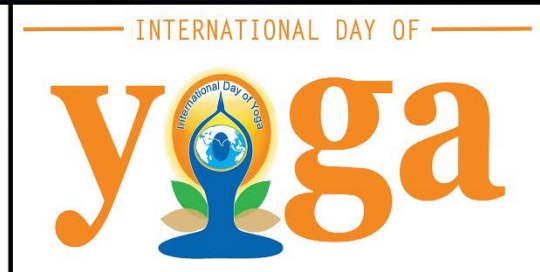




Shankar School of Banking

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL NEWS

Goa Becomes The 2nd State To Achieve Full Functional Literacy

- ★ Goa has become the second state after Mizoram to achieve full functional literacy status. This was announced by the Goa Chief Minister, Dr Pramod Sawant, at a function in Panaji on 30 May 2025 to celebrate the 39th anniversary of Goa's statehood.
- ★ Goa is the third State/Union Territory after the Union Territories of Ladakh and Mizoram to achieve full functional literacy status.
- ★ If 95% of the population of a state/Union territory is functionally literate, then the state/union Territory is considered fully functionally literate.
- ★ The Government of India aims to achieve full functional literacy by 2030.
- ★ Full functional literacy includes both basic and foundational literacy, as well as numeracy literacy.
- ★ Basic literacy refers to a person's ability to read, write, do simple arithmetic, or possess numeracy skills (3R).
- ★ To achieve the goal of functional literacy, the Government of India launched ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or the New India Literacy Programme in 2022.
- ★ The ULLAS scheme targets people aged 15 and above who cannot attend formal school for various reasons.
- ★ The ULLAS scheme has five components: Basic Education, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Vocational Skills, Critical Life Skills, and Continuing Education.
- ★ The ULLAS scheme focused on community involvement and voluntary participation.

Nationwide Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan Launched On 29 May 2025

- ★ The Government of India has launched a nationwide agricultural campaign, "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan", to empower around 1.3 crore farmers with knowledge and tools for the forthcoming Kharif season.
- ★ During the Abhiyan period, a team of experts and Government officials will visit farmers' doorsteps to accomplish this.
- ★ The Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan was formally launched by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, at the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology campus in Bhubaneswar on 29 May 2025 in the presence of the Odisha Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi.
- ★ The following are the aims and objectives of the Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan:
 - Make farmers aware of the government scheme and policies regarding financial assistance, insurance, subsidies for agriculture and allied sectors.

- Educate farmers on the major crops suitable for the Kharif season in their specific agroclimatic regions and suggest improved agronomic practices.
- Promote suitable, cost-effective natural farming practices.
- Educate farmers about crop-specific management practices, improved seed varieties, and integrated nutrient/pest management.
- Create awareness about modern techniques related to animal husbandry, sheep/pashmina goat, poultry, and fisheries.
- Educating farmers on the effective use of Soil Health Cards.
- The team will document the farmer's experience, which the government will use for agricultural research and policy formulation.

UP Tourism to Launch Bodhi Yatra

- ★ The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department will launch a 'Bodhi Yatra' from 2-7 June 2025, which will take tourists to the site associated with Lord Buddha.
- ★ The Department has organised the Bodi Yartra for the delegates of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation member countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Myanmar.
- ★ The inclusion of travel agents and influencers will help promote Uttar Pradesh as a major destination of the international Buddhist circuit.
- ★ It will also showcase the State's rich Buddhist heritage and archaeological sites to the world.
- ★ It will also deepen cultural relations between India and these five Southeast Asian countries.
- ★ The Yatra will start on 2 June 2025 and conclude on 7th June at Sarnath.
- ★ The 50-member delegation will visit six sites associated with Lord Buddha: Shravasti, Kushinagar, Kapilvastu, Sarnath, and Varanasi.

