **social welfare programme**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Union Territories:

- In a **historic decision**, **President Droupadi Murmu** promulgated three major regulations for **Ladakh** on **June 3, 2025**. The **Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation** ensures **85% reservation** in public jobs for locals. The **Ladakh Official Languages Regulation** recognizes **English, Hindi, Urdu, Bhoti, and Purgi** as **official languages**, while promoting native tongues like **Shina, Brokskat, and Balti**. Additionally, the **Hill Councils Amendment** mandates **33% reservation for women** in **Leh and Kargil**. These steps enhance **local empowerment**, promote **linguistic and cultural heritage**, and boost **women's representation** in governance. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 9, 2025**, **Puducherry** became the **19th legislature** in India to adopt the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)**, a digital platform for **paperless legislative functioning**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan**. The initiative supports the **Digital India** vision, enabling **real-time legislative transparency, livestreaming**, and saving paper, with **100% central funding**. NeVA represents a step toward **"One Nation, One Application"**, furthering **eco-friendly governance, citizen access, and institutional efficiency**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Delhi Government** is set to begin **cloud-seeding trials** by late June 2025, marking a significant move in **weather modification** technology to potentially combat **pollution** and **water scarcity**. The ₹3.21 crore pilot project, involving **five aerial trials** with seeding agents like **silver iodide and salts**, is being conducted with support from **IIT Kanpur, IMD, and multiple national agencies**. The trials will assess **rainfall induction** efficiency, and environmental safety, while avoiding restricted air zones in the city. ([Click here to read article](#))

June Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The Government of India has launched the **SPMEPCI scheme** to accelerate the growth of the **domestic electric vehicle industry** by offering import duty concessions and supporting local manufacturing. By allowing **brownfield investments** and capping imports with rollover provisions, the government aims to attract major global players and bolster India's **clean mobility agenda**. However, Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy confirmed that **Tesla is not planning** to manufacture cars in India, underlining the challenge of securing foreign investment in the EV space. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DHRUVA policy**, launched by India's **Department of Posts**, introduces a **nationwide, geo-coded digital address system** designed to modernize how address data is used, stored, and shared. Recognising address information as foundational public infrastructure, DHRUVA ensures **secure, standardised, and consent-based address management**. It leverages the **Address-as-a-Service (AaaS)** model to benefit sectors ranging from governance to logistics. By integrating this digital approach, India strengthens its **digital public infrastructure** to support **inclusive growth, user privacy, and service innovation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 6, 2025**, **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA)** to integrate **Indian languages into administrative and governance processes**, minimizing the dominance of English. Backed by ₹56 crore in funding and supported by **C-DAC**, this platform will ensure real-time translation and allow communication in **mother tongues**, especially with **Region C States**. The initiative resonates with the **NEP 2020 vision** and strengthens **linguistic inclusivity and national unity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India** has introduced a **technology-based system** to automate the creation of **Index Cards and Statistical Reports**, replacing earlier manual methods. This change, under the guidance of **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**, will significantly **accelerate post-poll data dissemination**, offering detailed insights into **electoral demographics, voting patterns, and party performance**.

Aimed at researchers and policymakers, this initiative reinforces **transparency, data accessibility, and academic engagement** with India's democratic processes. ([Click here to read article](#))

- On **World Environment Day 2025**, **PM Narendra Modi** launched the '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0**' campaign in **Delhi**, aiming to plant **10 crore trees** across India by **September 30**. The initiative, blending **environmental consciousness** with **cultural values**, encourages individuals to **plant a tree in their mother's name**. Additionally, the Prime Minister flagged off **200 electric buses** in the capital to promote **clean urban transport** and tackle **air pollution**. These actions reflect India's strengthened commitment to **sustainable development, climate action, and green mobility**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Delhi government** has announced India's **first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park** in **Holambi Kalan, North Delhi**, aiming to promote a **circular economy** and **sustainable urban living**, with **Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa** confirming plans to issue a **global tender** for advanced **green technology partnerships**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has launched the **Ayush Nivesh Saarthi Portal**, a digital platform developed by the **Ministry of Ayush and Invest India** to attract and assist **domestic and international investors** in the **Ayush sector**—covering **Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy**. The portal provides **investment policies, project listings, benefits, and real-time support**, aiming to boost **FDI, support startups, and capitalize on the sector's 17% annual growth** between 2014 and 2020. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has introduced a **cap of 10 projects per Engineer** for consultancy firms working on **national highway construction and maintenance projects**. This move aims to improve **supervision quality**, prevent overburdening of engineers, and ensure **contract compliance** under project modes like **HAM and EPC**. Effective after **60 days**, the rule mandates monthly site visits and inputs into **progress reports**, significantly boosting the quality and safety of India's highway infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**, launched by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, is India's **largest tribal empowerment campaign**, covering over **549 tribal districts, 2,900+ blocks, and 1 lakh villages**. The campaign ensures **benefit saturation** by delivering key services such as **Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat cards, PM-Kisan registration, Jan Dhan accounts, pensions, and skill development** at the doorstep of tribal households. Implemented as part of **Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh**, and supported by programs like **PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA**, the initiative marks a major step in **inclusive governance and last-mile delivery**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Maruti Suzuki India has inaugurated **India's largest automobile in-plant railway siding** at its **Manesar plant**, marking a major step towards **green logistics**. Aligned with the **PM Gati Shakti Master Plan**, the ₹452 crore facility is part of the **126 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor**. It will **dispatch 4.5 lakh vehicles annually**, cut **1.75 lakh tonnes of CO₂ emissions**, and **save 60 million litres of fuel** per year. With this, MSIL aims to **increase rail-based dispatches to 35% by FY2030–31**, supporting India's vision of a **net-zero emission economy by 2070**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** has introduced a **₹3,000 FASTag Annual Pass**, starting **August 15, 2025**, for **private vehicles like cars, jeeps, and vans**. Valid for **one year or 200 trips**, this initiative aims to **reduce toll-related disputes**, especially where plazas are closely spaced, and encourage a **digital-first tolling system**. The pass can be activated through the **Rajmarg Yatra App** or official **NHAI/MoRTH platforms**, offering an **affordable, hassle-free travel experience** across **National Highways**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 18, 2025**, the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** unveiled a **new SOP** to deliver **Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs)** within **15 days** of any electoral roll update. Powered by the **ECINet platform** and integrated with the **Department of Posts**, the system provides **real-time tracking** and **SMS notifications** to voters. This tech-driven step aims to improve **voter convenience**, ensure **timely delivery**, and bolster **digital transparency** in India's electoral services. ([Click here to read article](#))
- To mark **World Sickle Cell Day** on **June 19, 2025**, **AIIMS Mangalagiri** organized an **awareness rally** in collaboration with the **Departments of Health and Tribal Welfare**. The event featured participation from **students, tribal members, and medical professionals**, aiming to boost awareness about **sickle cell disease**, a **hereditary blood disorder** that disproportionately affects **tribal populations** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** has launched "**Pratibha Setu**", a revamped platform that allows employers to access details of **non-recommended candidates** who cleared all stages of UPSC exams but were not on the final merit list. This move provides **career alternatives to top-tier aspirants** and strengthens the interface between **government-selected talent and private sector demand**. With secure login access for verified recruiters and opt-in participation from candidates, **Pratibha Setu** represents a **forward-looking employment reform** initiative. ([Click here to read article](#))
- During his visit to **Bhubaneswar on June 20, 2025**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **₹18,600 crore worth of development projects**, flagged off **new rail and bus services**, and launched the **Odisha Vision Document**, aiming for a **\$1.5 trillion economy by 2047**. Emphasizing **cultural revival, women empowerment, and infrastructure growth**, the PM also rolled out the **Baraputra Aitihya Gram Yojana** and **felicitated Lakhpati Didis** under the SHG initiative. The event signaled the government's commitment to holistic, inclusive progress in Odisha. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, under **Annpurna Devi**, launched the **Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub** on **June 20, 2025**, during a **national consultation in New Delhi**. The platform will act as a **digital repository for gender budgeting resources**, aiding ministries, states, and policymakers in integrating **gender equality** in planning and budgeting. The Centre's allocation for **FY 2025–26** stands at **₹4.49 lakh crore**, a **4.5x increase** from 2014–15. The consultation reviewed **20 years of gender budgeting** in India and proposed **training manuals and sector-specific strategies** to further strengthen **inclusive fiscal governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Yoga Sangam 2025**, an initiative by the **Ministry of Ayush**, marks a transformative celebration of the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY)** with the theme "**Unity Through Breath**". This nationwide event will mobilize participation at **over one lakh locations**, including **schools, offices, villages, and metros**, symbolizing a **collective movement for health and harmony**. Emphasizing **synchronized breathing and community connection**, it redefines yoga as both a **wellness practice** and a **national unifier**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **historic move** to promote **educational equity**, **IIT-Delhi** has introduced a **special PhD admission drive for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates**. This initiative, which runs until **June 30, 2025**, addresses a persistent **shortfall in reserved seat intake** at the **doctoral level**, as revealed to a **parliamentary committee**. Despite relaxed eligibility norms, the institute has received **fewer applications**, prompting **department-wide changes** to encourage supernumerary admissions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Government of India** launched **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (DAJA)** on **June 15, 2025**, marking the **largest tribal empowerment campaign** in India's history, aiming to reach over **5.5 crore tribal citizens** across **31 states/UTs**. Named after **Birsa Munda**, this initiative honors tribal heritage while delivering on **PM Modi's vision of inclusive governance**. In just nine days, DAJA enabled **1.68 lakh Ayushman cards**, **1.38 lakh Aadhaar enrolments**, and **22,000+ Ujjwala Yojana connections**. ([Click here to read article](#))

Important Festival

- **The Bonalu festival 2025** began with great fervour and tradition at Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, where devotees gathered at the Sri Jagadamba Mahankali temple to offer Bonams and participate in age-old rituals. The Telangana government actively supported the event with a ₹20 crore fund for 2,783 temples, while prominent political leaders and thousands of devotees celebrated the region's folk heritage. The festival will continue across Secunderabad and Old City in the coming weeks, reflecting Telangana's deep-rooted cultural pride. (Click here to read article)
- **The Ambubachi Mela 2025**, held at Kamakhya Temple in Assam, commemorated the menstrual cycle of Goddess Kamakhya from June 22 to June 25, with temple doors reopening on June 26. This unique festival challenges menstrual taboos by celebrating womanhood and promoting menstrual hygiene awareness. Considered one of the 51 Shakti Peethas, the temple has deep mythological roots, and its rituals reflect Assam's progressive approach to menstruation. With massive turnout and government support, the event strengthens both spiritual devotion and social messaging around feminine power and dignity. (Click here to read article)
- **The 3rd Lavender Festival at Bhaderwah, Jammu & Kashmir**, showcased the growing success of the CSIR-Aroma Mission. Held from June 1–2, 2025, and attended by over 1,200 participants, the event featured field visits, live distillation demonstrations, and success stories of farmers and startups. With over ₹10.5 crore in turnover from lavender-based products and more than 9,000 trained individuals, the festival underscored the socio-economic upliftment, women entrepreneurship, and industrial development spurred by lavender farming. (Click here to read article)
- **Sri Lanka** is celebrating the revered Poson Poya festival, marking over 2,000 years since the arrival of Buddhism with Arahat Mahinda's first sermon to King Devanampiyatissa. Devotees have gathered at Mihintale and Anuradhapura, where the festivities are marked with lanterns, almsgiving, and cultural programs. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake emphasized national unity and moral revival, while the Indian High Commission joined the occasion with an exhibition on Buddhist heritage. Free and special train services are also aiding pilgrim movement during the sacred week.
- **The Kataragama Esala Festival 2025** began in Sri Lanka with a flag hoisting ceremony, welcoming devotees from various faiths and regions. Celebrated around the Maha Devala temple dedicated to Lord Skanda, the festival honors interfaith traditions, drawing Hindus, Buddhists, and

Muslims alike. A central aspect of the festival is the Pada Yatra, a 500-km pilgrimage on foot. Key events include the fire-walking ceremony on July 7 and the grand Maha Perahera procession on July 10, highlighting the festival's spiritual intensity and cultural richness. (Click here to read article)

Miscellaneous National News

- The Government of India commemorated **60 years of Integral Humanism**, a philosophy by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**, with a national symposium addressed by **Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan**. The Minister emphasized agriculture as the backbone of the Indian economy, advocated for environmental consciousness through a **tree plantation drive**, and promoted **women's empowerment** via schemes like **Lakshpati Didi Yojana**. He reiterated that Deendayal Ji's ideology offers a uniquely Indian framework for development grounded in **cultural ethos, balanced economics, and social harmony**. (Click here to read article)
- The **Government of India** has permitted **Central Government employees** who retired under the **National Pension System (NPS)** with a minimum of **10 years of service** to claim **additional pension benefits** under the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**. The scheme, introduced in **January 2025**, offers a **50% assured pension**, a **lump sum payout**, and **monthly top-ups** to bridge the gap between UPS and NPS returns. The last date to apply is **June 30, 2025**. This move benefits nearly **23 lakh employees** and enhances **social security** for NPS retirees. (Click here to read article)
- The **Ministry of Coal**, under the leadership of **Shri G. Kishan Reddy**, launched **C CARES Version 2.0**, a **digital platform** by **CMPFO** for **coal workers' Provident Fund and pension services**. Developed by **C-DAC** in collaboration with **SBI**, it includes **real-time tracking, direct benefit transfers**, and a **mobile app** for member access. Initially deployed in **five regional offices**, it will expand **nationwide from July 2025**. The portal advances **transparency, efficiency**, and aligns with **Digital India** and **worker welfare goals**. (Click here to read article)
- At **Urban Adda 2025**, held in **New Delhi**, a powerful collective of **policymakers, activists, and urban planners** advocated for **gender-inclusive urban design**. The event illuminated the daily challenges women face in Indian cities — from **unsafe commutes to infrastructure exclusion** — and highlighted success stories like the **training of women as ferry pilots and public bus drivers**. Speakers emphasized that **urban mobility systems** must intentionally include women, and that only a **structural shift from intent to action** will ensure **equity in city design** and **livelihood access** for all. (Click here to read article)

- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** successfully observed **Swachhata Pakhwada 2025** between **May 1–15**, conducting **188 activities** across its headquarters and affiliated organizations. The campaign emphasized **cleanliness, health awareness, waste management, and community participation**, aligning with the **Swachh Bharat Mission**. Key activities included the installation of **e-waste and sanitary facilities, CPR training, cleanliness drives, and Nukkad Natak**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **water management system** is under immense strain from **pollution, climate change, and governance gaps**, necessitating a transition to the **Source to Sea (S2S) approach**. In 2025, the UN spotlighted **glacier preservation and ocean science**, emphasizing integrated water policies that consider the full water continuum from **mountains to oceans**. Despite early global momentum, **India has not fully embraced S2S**, although some pilot initiatives are emerging. Experts urge alignment of **SDG Goals 6.5 and 14.1**, stakeholder participation, and nested governance to ensure **sustainable and climate-resilient water futures**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The long-awaited **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project, envisioned nearly **three decades ago**, has reached completion with the operationalisation of its final segment — the **Sangaldan to Katra stretch**. This milestone marks the **full integration of the Kashmir Valley into India's rail network**, highlighted by **iconic engineering feats** like the **Chenab and Anji bridges** and the **longest railway tunnel in the country**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has pledged **\$20 billion** to advance its **maritime infrastructure**, with a focus on building **three Green Hydrogen Hub Ports**, enhancing **global trade corridor connectivity**, and promoting **multimodal logistics**. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** made the announcement at the **Nor-Shipping Conference**, highlighting India's commitment to a **green maritime future**, stronger **seafarer partnerships**, and **sustainable port development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **digital public infrastructure** continues to expand as **UIDAI** reported over **211 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions in May 2025**, with **15.49 crore** via **face authentication** and **37 crore** e-KYC verifications. These figures underscore Aadhaar's central role in **government welfare, financial services, and citizen-centric governance**. Leveraging **AI/ML technologies**, Aadhaar's authentication capabilities are enabling **seamless, secure, and real-time identity verification**, driving forward the goals of **Digital India and inclusive development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A new climate study warns that **India's urban centres** are on track to face **twice as many heatwave days by 2030**, especially in **Mumbai, Delhi, and Chennai**. Released during a key **climate symposium in New Delhi**, the study links these projections to **climate change, urban heat islands, and land-use changes**. It highlights a **43% surge in extreme rainfall intensity**, affecting nearly **80% of Indian districts**. Experts urge the formation of **Climate Risk Observatories (CROs), risk financing tools, and district-level climate champions** to combat the worsening **climate crisis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)** and **Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS)** signed an **MoU in New Delhi** to integrate **multilingual AI solutions** into Indian Railways' digital services, using **BHASHINI's language technologies** like **ASR, TTS, Text Translation, and OCR** to make platforms like **NTES and RailMadad** accessible in **22 Indian languages**, enhancing **linguistic inclusion and AI-driven public service transformation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Bengaluru** has been officially recognized as the **'Leopard Capital' of India**, with an **estimated 80–85 wild leopards** found across **Bannerghatta National Park** and surrounding zones, surpassing **Mumbai's 54**. A **year-long camera trap survey** by **Holématti Nature Foundation**, led by **Dr. Sanjay Gubbi**, also recorded **34 mammal species**, many listed as **Endangered or Schedule I** under Indian law. The study recommends **expanding conservation reserves, safeguarding wildlife corridors, and minimizing human-wildlife conflict**. This highlights Bengaluru's **unique position as an urban wildlife haven** and calls for proactive ecological stewardship. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **ESIC Sanath Nagar Campus** in **Hyderabad** has evolved into a **national Centre of Excellence**, offering **advanced medical services, super-specialty care, and medical education** under the **Modi government's eleven-year governance**. Accredited by **NABH, NABL, and ISO**, the campus delivers **digital diagnostics, cutting-edge surgeries, and innovative IT-enabled patient services**. With over **1,000 beds**, including **ICU and dialysis units**, and **robust educational infrastructure**, it stands as a **beacon of accessible, high-quality public healthcare** in India. ([Click here to read article](#))



