

# IACE

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## NGO 'Educate Girls' wins Ramon Magsaysay Award



- An Indian non-profit organisation, 'Foundation to Educate Girls Globally', dedicated to mobilise community and government resources for girls' education in rural and educationally disadvantaged areas of India, has been named a 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee.
- This was announced by the Ramon Magsaysay foundation.
- The Foundation, widely known as Educate Girls, is the first Indian organisation to receive the prestigious award, which is considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize.
- The Foundation, started in Rajasthan, was founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain.
- Other 2025 winners include Shaahina Ali from Maldives for her environmental work and Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva from Philippines.
- The Award was established in 1957, is Asia's highest honor and premier prize, recognizing individuals with exceptional dedication to serving the people of Asia, regardless of their background.

- The award initially featured six categories, including “Government Service”, “Public Service”, “Community Leadership”, “Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts”, “Peace and International Understanding”, and “Emergent Leadership”.
- However, post-2009, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is no longer being given in fixed Award categories, except for Emergent Leadership.
- Each recipient will receive a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of USD 50,000.
- The 67th Ramon Magsaysay Award presentation is scheduled for November 7 at the Metropolitan Theatre in Manila.

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## **Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 conducted by Indian Army in Arunachal Pradesh**

- The Indian Army conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in Arunachal Pradesh, showcasing multi-domain warfare capabilities with indigenous technology and joint drills.
- The Indian Army successfully conducted Exercise ‘Yudh Kaushal’ 3.0 in the Kameng region of Arunachal Pradesh, a high-altitude and extreme-climate zone of the eastern Himalayas.
- The large-scale drill demonstrated multi-domain operational readiness, the integration of emerging technologies, and synergy with indigenous defence industries—reflecting India’s ongoing military modernization under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The exercise validated the Army’s ability to conduct sustained operations in multi-domain environments while preparing for future warfare challenges.
- Parallely, from August 25–28, 2025, the Infantry troops of the Army’s Spear Corps conducted Exercise ‘Achook Prahar’ with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The four-day drill involved joint firepower coordination under simulated battlefield conditions.
- It validated inter-agency cooperation in countering threats along sensitive border areas.
- This joint exercise strengthens synergy between Army and paramilitary forces, critical for operations in border security and high-altitude warfare.



## The annual Mela Patt Festival held in Baderwah, J&K

- The annual three-day Mela Patt festival commenced at Khakhal Mohalla in Baderwah, Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Vasuki Nag, the presiding deity of the Baderwah Valley.
- Mela Patt has been celebrated since the 16th century, commemorating the meeting of Mughal Emperor Akbar and King Nag Pal of Baderwah.
- This year too, the festival continued its tradition, attracting hundreds of people from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of caste or religion to pay tribute to the bravery and spiritual strength of Raja Nagpal.
- The festival is observed on Nag Panchami, seven days after the Kailash Yatra concludes.
- Its unique highlight is the '**Dikko Dance**', where men and women of all communities participate together.
- The festival symbolizes peace, communal harmony, and cultural pride of Baderwah.
- Mela Pat, first celebrated by Raja Nag Pal when Baderwah was known as Bhadrakashi, holds a special place in the cultural and religious fabric of the region.
- Remarkably, the festival has maintained a 600-year history without any untoward incident.



## **'Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana' – approved by Bihar cabinet**

- The scheme approved by Bihar government is aimed at providing employment opportunities for women.
- As part of this scheme, one woman from every family in Bihar will get financial help to begin an occupation of her choice.
- Rs. 10,000 will be given to each selected woman to start her chosen employment activity as the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of financial support.
- Government will soon start the process of receiving applications from interested women.
- The nodal agency for this scheme will be Rural Development Department.
- Urban Development and Housing Department will also provide support as per requirement.
- The transfer of funds into the beneficiary women's bank accounts will start from next month itself.
- In the next phase, there will be an assessment six months after the starting of employment.
- If needed, additional help of up to 2 lakh rupees will be given to the selected beneficiary.
- Under the scheme, there will be development of local markets or haat bazaars across villages and towns.
- These markets will be developed for the sale of products made by women.



## India has revealed its 73-member contingent for the upcoming World Para Athletics Championships

- The championship is scheduled to be held at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from September 27 to October 5.
- This marks the first occasion that India will serve as host for the prestigious para athletics event.
- The team features 19 female athletes and will be spearheaded by top javelin thrower Sumit Antil.
- Notably absent from the lineup is celebrated high jumper and triple Paralympic medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu.
- Sharad Kumar, a Paralympic bronze and silver medallist in high jump, has also been excluded from the squad.
- Paris Paralympics club throw champion **Dharambir Nain** and sprinter **Preethi Pal**, a two-time bronze winner, will lead India as flag bearers during the opening ceremony.