Government Launches Battery Aadhaar Project At The Battery Summit 2025

- ★ The Government of India has launched the Battery Aadhaar project at the Battery Summit 2025 in New Delhi to promote transparency and safety in the battery system.
- ★ Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, launched the Battery Aadhaar Project at the 2025 Battery Summit.
- ★ The Government's move comes amid growing concerns over safety hazards posed by unregulated charging stations for electric vehicles.
- ★ It will provide information about the battery manufacturing company's identity, usage history, and battery material composition.
- ★ It will promote transparency, help users maintain or safely dispose of used batteries, and deter the sale of counterfeit products.
- ★ It will help ensure compliance with regulatory standards and promote sustainable practices within the battery industry.
- ★ The Battery Aadhaar project is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- ★ The NITI Aayog is implementing the initiative in partnership with the DST.

IATA Holds AGM and World Air Transport Summit in New Delhi

- ★ The International Air Transport Association (IATA) will convene its 81st Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Air Transport Summit (WATS) in New Delhi from 1–3 June 2025, marking the first time India hosts the AGM in 42 years.
- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to deliver the keynote address on 2 June.
- ★ IATA represents about 350 airlines, accounting for over 80 percent of global air traffic, underscoring the event's significance in shaping aviation policies.
- ★ According to IATA, India's aviation sector directly employs 369,700 people, contributing USD 5.6 billion to GDP; when indirect, induced, and tourism impacts are included, this rises to 7.7 million jobs and USD 53.6 billion (1.5 percent of GDP).
- ★ The World Air Transport Summit will address: Financial outlook for the airline industry, India's strategic use of aviation to drive economic development and Financing aviation net zero goals.

Department of Posts Launches DHRUVA

- ★ The Department of Posts (DoP) has introduced a comprehensive policy framework for DHRUVA, a Digital Address Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) designed to provide a unique and precise digital address for every home in India.
- ★ This initiative aims to strengthen address management as a critical public infrastructure for improved governance and service delivery.
- ★ A DPI creates a secure, geo-coded digital address system for homes across India.
 - It enables users to share accurate address information through a standardized geo-spatial framework.
 - It recognizes address management as essential for effective governance and enhanced user experiences.
 - It is a 10-digit alpha-numeric code based on geographic co-ordinates (latitude-longitude).
 - It is developed by dividing India's territory into uniform grids of approximately 4×4 meters.
 - It provides unique location identification using geospatial data.

Government Extends Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

- ★ The Government of India has extended Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) benefits to Central Government employees who retired under the National Pension System (NPS) with at least 10 years of service on or before March 31, 2025.
- ★ Eligible retirees or their spouses must apply by June 30, 2025 to claim the benefits.
- ★ It is applicable to Central Government NPS retirees and their spouses with a minimum of 10 years of qualifying service, and who retired on or before March 31, 2025.
- ★ Eligible retirees will receive 1/10th of the last drawn basic pay plus dearness allowance for every six months of qualifying service.
- ★ Monthly Top-Up Pension is provided based on the difference between the UPS payout (including DA) and the annuity received under NPS.

Telangana Declares Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve to Strengthen Tiger Corridor

- ★ The Telangana State Government has established the Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve, covering 88 square kilometres, to serve as a vital wildlife corridor connecting multiple tiger reserves and sanctuaries across central India.
- ★ It serves as a crucial link between Kawal Tiger Reserve (Telangana) and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra), while also connecting to Kanhargaoon, Tipeshwar, Chaprala, and Indravati
- ★ It is home to resident breeding tigers, with reports of over 45 unique transient tigers using the area over the last decade.
- ★ It supports leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, wolves, hyenas, honey badgers, and jungle cats, indicating a healthy predator base.

Government Approves Two-Phase Digital Census 2027

- ★ The Central Government has approved the 2027 population census to be conducted in two phases in digital mode and will also include caste enumeration. In 1931, the British conducted the last caste census in the country.
- ★ On 30th April 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of caste enumeration in the forthcoming population census.
- ★ Phase I will include house listing, and Phase II will include population enumeration, including caste.
- ★ The Central Government will release the schedule for Phase I and Phase II later in June 2025.
- ★ The 2027 Population census will be conducted in digital mode.
- ★ There will be a dedicated census portal that will maintain the census data.
- ★ The census enumerator will go door to door and collect people's data on tablets or smartphones linked with the portal.
- ★ People can also fill in their details on the census portal. After filling in the data at the portal, a unique ID will be generated and sent to the person's mobile number.