- India has initiated a **strategic shift** in its **rare earth export policy** by asking IREL to suspend a 2012 export agreement with **Japan**, aiming to **develop domestic processing** and **reduce dependence on China**. With rising demand for **neodymium** in **electric vehicles** and China's tightening grip on the market, India is investing in **local capacity building, infrastructure, and incentives** to create a **self-reliant rare earth ecosystem**. The move is also crucial for safeguarding national interests in **defence, renewable energy, and critical technology sectors**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved **two strategic multitracking projects** under Indian Railways, totaling **₹6,405 crore**, to enhance connectivity and freight movement across **Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh**. Spanning **318 km**, the Koderma–Barkakana and Ballari–Chikjajur doubling lines will improve **logistics efficiency**, benefit over **28 lakh people**, and cut **carbon emissions**, aligning with India's **sustainability goals and economic self-reliance vision**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India took a major step toward strengthening its textile exports with the **first meeting of the Task Force on Textiles Exports**, chaired by Commerce Secretary **Sunil Barthwal** on **June 10, 2025**. The meeting addressed issues across the textile value chain, from **ESG infrastructure and e-commerce expansion to fibre innovation and regulatory simplification**. Stakeholders unanimously supported forming **issue-specific sub-task forces** to craft actionable strategies. The initiative is a cornerstone of India's **export and sustainability goals** under the **Viksit Bharat 2047** roadmap. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Visakhapatnam will host the **11th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2025)** on **June 21**, celebrating **10 years** of this global wellness event. Senior officials from the **Ministry of Ayush** and the **Andhra Pradesh Government** recently reviewed preparations at key venues. The state's ambitious **"Yogandhra"** initiative targets yoga outreach to **2 crore people** and aims to train **20 lakh certified practitioners**. With more than **1 lakh locations** participating across the state and **5 lakh attendees** expected in Visakhapatnam alone, IDY 2025 promises to exemplify India's commitment to **"Yoga for One Earth, One Health."** ([Click here to read article](#))
- At the **Institutional Arbitration Conference** held in **New Delhi** on **June 14, 2025**, **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** emphasized India's ambition to become a **global arbitration hub**. Highlighting the need for **alternative dispute resolution (ADR)** methods such as **arbitration, mediation, and conciliation**, the Minister stressed reduced court burden and investor convenience. **ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh** and other stakeholders underlined the importance of **time-bound, corporate-style arbitration**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **PM Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus in June 2025** marks a **strategic recalibration in India's foreign policy**. As Turkey strengthens its alliance with Pakistan, India's outreach to Cyprus — a nation that has consistently backed India on the global stage — is both symbolic and strategic. Cyprus' role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), its geographical proximity to West Asia, and its upcoming presidency of the EU Council in 2026 amplify its significance. The visit underscores India's commitment to counter-terror diplomacy, multilateral engagement, and trade connectivity in a rapidly evolving global order. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has initiated **Operation Sindhu** to evacuate its nationals from Iran amid the growing threat of conflict with Israel. Over 100 Indian students have already been safely evacuated via Armenia, reflecting the government's swift and well-coordinated response. The operation emphasizes India's commitment to the **safety of its citizens abroad**, effective diplomacy, and robust crisis management strategies. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Anantha Chandrakasan**, a Chennai-born academic and **MIT's School of Engineering Dean**, has been appointed as the **first Indian-born Provost** of the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**. Taking office on **July 1, 2025**, he will oversee MIT's **academic and financial strategy**. A **renowned engineer and researcher**, Chandrakasan leads MIT's **Energy-Efficient Circuits and Systems Group**, and has been instrumental in promoting **innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusion** through programs like **SuperUROP** and **Rising Stars**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Croatia** signals a strategic shift in India's foreign policy, emphasizing deeper **connectivity with Central and Eastern Europe**. With its **Adriatic Sea access, membership in EU and NATO**, and involvement in initiatives like **3SI** and **IMEC**, **Croatia offers India key trade and geopolitical advantages**. The visit also revived **historic cultural ties**, notably through the **Sanskrit grammar work of Croatian scholar Filip Vezdin**. This outreach reinforces India's presence in the region and counters rival global influences like the **BRI**, while enhancing prospects for **UNSC support**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has rolled out transformative reforms during the **June 2025 bye-polls**, introducing innovations like **mobile deposit facilities, real-time VTR updates, and 100% webcasting**. These initiatives, implemented across five **Assembly Constituencies**, enhance **voter convenience, transparency, and polling efficiency**. With the **Special Summary Revision** of electoral rolls also carried out for the first time in two decades, these reforms set a precedent for **future state elections**, especially the upcoming **Bihar Assembly Elections**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India is set to export its **first-ever locally manufactured locomotive** to Guinea, with **PM Narendra Modi** inaugurating the flag-off ceremony from **Marhowrah, Bihar**, on **June 20, 2025**. The deal includes **150 high-tech locomotives worth ₹3,000 crore**, made for Guinea's **SimFer Simandou mining project**. Manufactured under the **Make in India** initiative, these locomotives feature **world-class safety, comfort, and performance**. The project, awarded through **global competitive bidding**, highlights India's rising capabilities in **railway manufacturing**, its diplomatic outreach to Africa, and the realization of the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** vision. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Government of India is set to notify the **Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025**, mandating the use of **Indian Standard Time (IST)** across all legal, commercial, and digital activities. This initiative, backed by the **Department of Consumer Affairs, CSIR-NPL, and ISRO**, aims to enhance **digital security, traceability, and operational efficiency** by eliminating reliance on foreign time sources. It includes setting up **five Regional Reference Standard Laboratories (RRSLs)** with atomic clocks and secure synchronization protocols. The move is a major leap towards **One Nation, One Time**, securing national digital infrastructure under a **trusted, standardized ecosystem**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major step towards uniting the world through the ancient practice of yoga, the **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)** launched '**Yoga Bandhan**', a flagship international program under the Ministry of Ayush. As a Signature Event leading up to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the initiative brought together yoga ambassadors from 15 countries to strengthen global partnerships in yoga education, diplomacy, and wellness, reflecting India's continued leadership in promoting cultural unity and holistic health worldwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The Centre has notified the schedule for the 2027 decennial census, which will include caste enumeration. This will be India's first caste-based census in 16 years, since the last socio-economic caste data was gathered in 2011. The announcement follows a high-level review chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- In a major step toward **mitigating human-wildlife conflict**, Union Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** announced the creation of a **Centre of Excellence** at **WII-SACON**, focusing on the use of **AI-driven solutions, public sensitisation, and rapid response mechanisms**. Backed by previous advisories (2021) and detailed guidelines (2022), the initiative comes amid rising **fatalities due to tiger and elephant attacks**, particularly in states like **Maharashtra, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is set to **integrate its Rare Donor Registry** with the **e-Rakt Kosh** national blood platform to ensure quicker, safer, and more cost-effective access to **rare blood groups** like **Bombay, Rh-null, and P-null**. Developed by **ICMR-NIIH**, the registry contains **over 4,000 rare donors**, screened using **advanced DNA testing kits**. The integration will benefit patients with **thalassemia, hemophilia, and sickle cell disease**, while upgraded **point-of-care tests** have significantly reduced diagnosis costs. The move marks a milestone in India's goal toward a **digitally connected, self-reliant blood management system**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a landmark move to boost the **circular economy**, **CSIR-NIIST** and **NECTAR** have signed an MoU to establish **vegan leather manufacturing units** in **Meghalaya** and the **Northeast region**, utilizing **agro-waste** such as rice straw and fruit residues. This initiative aligns with **Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and Swachh Bharat**, focusing on **sustainable production, women empowerment, and MSME support**. Additionally, CSIR-NIIST's partnership with **GIZ India** will launch a **Centre of Excellence** for **Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV)**, accelerating India's clean energy transformation. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a **landmark move** to enhance the **Rath Yatra 2025** experience, **East Coast Railway (ECoR)** launched the '**ECoR Yatra**' mobile app, offering **real-time train info, special Rath Yatra train schedules, accommodation details, and ticket booking options**. Available on the **Google Play Store**, the app—featuring **multilingual support** and linked to **NTES** and **IRCTC**—caters to lakhs of **Puri-bound pilgrims**, ensuring smooth **navigation, live updates, and access to passenger amenities**, marking a significant leap in **digital railway services** during mass events. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a significant reform aligning with **NEP 2020**, the **CBSE** will allow **Class 10 students** to take **board exams twice a year** starting from **2026-27**. The **first exam is mandatory**, while the **second is optional** for those wishing to **improve scores** in up to **three academic subjects**. This move aims to **reduce exam stress, offer flexibility, and facilitate smoother Class 11 admissions**. New provisions also cover **compartment students, sports quota, and snow-bound areas**, making the system more inclusive and progressive. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** has rolled out a **2-day 'AI in Governance' training programme** at **IIT Delhi**, aiming to boost the **digital capacity of 59 government officials**. Conducted under **CB Phase III of Digital India**, the programme includes **interactive sessions, policy discussions, and group exercises** to foster **responsible AI adoption** in governance. The initiative reflects India's strategic push for **tech-driven governance reforms and AI integration** in public administration. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Union Environment Ministry** held a review of **Project Elephant**, confirming the **completion of Phase-I elephant census** in **Northeast India**, where over **16,500 dung samples** were collected. In efforts to reduce **elephant deaths due to railway accidents**, **3,452 km of tracks** were surveyed and **77 high-risk areas** identified. The meeting also highlighted progress in **DNA profiling of captive elephants** and announced the inclusion of **sloth bear** and **gharial** in the **Species Recovery Programme**, showing a broader commitment to **wildlife conservation and conflict mitigation**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India has successfully integrated **wildlife conservation** into infrastructure through the construction of its **first animal overpass corridor** on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. Built by the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**, the corridor features multiple **overpasses and underpasses** tailored to the natural terrain, enabling the safe movement of species like **tigers and leopards**. The project sets a national precedent in **eco-sensitive development**, with other states like **Punjab and Maharashtra** adopting similar models. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- In an effort to close the gap between tribal welfare policies and their on-ground implementation, the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the **Adi Karmyogi programme**. Announced during the **Adi Anveshan conference**, the

initiative aims to **train over 20 lakh stakeholders** and build a **motivated cadre of officials** across India. The move addresses the key insight that the **real obstacle in tribal development lies in poor implementation**, not the absence of schemes. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- The Indian government has approved the setting up of the **CIP-South Asia Regional Center** in Agra to advance research and innovation in **potato and sweet potato cultivation**. With India being the world's **second-largest producer and consumer of potatoes**, the center will focus on improving yields, developing **climate-resilient varieties**, reducing import dependence on seeds, and **boosting exports**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **Emergency** was imposed exactly **50 years ago on June 25, 1975**, marking the beginning of what historians consider **one of the darkest chapters in the history of the Indian republic**. This **21-month period** witnessed the unprecedented suspension of democratic institutions, fundamental rights, and constitutional governance that had defined India since independence. **Indira Gandhi** had initially risen to power on an **electoral landslide in 1971**, but her administration soon faced mounting challenges that would ultimately lead to the constitutional crisis. The convergence of economic hardship, political opposition, and judicial scrutiny created a perfect storm that pushed Gandhi toward authoritarian measures.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative	Purpose
MGNREGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a significant shift, the Centre has capped MGNREGS expenditure at 60% for the first half of FY 2025–26, bringing the scheme under the MEP/QEP framework for the first time. This move comes amid pending liabilities of ₹21,000 crore, and may affect the scheme's employment generation capacity. • With an annual allocation of ₹86,000 crore and an ambitious labour target of 198.86 crore persondays, the decision marks a major policy shift in how the demand-driven MGNREGS is financially managed. While it aims at fiscal control, concerns remain about potential job shortfalls in rural areas.
JAIHIND scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delhi University has launched the JAIHIND scheme to empower Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from remote regions by providing basic computer training and CUET preparation support. • The programme targets school students (Classes 9–12) and addresses challenges like lack of digital access and unfamiliarity with online admission processes. • With the first batch of 25 students from Ukhrul, Manipur, the initiative is fully funded by DU and is envisioned as an annual skill-building programme to support tribal participation in higher education. (Click here to read article)
Indian Railways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Railways has introduced a new welfare initiative offering ₹1 crore accident compensation to its employees, without requiring any insurance premium. • Under the scheme, employees only need to maintain a Salary Package Account with one of the partner banks, like SBI. • The move was publicized after the family of loco pilot Sushil Lal received the first benefit under this policy.

Name of Initiative	Purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aimed at boosting financial security, the scheme will be widely promoted through railway unions and awareness campaigns, ensuring all employees are covered under this life-saving program. (Click here to read article)
NAVYA Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a key step toward gender empowerment and inclusive growth, the Government is launching NAVYA, a pilot skilling initiative for adolescent girls under the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. Rolled out in 27 districts across 19 states, NAVYA will provide vocational training in non-traditional job roles to girls aged 16–18 with a minimum Class 10 education. The programme reflects a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development, using frameworks like PMKVY.
SIGHT Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SECI has issued a landmark green ammonia tender for 724,000 tonnes/year under the SIGHT Scheme to decarbonize India’s fertilizer sector, a major consumer of fossil-based hydrogen. Backed by ₹1,533.4 crore incentives, long-term contracts, and a Payment Security Mechanism, the initiative provides both market confidence and environmental benefits. By replacing conventional ammonia with green hydrogen-derived ammonia, the project addresses climate goals, import dependency, and industrial sustainability.
Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS) launched by the All India Chess Federation (AICF) on June 25, 2025, marks a significant step in developing grassroots chess in India. With direct financial support ranging from ₹60,000 to ₹1.5 lakh per quarter for 78 top-performing young players across Under-7 to Under-19 categories, the scheme aims to encourage national-level participation, recognize talent, and remove financial hurdles in player development. This initiative underscores India’s growing ambition to become a global chess powerhouse, while promoting gender parity and sustained investment in youth sports.
Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Central Govt NPS retirees (≥10 years service) retired on/before Mar 31, 2025 Apply by: June 30, 2025 Lump sum: 1/10th of last basic + DA per 6 months of service Top-up pension: Difference between UPS & NPS annuity Interest: Arrears at PPF rate Launched: Jan 2025, assures 50% avg last 12-month basic pay
SPMEPCI (EV Manufacturing Scheme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15% customs duty on EV CBUs ≥\$35,000 (CIF) Valid for 5 years Import quota: 8,000 EVs/year with rollover Greenfield & brownfield investment eligible Goal: Promote domestic EV industry, clean mobility Minister: H.D. Kumaraswamy Tesla: Interested in showrooms, not manufacturing
Krishi Nivesh Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrates agri-schemes across 14 central & 9 state depts Covers: 17 major schemes (AIF, AHIDF, PM-KUSUM, etc.) Centralized portal for: tracking, applications, scheme info Focus: PPP, credit-linked, VC, startups Goal: Boost private agri-investment, improve infra & value chains FY25 Allocation: ₹1.31 lakh crore
PM-WANI Tariff Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRAI capped tariffs for PDOs under PM-WANI PM-WANI plans previously 2x costlier than FTTH Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 Mbps: ₹1,532.82 (PM-WANI) vs ₹706.82 (FTTH) Draft Order: 70th Amendment (Aug 2024) DoT Amendment (Sep 2024): No need for commercial contracts with ISPs Aim: Affordable, inclusive public Wi-Fi

Name of Initiative	Purpose
CEGSSC – SC Credit Guarantee Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched: May 6, 2015 • Agency: IFCI Ltd. • For SC-owned firms/individuals with ≥51% ownership • Guarantee Cover: ₹0.15 – ₹5 crore • Tenure: Up to 7 years • Monitoring by special bank cells & SLBCs

STATE GOVT SCHEMES

Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Himachal Pradesh has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana to improve green cover and provide employment opportunities through community participation. • Introduced by CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the scheme involves Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, and SHGs in forest restoration on degraded lands. Complementing this is the Green Adoption Scheme, which brings in corporate players like Ambuja, Adani, and UltraTech for large-scale plantations. • Additionally, Van Mitras were inducted to address staff shortages in the forest department, and the event highlighted the state's commitment to women empowerment and sustainable forest management. (Click here to read article)
Punjab Udyog Kranti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Punjab Udyog Kranti, launched on June 10, 2025, marks a significant shift in industrial governance in India. • With its 12 bold reforms, including the FastTrack Punjab Portal, deemed approvals in 45 days, and colour-coded stamp papers, Punjab aims to eliminate bureaucratic red tape and foster a business-friendly environment. • Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal have positioned Punjab as a national leader in industrial policy reform, making it a potential magnet for investment, innovation, and employment generation.
Karnataka government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Yuva Nidhi scheme, the Karnataka government has disbursed ₹11.70 lakh to 39,132 unemployed youths in Yadgir district via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). • Graduates receive ₹3,000/month and diploma holders ₹1,500/month for up to two years, post a six-month grace period after course completion. • Beneficiaries must report job status monthly on the Seva Sindhu portal, ensuring transparency and accountability. • This initiative reflects the state's commitment to youth empowerment, welfare, and inclusive governance.
Vidya Shakti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 25, 2025, Andhra Pradesh launched 'Vidya Shakti', a remedial learning initiative aimed at supporting slow learners in government schools through after-school sessions in Math, Science, and English. • Implemented across 4,424 schools and 576 KGBVs, the tech-enabled program focuses on bridging learning gaps, reducing dropouts, and boosting enrolment, with teacher training supported by IIT-Madras Pravartak. • Backed by education leaders, 'Vidya Shakti' signals a major push for inclusive, digitally-driven education reform in the state.
Uttar Pradesh Reserves 20% Police Posts for Ex-Agniveers under Agneepath Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a significant step to honour and rehabilitate military-trained youth, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in direct police recruitment. • Announced the policy will be implemented from 2026, aligning with the return of the first Agniveer batch from the Agneepath scheme.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- **Luís Montenegro** has been reappointed as Portugal's **Prime Minister** following the final general election results. His **centre-right alliance** will form a **minority government**. Despite the **rise of the far-right Chega party**, Montenegro ruled out any immediate **constitutional reforms**. His priorities include **economic growth, healthcare transformation, and enhancing public services**. This development marks a **notable shift** in Portugal's political landscape toward **pragmatic governance**.
- In **2024, Germany** surpassed **Japan** to become the **world's largest creditor**, ending Japan's **34-year reign**. Although Japan hit a record in external assets, Germany's **strong trade surplus, robust euro, and effective investment strategies** gave it the edge. Japan's decline is linked to an **ageing population, weaker yen, and conservative foreign investments**. However, **wage growth, the NISA investment scheme, and gradual rate hikes** may help Japan recover.
- **Annalena Baerbock** was elected President of the **80th United Nations General Assembly** on **June 2, 2025**, with **167 votes**. A former German Foreign Minister, she becomes the **first woman from the Western European group** and the **fifth woman overall** to hold the post. She aims to serve as an **"honest broker"**, focusing on **UN efficiency, the 2030 Agenda, and global inclusivity**, especially under the framework of the **2022 Veto Initiative**.
- **Lee Jae-myung**, a liberal opposition figure, was elected **President of South Korea** on **June 4, 2025**, after the **removal of Yoon Suk Yeol**. Lee, known for **reformist and populist policies**, promised **economic reform, pragmatic diplomacy, and peaceful engagement with North Korea**. Despite concerns over his **alleged pro-China stance**, he reaffirmed ties with the **U.S.–South Korea alliance**. His leadership follows a phase of **political instability**.
- **Karol Nawrocki**, backed by **Donald Trump**, won Poland's **presidential election** with **50.89% of the vote**, narrowly defeating **Rafal Trzaskowski**. A conservative nationalist and former head of the **Institute of National Remembrance**, he symbolizes the **Law and Justice party's** political comeback. Nawrocki's stance is shaped by **patriotism, anti-communism, and traditional values**, with potential friction ahead in **EU relations**.
- **Nicaragua** has become the **101st nation** to accept the **WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, bringing the pact closer to enforcement. The deal aims to eliminate subsidies promoting **illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing** and promotes **marine sustainability**. It includes the creation of a **Fish Fund** for developing countries and was adopted at the **MC12 meeting in Geneva**.
- **Bangladesh's interim government** introduced new **Taka banknotes** excluding the image of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**, replacing it with visuals of **natural and cultural heritage sites**. The redesigned **Taka 1000, 50, and 20 notes** aim to **depoliticize currency** amidst ongoing political tension and legal actions against **Sheikh Hasina**. The new notes will circulate alongside the existing ones, promoting an **inclusive national identity**.
- **India** has won the **Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)** for the **2025–2028 term**, with **V. Srinivas**, Secretary of DARPG, elected as head. India defeated **Austria**, receiving **87 of 141 votes**. This milestone advances India's leadership in **global public administration reform**. The IIAS is based in **Brussels** and comprises **31 member countries** and institutions.
- On **June 3, 2025**, the **UN General Assembly** elected **Bahrain, Colombia, DRC, Liberia, and Latvia** as **non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2026–2027**. Latvia entered the Council for the **first time ever**, while Colombia secured its **seventh term**. The elections showcased a commitment to **regional balance and global peacekeeping inclusivity**.
- The **Bangladesh interim regime** dropped the title **"Father of the Nation"** for **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** in the revised **Liberation War Act 2025**, announced on **June 3**. The law also excludes the **Mujib Bahini** from official freedom fighter status. A new category called **"Associates of Liberation War"** has been introduced to recognize broader support during the **1971 independence movement**.
- On **June 9, 2025**, **U.S. President Donald Trump** announced a **new travel ban** targeting **12 countries** like **Afghanistan, Iran, and Libya**, with **partial restrictions** on 8 more, including **Cuba and Venezuela**. This followed a **visa overstay-related attack** and was justified on **national security grounds**, citing inadequate **background verification systems**.
- **Iran** confirmed that **Russia** will build **eight nuclear power plants**, including **four in Bushehr**, under a pre-existing deal. The agreement supports Iran's goal to **triple its nuclear capacity**, reinforcing **energy cooperation with Russia** and the aim of **clean energy self-reliance**.
- **Israel** launched the **second phase of Operation Rising Lion**, striking Iran's **Natanz uranium enrichment site**, escalating **Middle East tensions**. While **PM Netanyahu** vowed continued action, the **U.S. distanced itself**, labeling it a **unilateral move**. The attack raises serious concerns about **nuclear diplomacy and regional stability**.
- The **UK government** named **Blaise Metreweli** as the first-ever **female chief of MI6**, announced during the **G7 Summit**. With **25 years in intelligence**, she leads MI6's **technology and innovation wing**. Her appointment comes amid growing **cybersecurity threats** and rising tensions with countries like **Russia and China**.