## **Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi were sworn in as judges of the Supreme Court of India**

- Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai administered the oath of office in the Supreme Court premises.
- With their appointment, the top court has reached its sanctioned strength of **34 judges, including the CJI.**
- The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended their names on August 25, and the Centre approved them on August 27.
- Justice Aradhe was serving as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court before his elevation.
- Justice Pancholi, who was the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, is in line to become the Chief Justice of India in October 2031.
- Justice B. V. Nagarathna dissented in the collegium, expressing concern over Pancholi's appointment as "counter-productive."
- Justice Nagarathna is expected to become India's first woman Chief Justice in September 2027.



## India's GDP growth rate increased to 7.8%, the highest in five quarters

- India's economy recorded a 7.8% GDP growth in the June quarter of FY 2025-26, the highest in five quarters.
- The GDP growth rate increased for the third consecutive quarter in the first quarter of FY 2025-26.
- This growth rate of 7.8% is 43 basis points (one basis point is one hundredth of a percentage point) higher than the March quarter figure.
- It is 1.3 percentage points higher than the 6.5% figure of the June quarter of the last financial year.
- The growth surpassed expectations, as a Bloomberg poll had estimated it at 6.7%.
- The increase was driven by strong performances across agriculture, industry, and services sectors.
- Agricultural growth rose to 3.7% compared to 1.5% a year ago, while industry grew at 7% and services at 9.3%.
- According to the quarterly estimates of GDP for the first quarter of the current fiscal year released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 8.8% during the same period.



## **The central government's fiscal deficit reached 29.9% of the annual target by the end of July 2025**

- This is according to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data released on August 29, 2025.
- In the first four months of the previous financial year, it had reached only 17.2% of the 2024-25 Budget Estimates.
- The deficit was at 17.9% of the full-year target at the end of first quarter (April-June).
- From April to July 2025, the government recorded a fiscal gap of ₹4.68 lakh crore.
- For the entire 2025-26 fiscal year, the deficit is targeted at 4.4% of GDP. This equals a total of ₹15.69 lakh crore.



## **Bharat Buildcon will be held in New Delhi from April 29 to May 2, 2026**

- Bharat Buildcon is an international trade fair focused on building materials.
- The event will attract over 30,000 Indian visitors.
- More than 1,000 international buyers from around 100 countries are also expected to attend.
- At the Curtain Raiser in the capital, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal spoke about the event.
- He said the exhibition brings together global buyers, domestic participants, and government procurement agencies.
- He described it as a major opportunity for Indian companies to showcase their products globally.
- The Minister also stressed the government's support for industries during current challenges.
- Mr. Goyal encouraged businesses to become more independent and self-reliant.



## **The Ministry of Power has released the 2024 State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI)**

- This edition of the Index focuses on tracking and improving energy use at the state level.
- It helps establish a structured approach to monitoring energy performance.
- The Index also promotes the sharing of best practices across states.
- It encourages competition to enhance overall energy efficiency.
- Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Tripura are the top-ranking states this year.
- The sixth edition includes a stronger focus on practical implementation.
- It features 66 indicators to assess performance in energy use.
- These indicators cover seven major sectors of energy demand.
- The sectors include buildings, industry, municipal services, transport, and agriculture.
- They also include electricity distribution and cross-sector initiatives.
- A total of 36 States and Union Territories were assessed in SEEI 2024.
- The evaluation reflects data from the 2023–24 fiscal year.
- States were classified into four performance categories.
- These categories are Front Runners (>60%), Achievers (50-60%), Contenders (30-50%), and Aspirants (<30%).

**Ministry of Power  
released State Energy  
Efficiency Index  
2024: Maharashtra,  
Andhra Pradesh, Assam  
and Tripura Among  
Top Performers**



## **TCS Appoints Amit Kapur to Lead Newly Formed AI and Services Transformation Unit**

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) appointed Amit Kapur as the head of its newly formed AI and services transformation unit, effective from September.
- The move comes as Indian IT firms intensify efforts to adopt and expand AI-driven solutions amid sluggish global tech spending.
- The creation of the AI unit follows TCS's announcement to cut 12,000 jobs, raising concerns of further layoffs in India's \$283 billion outsourcing sector due to AI adoption.

### **Recent Appointments**

- MD of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) – Akash Tripathi
- President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI) – Ajay Singh
- Chairperson of Payments Council of India for 2025–2027 – Vishwas Patel
- Co- Chairperson of Payments Council of India for for 2025–2027 – M N Srinivasu
- Delhi Police Commissioner -Satish Golcha (replace Shashi Bhushan Kumar Singh)



## HAL, GSL gets SCOPE Eminence Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the SCOPE Eminence Awards to two defence public sector undertakings for their outstanding contributions in different categories.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) received the award for Institutional Excellence in the Maharatna/Navratna PSEs category, recognising its achievements in aerospace and defence.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) was honoured with the SCOPE Eminence Award 2022–23 for Women Empowerment, highlighting its efforts in gender equality **and** inclusive workplace policies.
- The SCOPE Eminence award acknowledges the exemplary performance of public sector enterprises and individuals contributing significantly to organisational growth and the national economy.