Himachal to Give Steel Bottle to Students to Curb Plastic Pollution

- ★ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced a Government initiative to curb plastic pollution by distributing six lakh stainless steel bottles to schoolchildren.
- ★ The Chief Minister announced a series of initiatives in a function organised in Shimla on 5th June 2025 on World Environment Day.
- ★ The event was jointly organised by the Department of Environment, Science and Technology and Climate Change, and the Himachal Pradesh Council for Science, Technology and Environment.
- ★ The theme of the 2025 World Environment Day is Beat Plastic Pollution. It focuses on the dangers to the world environment posed by plastic, especially single-use plastics.
- ★ The State Government announced several steps to deal with plastic pollution.

- ★ To curb plastic pollution, the Government will distribute six lakh stainless steel water bottles to schoolchildren in the state. These bottles will replace plastic water bottles.
- ★ The Chief Minister also launched the 'Single-Use Plastic Challan Mobile App'.

Union Minister Launches BharatGen

- ★ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh, inaugurated BharatGen the country's first Government-funded, AI-based Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) at the BharatGen Summit.
- ★ It was developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) and implemented by TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay.
- ★ BharatGen integrates text, speech, and image modalities to deliver AI solutions in 22 Indian languages and aims to drive innovation across sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance.
- ★ BharatGen is the first-ever indigenously developed AI model in India, funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ★ It supports text, speech, and image processing in 22 Indian languages, ensuring inclusivity and cultural relevance.
- ★ It is supported by a network of 25 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs), four of which are now Technology Translational Research Parks (TTRPs).

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy Launches C CARES 2.0 Portal

- ★ Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G Kishan Reddy launched C CARES Version 2.0, a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO).
- ★ The portal is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ★ CMPFO is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Coal, established in 1948 to administer Provident Fund (PF) and Pension schemes for providing social security to coal sector workers.
- ★ CMPFO currently serves around 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.3 lakh pensioners in the coal sector.
- ★ The upgraded portal aims to streamline PF/Pension disbursement by integrating coal workers, coal management, and CMPFO on a unified digital platform.
- ★ The new portal module has been rolled out in five Regional Offices.
- ★ The mobile app features a Chat-bot assistant that helps members obtain desired information easily.
- ★ The Mobile App is available to all CMPFO members for enhanced accessibility.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0'

- ★ On June 5, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked World Environment Day by launching the second phase of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' tree plantation campaign at Mahavir Jayanti Park, New Delhi.

- ★ This phase aims to plant 10 crore trees across India by September 30, blending environmental protection with the emotional symbolism of motherhood.
- ★ Originally launched in 2024, the campaign urges citizens to plant a tree in honour of their mothers, connecting personal sentiment with climate action.
- ★ The initiative reflects India's grassroots commitment to enhancing its green cover and combating climate change.
- ★ PM Modi emphasized the importance of citizen participation, highlighting the emotional appeal as a driver of environmental responsibility.
- ★ PM Modi also flagged off 200 electric buses in Delhi to promote sustainable urban transport and address air pollution.
- ★ This step is part of a broader clean mobility push, especially crucial for Delhi, which struggles with high pollution levels.
- ★ The theme of World Environment Day 2025 is "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience", aligning with India's long-term sustainability goals.

Government Amends SEZ Rules to Boost Semiconductor, Electronics Sector

- ★ In a significant move to boost the semiconductor and electronic component manufacturing in the country the Government of India has liberalised the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) rules.
- ★ The Government of India has so far approved six proposals to set up semiconductor plants in India.
- ★ Recently, the Central Government approved the proposal of Taiwanese company Foxconn and HCL of India to jointly set up a semiconductor plant near Jewar International Airport in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Agency in Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ The Semiconductor Mission, launched by the Government of India in December 2022 to make India a hub of semiconductor and electronic manufacturing in the world.
- ★ The minimum contiguous land area for setting up for the manufacturing of semiconductors or electronic components has been reduced from 50 hectares to 10 hectares.
- ★ The Board of Approval under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry can relax the condition requiring SEZ land to be encumbrance-free in cases where it is mortgaged or leased to the Central / State Government or their authorised agencies.
- ★ The value of goods received and supplied on a free-of-cost basis is to be included in Net Foreign Exchange calculations and assessed using applicable customs valuation rules.
- ★ These units can sell their products in the domestic tariff areas (within India) after payment of applicable taxes and duties.