- **OpenAI** secured a **\$200 million contract** from the **U.S. Department of Defense** to develop **AI tools for national security**, with a completion target of **July 2026**. The deal focuses on **frontier AI prototypes** for **military** and **enterprise applications**, reflecting AI's growing defense role.
- The **UN** has declared **2026** as the **International Year of the Woman Farmer** to recognize the crucial role women play in **global agriculture**. Despite contributing significantly, women face issues like **land insecurity**, **lack of credit**, and **climate vulnerability**. Indian programs like **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** and **ENACT** are seen as model initiatives.
- In retaliation to Israeli attacks, **Iran launched Operation True Promise 3**, using **AI-guided missiles**, **decoy saturation**, and tactics to **disrupt Israel's Iron Dome**. This marks a shift toward **cyber-kinetic warfare** and exposes the vulnerabilities of **urban defense systems**.
- On **June 18, 2025**, **India and Ukraine** held their **first Joint Working Group meeting on agriculture** to enhance cooperation in **digital farming**, **food processing**, and **climate-resilient agriculture**. India presented platforms like **e-NAM** and the **National Mission on Edible Oils**, while Ukraine sought **technology transfer** and **market access**.
- **Pakistan** finalized a **\$1 billion syndicated finance deal**, supported by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**. Signed on **June 18, 2025**, it blends **Islamic and conventional finance** and represents Pakistan's **return to Middle East financial markets**, signaling trust in its **economic reforms**.
- In a **major cybersecurity breach**, **16 billion credentials** were leaked from **30 datasets**, impacting platforms like **Apple**, **Google**, and **Telegram**. This is **not a recycled breach** and increases risks of **phishing**, **BEC**, and **account takeovers**. **Google** urged a shift to **passkeys** for stronger protection.
- **Gold** has become the **second-largest global reserve asset** after the **U.S. dollar**, with a **19% share** in 2024, overtaking the **euro (16%)**, according to the **ECB**. Central banks, especially in **emerging markets**, increased gold reserves due to **inflation fears**, **geopolitical risks**, and **currency sanctions**.
- In a historic move, **South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung** appointed **Ahn Gyu-back** as the country's **first civilian Defence Minister** in **64 years**, amid a sweeping **Cabinet overhaul** following the **impeachment of Yoon Suk Yeol** for attempting **martial law**.
- Starting **June 24, 2025**, the **IAEA** and **Romania** launched **ConvEx-3**, the largest-ever **international nuclear emergency drill**, simulating a disaster at **Cernavodă Nuclear Plant**. With **75+ countries** and agencies like **WHO** and **INTERPOL**, the 36-hour exercise tested **emergency protocols** and **global coordination**.
- In response to **U.S. airstrikes**, **Iran's Parliament** suspended cooperation with the **IAEA**, despite Iran's membership in the **NPT**. The **Iranian Embassy in India** thanked **Indian civil society** for their support during the **12-day war with Israel**, marking a turning point in **Iran's nuclear diplomacy**.

BANKING & FINANCE

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
1.	Canara Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canara Bank has removed the Average Monthly Balance requirement for all savings bank accounts, including salary and NRI types, eliminating related penalties. • This step, aimed at financial inclusion, will benefit a wide range of customers. Established in 1906, Canara Bank now has over 9,800 branches, including a strong rural footprint and global presence.
2.	Deutsche Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deutsche Bank has appointed Stefan Schaffer as the CEO of Deutsche India's Global Capability Centre (GCC), alongside roles as Global CIO for Corporate Functions and Head of Global Technology Centres. • This appointment reinforces Deutsche Bank's commitment to technological innovation, standardisation, and its India operations, which currently support global functions across finance, technology, risk, and operations with a 20,000-strong workforce. • Schaffer's leadership experience in Bucharest and shared applications underscores the bank's drive toward a digitally unified global enterprise.
3.	Asian Development Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 1 June 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) unveiled a \$10 billion initiative for urban transformation in India. • This 5-year plan aims to revamp metro networks, launch new RRTS corridors, and improve urban infrastructure and services across over 100 cities. Backed by sovereign loans, private capital, and the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), the project also includes \$3 million in technical assistance for project planning. • ADB emphasized skill development, women's empowerment, and inclusive urban growth as part of India's Viksit Bharat @ 2047 mission. The announcement follows meetings with PM Modi, FM Nirmala Sitharaman, and Housing Minister Manohar Lal.

S. No.	Bank Name	Purpose
4.	State Bank of India (SBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Bank of India (SBI) gave a significant boost to the government's non-tax revenue by paying a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore for FY 2024-25, up from ₹6,959.29 crore last year, with Chairman C.S. Setty formally handing over the cheque to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, highlighting SBI's robust financial performance, a ₹15.90/share dividend, and its pivotal role in fiscal resource mobilization.
5.	Federal Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scapia, in collaboration with Federal Bank, has launched India's first dual-network credit card combining Visa and RuPay, known as the Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card. With UPI compatibility, zero forex markup, Scapia Coins, and airport lounge benefits, the card offers a unified credit experience for domestic and international use. The launch is aligned with Scapia's broader platform upgrades under its 2025 Summer Release, including AI recommendations, tailored fare options, and reward enhancements — marking a key milestone in India's fintech evolution.
6.	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$109.97 million loan to support Gujarat's Skills Development Program, a forward-looking initiative designed to enhance technical education, promote inclusive employment, and drive industrial competitiveness. By upgrading training infrastructure, launching industry-aligned courses, and improving governance at institutions like Kaushalya: The Skill University, the program will create a future-ready workforce.
7.	DFCC Bank PLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFCC Bank PLC, one of Sri Lanka's leading financial institutions, has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first foreign corporate to list a green bond on India's NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City. This LKR 2.5 billion bond, previously listed in Sri Lanka and on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, will finance solar energy projects in line with Sri Lanka's 2030 renewable goals. The bond adheres to ICMA Green Bond Principles and supports the UN SDGs, especially Affordable and Clean Energy and Climate Action.
8.	SBI General Insurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBI General Insurance has appointed Mohd. Arif Khan as its Deputy CEO to steer the company through a phase of growth and innovation. With over 25 years at SBI, Khan has expertise across retail banking, digital systems, and leadership training. His appointment is expected to strengthen customer experience, drive technological innovation, and expand SBI General's footprint in emerging markets. Holding multiple certifications and academic accolades, his entry signifies SBI General's push towards excellence in insurance services and leadership transformation.
9.	Punjab National Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punjab National Bank (PNB) has disbursed ₹17.02 crore to the families of 26 defence and paramilitary martyrs under its Rakshak Plus Scheme, as of June 11, 2025. The scheme, designed for uniformed personnel, provides comprehensive insurance benefits, including ₹1 crore accidental cover and ₹1.5 crore air accident cover, along with support for partial disabilities. PNB's initiative aims to honour the sacrifices of Indian soldiers by ensuring their families are not left without support. It reaffirms the bank's role in nation-building, standing in solidarity with the armed forces.

RBI News

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
1.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI's enhanced liquidity stress testing framework marks a significant step toward improving the financial system's capacity to absorb shocks. By including NBFCs, UCBs, and even its own portfolio in stress test models, and integrating climate transition risk, the central bank aims to foster a resilient, transparent, and future-ready financial ecosystem. The introduction of a Growth-at-Risk model will further align monetary policy with potential macroeconomic vulnerabilities.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
2.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India is set to review its inflation targeting framework and reassess the required liquidity levels in FY26. With growing concerns over the volatility of food prices, discussions are gaining momentum around using core inflation as a more stable benchmark for monetary policy. Simultaneously, the RBI plans to fine-tune liquidity management to maintain a surplus of around 1% of NDTL, ensuring smoother policy transmission. The shift underlines the central bank's commitment to financial stability, price control, and growth facilitation through a robust policy framework.
3.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted in-principle approval to PayPal Payments and Worldline ePayments India to operate as cross-border payment aggregators (PAs). This move follows an RBI directive from October 2024 requiring such firms to secure independent authorization instead of operating under the old OPGSP model. The step is expected to significantly benefit India's freelancers, SMEs, and exporters, strengthening India's digital economy and its participation in global trade.
4.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has successfully facilitated the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes, with 98.26% returned by May 31, 2025. Introduced during the 2016 demonetisation, these high-value notes are being phased out under the Clean Note Policy due to low usage and aging currency stock. The notes can still be exchanged or deposited through RBI offices and India Post. This step is seen as a major move towards efficient currency management and reducing unaccounted cash holdings.
5.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed 353 penalties worth ₹54.78 crore on various regulated entities (REs) during the fiscal year 2024–25, as disclosed in its Annual Report. The violations pertained to cybersecurity non-compliance, exposure norms, IRAC guidelines, KYC norms, and fraud/data reporting failures. Cooperative banks faced the most penalties (264), followed by NBFCs, HFCs, and commercial banks. The RBI's actions reinforce the growing emphasis on regulatory enforcement, transparency, and risk mitigation across India's banking ecosystem.
6.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a draft proposal on April 9, 2025, outlining revised rules for lending against gold, aiming to align practices across financial institutions and curb discrepancies. Triggered by the surge in gold loan activity, particularly among banks, these guidelines focus on enhancing borrower safety, ensuring transparency, and streamlining lending norms—though they've raised alarms about potential disruptions to rural credit, especially for small-scale borrowers in southern India. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its gold loan guidelines, increasing the loan-to-value (LTV) ratio to 85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh, while setting the cap at 80% for ₹2.5–5 lakh and 75% beyond ₹5 lakh. Effective from April 1, 2026, the norms are designed to improve credit accessibility for small-ticket borrowers while addressing rising non-performing assets (NPAs) in the sector. The move follows inputs from the Department of Financial Services (DFS) and mandates stricter collateral valuation, faster gold return, and safeguards against misleading ads.
7.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a special scheme to promote original Hindi book writing in economics, banking, and finance, offering recognition and financial rewards to UGC-recognized professors (working or retired) who author original Hindi books (20+ pages) published between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, with the application deadline set for June 30, 2025.
8.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its gold loan LTV norms, allowing a higher loan-to-value ratio of up to 85% for low-ticket loans. This move, effective from April 1, 2026, is expected to significantly benefit NBFCs, especially those with a large share of loans under ₹5 lakh. According to Crisil Ratings, the revised norms offer greater lending headroom and help offset new LTV computation rules that include accrued interest in bullet repayment loans.

Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities		
S.No.	Name	Purpose
9.	RBI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RBI will conduct a ₹30,000 crore government securities auction on June 13, 2025, which includes the re-issuance of ₹5,000 crore Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) maturing in 2054. These bonds are earmarked for environmentally sustainable projects. The auction will use the multiple price method via the e-Kuber platform. This step demonstrates India's firm commitment to green financing, climate resilience, and its net-zero goals under global climate agreements.
10.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India has announced final guidelines for project finance provisioning, reducing the burden on lenders by setting a 1% requirement for under-construction loans, down from the earlier proposed 5%. The norms, effective October 1, 2025, provide flexibility for commercial real estate and housing loans, while retaining lower provisioning rates for operational projects. This move aligns with the RBI's broader consultative approach, supporting credit availability and infrastructure development.
11.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms for Small Finance Banks (SFBs), effective from FY 2025–26, reducing the overall PSL target from 75% to 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBE), whichever is higher. Of this, 40% must still go to specified PSL sub-sectors (e.g., agriculture, MSMEs, education), while the remaining 20% can be flexibly allocated to any PSL sub-sectors where the SFB has a competitive advantage.
12.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported a 3.1% year-on-year rise in the All-India House Price Index (HPI) for Q4 FY2024–25, matching the previous quarter's growth but slightly lower than 4.1% in the same period last year. Based on property registration data from 10 major cities, the index reflects authentic urban housing trends. Quarter-on-quarter, national house prices increased by 0.9%, with Bengaluru, Jaipur, Kolkata, and Chennai leading due to strong demand and urban development. Kolkata saw the highest annual rise at 8.8%, while Kochi was the only city with a price decline (-2.3%).
13.	Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹29.6 lakh on Fino Payments Bank Limited for non-compliance with the Licensing Guidelines for Payments Banks. The violation was uncovered during the Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024), assessing operations as of March 31, 2024. The breach involved exceeding the end-of-day balance limits in customer accounts, which is against the RBI's prescribed norms for Payments Banks designed to limit systemic risk. This action underscores the RBI's commitment to regulatory enforcement and financial discipline.
14.	Reserve Bank of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a major operational change by extending the call money market timings to 7 PM starting July 1, 2025. Additionally, market repo and Tri-Party Repo (TREP) timings will be extended till 4 PM from August 1, 2025. This decision follows recommendations from a Working Group led by Radha Shyam Ratho and is aimed at improving liquidity management, aligning with global market practices, and enhancing operational flexibility for banks and financial institutions. Trading hours for government securities, foreign exchange, and interest rate derivatives remain unchanged.

SEBI News

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
1.	SEBI launched settlement scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEBI has launched a settlement scheme for stock brokers involved in algo trading violations, open from June 16 to September 16, 2025. Over 100 brokers, including top firms like Zerodha and 5Paisa, were found collaborating with unregulated algo platforms offering assured returns—a direct breach of SEBI norms. The scheme provides a way to resolve cases with a low settlement cost, while SEBI continues to strengthen regulations for algorithmic trading, emphasizing retail investor protection, empanelment of algo providers, and broker accountability.

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
2.	<p>Securities and Exchange Board of India Proposes Permitting All KYC Agencies to Function as Accreditation Bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed that all KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) be allowed to function as accreditation agencies, expanding eligibility beyond subsidiaries of stock exchanges and depositories. Currently, only subsidiaries of stock exchanges and depositories (under specific conditions) are eligible to be accreditation agencies. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presently, only two accreditation agencies operate in the market: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CDSL Ventures Ltd (subsidiary of CDSL) NSDL Data Management Ltd (subsidiary of NSDL) Both current accreditation agencies are also KRAs, and there are a total of five KRAs registered with SEBI. SEBI believes this is the right time for the change as it would cause no disruption to the existing accreditation ecosystem. The move is expected to: Increase the number of accreditation agencies, Enhance competition, Enable cost-efficient servicing. SEBI also proposed faster onboarding of accredited investors by allowing Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to temporarily onboard investors based on the first-level due diligence by AIF managers. However, funds should be received from such investors only after they receive an accreditation certificate from an accreditation agency. Any commitment made by a provisionally onboarded investor: Shall not be included in the calculation of the scheme's corpus until accreditation is received. Shall be null and void if the investor fails to obtain accreditation before the final close, in the case of close-ended AIF schemes. SEBI has invited public comments on the proposal until July 8, 2025.
3.	<p>Securities and Exchange Board of India Urges Investors to Use CeFCoM Platform for Payments to Advisers and Research Analysts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is encouraging investors to make payments to investment advisers and research analysts through the Centralized Fee Collection Mechanism (CeFCoM) to protect against financial fraud and unauthorized fund collections. Use of CeFCoM is optional, but SEBI highlights its benefits in enhancing transparency, security, and trust in the investment advisory ecosystem. CeFCoM was launched on October 1, 2024, and is operated by BSE Ltd. in collaboration with MF Utilities India Pvt. Ltd. CeFCoM supports multiple digital payment modes including Net Banking, UPI/UPI Autopay, Debit/Credit Cards, IMPS/NEFT/RTGS, eNACH, and cheques. As of June 10, 2025, investors have paid over ₹5 crore through CeFCoM. The platform helps investors distinguish between SEBI-registered advisers/analysts and unregistered fraudulent entities, reducing the risk of deception via misleading schemes and payment links. SEBI plans to launch a digital verification tool called 'SEBI Check' from October 1, 2025, allowing investors to verify authenticity of UPI handles and bank account details before making payments. The new structured UPI handle system will use readable usernames with category-specific suffixes like 'brk' (brokers), 'mf' (mutual funds), and an '@valid' tag issued by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Verified UPI handles will have a green triangle with a thumbs-up icon as a visual indicator of legitimacy. SEBI also intends to collaborate with online app stores to ensure only validated apps for investment-related payments are listed, enhancing digital trust.