India Unveils 'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' Portal

- ★ The Government of India launched the 'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' portal on May 29, 2025, during the Ayush Stakeholder/Industry Interaction Meet at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ★ The portal was jointly launched by: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav.

- ★ The portal is an investor-centric digital platform developed by the Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with Invest India.
- ★ It aims to transform India's traditional wellness systems into a robust economic driver.
- ★ The portal provides investors with: Real-time data, Transparent policy guidance, Access to a vibrant, expanding market
- ★ The Ayush sector ranks among the top five health services in India.
- ★ Ayush is a key driver of India's USD 13 billion medical value travel (MVT) sector
- ★ The launch reaffirms the Government's vision of making Ayush a pillar of public health and economic growth.

29th Legislature in the Country to Adopt the NeVA Platform

- ★ The Union Territory of Puducherry has become the 29th legislature in the country to join the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). The Union Territory of Delhi was the 28th legislature to implement NeVa.
- ★ NeVA is a 100% centrally funded Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs project that aims to create a paperless and digital legislative process in the country.
- ★ Nagaland legislative assembly in 2022 became the first state assembly to implement the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- ★ Dr L. Murugan, Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, formally inaugurated the NeVa for the Puducherry legislative assembly in a function held in the assembly premises on 9 June 2025.
- ★ The NeVA project has been launched as part of the Indian Government's 'Digital India' programme to realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of One Nation, One Application.
- ★ The legislature member can access the NeVA through apps or the website.
- ★ The NeVA system enables legislative members to submit questions and issue notices to discuss particular issues of public importance.
- ★ It features Online Legislative Committees, Bills Management System, E-Voting, E-Attendance, Online handling of questions and notices, E-Book, E-Pads for internal communication, Talk Time Management modules, etc.
- ★ The NeVA platform is multilingual, and the whole system is safe and secure.

India's 1st Underwater Museum to be Built Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra

- ★ The project to build India's first underwater museum and coral reef around a decommissioned Indian Navy landing ship tank, INS Guldar, started in Sindhudurg on June 10, 2025.
- ★ Devendra Fadnavis, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, virtually participated in the ceremony.
- ★ The project is expected to be completed by December 2025 or early 2026. It is expected to boost marine ecotourism in the country and the state.
- ★ The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation of the Maharashtra Government is implementing the project in association with maritime and environmental experts.

- ★ The project is supported by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- ★ The Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned ₹46.91 crore for the project, which aims to boost marine conservation and tourism in the state and the country.
- ★ For the first time, in the country, a naval ship will be converted into an ecological and tourism asset, simultaneously preserving the Indian Navy's legacy.

Tamil Nadu Declares Dhanushkodi as Greater Flamingo Sanctuary

- ★ Tamil Nadu Government officially designated Dhanushkodi in Ramanathapuram district as a Greater Flamingo Sanctuary, covering 524.7 hectares within the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve, to protect migratory birds and marine biodiversity.
- ★ Objective is to safeguard migratory wetland birds, especially Greater Flamingos, along the Central Asian Flyway.
- ★ It upholds international commitments under the Convention on Migratory Species.
- ★ It promotes responsible ecotourism, bolster local livelihoods, and raise biodiversity awareness.

India's First E-Waste Recycling Park to Be Set Up in Delhi

- ★ The Delhi Government has announced the establishment of India's first electronic waste (e-waste) recycling eco park at Holambi Kalan, North Delhi.
- ★ This initiative aims to modernize e-waste management, promote green jobs, and foster a circular economy.
- ★ The eco park will span 11.4 acres and be developed under a DBFOT (Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer) model via a Public-Private Partnership (PPP).
- ★ It will process up to 51,000 tonnes of e-waste, covering all 106 categories listed under the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022.
- ★ It is projected to generate over ₹350 crore in revenue and create 1,000 green jobs.
- ★ The park is expected to be completed in 18 months.
- ★ It aims to formalize the informal recycling sector and ensure safer working conditions.
- ★ It promotes sustainable urban infrastructure, resource recovery, and reduced landfill use.