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
4.	<p>Securities and Exchange Board of India Requires Registered Intermediaries to Have Dedicated UPI Address</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will introduce a validated UPI handle for investor-facing intermediaries to ensure secure payments and prevent fraud. The new UPI handle will use the suffix "@valid", for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bkr@validhdfc where "abc.bkr" is the intermediary's name and "hdfc" is the self-certified syndicate bank. The UPI handles will be allocated by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). A valid payment will display a thumbs-up symbol inside a green triangle to help non-English speaking users recognize authenticity. Approximately 8,000 to 9,000 intermediaries (including brokers, bankers to an issue, research analysts, investment advisors) will transition to the new UPI handle. The mandate will come into force from October 1, 2025. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) will not be affected, but old UPI IDs will be discontinued from December 11, 2026. SEBI will conduct investor awareness campaigns and cyber fraud prevention efforts over the next two years, with an allocated budget. Intermediaries are required to create awareness about the new UPI handle and prominently display it. Investors must verify UPI IDs before making payments using the SEBI Check application to ensure transactions are only with verified intermediaries. SEBI plans to collaborate with the Google Play Store to ensure only valid apps are available to investors.
5.	<p>Securities and Exchange Board of India releases operational guidelines for issuance of Environment, Social and Governance debt securities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released an operational framework for the issuance of social bonds, sustainability bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds, collectively called Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) debt securities. The framework aims to help issuers raise funds for sustainable projects and bridge the funding gap for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Debt securities will be labelled as social bonds, sustainability bonds, or sustainability-linked bonds only if the raised funds are used for financing or refinancing projects aligned with their objectives. <p>Key Highlights :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial disclosures must be made in the offer document; continuous disclosures must be included in annual reports or other mandated formats. Issuers of social bonds must disclose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social objectives of the project. Details of the decision-making process for project eligibility. Procedures for tracking deployment of proceeds. An indicative estimate of fund distribution between financing and refinancing. In case of refinancing, details of the existing debt, including amount outstanding, must be disclosed. Issuers must appoint an independent third-party reviewer or certifier to ensure compliance with recognized ESG standards. Issuers of sustainability bonds must comply with provisions specified for green debt securities. Issuers must ensure all funded projects meet the stated social or sustainability objectives and use proceeds only for the disclosed purpose. SEBI recognizes that some projects may have co-benefits (e.g., social projects with environmental benefits and vice versa). The classification of debt securities depends on the issuer's primary objectives for the projects. Issuers must continuously monitor the impact of projects to confirm they are achieving the intended social or sustainable outcomes as stated in the offer document. The framework will be effective from June 5, 2025

S.No	Announcement	Key Details
6.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Introduces Verified UPI Handles to Prevent Market Frauds and Strengthen Investor Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched the ‘SEBI Check’ tool to validate UPI handles and registered bank accounts to ensure secure payments by investors. The tool will help enhance investor protection and combat deepfakes and cyber frauds. Investors can use SEBI Check to verify if a UPI handle or bank account is registered before making payments. UPI ID authenticity can be verified by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scanning a QR code, or Entering the UPI ID manually For bank account verification, investors can check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank account number Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) of the SEBI-registered intermediary The username will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A readable name chosen by the intermediary Followed by a mandatory suffix that identifies their category (e.g., brk for Stock Broker, mf for Mutual Fund) A valid handle will feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A unique identifier, “@valid”, Combined with the name of the Self-Certified Syndicate Bank These validated UPI handles will be exclusively allocated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) only for payment collection by SEBI-registered intermediaries. The SEBI Check tool will be available from October 1, 2025. SEBI will also coordinate with online app stores to display only validated apps for payments to protect investors from fake platforms.
7.	Securities and Exchange Board of India Imposes ₹25 Lakh Penalty on BSE Limited for Multiple Regulatory Violations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh on BSE Limited for multiple violations. Violations include dissemination of price sensitive information by corporates, weak supervision of broker trades, and laxity in taking action. SEBI conducted an inspection of BSE from February 2021 to September 2022 and issued a show cause notice Major charge: Prior to September 2023, BSE’s system architecture allowed the Listing Compliance Monitoring (LCM) team and paid subscribers to access corporate announcements before they were publicly available on its website. BSE is directed to pay the penalty within 45 days of receiving the order.

Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs

- The **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)** and **SEBI** launched the first **Niveshak Shivir** in **Pune** on **June 1, 2025**, focusing on helping investors **reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares**, update **KYC and nominations**, and learn about the **IEPF claim process**. Over **450 participants** benefited from **personalized assistance**, including a **search facility**, form filling support, and awareness of common errors. A special **NSDL brochure** was also released to guide investors. The initiative reflects a commitment to **transparent, investor-centric governance**, with more city-wide events to follow. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The **SBI Economic Research Report** forecasts a **rise in household net financial savings** to ₹22 lakh crore in FY25, making up **6.5% of GNDI**—a sign of economic strengthening. It also highlights the **RBI’s record surplus**

transfer of ₹2.69 lakh crore and the **resilience of India’s financial system** despite challenges like rising fraud amounts. The report paints a picture of **robust financial fundamentals** and **transformative shifts** in savings, governance, and institutional efficiency. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- In **May 2025**, **credit card spending** in India jumped by **14.5% year-on-year**, reaching **₹1.89 trillion**, as per **RBI** data. The increase was driven by the issuance of **760,000 new credit cards**, with **HDFC Bank** and **SBI Cards** leading the growth. The total number of cards in circulation rose to **111.19 million**, indicating enhanced **consumer confidence**, a growing shift toward **digital payments**, and rising **retail credit penetration**. This trend reinforces the role of **private banks** in driving the country’s **digital consumption economy**. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

ECONOMY NEWS

- India's FY26 GDP growth forecasts saw **divergent estimates** from major global institutions. The **OECD lowered** its projection to **6.3%**, citing risks from **U.S. tariffs**, a **weak monsoon**, and ongoing **global trade tensions**. In contrast, **UBS raised** its forecast to **6.4%**, expecting support from **stronger private consumption**, **tax relief**, and potential **rate cuts by the RBI**. Despite differences, both institutions agreed that **public investment and falling interest rates** will continue to support economic activity. However, the OECD warned of a broader **slowdown in global economic growth**, projecting it at just **2.9%**.
- Meanwhile, **Nomura revised** India's GDP forecast to **6.2%**, observing a mismatch between **strong headline indicators** like GST collections and **weaker trends** in auto sales and bank credit growth. This comes in contrast to the **RBI's estimate of 6.5%**, signaling caution amid ongoing global volatility. Despite the conservative growth outlook, Nomura raised its **Nifty 50 target to 26,140**, indicating confidence in **India's macroeconomic resilience**. The brokerage also signaled a preference for **domestic-oriented sectors** over exporters. Separately, **BofA Securities** reiterated a **positive long-term outlook** on Indian equities, attributing it to continued **structural reforms** and the progress of **digitisation**.
- The **World Bank** maintained India's FY26 GDP forecast at **6.3%**, keeping it as the **fastest-growing major economy** globally. While nearly **70% of world economies** saw growth downgrades amid trade conflicts, policy ambiguity, and sluggish investment, India remained an exception. The report credited India's **strong services sector**, **low inflation**, and **RBI's monetary easing** as growth drivers. It also praised the country's **fiscal discipline**, highlighting a **medium-term target** of reducing the **public debt-to-GDP ratio to 50%** by FY31.
- India's **unemployment rate** rose to **5.6% in May 2025**, attributed largely to a **seasonal drop in rural farm employment** after the harvest. Data showed that **youth and women** were particularly affected, with **female labour force participation** falling to **27.8%**. The trend underscores persistent structural challenges in creating adequate and inclusive employment, especially in rural regions. Both **urban and rural youth unemployment** surged, drawing attention to the need for focused employment generation strategies.
- Credit rating agency **ICRA** also estimated India's FY26 GDP growth at **6.2%**, citing **weak merchandise exports**, **trade uncertainties**, and **moderating inflation** as constraints. However, it noted that **robust rural demand**, a projected **10.1% increase in capital expenditure**, and **household tax reliefs** could provide key support. Additionally, **services exports** are expected to outperform goods exports. The **fiscal deficit** is projected at **4.4% of GDP**, indicating a cautious yet steady fiscal approach. ICRA affirmed that India's **macroeconomic fundamentals remain solid**, despite external volatility.
- India's **core sector growth** slowed sharply to **0.7% in May 2025**, marking a **nine-month low**. The fall was driven by a decline in the output of **crude oil**, **natural gas**, **fertilisers**, and **electricity**. This marked the **second consecutive month** of core sector weakness, reflecting pressure on **industrial production**. However, **cement (+9.2%)** and **steel (+6.7%)** continued to show strength. The figures point to a need for **targeted policy support** in key **infrastructure and energy sectors** to maintain momentum.
- India's **net direct tax collection** declined by **1.39%** to ₹4.59 lakh crore in **Q1 FY26**, mainly due to **slower advance tax growth** and a **drop in corporate tax receipts**. While **gross direct tax collection** rose **4.86%**, a sharp **58% increase in tax refunds** significantly reduced the net collection base. Corporate advance tax saw modest growth of **5.86%**, while **non-corporate advance tax** declined by **2.68%**. These developments point to **early fiscal pressure** and the importance of **monitoring tax compliance** and the **pace of economic recovery**.
- On **June 24, 2025**, **S&P Global Ratings** raised India's GDP growth estimate for FY26 to **6.5%**, citing **economic resilience** amid global volatility. Key drivers for the upward revision included the expectation of a **normal monsoon**, which would support agriculture, and **lower crude oil prices**, which help **contain inflation** and **ease import costs**. The update reflects international confidence in **India's policy framework** and its **ability to sustain growth** despite external shocks.
- In Q4 FY25, **India recorded a current account surplus of \$13.5 billion**, a sharp turnaround from the previous quarter's deficit. According to **RBI data**, this surplus was driven by **strong services exports**, especially in **IT and business services**, and an increase in **remittances from abroad**. A **narrower merchandise trade deficit** and a fall in **net primary income outflows** also contributed to the surplus. Despite some moderation in **FDI inflows**, the improvement reflects a boost in **external sector stability** and overall **economic fundamentals**.

- India's **retail inflation** declined sharply to **2.82% in May 2025**, marking its **lowest level since February 2019**. The fall was largely driven by a significant drop in **food inflation**, which eased to **0.99%**. Prices of essential food items such as **vegetables, pulses, and meat** fell, aided by a **favourable base effect** and **government measures** like **import duty cuts**. Among states, **Kerala recorded the highest inflation**, while **Telangana reported the lowest**. Looking ahead, analysts expect the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to average around **4% in FY26**, though they caution that **monsoon performance** and **geopolitical developments** could influence price dynamics. The current data supports the **RBI's strategy to frontload rate cuts**, but it also indicates **limited scope for further easing** unless **economic growth weakens** considerably.
- In line with the trend in retail inflation, India's **wholesale price inflation (WPI)** also fell to **0.39% in May 2025**, down from **0.85% in April**, reflecting **declining prices in food, fuel, and manufactured goods**. A key contributor to the drop was the **steep deflation in vegetable prices**, which plunged by **21.62%**. This simultaneous fall in both WPI and CPI sends encouraging signals for **price stability**, reinforcing a more **accommodative monetary policy stance** and giving the **RBI more flexibility**, especially amid external uncertainties.
- Additionally, India is planning a significant **revamp of its CPI framework**, with a proposal to **update the base year to 2024** and **expand the CPI basket** to better reflect current **consumption patterns**. This revision is being informed by the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023–24**, which analyzed data from around **407 consumption items**. The updated **CPI series** is expected to be launched by **early 2026**, replacing the existing **2012-based index**. Furthermore, the **Economic Survey 2023–24** has recommended a review of the role of food prices in the **inflation targeting mechanism**, suggesting that food may be excluded due to its **volatile supply-side behavior**. This indicates a shift toward more **structural and targeted inflation management** going forward.



BUSINESS NEWS

- **GST collections for May 2025** rose **16.4% year-on-year** to **Rs 2.01 lakh crore**, showing **strong momentum** despite being lower than **April's record** Rs 2.37 lakh crore. While **domestic GST** grew **13.7%** to Rs 1.50 lakh crore, it slowed due to reduced **year-end transactions** and shifting **consumer behavior**. In contrast, **import GST** surged **25.2%**, indicating strong **import demand**. After **refunds**, **net GST** rose **20.4%** to Rs 1.74 lakh crore, signaling **economic recovery**, as highlighted by experts from **KPMG** and **EY India**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **UPI transactions in May 2025** hit a **record high** with **18.68 billion transactions** worth **₹25.14 trillion**, showing **4% M-o-M** and **33% Y-o-Y growth** in volume. This surge surpasses **March 2025's** previous record, highlighting India's rapid **digital payment adoption**. **Daily transactions** rose to **602 million**, with daily value reaching **₹81,106 crore**, underscoring the **UPI ecosystem's expanding scale** and deepening **usage intensity**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **1 June 2025**, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** unveiled a **\$10 billion initiative for urban transformation in India**. This 5-year plan aims to revamp **metro networks**, launch new **RRTS corridors**, and improve **urban infrastructure and services** across over 100 cities. Backed by sovereign loans, **private capital**, and the **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**, the project also includes **\$3 million in technical assistance** for project planning. ADB emphasized skill development, women's empowerment, and **inclusive urban growth** as part of India's **Viksit Bharat @ 2047** mission. The announcement follows meetings with **PM Modi**, **FM Nirmala Sitharaman**, and **Housing Minister Manohar Lal**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has officially granted **Starlink**, the satellite internet venture by **Elon Musk's SpaceX**, the much-awaited **GMPCS licence**, paving the way for the company to offer satellite communication services across the country. This makes Starlink the third operator in India's satellite internet market, alongside **OneWeb** and **Jio Satellite**, and it is expected to receive trial spectrum soon to prove its technical and security readiness. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Public sector general insurance companies (**PSGICs**) have achieved a notable **growth milestone** by collecting **₹1.06 lakh crore** in **premium income** during **FY2024–25**, up from **₹80,000 crore** in FY19. This performance was highlighted during a **review meeting** chaired by **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman**, focusing on **insurance penetration, density, and digital transformation**. The sector witnessed a **turnaround in profitability**, with firms like **NIACL, NICL, OICL, and UIICL** returning to profits. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.** has partnered with **Muthoot Forex** to expand access to its **Borderless Travel Card** and **Study Buddy Card** via Muthoot's **7,000+ branch network**, aiming to serve **international travelers and students abroad** across **metro to Tier 4 cities**, with features like **multi-currency support, emergency cash, free SIM, Rs.7.5 lakh insurance, and reward points** for forex loads. ([Click here to read article](#))
- SEBI has launched a **settlement scheme** for stock brokers involved in **algo trading violations**, open from **June 16 to September 16, 2025**. Over **100 brokers**, including top firms like **Zerodha** and **5Paisa**, were found collaborating with **unregulated algo platforms** offering **assured returns**—a direct breach of SEBI norms. The scheme provides a way to resolve cases with a **low settlement cost**, while SEBI continues to strengthen **regulations for algorithmic trading**, emphasizing **retail investor protection, empanelment of algo providers, and broker accountability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Scapia**, in collaboration with **Federal Bank**, has launched India's **first dual-network credit card** combining **Visa and RuPay**, known as the **Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card**. With **UPI compatibility, zero forex markup, Scapia Coins, and airport lounge benefits**, the card offers a unified credit experience for **domestic and international use**. The launch is aligned with Scapia's broader platform upgrades under its **2025 Summer Release**, including **AI recommendations, tailored fare options, and reward enhancements** — marking a key milestone in India's **fintech evolution**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$109.97 million loan** to support Gujarat's **Skills Development Program**, a forward-looking initiative designed to enhance **technical education, promote inclusive employment, and drive industrial competitiveness**. By upgrading **training infrastructure, launching industry-aligned courses, and improving governance** at institutions like **Kaushalya: The Skill University**, the program will create a **future-ready workforce**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Apna.co** has launched **AI Job Prep**, an innovative **AI-powered interview preparation tool** aimed at bridging the **confidence gap** in India's job market. With over **7.6 lakh simulations** completed across **900+ cities**, the platform provides **realistic interview experiences, real-time feedback, and personalized tips** using its proprietary **Agentic AI technology**. Metro cities like **Delhi and Mumbai** lead in adoption, but usage is rapidly growing in **non-metro areas**. This tool reflects a larger trend of **tech-enabled skilling** and is expected to significantly boost **employability and digital empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **GIFT City** has witnessed a surge in global interest, with banks from **France and the UAE** applying to set up **IFSC Banking Units (IBUs)**. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has approved **Natixis and Credit Agricole**, while other foreign and domestic banks await clearances. The total number of IBUs has doubled from **15 in 2022 to 31 in 2025, with \$88.5 billion in assets**. This reflects **global trust in India's economic reforms**, and supports the country's ambition to make GIFT City a **world-class financial centre**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has raised **₹2,005.90 crore** through a **QIP issue**, attracting strong participation from domestic and international institutional investors. The funds will **enhance IREDA's Tier-I capital** and enable expanded **green energy financing**. This development follows IREDA's IPO in 2023 and reaffirms the agency's growing significance in India's **clean energy transition**, strengthening its ability to support renewable energy initiatives across the country. ([Click here to read article](#))
- UPI transactions are now set to be completed in just **10–15 seconds**, starting June 16, 2025, as per NPCI's latest directive. In addition to this, users will have a **50-times daily limit** for checking their account balance via UPI apps. To increase transaction transparency and reduce fraud, apps will display only the **final beneficiary's name**, and users will no longer be able to edit it. With UPI usage surging across India, these upgrades aim to boost the **efficiency, speed, and trust** in the country's digital payment ecosystem. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has partnered with the **Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)** in **Paris** to automate and optimise its financial reconciliation process. The implementation of **TCS BaNCS™ for Reconciliations** will enable **end-to-end automation, real-time insights, and AI-driven exception management**. This will lead to reduced **manual intervention, improved operational efficiency, and enhanced control and transparency** in daily transactions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has granted **operating license to Starlink**, the **satellite internet service by SpaceX**, paving the way for **widespread rural and remote broadband access**. Following this, **Jio Platforms** and **Bharti Airtel** partnered with **SpaceX** to **retail Starlink kits and offer support services**, aiming to connect schools, hospitals, and businesses. While the move aligns with the **Digital India vision, spectrum allocation disputes** between **Elon Musk and Mukesh Ambani** highlight ongoing regulatory challenges. ([Click here to read article](#))

- **TVS Motor Company** has entered **Indonesia's electric two-wheeler market** with the launch of the **TVS iQube**, an electric scooter offering a **115 km range** and **78 kmph top speed**. Priced at **IDR 29.9 million**, the scooter will be **assembled locally** in East Karawang and aligns with the Indonesian government's EV adoption goals. As **Indonesia's EV market grows at 101% CAGR**, this marks a **major milestone** for TVS's global EV expansion, with the iQube already boasting a **6 lakh global customer base**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Jio Financial Services (JFSL)** has acquired **State Bank of India's 17.8% stake** in **Jio Payments Bank** for **₹104.54 crore**, resulting in full ownership of the digital bank. Approved by the **Reserve Bank of India**, the move marks a significant milestone in **Jio's fintech expansion**. Alongside, **Jio BlackRock Mutual Fund** introduced **Aladdin**, a **global risk analytics platform**, to the Indian market. While JFSL shares **dipped 1%**, the company is rapidly strengthening its **digital finance ecosystem** through **strategic collaborations** and acquisitions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has secured the **13th spot globally** in terms of **online investment curiosity**, according to a recent study by **BrokerChooser**. The country logged **2,629 monthly searches per million people**, showing strong interest in **stocks**, followed by **crypto** and **forex**. While India still trails nations like **Australia, Singapore, and Kenya**, the findings reflect a rapid shift in **investment behavior**, especially among **tech-savvy youth**. The rise of **mobile trading apps, SIPs, and digital financial influencers** is redefining how Indians engage with the market. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's financial presence in Swiss banks has sharply increased in 2024, with total holdings reaching **CHF 3.5 billion** (₹37,600 crore) — a threefold jump over the previous year. The surge is largely driven by **institutional investments**, while **personal deposits** remain a minor share. Despite regular tax data exchange between India and Switzerland, the issue of **black money** remains under scrutiny. India also improved its global rank among foreign clients of Swiss banks, moving from **67th to 48th** in just one year. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **NPCI's New Real-Time PAN-Bank Account Validation API** aims to **enhance accuracy and efficiency** in tax-related processes by enabling **instant verification of PAN, bank account status, and account holder identity** via a secure **API interface**. Integrated with **Core Banking Systems (CBS)**, this facility ensures **real-time validation** on the **Income Tax e-filing portal**, reducing delays and manual errors. Though targeted at **government departments, taxpayers** benefit from **faster PAN-bank linking, improved refund processing, and greater data security**, marking a major step toward **streamlined digital governance**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- From **July 2025**, the **National Automated Clearing House (NACH)** will transition to **NACH 3.0**, offering a more secure, efficient, and transparent framework for recurring financial transactions such as **salary credits, SIPs, EMIs, and utility payments**. With improved features like **PGP encryption, real-time alerts, and optimized file handling**, the new system by **NPCI** is poised to enhance **customer experience, minimize errors**, and handle increased transaction volumes. For both banks and consumers, NACH 3.0 marks a **significant leap** in digital financial infrastructure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **private sector in India** saw a significant surge in **economic activity** in **June 2025**, with the **Flash Composite PMI** reaching **61**, the highest in over a year. This growth was led by **manufacturing**, supported by **new domestic and international orders, rising employment, and increased tech investments**. While **input and output prices** continued to rise, they did so at a **moderated pace**, indicating improved cost management. **Capacity pressures and backlogs** remained high, prompting companies to hire more, particularly in the manufacturing sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **state capital expenditure** is set to reach a record **₹10.2 lakh crore in FY26**, with **Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka** leading the charge. Together, they are expected to contribute nearly **50% of total state capex**, marking a significant shift towards **infrastructure-led growth**. The report highlights improved **revenue receipts, fiscal discipline**, and a clear **focus on asset creation**, making India's regional economies key players in driving national development during uncertain global conditions. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In **May 2025**, **credit card spending** in India jumped by **14.5% year-on-year**, reaching **₹1.89 trillion**, as per **RBI** data. The increase was driven by the issuance of **760,000 new credit cards**, with **HDFC Bank** and **SBI Cards** leading the growth. The total number of cards in circulation rose to **111.19 million**, indicating enhanced **consumer confidence**, a growing shift toward **digital payments**, and rising **retail credit penetration**. This trend reinforces the role of **private banks** in driving the country's **digital consumption economy**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a major boost to **Brand India**, the **Tata Group** has become the first Indian brand to cross the **\$30-billion** mark in brand value, as per **Brand Finance 2025** rankings. It is followed by **Infosys** and **HDFC**, while **Adani Group** has emerged as the **fastest-growing brand**. **Taj Hotels** remains the **strongest brand** with an **AAA+** rating. The rankings reflect India's expanding global presence, with **new entrants** like **Zomato** and **Birla Opus** making their mark. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has posted a **42% rise in surplus** to ₹1,552 crore and a **19% increase in revenue** to ₹3,270 crore in **FY25**, marking a strong financial performance. Despite challenges like **UPI outages** and the absence of **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)**, NPCI continues to lead India's **digital payments ecosystem**, managing platforms such as **UPI, RuPay, and IMPS**. With over **18 billion UPI transactions** in May 2025 alone, NPCI is on track to surpass global giants like **Visa** in daily volume. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** has emerged as a **model digital payment system**, as acknowledged in a recent **IMF report**. The study underscores how **interoperability**, supported by **low mobile data costs, widespread banking access**, and the **Aadhaar-based digital identity system**, helped the platform scale rapidly. The **IMF recommends other nations** seeking a similar transition to adopt a **holistic digital ecosystem**, not just standalone payment platforms. This recognition places **India's fintech leadership** on the global stage and encourages further investment in **inclusive digital infrastructure**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **ICAR-NIRCA** have initiated a **training program for farmers and FPOs in East Godavari**, focusing on **post-harvest technologies for turmeric and chilli**. The initiative, launched on **June 25, 2025**, highlights the need for **moisture and microbial control** in spice crops and aims to **enhance value, reduce losses, and improve export readiness** through **scientific practices and technology adoption**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a strategic move to expand their fuel retail presence, **Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL)** and **Reliance BP Mobility Ltd (Jio-bp)** have agreed to **dispense each other's fuels at select retail outlets**. The initiative aims to enhance infrastructure usage and customer convenience while increasing the market share of private players in a sector largely led by public oil companies. This partnership builds upon their earlier collaboration and reflects the growing synergy between India's corporate giants in the energy sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- IFFCO, India's leading fertiliser cooperative, is set to launch its **first overseas nano fertiliser plant in Brazil** through a joint venture with **NANOFERT**. The facility will produce **4.5 million litres of nano nutrients** annually, helping boost yields of crops like **corn, soybean, and sugarcane**. With **field trials confirming 7–10% yield increases and 20% fertiliser use reduction**, this initiative strengthens India's **global agri-tech leadership** and promotes **sustainable farming**. Future expansions include nano **zinc and copper** variants. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **India** has launched its **first maritime sector NBFC**, the **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)**, inaugurated by **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal**. Aimed at **bridging financial gaps** in the maritime ecosystem, SMFCL will finance **ports, MSMEs, and startups**. The minister also unveiled the **SAGAR SETU platform** for operational efficiency, a **standardised tariff template** for major ports, and the **Gateway to Green report** to advance **green hydrogen adoption**. An **MoU with CDAC** was signed to set up a **Digital Centre of Excellence**, reinforcing India's push for **digital maritime transformation**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **JioBlackRock Broking Pvt. Ltd.** has received **SEBI approval** to start operations as a **brokerage firm**, marking a significant milestone in the joint venture between **Jio Financial Services Ltd.** and **BlackRock Inc.** The brokerage arm complements the group's existing **asset management and investment advisory services**, furthering its mission to **democratise investing in India**. Through **technology-led, cost-efficient, and digital-first platforms**, JioBlackRock aims to serve **retail and self-directed investors**, delivering a full spectrum of financial solutions under one roof.
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has levied a **₹1 crore penalty on Edelweiss Life Insurance** for violating **corporate governance** standards. The violations include improper **outsourcing oversight** and failure to obtain **mandatory bank account details** of policyholders. IRDAI's action emphasizes the importance of **regulatory compliance, policyholder protection**, and adherence to the **Companies Act, 2013**. This move sends a strong signal to the insurance sector about maintaining **transparency, due diligence, and accountability** in business operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India has **exported its first consignment of rose-scented litchi** from **Pathankot, Punjab**, to **Qatar and the UAE**, demonstrating its rising presence in the **premium horticulture market**. Supported by **APEDA** and the **Punjab Horticulture Department**, this initiative showcases India's growing **agricultural export capabilities**. With exports of **fruits and vegetables touching USD 3.87 billion** in FY 2024–25, this move reinforces India's ambition to lead in **high-quality fresh produce** globally. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's **coffee export sector** has grown **125%** over the past decade, reaching **\$1.8 billion** in 2024–25, fueled by initiatives from the **Coffee Board of India**. The board introduced **digital export permits**, offered **financial incentives for value-added and specialty coffee**, and encouraged **shade-grown, sustainable coffee farming**. India is now the **5th largest exporter**, with top markets in **Europe, Japan, and the Middle East**. ([Click here to read article](#))

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

Category	Entity	MoU With	Field / Purpose
MoUs with Country	India	Cyprus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPCI and Eurobank Cyprus signed an MoU to introduce UPI services in Cyprus. Finalized during PM Modi's visit, it enables cross-border digital payments for tourists, businesses, and investors. Cyprus, a major FDI source for India, also signed an MoU with NSE at GIFT City, emphasizing fintech partnership and economic cooperation.
MoUs between Organizations	CAQM (Commission for Air Quality Management)	CSIR-CRRI and SPA-New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tripartite MoU signed on June 10, 2025, to implement urban road redevelopment across 9 NCR cities. Introduces greening strategies, smart road designs, and Web-GIS-based monitoring. Supported by a Project Monitoring Cell (PMC), this aims to combat road dust and improve air quality.
	NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)	IDRBT (Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU to bolster cybersecurity in India's digital payments ecosystem. Focuses on advanced training, launching a payment security certification, and access to IBCART 3.0 (संचेत) – a threat intelligence platform. Aims to enhance data privacy and infrastructure resilience.
	Shell India & DGT (Directorate General of Training, under MSDE)	Joint Green Skills & Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic collaboration to train India's youth for the green economy. Offers hands-on training in EV diagnostics, battery systems, and job certifications. Covers 5 major states, aiming to skill 250+ trainers and thousands of students.
	Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	Equitas Small Finance Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU to boost retail vehicle financing in India. Offers accessible loan options for new, used, and commercial vehicles. Focuses on expanding vehicle finance to semi-urban and rural customers, promoting financial inclusion.
	DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)	YourStory Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed under the Bharat Project to promote grassroots entrepreneurship. Targets 1 million entrepreneurs in Tier II, Tier III, and rural India. Offers AI tools, startup launchpads, and regional storytelling, aligning with Startup India and Atmanirbhar Bharat goals.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Rajiv Memani	Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for 2025–26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India, has been appointed the new CII President for 2025–26, succeeding Sanjiv Puri. With a strong background in global finance and industry leadership, Memani is set to enhance public-private collaboration and drive economic innovation. Alongside him, R. Mukundan and Suchitra K. Ella have been named President-Designate and Vice President, respectively.
Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar	MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FSIB has finalized Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar for the positions of MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Central Bank of India, respectively, marking a key leadership reshuffle in the public sector banking landscape. These appointments follow interviews with 23 candidates and reflect the Bureau’s ongoing efforts to ensure efficient leadership transitions, reinforce good governance, and sustain strategic progress in India’s financial ecosystem.
S. Padmanabhan	Chairman of Tata Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Padmanabhan has been appointed as the Chairman of Tata Chemicals, marking a new chapter in the company’s leadership. An alumnus of IIM Bangalore, he has held strategic roles in TCS, Tata Power, and most recently at Tata Chemicals as a Director. Recognized with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2008, Padmanabhan’s leadership is expected to steer Tata Chemicals through its next phase of sustainable innovation and global growth.
Ashwani Lohani	Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashwani Lohani, former chief of Air India and the Railway Board, has been appointed as the Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) for a three-year term starting June 2025. His appointment follows recent restructuring of the PMML’s executive council, which now includes eminent figures like Smriti Irani and Shekhar Kapur. Lohani’s extensive public sector experience is expected to significantly contribute to preserving and promoting the legacy of India’s Prime Ministers.
Noted economist S Mahendra Dev	Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noted economist S Mahendra Dev has been appointed the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), stepping into a key policymaking role. With deep expertise in agriculture, development economics, and rural transformation, Dev’s academic and professional background makes him well-suited to guide economic strategy in a time of evolving domestic and global challenges. His leadership is likely to strengthen India’s efforts toward inclusive growth, sustainable development, and evidence-based policymaking.
Ryan Roslansky	CEO of LinkedIn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan Roslansky, the CEO of LinkedIn, has been appointed to also oversee Microsoft’s Office productivity division, including the Microsoft 365 Copilot AI suite. This strategic leadership move reflects Microsoft’s push toward AI-driven workplace innovation and tighter integration between its major platforms. Roslansky will remain CEO of LinkedIn while managing key products like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and more under Rajesh Jha’s unit, reinforcing Microsoft’s long-term vision of connected, intelligent productivity.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
T Rabi Sankar	16th Finance Commission as a part-time member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed to the 16th Finance Commission as a part-time member, succeeding Ajay Narayan Jha. His expertise in financial regulation, digital currency, and monetary policy is expected to enrich the commission's fiscal recommendations for the 2026-2031 period. Headed by Arvind Panagariya, the commission will report by October 31, 2025, shaping Centre-State financial relations for the coming years.
Sailesh C. Mehta	Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailesh C. Mehta, MD of Deepak Fertilizers, has been appointed the new Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI), succeeding N. Suresh Krishnan of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. With over 40 years of industry experience, Mehta aims to promote sustainable and nutrient-efficient fertiliser solutions, improve farm productivity, and enhance cooperation among the government, fertiliser industry, and farmers. The leadership shift comes at a critical time as the fertiliser sector in India undergoes strategic transformations to ensure agricultural resilience and environmental sustainability.
Sat Pal Bhanoo	Interim CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sat Pal Bhanoo has been appointed as the interim CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), effective from June 08, 2025, following the end of Siddhartha Mohanty's term. The appointment, made by the Ministry of Finance, grants Bhanoo full financial and administrative powers for a period of three months or until further notice. This ensures continuity of leadership in India's largest life insurance provider, which plays a vital role in the country's financial ecosystem.
Kirti Ganorkar	Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd has appointed Kirti Ganorkar as its Managing Director, effective September 1, 2025, in a strategic move reflecting structured succession planning. Founder Dilip Shanghvi will remain as Executive Chairman, focusing on long-term vision and the specialty portfolio. Ganorkar brings over 25 years of experience, having led Sun's India operations and driven global market expansion. Alongside this transition, Abhay Gandhi will exit his role as North America CEO, with Richard Ascroft taking over, reporting to Aalok Shanghvi.
R Doraiswamy	Managing Director and CEO of LIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended R Doraiswamy, a seasoned executive with 38 years of experience, for the role of Managing Director and CEO of LIC. This decision is part of a wider leadership revamp at LIC, India's largest insurer. The final appointment awaits approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The move is considered critical for LIC's strategic future, especially in areas of governance, expansion, and market stability.
Cipla Health	Cipladine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cipla Health has launched a powerful new campaign for Cipladine, titled "Aapka Fast Aid Expert", featuring Neena Gupta. The campaign emphasizes Cipladine's quick action, 30-second effectiveness, and deep wound healing with its Povidone Iodine formula. Backed by relatable and witty ads crafted by Lowe Lintas, the initiative redefines traditional first aid as fast aid, reinforcing Cipladine's leadership in India's antiseptic market.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Amitabh Kant	G20 Sherpa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amitabh Kant, former G20 Sherpa and a reform-oriented IAS officer, has announced his resignation after 45 years in public service. • Known for leading the Aspirational Districts Programme, Incredible India, Startup India, and playing a pivotal role in India's G20 Presidency, Kant emphasized achievements like digital public infrastructure, climate leadership, and global inclusivity through the African Union's G20 inclusion. • He now intends to support startups, free enterprise, and think tanks, continuing to shape Viksit Bharat from outside the government framework.
Arun Srinivas	India Head and Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta has appointed Arun Srinivas as its India Head and Managing Director, effective July 1, 2025, marking a key leadership reshuffle. • He succeeds Shivnath Thukral, and will report to Sandhya Devanathan, who now oversees India and Southeast Asia. • Srinivas brings nearly three decades of experience and has led Meta's ads business in India since 2020, playing a pivotal role in the company's AI, Reels, and messaging initiatives.
Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee	First woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee made history on May 9, 2025, by becoming the first woman ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to the President of India, an appointment driven by President Droupadi Murmu's vision for gender equality and military inclusivity. • Selected after a comprehensive evaluation process involving physical, intellectual, and ceremonial aptitude, Solankee is tasked with facilitating presidential engagements, liaising with government and military officials, and being constantly informed to support the First Citizen. (Click here to read article)
Anuradha Thakur	SEBI Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEBI Board, replacing outgoing Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth. Effective July 1, 2025, Thakur will also likely join the RBI Central Board, making her the first woman Economic Affairs Secretary in India. • Known for her leadership in Air India's disinvestment, Bharat Bond ETF, and regulatory enforcement, she brings rich administrative experience.
G. Sampath Kumar	Nippon Koei India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nippon Koei India has appointed G. Sampath Kumar as its Managing Director, making him the first Indian to lead the company. • Backed by over three decades of experience in civil engineering and IT consultancy, Kumar's leadership is expected to enhance the company's footprint across India, West Asia, and the Asia-Pacific. • This strategic shift highlights NKI's commitment to regional expansion, local expertise, and inclusive leadership, as it continues delivering on large-scale infrastructure projects across sectors.
Prof M Satish Kumar	Queen's University Belfast (QUB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen's University Belfast (QUB) has named Prof M Satish Kumar as the first Dean of its GIFT City campus in Gujarat, a landmark step in enhancing UK-India education ties. • With over 25 years of experience and deep regional knowledge, Prof Kumar will oversee the campus's establishment, set to begin admissions in early 2026. • The appointment marks QUB's debut in GIFT City and reinforces its global expansion strategy, offering Indian students access to top-tier British education within India.