Maharashtra Launches Geo-Tagged Unique Infra ID for Project Monitoring

- ★ The Maharashtra Government has introduced a geo-tagged 13-character alphanumeric Unique Infra ID for every infrastructure project to enhance transparency, real-time tracking, and co-ordination.
- ★ Activated on June 9, 2025, through the Infra ID portal, this digital initiative will be extended across departments and districts by October 2025, with full registration of projects sanctioned since 2020 to be completed by March 2026.
- ★ Each project will receive a 13-digit unique ID post-administrative approval to standardize tracking and avoid duplication.
- ★ Projects will be geo-tagged via MRSAC (Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre) for effective lifecycle monitoring.

- ★ The ID comprises state code, year, scheme code, district code, asset type, and serial number (e.g., M25RURWRDRODW001).
- ★ The digital platform enables public and inter-agency access to project data and improves governance.
- ★ Implementation begins in Wardha (Vidarbha) before state-wide rollout in October 2025.
- ★ The District Collector's Committee holds authority to cancel or amend project IDs, ensuring accountability.
- ★ March 2026 is the deadline for uploading data of all projects approved since 2020.

Bengaluru Becomes India's 'Leopard Capital', Surpassing Mumbai

- ★ Bengaluru has emerged as India's leading metro in wild leopard population, overtaking Mumbai with estimated 80–85 leopards inhabiting its forested outskirts.
- ★ This significant finding comes from a recent year-long survey (2024–2025) conducted by the Holématti Nature Foundation (HNF), highlighting Bengaluru as a rare urban region supporting apex predators and rich biodiversity, emphasizing the urgent need for sustained conservation efforts.
- ★ Bengaluru hosts 80–85 wild leopards, surpassing Mumbai's population of 54 individuals.
- ★ Survey was conducted over 282 sq.km with more than 250 camera traps deployed.

Centre Approves Third Electronics Manufacturing Cluster for Tamil Nadu

- ★ The Union Government has approved a third Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) in Tamil Nadu, further strengthening the state's role as a leading electronics manufacturing hub in India.
- ★ The announcement was made by Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw during a virtual address at an IIT Madras.
- ★ Tamil Nadu will receive its third electronics manufacturing cluster, following two clusters announced earlier in March 2025 involving a combined investment of ₹1,112 crore.
- ★ The state is witnessing strong growth in the production of mobile phones, laptops, and servers, driven by increasing investments and supportive policies.
- ★ The new cluster is aligned with the Centre's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) initiatives aimed at enhancing domestic capabilities and export potential in the electronics sector.
- ★ Tamil Nadu is also emerging as a key location for railway manufacturing, producing high-strength railway wheels and assembling Vande Bharat trains with Indian Railways' support.

Punjab Government Launches FastTrack Punjab Portal

- ★ The Punjab Government has introduced the FastTrack Punjab Portal to speed up industrial approvals and minimize bureaucratic delays.
- ★ It was launched jointly by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal.
- ★ The platform aims to provide time-bound clearances for industrial projects while emphasizing accountability and automation.

- ★ The portal guarantees that approvals for new business setups, expansions, and project diversifications will be granted within 45 days. If this deadline is missed, investors will automatically receive deemed approval, ensuring no unnecessary delays.
- ★ It is integrated with the Invest Punjab Portal. The system offers a unified application for statutory approvals such as change of land use (CLU), fire safety, forest, and pollution certificates via a single stamp paper. These clearances will be processed within 15 days.

National Commission for Women (NCW) Launches “Yashoda AI: Your AI SAKHI”

- ★ Yashoda AI, launched by NCW in collaboration with Future Shift Labs, is a pioneering effort to increase women’s participation in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and digital safety.
- ★ Objective is to empower women, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, with knowledge and skills in: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cybersecurity and Digital Safety
- ★ It promotes community-driven digital education.
- ★ NCW Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar emphasized the initiative’s role in furthering gender justice, cyber awareness, and women-led digital safety innovations.