Person Name	Appointed As	Key Notes
Sivasubramanian Ramann	Chairperson of PFRDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sivasubramanian Ramann, former SIDBI Chairman, has assumed charge as the Chairperson of PFRDA for a five-year term starting June 20, 2025. With a deep background in finance, audit, and regulation, he brings leadership from institutions like SEBI, NeSL, and CAG.
China's Zou Jiayi	President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China's Zou Jiayi, an experienced official with a strong international finance background, has been appointed as the next President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
Anuj Pandey	CEO of UGRO Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UGRO Capital has named Anuj Pandey as its new Chief Executive Officer, underscoring a strategic focus on risk governance and leadership continuity. Pandey, a founding member and former Chief Risk Officer, brings over two decades of diverse experience from global institutions like Barclays and ABN AMRO. He will report to Shachindra Nath, who continues to steer UGRO's long-term vision and partnerships.
Amitabh Kant	Senior Adviser to Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amitabh Kant, a key figure in India's economic transformation and global diplomacy, has been appointed Senior Adviser to Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd, a Canadian multinational. With a track record of spearheading national initiatives like Digital India and the Aspirational Districts Programme, Kant's expertise will help guide Fairfax's India investments, especially as the firm aligns with the nation's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. His experience in governance, urban development, and policy innovation makes this a strategic move for both parties.
Professor Suman Chakraborty	Director of IIT Kharagpur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professor Suman Chakraborty has been appointed as the Director of IIT Kharagpur, effective June 19, 2025. A distinguished academic and J.C. Bose National Fellow, he is celebrated for pioneering affordable diagnostic technologies like Covirap and HemoQR. With a career rooted in innovation and global academic engagement, Prof. Chakraborty's directorship is set to enhance IIT Kharagpur's research excellence, technological outreach, and global reputation.

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Rohit Sharma	TCL India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TCL India has renewed its partnership with cricket legend Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for the second consecutive year, reinforcing its core message of "Master the Moment". The collaboration aims to foster a deeper emotional connection with Indian audiences through technology-led campaigns, AI-powered product innovations, and community-focused initiatives. TCL's continued association with Rohit Sharma reflects a strategic move to expand its digital presence, enhance brand credibility, and inspire consumers to embrace excellence in every moment.
MS Dhoni	Dettol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 28, 2025, Dettol announced MS Dhoni as the brand ambassador for its new Icy Cool range, including soaps, bodywash, and handwash. The campaign addresses summer-related hygiene problems, offering germ protection with an instant cooling effect. Known for his calm demeanor and reliability, Dhoni embodies the spirit of the product, helping Dettol foster stronger emotional engagement with its audience while promoting refreshing hygiene solutions tailored for India's hot climate.

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Katrina Kaif	Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Katrina Kaif, one of India's leading actors, has been named the Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives by the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC). This appointment aligns with the launch of the Visit Maldives Summer Sale Campaign and comes ahead of PM Modi's visit, suggesting renewed efforts to strengthen tourism and diplomatic ties. Kaif's global brand appeal is expected to enhance the Maldives' image as a luxury travel destination. This move also reflects a soft power strategy amid recovering relations between India and the Maldives.
Aliawati Longkumer	Ambassador to North Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has appointed Aliawati Longkumer as ambassador to North Korea, reviving high-level diplomatic engagement after a four-year pause. The move follows the reopening of India's embassy in Pyongyang in December 2024, which had been closed in July 2021 due to the pandemic. While trade remains suspended under UN sanctions, India has continued humanitarian support and training programmes for North Korean officials. The appointment reaffirms India's strategic presence in East Asia, balancing non-proliferation, regional security, and humanitarian interests.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) AWARDS

Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Global Leadership Award	Kumar Mangalam Birla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, has been honoured with the Global Leadership Award by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) at its 8th annual summit in Washington D.C. The award recognises Birla's visionary leadership, which led the group to invest over \$15 billion in the U.S. economy, creating over 5,400 jobs. With a presence in 15 American states, Aditya Birla Group represents one of India's largest global footprints. Birla emphasized a long-term, people-first investment approach.
knighthood	David Beckham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Beckham, the globally celebrated footballer, philanthropist, and environmental advocate, is set to receive a knighthood in the upcoming King Charles III Birthday Honours. Having already earned an OBE in 2003, Beckham's continued dedication to UNICEF, his ambassadorship with The King's Foundation, and his public service mark a transformation from sports icon to national role model. This honour will formally bestow the title "Sir David Beckham", celebrating decades of achievements both on and off the field.
National e-Governance Awards 2025	Rohini Gram Panchayat from Dhule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a groundbreaking achievement, Rohini Gram Panchayat from Dhule, a 100% tribal village, has bagged the Gold Award at the National e-Governance Awards 2025 for its digital governance model. Recognized under the Grassroots Level Initiatives category, the Panchayat has provided over 956 online services, including digital delivery of certificates via WhatsApp and streamlined e-services in health, education, and welfare. This award underscores the transformative potential of Digital India in rural and tribal regions, with Rohini emerging as a national role model for technology-enabled governance.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award)	American filmmaker Alexander Payne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 78th Locarno Film Festival, scheduled from August 6–16, 2025, will bestow its highest honour, the Pardo d'Onore (Honorary Leopard award), upon renowned American filmmaker Alexander Payne. Payne, celebrated for his emotionally grounded storytelling in films such as <i>Sideways</i>, <i>Nebraska</i>, and <i>The Holdovers</i>, will also interact with festival audiences through retrospectives and discussions. This tribute places him among a prestigious list of global cinema icons, reaffirming his role as a master of modern humanist cinema.
Food Planet Prize 2025	NitroCapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swedish startup NitroCapt has won the \$2 million Food Planet Prize 2025 for its green fertiliser technology that eliminates fossil fuels by using plasma and renewable energy to extract nitrogen from air. With the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions by over 90%, the innovation addresses one of agriculture's biggest environmental challenges. As fertilisers contribute to 2.7% of global emissions, NitroCapt's scalable, locally-produced solution could transform food security and climate resilience worldwide.
2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards	IndiGo Airlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a major achievement, IndiGo Airlines ranked 3rd globally in the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards under the Best Low-Cost Airlines category, following AirAsia and Scoot, showcasing India's rising stature in global aviation. The Skytrax Awards, often called the "Oscars of aviation", reflect votes from 22.3 million passengers. While no Indian full-service airline made the top 10, IndiGo's efficiency, affordability, and expanding global reach earned it this prestigious international recognition.
Padma Bhushan	Shri Ram Bahadur Rai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Padma Bhushan was awarded to Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, veteran journalist, cultural thinker, and President of IGNCATrust, in a special ceremony organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs on June 18, 2025. Acknowledging his over 40 years of service in journalism and his active participation in the JP Movement, the event celebrated his impact on Indian media, democracy, and intellectual thought. Through numerous editorial roles, publications, and leadership in cultural institutions, Shri Rai has left an indelible mark on India's journalistic landscape.
Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025	The Hindu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hindu emerged as the Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025, winning 10 accolades including four golds for innovations in video storytelling, AI integration, native advertising, and podcasting. Held in Chennai, the event was organized by WAN-IFRA, celebrating digital excellence across South Asian newsrooms. With recognitions in data visualisation, audience engagement, and digital subscriptions, <i>The Hindu</i> solidified its place as a digital leader in journalism. The awards reflect the organisation's collaborative approach and its commitment to tech-driven, reader-centric journalism.
Jury Prize at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025	Desi Oon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian animation film <i>Desi Oon</i>, directed by Suresh Eriyat, won the Jury Prize at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025, one of the most respected awards in global animation. Rooted in Indian culture, the film also won at the WAVES Awards of Excellence, was a standout in the Create in India Challenge, and earned a place in MoMA's archive. It has been shortlisted for Cannes Lions, recognized at the AICP Show, and earned accolades like the D&AD Wooden Pencil and Good Ads Matter Golds. Government leaders and animation bodies hailed the film as a milestone in India's journey to becoming a global AVGC-XR powerhouse.

Award Name	Award Winner	Key Notes
Digital Payments Award 2024–25	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been honored with the Digital Payments Award 2024–25 by the Ministry of Finance, marking its leading role in expanding digital financial inclusion across India. Topping the Payments Bank Performance Index, IPPB has leveraged its massive postal network, tech-enabled doorstep banking, and over 2 lakh field agents to deliver banking services in even the most remote areas.
JCB Prize for Literature		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCB Prize for Literature, once hailed as India’s richest and most inclusive literary award, has been discontinued after seven successful editions. Established in 2018, the award not only recognized fiction in English but also celebrated translated works, thus amplifying the reach of regional Indian literature. With prize money of up to Rs 25 lakh for authors and Rs 10 lakh for translators, it significantly contributed to India’s literary landscape. The closure, following the deregistration of the JCB Literature Foundation, has shocked the literary community, raising concerns about support for regional languages and emerging writers.

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Category	Event	Key Points
Events	first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India hosted the first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in New Delhi, establishing a global coalition for the conservation of seven major big cat species. Chaired by Bhupender Yadav, the meeting saw the endorsement of governance frameworks and leadership roles, uniting nine participating countries. The IBCA, launched in March 2024, seeks to drive international cooperation, knowledge exchange, and financial support to protect biodiversity and habitats across 95 range nations. The event marked a significant milestone in India’s vision of global ecological stewardship.
Conference	National Conference on Agri Stack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Conference on Agri Stack, held on June 13, 2025, marked a significant step in India’s digital agriculture journey. With the launch of ₹6,000 crore funding, DigiLocker-linked DVCs, AI-powered chatbots, and grievance redressal systems, the Centre reaffirmed its commitment to data-driven governance. States like Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka shared innovative use cases, reflecting collaborative efforts to enhance scheme delivery, credit access, and farmer identity authentication.
Conference	Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025, held from June 16 in Bonn, Germany, is a vital UNFCCC technical meeting bringing together over 5,000 stakeholders to lay the groundwork for decisions at the next COP summit. It focuses on operational aspects like the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), climate finance, loss and damage, technology transfer, and NDC monitoring. Led by the SBI and SBSTA, the conference plays a key role in ensuring scientific rigor, accountability, and policy readiness in global climate governance.
Conference	Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON) 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Conservation Conference (ICCON) 2025, hosted at the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun from 25–27 June, is India’s leading forum for biodiversity conservation and environmental policy. Inaugurated by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, the event convenes over 500 delegates from across India and the Global South, highlighting platforms like TechBridge for wildlife innovation. Organised by the MoEFCC, ICCON 2025 promotes interdisciplinary dialogue, supports youth and equitable participation, and reaffirms India’s role as a leader in global conservation science.

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RANKINGS

Rank Category	Details
IGIA Airport (Delhi)	Ranked among top 10 hub airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East by Airports Council International (ACI APAC & MID) . Only Indian airport in the list; connects to 153 destinations.
Mumbai (Data Centres)	Ranked 6th globally and 1st in Asia-Pacific for under-construction data centre capacity , per Cushman & Wakefield 2025 . 335 MW capacity under development.
India – Global Gender Gap Report 2025	Ranked 131st out of 148 countries with a gender parity score of 64.1% in WEF’s Global Gender Gap Report 2025 . Dropped due to lower female political representation.
India – THE Impact Rankings 2025	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (41) and LPU (48) led India’s 135 entries. JSS Academy and Shoolini University also in top 100. Ranked for UN SDGs performance.
India – Energy Transition Index 2025	Ranked 71st globally, falling from 63rd, per World Economic Forum . Improvement in clean energy and efficiency, but gaps in energy equity and grid reliability.
India – Global SDG Index 2025	Ranked 99th with a score of 67 in the UN Sustainable Development Goals Index . First time in top 100. Progress in healthcare, digital access, and infrastructure.
India – Power Generation Growth (IEA)	3rd highest growth in global power generation capacity over the last five years, driven by urbanization, industrial growth, and renewable energy (esp. solar).
India – 360 ONE Wealth Creators List 2025	Highlighted young entrepreneurs under 40. Dominated by Ambani siblings, Nikhil Kamath, and Bhavish Aggarwal . Total wealth nearing ₹100 trillion.
India – TRAI Telecom Report Q1 2025	1.2 billion total subscribers. ₹98,250 crore gross revenue . High ARPU, surge in data consumption. Strong 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) growth.

REPORTS

Report Name	Submitted By	Key Notes
34th CPGRAMS Report (May 2025)	DARPG	78,123 complaints resolved; UP leads in complaints received/disposed. 2 lakh pending grievances; 28,000+ officers trained under Sevottam.
SIPRI Yearbook 2025	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	India expanding nuclear arsenal and delivery systems. Global nuclear total: 12,241 warheads; US & Russia hold 90%. Warning of renewed arms race.
WMO Climate Report 2024	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Asia warming twice as fast as the global rate. India faced extreme heat, glacial melt, and cyclones. Urges climate adaptation and early warning systems.
India’s Data Imperative – Future Front Report	NITI Aayog	Highlights poor data quality in governance. Recommends improved accuracy, integration, and standardization to enhance public service delivery.
Sustainable Development Report 2025	UN SDG Network	India ranks 99th. Only 17% of global SDG targets are on track. South and East Asia show fastest progress toward Agenda 2030.

DEFENCE

EXERCISE

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Key Notes
Exercise Tiger Claw 2025	India – Garud Regimental Training Centre, Uttar Pradesh Participants: India (IAF Garud Commandos), USA (USAF Special Forces)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-ever joint special forces exercise between Indian Air Force’s Garud Commandos and USAF Special Forces (May 26 – June 10, 2025). Aimed at enhancing interoperability, sharing air-based special operations tactics, and boosting combat readiness. Adds a new layer to India–US military ties beyond Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, and Cope India.

Exercise Name	Venue / Participating Countries	Key Notes
Exercise Khaan Quest 2025	Mongolia Participants: Multinational (including India)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India sent a 40-member team, including women soldiers, to this U.N.-mandated multinational peacekeeping drill (June 14–28, 2025). Training includes civilian evacuation, cordon & search, counter-IED ops, and combat medical care. Reinforces India’s commitment to peacekeeping and international defense diplomacy.
Cyber Suraksha	India Organizer: Defence Cyber Agency (Integrated Defence Staff)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 12-day cybersecurity exercise involving 100+ defence personnel. Includes CISOs leadership conclave, threat simulations, and decision-making drills. Aims to strengthen cyber resilience and promote a cybersecurity-first culture in defence. Will be made a regular initiative by the Ministry of Defence.
Exercise Shakti 2025	France – Camp Larzac Participants: India, France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th edition of Indo-French military exercise focusing on sub-conventional and counter-terrorism operations. 90-member Indian contingent from Jammu and Kashmir Rifles trained alongside France’s 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade. Simulated urban warfare scenarios conducted under UN Chapter VII mandate to improve coordination and readiness.

TESTING

- The **Indian Army** has successfully conducted trials of **Rudrastra**, an **indigenously developed VTOL drone** by **Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited (SDAL)**. The trials, held at the **Pokhran range**, validated the drone’s ability to execute **deep-cross border strikes** with **precision-guided airburst munitions**. With a total range of **170 km**, **1.5-hour endurance**, and real-time **live video relay**, Rudrastra enhances India’s **stand-off strike capability**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India is developing next-generation variants of the **Pinaka rocket system**, with ranges up to **300 km**, to boost its **artillery strength** and achieve **defence self-reliance**. Developed by **DRDO**, the Pinaka-3 and Pinaka-4 systems will support **precision strikes**, rapid deployment, and **high-volume firepower**. With the successful trials of the **Guided Pinaka** and the Army planning to induct **22 regiments by 2030**, these developments reinforce India’s commitment to **indigenization, modernization, and enhanced national security**. ([Click here to read article](#))

DEAL & MoU’s

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

- In a historic **first visit**, European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) ships — **ESPS Reina Sofia** and **ITS Antonio Marceglia** — docked in **Mumbai** from **26 May to 1 June 2025**. The port call featured **Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs)**, a **Table Top Exercise**, and discussions with the **Indian Navy** on boosting **maritime security cooperation**. These engagements serve to enhance

interoperability, reflect the outcomes of the **4th India-EU Maritime Security Dialogue**, and underscore shared interests in tackling **piracy, smuggling, and IUU fishing** in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Air Marshal **Jasvir Singh Mann** has assumed the role of **Senior Air Staff Officer** in the **Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force**, bringing with him a vast range of operational and strategic experience, having served in several critical commands and earned prestigious honours during his decades-long career in the armed forces. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **June 1, 2025**, **Shailendra Nath Gupta**, a seasoned officer from the **Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES)**, took charge as the **Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE)**. Having held various leadership positions across **Cantonment Boards, Defence Estates Circles, and Commands**, Gupta now oversees **18 lakh acres of defence land**. The **DGDE**, through its six regional commands, plays a crucial role in **land management, urban governance in cantonments, and coordination with the Ministry of Defence**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Expedition Team** completed a **historic 1,800-nautical-mile international voyage** to **Seychelles**, marking the **first of its kind** by the **Indian Armed Forces**. The mission, conducted aboard ‘**Triveni**’, not only showcased the **resilience and operational capability** of women officers from the **Army, Navy, and Air Force**, but also contributed to **India’s maritime diplomacy**. Their return on **June 4, 2025**, is a tribute to **Nari Shakti, Tri-services synergy**, and India’s **strategic vision** for gender inclusion and oceanic outreach. ([Click here to read article](#))

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has commissioned a **dedicated jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour**, Kerala, marking a vital development in India's maritime security network. Inaugurated on **June 7, 2025**, by **DG Paramesh Sivamani**, this 76.7-metre jetty lies just 10 nautical miles from key international shipping lanes and aims to strengthen operations related to **coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling, and search & rescue**. The event was attended by high-ranking officials from various defense and maritime bodies. The initiative underscores India's strategic efforts to secure its southwestern coastline and bolster integrated coastal management. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi** visited **Uttarakhand's Garhwal region** to evaluate the **readiness of deployed troops** and to boost morale. During this visit, he launched **Ibex Tarana 88.4 FM**, a **community radio station in Jyotirmath** envisioned to promote **local culture, education, and disaster awareness**. The station aims to empower **youth voices** and connect the people with their **cultural roots**. Additionally, the Army Chief honoured **veterans** for their **nation-building contributions**, marking a notable blend of **military vigilance and community development**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai** has been appointed as the new **Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy)**, a key role overseeing **Operations and Intelligence Directorates**, while continuing as **DGMO**, marking a major move in the Indian Army's **strategic leadership** to strengthen **threat anticipation, integrated command, and inter-departmental synergy** through a unified **operational oversight** structure. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** chaired the **137th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)** meeting in **New Delhi** on **June 12, 2025**, to reinforce the **security of India's offshore installations**. Senior representatives from the **armed forces, ministries, ONGC, and state police** discussed enhancing **joint response frameworks and inter-agency coordination**. Established in **1978**, OSCC plays a pivotal role in safeguarding India's **strategic energy infrastructure**, making the meeting a crucial step toward **energy security and maritime safety**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a proud moment for India, a **10-member NCC team**, including **five girls and five boys**, successfully **summitted Mount Everest** on **May 18, 2025**, marking NCC's **third successful expedition** to the world's highest peak. The team was **felicitated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **June 12, 2025**, and awarded a **₹10 lakh reward**. The expedition showcased **courage, discipline, and patriotism**, reinforcing the **NCC's role** in developing **resilient, confident youth**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- A major marine emergency has unfolded off **Kerala's coast** as the **Singaporean vessel MV Wan Hai 503**, engulfed in flames since **June 9, 2025**, continues to drift with a dangerous cargo of **fuel and hazardous containers**. The **Indian Coast Guard** has deployed multiple ships, aircraft, and salvage teams to control the fire and **tow the ship away from the shore**. Despite reducing the visible flames, **internal fires still pose significant risks**, underscoring the urgent need for continued **aerial, sea, and technical operations** to avert an **environmental and maritime crisis**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- On **13 June 2025**, the **Indian Navy** executed a **daring aerial insertion** of a salvage team aboard the **burning cargo ship MV Wan Hai 503** using a **Seaking helicopter** from **INS Garuda**. The operation involved connecting the vessel to the **salvage tug Offshore Warrior** and successfully extracting the team post-mission. Supported by **INS Sharda, MV Triton Liberty, and Indian Coast Guard**, the mission highlighted India's **maritime emergency response capabilities**, ensuring the vessel could be safely towed and maritime safety maintained. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **INS Arnala**, the first of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** series, was **commissioned by the Indian Navy** at **Visakhapatnam** on **June 18, 2025**, in a ceremony led by **CDS General Anil Chauhan**. Built by **GRSE** in partnership with **L&T Shipbuilders**, the vessel showcases **80% indigenous content**, aligning with the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative**. Designed for **coastal and littoral warfare**, it enhances India's **anti-submarine capabilities** and secures the nation's interests in the **Indian Ocean Region**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **INS Tamal**, a **stealth multi-role frigate**, will be commissioned on **July 1, 2025**, in **Kaliningrad, Russia**, becoming the **last imported warship of the Indian Navy**. Built at **Yantar Shipyard**, the vessel features **BrahMos missiles, advanced stealth design, and increased indigenous systems**. It is part of the **Krivak class** and will serve with the **Western Fleet**. With **two sister ships** under construction in **Goa Shipyard**, India now pivots firmly toward **Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India** in the defence sector. ([Click here to read article](#))
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has taken a strategic step by offering **28 indigenous weapon systems for emergency procurement** by the Indian armed forces. These include advanced **missiles, rockets, grenades, and anti-drone technologies**, which were critical in **Operation Sindoor**—India's military response to the **Pahalgam terror attack**. The systems have been categorized for the **Army (14), Navy (8), and Air Force (6)**. Backed by a list of approved vendors from both **PSUs and private firms**, this move supports the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** mission and ensures swift **operational readiness** under geopolitical stress. ([Click here to read article](#))

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- India is embarking on the construction of its **first-ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV)** through an MoU signed between **GRSE and Norway's Kongsberg**. This vessel, to be used by **NCPOR**, will enhance India's role in **polar research** and reflect its **Make in India** prowess. Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, attending the Nor-Shipping 2025 event in Norway, also promoted India's **MAHASAGAR vision**, encouraged **sustainable maritime investments**, and highlighted opportunities in **shipbuilding and green logistics**. This development marks a critical step in India's maritime transformation and global collaboration. ([Click here to read article](#))
- **Shubhanshu Shukla**, an **Indian Air Force** officer, became the **634th astronaut** to enter **space**, marking a significant chapter in **India's space journey**. Part of the **Axiom-4 mission**, he successfully **docked at the ISS on June 26, 2025**, alongside astronauts from the **USA, Poland, and Hungary**. The 14-day mission will focus on **scientific research**, international collaboration, and showcasing India's growing contribution to **human spaceflight**. ([Click here to read article](#))

NATIONAL

- India is taking a **major step in AI infrastructure** by launching its first **AI-focused Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Nava Raipur**, Chhattisgarh, with a ₹1,000 crore investment by **RackBank Datacenters**. This **carbon-neutral data hub** aims to foster **AI research, development**, and employment, offering incentives under the **SEZ framework**. It is expected to attract **global tech giants** like **Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI**, and will provide **job opportunities** to local youth while supporting **digital transformation** nationwide. ([Click here to read article](#))
- For the first time in Kerala, the **State Public Health Laboratory** has confirmed the presence of *Acanthamoeba spp.*—a fatal brain-infecting amoeba—in a human sample using **in-house developed molecular diagnostic kits**. This scientific advancement allows Kerala to carry out its own **confirmatory testing** for **amoebic encephalitis**, bypassing national labs and enabling early, effective treatment. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Minister **Kamlesh Paswan** inaugurated **Garuda Aerospace's Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility** in **Chennai**, launching **300 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)** and the **DGCA-approved Train the Trainer (TTT) programme**. The 35,000 sq. ft. facility is equipped to manufacture **1 lakh drones by 2026**, aligning with **Prime Minister Modi's vision** of making

India a **Global Drone Hub**. Live demonstrations by **Drone Didis**, collaboration with the **Bharat Drone Association**, and a focus on **self-reliance, skilling, and innovation** marked a transformative moment for the country's drone industry. ([Click here to read article](#))

- India has marked a significant milestone in **cancer research** by developing a **one-step synthesis method** for **PEGylated nano-cups**, offering a **non-toxic, efficient alternative** for **photothermal therapy (PTT)**. Spearheaded by **INST Mohali** with contributions from **IIT Bombay** and **ACTREC**, this breakthrough utilizes **ZIF-8 MOF** and **ascorbic acid** to create **semi-shells** that can precisely **target and destroy cancerous tumors**, especially in **advanced breast cancer**. The innovation not only enhances **therapeutic efficacy** but also opens pathways for **biosensing** and **chemo-photothermal treatments**, making it a game-changer in **minimally invasive oncology**. ([Click here to read article](#))
- India's participation in **international commercial spaceflight** has reached new heights as the **Axiom Mission 4** launch, featuring **Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla**, has been **rescheduled to June 22** due to safety checks in the **Zvezda module** of the **ISS**. The mission, led by **NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson** and operated by **Axiom Space**, includes astronauts from **India, Poland, and Hungary**, and will fly aboard the **SpaceX Falcon 9** using the **Dragon capsule**. With **ISRO's support**, this mission reflects India's evolving space ambitions and boosts its role in **low-Earth orbit (LEO)** scientific operations. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has laid the **foundation stone** for a **Mini Planetarium and Astro Globe** at the **Hanle Dark Sky Reserve** in **Ladakh**, with a project outlay of **₹276.65 lakh** under the **Special Development Package**. The initiative supports **astro-tourism, public astronomy education, and local employment**, complementing the work of advanced observatories like **MACE**. The Minister also engaged with **nomadic communities**, distributing **goat-shearing machines**, and allocated **₹50 lakh under SBI's CSR** for constructing community tents. ([Click here to read article](#))
- In a move set to accelerate India's entry into the **commercial space launch market**, **HAL** has secured a **₹511 crore deal** to manufacture and operate **SSLVs** under **ISRO's technology transfer programme**. The process will include **two years of support and training**, after which HAL will independently handle SSLV production. This milestone reflects India's strategic intent to empower its public sector units in **space commercialisation**, foster **private collaboration**, and position the country as a **global launch service provider** for small satellites. ([Click here to read article](#))

- Bharti Space Ltd has invested ₹313 crore in Eutelsat’s €1.35 billion capital raise, signaling a major move in the global satellite internet race. As the French government becomes the largest shareholder, Eutelsat plans to expand its hybrid satellite fleet—including 600+ LEO satellites—to build a sovereign European space network. Bharti’s stake will dilute, but it remains invested in both Eutelsat-OneWeb and Starlink ventures in India. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Dangeti Jahnvi, a young space enthusiast from Palakollu, Andhra Pradesh, has made history as the first Indian to complete NASA’s International Air and Space Program, marking a breakthrough for India in global space missions and for women in STEM. Selected for the upcoming 2029 Titan’s Orbital Port Space Station mission, she will be among the first Indians to join commercial space operations. Backed by a strong academic foundation in Electronics and Communication Engineering, Jahnvi is also a passionate STEM educator, ISRO outreach speaker, and analog mission trainee, reflecting her deep commitment to space research, education, and global collaboration. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- India’s quantum revolution is taking shape with the announcement of the Amaravati Quantum Valley, the country’s first quantum computing hub, set to launch by January 2026. Spearheaded by the ITE&C Department of Andhra Pradesh, the initiative aims to foster research, innovation, and job creation across critical sectors like healthcare, logistics, agri-tech, and cybersecurity. In collaboration with major players like IBM, LTIMindtree, and TCS, and aligned with the National Quantum Mission, the project will integrate quantum AI, secure communication (QNu Project), and advanced computing to drive national productivity and future-ready skills.

INTERNATIONAL

- China launched the Tianwen-2 mission on May 30, 2025, targeting asteroid 2016HO3 for sample collection and later exploring comet 311P. Led by CNSA, the mission is designed to yield scientific insights about the solar system’s origins, particularly Earth’s water sources. The mission represents China’s growing role in deep-space exploration, further advancing its space technology after previous successes like Tianwen-1 and its lunar missions. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- Snap Inc. has announced the launch of its first consumer-ready smart glasses, called Specs, in 2026, marking its serious entry into the wearable augmented reality (AR) market. This move challenges Meta, whose Ray-Ban smart glasses are gaining popularity. Snap’s new product will be

lightweight, AR-integrated, and supported by the Lens Studio platform in collaboration with Niantic Spatial. With over \$3 billion invested and five previous developer-only versions, Snap aims to expand its ecosystem and reduce dependence on digital ads. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)

- A new COVID-19 variant, NB.1.8.1 (Nimbus), first identified in January 2025, is drawing global concern due to its rapid spread and a distinct symptom described as “razor blade throat”. Classified by the WHO as a variant under monitoring, Nimbus, a descendant of Omicron, has been detected in 22 countries including the US, UK, China, and parts of Asia, accounting for 10.7% of sequenced cases in late April. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- The US FDA has approved Lenacapavir (Yeztugo), a twice-yearly injectable drug for HIV prevention, showing 99.9% efficacy in Phase 3 trials. This breakthrough offers a low-maintenance, long-acting alternative to current PrEP options, with potential to boost global compliance and reduce stigma. Though not widely used in India due to high costs and absence in national HIV programmes, experts say the drug could transform global public health outcomes if supported by WHO and donor agencies. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)
- A new scientific study from Yunnan, China has revealed the existence of two novel henipaviruses in bat populations, raising concerns due to their genetic similarity to the deadly Nipah and Hendra viruses. Found in the kidneys of bats, the viruses could spread to humans through urine-contaminated fruits or water, potentially triggering neurological or respiratory diseases. Experts have flagged this discovery as a public health warning, urging for heightened surveillance of zoonotic pathogens, especially in rural regions where human-wildlife interactions are more frequent. [\(Click here to read article\)](#)



SPORTS

CRICKET

- **Glenn Maxwell retires from ODIs**
- Glenn Maxwell will retire from One Day Internationals after the 2025 Champions Trophy. He cited fitness issues and the need to create space for younger players. He will continue to play T20Is.
- **Heinrich Klaasen announces retirement**
- South African wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen retires from international cricket after the 2025 Champions Trophy, ending a seven-year career with over 3000 white-ball runs.
- **RCB win their first IPL title**
- Royal Challengers Bangalore defeated Punjab Kings by 6 runs in the IPL 2025 final, securing their maiden IPL trophy after years of near-misses.
- **India-England Test series renamed**
- The Test series between India and England will now be called the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, replacing the Pataudi and de Mello trophies.
- **MS Dhoni inducted into ICC Hall of Fame**
- MS Dhoni is among the seven new inductees in 2025, joining legends like Matthew Hayden, Daniel Vettori, Hashim Amla, Graeme Smith, Sana Mir, and Sarah Taylor.
- **Nicholas Pooran retires from international cricket**
- At age 29, Pooran retires with 106 T20Is and 61 ODIs, finishing as West Indies' most capped T20I player.
- **MCC updates Law 19.5.2 on boundary catches**
- The "bunny hop" catch is now outlawed. Fielders may only make one airborne touch from outside the boundary before landing inside to complete a legal catch.
- **Four-day Tests to be introduced**
- Starting with the 2027–29 World Test Championship cycle, smaller nations will play four-day Tests, while India, Australia, and England will retain five-day matches.
- **Women's ODI World Cup 2025 schedule announced**
- The event will take place from September 30 to November 2 in India and Sri Lanka. Due to political tensions, Pakistan's matches will be held in Sri Lanka.
- **Jasprit Bumrah achieves historic milestone**
- He becomes the first Asian bowler to take 150 Test wickets in SENA countries after his five-wicket haul at Headingley.
- **Rishabh Pant scores twin centuries at Headingley**
- Pant scores centuries in both innings, amassing 252 runs and becoming the highest-scoring Indian wicketkeeper in a Test.
- **Rinku Singh to become education officer**
- Rinku Singh will be appointed as a District Basic Education Officer in Uttar Pradesh under a state sports policy. His wedding is postponed to February 2026 due to cricketing commitments.

- **Stop clock introduced in Test cricket**

- A new 60-second timer is in place between overs in the 2025–27 WTC cycle. Three violations will result in a five-run penalty. Rules on saliva and short runs have also been updated.

BADMINTON AND TENNIS

- **Carlos Alcaraz wins French Open 2025**
- Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner in a five-hour thriller, claiming his second French Open title and fifth Grand Slam.
- **Indonesia Open 2025 highlights**
- Anders Antonsen and An Se-young won singles titles. France secured its first Super 1000 mixed doubles title.
- **Wimbledon 2025 prize money increased**
- Total prize pool is now 53.5 million pounds. Singles champions will earn 3 million pounds each.
- **Taylor Fritz wins Stuttgart Open 2025**
- Fritz beat Zverev in straight sets, securing his ninth career title and moving to World No. 4.

CHESS

- **D Gukesh defeats Magnus Carlsen**
- Gukesh beat Carlsen in a classical game at Norway Chess 2025, his first win over the world champion.
- **Magnus Carlsen wins Norway Chess 2025**
- Carlsen secured his seventh title with 16 points, narrowly beating Fabiano Caruana and Gukesh.
- **Aravindh Chithambaram wins in Armenia**
- He clinched the 6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial title, edging out Praggnanandhaa on tiebreaks.
- **Praggnanandhaa wins UzChess Cup Masters**
- This is his third classical title of the year. He is now World No. 4 in live ratings.

HOCKEY

- **India begins Women's Asia Cup 2025 campaign**
- India will face Thailand on September 5 in Hangzhou, aiming to win the title and qualify for the 2026 World Cup.
- **Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 held in Chennai**
- Features veteran players across men's and women's age groups, promoting active aging and celebrating hockey legends.

ATHLETICS AND FOOTBALL

- **Portugal wins UEFA Nations League 2025**
- Portugal defeated Spain on penalties after a 2–2 draw, becoming the first team to win the title twice.
- **Cristiano Ronaldo becomes Esports World Cup ambassador**
- Ronaldo is named global ambassador for the 2025 edition in Riyadh and appears as a playable character in FATAL FURY.
- **FIFA Club World Cup 2025 expanded**
- Now a 32-team event in the United States, with concerns raised over player fatigue and scheduling.

- **Oscar Piastri wins Spanish Grand Prix 2025**
- The McLaren driver claimed his fifth win of the season, leading from pole to finish.
- **Armand Duplantis breaks pole vault world record again**
- Cleared 6.28 meters at the Stockholm Diamond League, setting a new personal and global best.
- **Neeraj Chopra wins Paris Diamond League**
- With a throw of 88.16 meters, Neeraj returns to top form and builds momentum for upcoming championships.
- **Carlos Alcaraz wins Queen’s Club title again**
- Alcaraz beat Jiri Lehecka in three sets and extended his grass-court winning streak to 18 matches.
- **Oklahoma City Thunder win NBA Finals 2025**
- Thunder beat Indiana Pacers in Game 7, with Shai Gilgeous-Alexander named Finals MVP.
- **India to host 2025 World Para Athletics Championships**
- The event will be held in New Delhi from September 27 to October 5. The mascot ‘Viraaj’ symbolizes resilience.
- **Lalit Upadhyay retires from international hockey**
- The Olympian ends his career with over 179 caps and significant contributions to India’s hockey success.
- **Neeraj Chopra wins Ostrava Golden Spike**
- Achieved a throw of 85.29 meters in the Czech Republic, his fifth outing of the season.
- **India to host 2029 World Police and Fire Games**
- Gujarat will host the event across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar, with participation from over 70 nations.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Indira Gandhi and the Years that Transformed India	TCA Srinivasa Raghavan	
India: 5000 Years of History	Audrey Truschke	
The Stars Light the Way	Sucheta Raj Khanna	
India’s Finance Ministers III: Different Strokes (1998–2014)	A.K. Bhattacharya	
“Woman! Life! Freedom!”	Chowra Makaremi	
The Emergency Diaries	Not Mentioned (Released by Amit Shah)	
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan	

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Vikram Sugumaran	Tamil Filmmaker	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died at age 47 due to cardiac arrest while traveling from Madurai to Chennai. Directed Madha Yaanai Koottam, contributed to Aadukalam, completed Raavana Kottam, and was working on Therum Porum. Known for realistic rural dramas; started career under Balu Mahendra. Widely mourned in Tamil film industry.
2	Daji Panshikar	Marathi Scholar & Literary Figure	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed away at 92 in Thane. Expert on Mahabharata, Bhavarth Ramayan, and Eknaathi Bhagwat. Contributed to Maharashtra's theatre; praised by CM Devendra Fadnavis.
3	Vijay Rupani	Politician (Former Gujarat CM)	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in Air India 171 crash. Former CM of Gujarat (2016–2021), BJP vice-president. Known for humility, political resilience, and service during Emergency and beyond.
4	Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah	Kashmiri Folk Musician	Dangiwacha, Rafiabab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known as Hamle Bulbul; passed away on June 11, 2025. Worked 30+ years in J&K Info Dept., mastered sarangi, Bacha Nagma, and glass dance. Recipient of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah Award.
5	Bill Atkinson	Software Pioneer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died on June 5, 2025, at 74. Created QuickDraw, key to Apple Lisa and Macintosh. Introduced GUI elements like pull-down menus. Revolutionized user-friendly computing.
6	Nellai Su. Muthu	Former ISRO Scientist & Tamil Author	Tirunelveli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died June 16, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram at 74. Served at Satish Dhawan Space Centre; worked with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Authored 170+ books including Vinveli 2057.
7	Maruti Chitampalli	Environmentalism, Padma Shri Awardee	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in Solapur at age 93. Served 36 years in Forest Dept; authored Pakshikosha, Pashukosha, Matsyakosha. Called Aranya Rishi, fluent in 13 languages.
8	Dilip Doshi	Cricketer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died in London at age 77. Took 114 Test wickets; known for classical spin. Played with a broken toe in 1981 Melbourne Test. Wrote autobiography Spin Punch.
9	Shefali Jariwala	Actress, Dancer	—	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died suddenly at age 42 in Mumbai. Famous for Kaanta Laga and Bigg Boss 13. Cause under investigation; postmortem at Cooper Hospital.