Punjab Launches ‘Udyog Kranti’ to Propel Industrial Growth

- ★ The Punjab Government, led by CM Bhagwant Singh Mann and Arvind Kejriwal, launched the Punjab Udyog Kranti, marking India’s first state-level comprehensive industrial reform campaign.
- ★ With 12 major reforms, the initiative aims to enhance ease of doing business, ensure time-bound industrial clearances, and attract both domestic and international investments, positioning Punjab as a competitive industrial destination.
- ★ Applications for industrial approvals to be cleared within 45 working days; delays will result in automatic clearance through FastTrack Portal.
- ★ A digital single-window system allows end-to-end processing without manual intervention.
- ★ Application deficiencies to be communicated within 7 days, improving efficiency and clarity.

India Celebrates 10 Years of International Day of Yoga

- ★ To mark the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Yoga (IDY), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh has been chosen as the national venue for the 11th edition on June 21, 2025.
- ★ A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Ayush and the Andhra Pradesh Government conducted a detailed field review to ensure preparedness, aiming to further Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of taking yoga benefits to the grassroots level.
- ★ Theme for the event is “Yoga for One Earth, One Health” emphasizing holistic well-being and environmental harmony.
- ★ Andhra Pradesh’s flagship campaign targeting over 2 crore citizens through awareness drives, yoga camps, and training 20 lakh certified practitioners to promote yoga as a daily habit.
- ★ IDY was declared by the UN in 2014, first celebrated in 2015, and is observed annually on June 21 (summer solstice), growing into a global health movement.

Kamlesh Paswan Inaugurates Agri-Drone Indigenization Hub

- ★ Union Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan inaugurated India's first Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility by Garuda Aerospace in Chennai.
- ★ Along with this, he launched 300 Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and flagged off the DGCA-approved Train the Trainer (TTT) programme, boosting India's move toward becoming a Global Drone Hub by 2030.
- ★ The facility focuses on design, manufacturing, and testing of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), promoting self-reliance in drone technology.
- ★ Train the Trainer (TTT) Programme was approved by the DGCA. This certified skilling programme aims to create drone instructors across the country, enhancing rural employability and empowering women through initiatives like Drone Didis.
- ★ It was established in partnership with academic and industry stakeholders, these CoEs will support drone innovation, R&D, and skill development.
- ★ These initiatives are aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2022 vision to produce 1 lakh Made-in-India drones and develop a robust domestic ecosystem by 2026.

West Bengal Launches AI-Enabled 'Duare X-Ray' Initiative

- ★ The West Bengal Health Department has launched the Duare X-Ray programme under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP).
- ★ The programme involves the distribution of portable X-Ray machines equipped with AI technology.
- ★ Initially, 14 AI-fitted portable X-Ray machines have been sent to Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in two health districts of South 24 Parganas: 8 machines to South 24 Parganas health district, 6 machines to Diamond Harbour health district
- ★ These machines are portable and can be carried to health camps, including those in remote island areas of South 24 Parganas.
- ★ Each portable X-Ray machine, once charged, can perform at least 200 X-Rays.
- ★ Although primarily intended for tuberculosis (TB) patients, the X-Ray facility will also be available to those with other health complications visiting the PHCs or camps.
- ★ The main objective is to reduce travel for remote villagers, enabling them to get X-rays locally at PHCs or health camps.
- ★ Doctors can use these machines to conduct on-the-spot X-rays and provide timely medical advice.

Government to Set Up Birsa Munda Prize for Developing Sickle Cell Drug

- ★ The Government of India will institute the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Prize to promote research and development of new drugs for treating Sickle cell disease.
- ★ This was announced by the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, Durgadas Uikey, in a function held at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi, on World Sickle Cell Day on 19 June 2025.