INTERNATIONAL

S.No	Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
1	Étienne-Émile Baulieu	French Biochemist	France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Died at age 98. Inventor of RU-486 (mifepristone), enabling safe medical abortion. Specialized in DHEA and progesterone studies. Advocated for reproductive rights and aging research. Considered a scientific visionary and humanitarian.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 1	Global Day of Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Day of Parents, celebrated on June 1, recognizes the immense contributions parents make toward the well-being and development of children. In 2025, global institutions focused on supporting positive parenting, mental health, and inclusive caregiving. With origins dating back to UN resolutions in the 1990s, the day emphasizes that strong family structures are crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The observance brings together global voices to celebrate, support, and empower parents worldwide.
June 1st	World Milk Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Milk Day, celebrated on June 1st, recognizes milk's nutritional power, economic importance, and cultural value. Established by the FAO in 2001, it highlights milk's role in health, rural livelihoods, sustainability, and women empowerment. The 2025 theme, "Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy," emphasizes dairy's impact across all life stages. In India, the White Revolution, led by Dr. Verghese Kurien and the NDDB, transformed the nation from a milk-deficient country to the world's largest milk producer, ensuring food security and economic growth. (Click here to read article)
June 2nd	Telangana Formation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telangana Formation Day, observed on June 2nd, marks the creation of India's 29th state in 2014 after a prolonged struggle for self-determination, cultural identity, and regional autonomy. Far from being symbolic, the day reflects the people's fight against regional imbalances, administrative neglect, and cultural underrepresentation. Rooted in the Hyderabad State's distinct pre-1956 identity, the Telangana Movement ultimately culminated in a political and social victory that empowered its citizens and reshaped India's federal landscape. (Click here to read article)
June 4	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 4, 2025, the world observes the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, a UN-designated day dedicated to highlighting the suffering of children affected by armed conflict, violence, and exploitation. Originating in 1982 following the violence in Palestine and Lebanon, the observance now encompasses global efforts under frameworks like the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Resolution 51/77, and SDG 16.2. The UN's 2024 report revealed 32,990 grave violations in 2023, including killing, recruitment, abduction, and sexual violence, urging the international community to intensify child protection efforts.

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 5	World Environment Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Environment Day 2025, observed on June 5, focuses on the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution”, highlighting the urgent need to tackle the global plastic crisis affecting ecosystems, wildlife, and human health. • Celebrated annually since 1973, it is a UN-led initiative involving over 150 countries, urging governments, industries, and individuals to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable alternatives. (Click here to read article)
June 5	International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, observed annually on June 5, aims to spotlight global efforts to curb unsustainable and often criminal fishing practices. • With support from the UN FAO and the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), now backed by two-thirds of coastal nations, this initiative enforces port-level regulations to block illegally sourced fish. (Click here to read article)
June 7	World Food Safety Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Food Safety Day 2025, observed on June 7, promotes the theme “Food Safety: Science in Action”, spotlighting the use of technology and innovation to combat food contamination. • Established by the UN in 2018, the day raises global awareness about the health, economic, and social consequences of unsafe food. • In India, where food adulteration, inspection shortfalls, and poor cold storage pose persistent risks, the observance urges collective action—from authorities to consumers—to ensure safety from farm to fork. (Click here to read article)
June 8	World Brain Tumour Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Brain Tumour Day 2025 observed on June 8, a day dedicated to raising awareness about brain tumours, promoting early diagnosis, supporting patients and families, and encouraging research and treatment advancements. • Although the official theme for 2025 is yet to be announced, global activities like health talks, campaigns, and events will spotlight the serious challenges faced by those affected. (Click here to read article)
June 9 th	World Accreditation Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quality Council of India (QCI) celebrated World Accreditation Day 2025 on June 9th at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, under the theme “Accreditation: Empowering SMEs”, highlighting its commitment to quality standards, global alignment through NABL and NABCB, and launching the revamped NABL Portal to boost digital access, transparency, and support for MSMEs in the accreditation process.
10 June	International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations, to be observed annually on 10 June, was established by the United Nations in 2024 to promote intercultural dialogue, global solidarity, and peaceful coexistence. • The 2025 celebration featured a UNESCO event in Paris focused on the Silk Roads’ cultural legacy and youth engagement. • The event included thematic panels, expert speakers, and cultural performances, emphasizing the role of dialogue in eliminating prejudice, enhancing mutual respect, and building inclusive societies. (Click here to read article)
June 11	International Day of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day of Play, observed annually on June 11, celebrates the essential role of play in promoting child development, mental well-being, and social connection, with the 2025 theme “Choose Play – Every Day” urging individuals, communities, and governments to prioritize daily play across homes, schools, and public life for healthier, happier societies. (Click here to read article)

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 12	World Day Against Child Labour 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Day Against Child Labour 2025 was observed on June 12, emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate child labour globally. With 138 million children still affected, this year's theme — <i>"Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up our efforts!"</i> — serves as a powerful reminder that global efforts must intensify. • Initiated by the ILO in 2002, the observance aims to promote child rights, ensure education, and reduce poverty-driven exploitation, while in India, various national policies and acts are already supporting the cause. (Click here to read article)
June 12	World Kidney Cancer Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Kidney Cancer Day 2025, observed on June 12, highlights the importance of kidney health awareness with the theme "Understanding Kidney Health." • Organized by the International Kidney Cancer Coalition (IKCC), the campaign promotes early detection, identifies key risk factors like smoking, obesity, and hypertension, and urges people to adopt a kidney-friendly lifestyle. • As kidney cancer often shows no symptoms in early stages, routine screenings such as CT scans and urine tests are crucial for timely diagnosis and treatment. (Click here to read article)
June 13	International Albinism Awareness Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Albinism Awareness Day 2025, observed on June 13, is a UN-recognized global event aimed at protecting the rights and dignity of individuals affected by albinism, a genetic disorder marked by the lack of melanin in the body. • The day serves to fight stigma, promote equality, and raise awareness of visual impairments, sun sensitivity, and genetic inheritance patterns associated with the condition. Established in 2014, this initiative is rooted in human rights, public education, and the celebration of diversity. (Click here to read article)
June 14	World Blood Donor Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Blood Donor Day 2025, observed globally on June 14, honours voluntary blood donors and raises awareness about the importance of safe, regular blood donations. With the theme <i>"Give Blood, Give Hope,"</i> this year's observance highlights how each unit of donated blood brings healing and hope to those in need. • Established by the WHO in 2004, the day also commemorates the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO blood group system. (Click here to read article)
June 15	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2025, observed on June 15, aims to address the often-overlooked issue of abuse against older adults, including physical, emotional, financial, and sexual mistreatment. • Launched by WHO and INPEA in 2006 and later recognised by the United Nations, the day is marked with global advocacy and community action. Wearing purple, sharing resources, and checking in on elders are simple yet powerful ways to participate. (Click here to read article)
June 16	International Domestic Workers' Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Domestic Workers' Day 2025, observed on June 16, underscores the urgent need for decent work, fair wages, social protection, and legal rights for millions of domestic workers, especially women and migrants. • With only 39 countries ratifying ILO Convention 189, the global community is called to action to recognise domestic work as real work, implement strong laws, and invest in the care economy, in line with the 2024 ILO Resolution—ensuring dignity, justice, and equality for all. (Click here to read article)

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 16	International Day of Family Remittances 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Day of Family Remittances 2025, observed on June 16, recognises the vital financial contributions of migrant workers to their families and communities. • The 2025 theme, "Remittances financing development," reaffirms the global commitment to leveraging remittances as tools for sustainable development. (Click here to read article)
June 17	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025, observed on June 17, focuses on the theme "Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities." It draws attention to the urgent need for land restoration, especially with over 1.5 billion hectares needing revival by 2030. • As a global observance driven by the UNCCD, it emphasizes the economic and environmental significance of healthy land and encourages nations like India to scale up sustainable land management, afforestation, and community-led resilience to achieve a land degradation-neutral world. (Click here to read article)
18 June	International Day for Countering Hate Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the International Day for Countering Hate Speech (18 June), global attention turned toward combating the escalating threat of online hate speech. • Prominent among voices calling for action was Nazia Rehman, Chair of the Congress Social Inclusion Committee (UK), who emphasized the need for local and regional authorities to adopt practical countermeasures. (Click here to read article)
June 19	11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 19, 2025, the world observes the 11th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, under the theme "Breaking the Cycle, Healing the Scars." • The United Nations uses this day to highlight the intergenerational trauma caused by conflict-related sexual violence, such as rape, sexual slavery, and forced marriage. Originating from UNSC Resolution 1820 (2008), this day seeks to end the impunity surrounding war-related sexual crimes, support survivors, and campaign for #EndRapeInWar through global awareness, healing initiatives, and justice reform. (Click here to read article)
June 20	World Refugee Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Refugee Day 2025, observed on June 20, reaffirms the global commitment to uphold the rights and dignity of refugees. Under the theme "Solidarity with Refugees", this year's observance emphasizes inclusion, fair work opportunities, and equal treatment for the forcibly displaced. • It urges governments, employers, and communities to recognize refugees not just as survivors, but as active contributors to economic and social progress. With record levels of displacement worldwide, the day calls for action-oriented solidarity, ensuring that refugees thrive, not just survive. (Click here to read article)
June 23	United Nations Public Service Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year on June 23, the world marks United Nations Public Service Day to honor the contributions of public servants and promote effective, inclusive governance. • Established by UNGA Resolution 57/277 in 2002, the day celebrates innovation, encourages youth participation in governance, and underscores the role of public institutions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (Click here to read article)

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 23	International Olympic Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observed every year on June 23, International Olympic Day celebrates the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894 by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, promoting Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect. First celebrated in 1948, it has grown into a global movement to inspire physical activity, sportsmanship, and healthy lifestyles. The 2025 theme, “Let’s Move?”, launched by the IOC and WHO, calls on everyone to combat inactivity through simple, inclusive forms of movement, encouraging a more active and balanced life for all. (Click here to read article)
June 23	International Widows Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Widows Day, observed annually on June 23, highlights the challenges faced by widows globally, including discrimination, poverty, and social exclusion. Launched by the Loomba Foundation in 2005 and recognized by the UN in 2010, the day promotes legal rights, economic empowerment, and social inclusion for widows. The anticipated 2025 theme, “Empowering Widows Through Legal Rights and Inclusive Development”, underscores the need for legal reforms, vocational support, and gender equality to advance SDG 1, 5, and 8. (Click here to read article)
June 24	International Day of Women in Diplomacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWD), observed on June 24, celebrates the vital role of women in diplomacy and calls for gender equality in global governance. Established by the UNGA in 2022, the 2025 theme—“Eliminating Structural Barriers to Women’s Leadership in Diplomacy”—urges reforms like gender-balanced ministries, anti-harassment policies, and leadership quotas. Despite progress, only 25 countries have female heads of state, and just 22.9% of cabinet positions are held by women. The day supports SDG 5, 16, and 17, promoting inclusive peacebuilding, diverse leadership, and institutional change. (Click here to read article)
June 25	Day of the Seafarer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On June 25, the world marks the Day of the Seafarer, honoring the vital role of seafarers in sustaining global trade and economies. This year’s theme, ‘My Harassment-Free Ship’, led by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), calls for a zero-tolerance stance against bullying, harassment, and discrimination at sea. The campaign urges a cultural shift across the maritime industry, championing safety, equality, and dignity for all, and empowering seafarers to demand and create respectful, inclusive workplaces on every vessel. (Click here to read article)
June 27	International Day of Deafblindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Deafblindness, observed annually on June 27, commemorates the birth of Helen Keller, the first deafblind person to earn a degree and a global symbol of disability rights. Recognized by the UN through Resolution A/RES/79/294, the day highlights deafblindness as a distinct disability requiring specialized support, interpreter-guides, and inclusive policies. It aims to raise awareness, promote independence, and ensure equal access to services for the deafblind community worldwide. (Click here to read article)

Date	Day/Observance	Theme/Description
June 27	International Day of Deafblindness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of Deafblindness, observed on June 27, honors the birth anniversary of Helen Keller and recognizes deafblindness as a unique disability involving combined vision and hearing loss. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/79/294, the day calls for inclusive support systems, policy recognition, and access to specialized interpreters, aiming to ensure the rights, independence, and visibility of the deafblind community globally. (Click here to read article)
29 June	International Day of the Tropics 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International Day of the Tropics 2025, observed on 29 June, marks its 9th annual celebration to recognize the importance of tropical regions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initiated by the United Nations through Resolution A/RES/70/267, this day highlights the biodiversity, cultural richness, and development challenges of the tropical zone, which covers 40% of the Earth's surface and hosts 80% of global biodiversity. It serves as a global platform to raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and address issues like climate change, deforestation, and urbanization affecting these vital regions. (Click here to read article)
29th June	National Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India celebrates National Statistics Day every year on 29th June to honor Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, the father of Indian statistics, for his contributions like the Mahalanobis Distance, Five-Year Plans, and founding the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and National Sample Survey (NSS). First observed in 2007, the day promotes data-driven decision-making, statistical literacy, and emphasizes the role of statistics in governance, policy formulation, and inclusive development, while encouraging youth participation and strengthening data systems for India's future. (Click here to read article)

Miscellaneous

- Elon Musk's X** has introduced **XChat**, a secure, cross-platform messaging app currently in beta for paid subscribers. Equipped with **Bitcoin-like encryption, disappearing messages, and audio/video calling**, the app represents Musk's push to rival platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, and WeChat. It reflects his broader vision to turn X into a **super app** with integrated services, potentially including AI-powered tools like **Grok AI** in the future. ([Click here to read article](#))
- Famed investor and billionaire philanthropist **Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway**, has announced a massive **\$6 billion donation in company stock** to five charitable foundations. The latest act of generosity, revealed on June 27, 2025, brings his total donations since 2006 to approximately \$60 billion. The bulk of this donation will benefit the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust, along with foundations closely connected to Buffett's family.
- Chief Election Commissioner **Gyanesh Kumar** emphasized the transparency and rigor of India's electoral roll system while addressing the **Stockholm International Conference** on Electoral Integrity in Sweden. He highlighted how India, since 1960, has ensured that electoral rolls are shared annually with all recognised political parties, allowing for claims, objections, and appeals—a process that reinforces trust and integrity in the world's largest democracy.

Static Takeaways

Organizations

Static Name	Static Details
SBI	MD - Challa Sreenivasalu Setty
RBI	Governor - Sanjay Malhotra
Deutsche Bank India	MD - Sandhya Vasudevan; HQ - Mumbai
Canara Bank	MD - K. Satyanarayana Raju
Federal Bank	MD - KVS Manian
Muthoot Group	MD - George Alexander Muthoot
PNB	MD - Ashok Chandra
Asian Development Bank	HQ - Manila, Philippines
AIIB	President - Zou Jiayi
Sun Pharma	MD - Kirti Ganorkar
Thomas Cook India Limited	MD - Mahesh Iyer
NASA	Head - Janet Petro
ISRO	Chairman - V. Narayanan
Bharati Space	CEO - Sumil Mittal
SpaceX	CEO - Elon Musk
Starlink	CEO - Elon Musk <i>(Corrected from Murtadha Adenji)</i>
Honda Space	CEO - Toshiriro Mibe
Reliance Group	Chairman - Mukesh Ambani
Adani Group	Chairman - Gautam Adani
TATA Group	Chairman - Chandrasekhar
Jio Financial Service	CEO - Hitesh Sethia
Meta India	CEO - Sandhya Devanathan
Google	CEO - Sundar Pichai
Telegram	CEO - Pavel Durov
IndiGo Airlines	CEO - Pieter Elbers
Air India	CEO - Campbell Wilson
Nippon Koei India	CEO - Sampath Kumar
ICC (International Cricket Council)	Chairman - Jay Shah
FIFA	President - Gianni Infantino <i>(Corrected)</i>
SIDBI	Chairman - Manoj Mittal

Countries

Country	Leadership & Capital
Germany	Chancellor - Friedrich Merz; Capital - Munich
Portugal	PM - Luis Montenegro; Capital - Lisbon
South Korea	President - Lee Jae Myung; Capital - Seoul
Poland	President - Andrez Duda; Capital - Warsaw
Nicaragua	President - Jose Daniel Ortega; Capital - Managua

Country	Leadership & Capital
Bangladesh	Capital - Dhaka
Canada	Capital - Ottawa (<i>Incorrect: No President role; PM – Mark Carney</i>)
Israel	PM - Benjamin Netanyahu; Capital - Jerusalem
Sri Lanka	President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake; Capital - Colombo
USA	President - Donald Trump; Capital - Washington D.C. (<i>May be outdated</i>)
Iran	Head - Ali Hosseini Khamenei; Capital - Tehran
Italy	PM - Georgia Meloni; Capital - Rome
Cyprus	President - Nikos Christodoulides; Capital - Nicosia
UK	PM - Keir Starmer; Capital - London
Russia	President - Vladimir Putin; Capital - Moscow
Croatia	PM - Andrej Plenkovic; Capital - Zagreb
Romania	President - Ilie Bolojan; Capital - Bucharest
Ukraine	President - Volodymyr Zelenskyy; Capital - Kyiv

Indian States & Union Territories

State/UT	CM / Governor / Capital
Karnataka	CM - Siddharamaiah; Governor - Thawar Chand Gehlot; Capital - Bengaluru
Kerala	CM - Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor - R. Arlekar; Capital - Thiruvananthapuram
Uttar Pradesh	CM - Yogi Adityanath; Governor - Anandiben Patel; Capital - Lucknow
Jammu and Kashmir	CM - Omar Abdullah (<i>Tentative</i>); L. Governor - Manoj Sinha
Punjab	CM - Bhagwant Mann; Governor - Gulab Chand Kataria; Capital - Chandigarh
Gujarat	CM - Bhupendra Patel; Governor - Acharya Devvrat; Capital - Gandhinagar
Maharashtra	CM - Devendra Fadnavis; Governor - Radhakrishnan (<i>Likely incorrect</i>); Capital - Mumbai
Bihar	CM - Nitish Kumar; Governor - Arif Khan (<i>Likely incorrect; should be Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar</i>); Capital - Patna
Tamil Nadu	CM - M.K. Stalin; Governor - R. N. Ravi; Capital - Chennai
Andhra Pradesh	CM - Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Abdul Nazeer; Capital - Amaravati (<i>admin</i>)
West Bengal	CM - Mamata Banerjee; Governor - C. V. Ananda Bose; Capital - Kolkata
Delhi (NCT)	CM - Rekha Gupta (<i>Incorrect; Arvind Kejriwal was current CM as of early 2024</i>); L. Governor - V. K. Saxena
Tripura	CM - Manik Saha; Governor - N. Indrasena Reddy; Capital - Agartala
Odisha	CM - Mohan Majhi; Governor - Hari Babu Kambhupati; Capital - Bhubaneswar
Madhya Pradesh	CM - Mohan Yadav; Governor - Mangubhai Patel; Capital - Bhopal
Assam	CM - Himanta Biswa Sarma; Governor - Lakshman Prasad Acharya; Capital - Dispur