- ★ He also announced the setting up the National Tribal Health and Research Institute in AIIMS, New Delhi.
- ★ World Sickle Cell Day is observed on 19 June every year to raise awareness among people and policymakers about genetic blood disorders.
- ★ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has instituted the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Prize for Sickle Cell Drugs in collaboration with AIIMS Delhi.
- ★ It will provide funds up to ₹ 10 crore for the approved drug research proposal for treating Sickle cell.
- ★ Birsa Munda was a Santhal tribal leader of the Chota Nagpur area of Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Google's 1st Asia Pacific Safety Centre In Hyderabad Inaugurated

- ★ Google has set up its first Safety Engineering Centre in the Asia-Pacific region in Hyderabad, Telangana. It is Google's fourth Safety Engineering Centre worldwide after Munich in Germany, Malaga in Spain, and Dublin in Ireland.
- ★ The Google Safety Engineering Centre was formally inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad.
- ★ The Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) launch follows the unveiling of the tech giant's "Safety Charter for India's AI-led Transformation" in Delhi
- ★ Google provides internet-related services. To safeguard the privacy, security, content responsibility, and family safety of its users worldwide, Google has established four Safety Engineering Centres:
 - It will focus on protecting users from online fraud and securing enterprise and Government infrastructure.
 - It will be a strategic hub for the Asia Pacific region to develop safety solutions.
 - It will work on cybersecurity, end-user safety, and building responsible artificial intelligence (AI).
 - The centre will use AI and large language models to drive real-time scam alerts via Gemini Nano on Android, enhance fraud detection across Google services like GPay, Search, and Gmail, and strengthen Google Play Protect.

Bihar Becomes First Indian State to Launch Mobile-Based e-Voting in Urban Polls

- ★ In a historic move, Bihar has become the first state in India to implement mobile-based e-voting, set to debut during the urban local body elections on 28th June 2024.
- ★ The initiative, spearheaded by the Bihar State Election Commission (SEC), is expected to revolutionize voting accessibility, particularly for marginalized and remote populations.
- ★ Bihar's e-voting system will operate through two dedicated Android mobile applications:
 - "e-Voting SECBHR" developed by C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing).
 - A second app developed by the Bihar State Election Commission.
- ★ The system is designed to empower voters unable to physically reach polling booths, including Migrant workers, Persons with disabilities (Divyang voters), Pregnant women and Senior citizens.

Chennai Unveils India's First-Ever Resting Pod for Gig Workers

- ★ Chennai has launched India's first "Gig Workers' Pod".
- ★ The initiative is aimed at providing safe, clean, and comfortable resting spaces for gig and platform-based workers such as delivery agents and ride-hailing drivers.
- ★ The pod includes seating, charging points, toilets, and drinking water.
- ★ It is part of a broader push by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Cities4Workers initiative.
- ★ The pod is located in Anna Nagar and was inaugurated in June 2024.
- ★ Chennai is reportedly the first city in India to implement such a dedicated public facility for gig workers.
- ★ The initiative acknowledges the essential role gig workers play and aims to provide them with dignified urban infrastructure.
- ★ This effort could become a model for other cities to improve working conditions for the informal workforce.

Andhra Pradesh's Belum Caves declared Geo Heritage Site by GSI

- ★ Belum Caves, located in Kolimigundla mandal, Nandyal district, Andhra Pradesh, have been declared a Geo Heritage Site by the Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- ★ These caves are India's second largest natural cave system, after Meghalaya's Siju Caves.
- ★ The limestone caves stretch over 3.6 km, with 1.5 km open to tourists.
- ★ Known for their stalactite and stalagmite formations, the caves also have freshwater galleries and underground streams.
- ★ The GSI's move aims to preserve and protect the geological significance of the site.
- ★ The caves are believed to be millions of years old, formed by constant underground water flow.
- ★ The designation could boost geo-tourism and scientific research in the region.
- ★ Belum Caves are already a popular tourist destination, maintained by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC).
- ★ With this status, the site will receive better conservation and promotion efforts.

PM Modi Leads 11th International Day of Yoga Celebrations from Vizag

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the country in celebrating the 11th International Day of Yoga from the coastal town of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on 21 June 2025.
- ★ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav and other dignitaries joined the Prime Minister in a 45 minute yoga session.
- ★ The International Day of Yoga celebration in Visakhapatnam was organised by the Union Ministry of Ayush.

- ★ Andhra Pradesh organised an innovative “Floating Yoga” event on the Krishna River in Vijayawada on the International Day of Yoga.
- ★ It was part of the State Government’s YogAndhra 2025 campaign in which thousands of yoga practitioners performed various asanas on 200 water crafts like kayaks, sand boats, jet skis, punts and floating platforms.
- ★ The theme of the 11th International Day of Yoga is: Yoga for One Earth, One Health.

Bhupendra Yadav Launches Gharial Conservation Programme at Katarniaghat

- ★ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, launched the Gharial Species Conservation Programme on 20 June 2025 by releasing seven one-year-old gharial hatchlings into the Gerua River at Katarniaghat in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ The Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary is a breeding ground of gharials with the Gerua River being an ideal habitat for gharials.
- ★ The Indian Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) has been listed as critically endangered species in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list.
- ★ The Gharial is endemic to India and is found in three tributaries of the Ganga- the Chambal and the Gerua Rivers (also known as Girwa Rivers) in India and the Rapti-Narayani River in Nepal.
- ★ Once abundant in the rivers of North India, its wild population has drastically reduced to around 800.
- ★ Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh is a major captive breeding ground of gharial hatchlings.

Maharashtra Declares Hindi as the ‘General’ Third Language in Schools

- ★ The Maharashtra Government, aligning with the State Curriculum Framework 2024 and NEP 2020, has issued a directive making Hindi the default third language taught in Marathi and English medium schools from Classes 1 to 5.
- ★ While the policy allows opting for other Indian languages if requested by at least 20 students per class, this provision has sparked controversy over language imposition and regional identity concerns.
- ★ Hindi will be generally taught as the third language for Classes 1-5 in Marathi and English medium schools.
- ★ Students may choose an alternative Indian language if a minimum of 20 students per grade opt for it, with instruction provided either through a hired teacher or online.
- ★ Marathi remains compulsory across all mediums.
- ★ The policy aims to promote multilingualism, national integration, and cognitive development, consistent with NEP 2020’s three-language formula.

Calcutta High Court Directs Restart of MGNREGA in West Bengal

- ★ The Calcutta High Court, ordered the Central Government to resume work under MGNREGA in West Bengal from August 1, ending a nearly three-year suspension.

- ★ The scheme was halted in March 2022 over alleged fund misuse and non- payment of wages, leaving over 25 million rural workers without guaranteed employment.
- ★ The court highlighted the fundamental right to livelihood and asserted that past irregularities cannot indefinitely block the Act's future implementation.
- ★ MGNREGA works and wage payments, stopped since March 2022, will recommence by August 1, 2025.
- ★ Resumption is set to benefit nearly 2.5 crore workers, restore rural income, and recover an estimated ₹5,000 crore annual loss, as per NREGA Sangharsh Morcha.

University of Delhi Launches JAIHIND Scheme

- ★ The University of Delhi has launched the JAIHIND (Janajati Immersive Holistic Intervention for Novel Development) scheme, with the aim of enhancing digital literacy and CUET preparedness among Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from remote rural areas.
- ★ The first pilot batch includes 25 students from Ukhrul district of Manipur, marking a key step toward inclusive higher education access.
- ★ It bridges the digital divide and support CUET preparation for ST students from underserved areas.
- ★ It provides training in computer skills, online form-filling, and admission-related communication.
- ★ It promotes equitable access to Central University admissions, especially after the CUET mandate in 2022.
- ★ It includes students from Classes 9 to 12, belonging to Scheduled Tribes.
- ★ First batch: 25 students (12 girls, 13 boys) selected based on academic merit.

Delhi to Conduct First-Ever Cloud-Seeding Trial for Artificial Rain

- ★ The Delhi Government is preparing to conduct its first cloud-seeding trial by June 2025, aimed at testing the feasibility of inducing artificial rain to tackle pollution and water scarcity.
- ★ The project, developed with IIT Kanpur and supported by IMD and the Ministry of Defence, awaits final clearance from DGCA.
- ★ The initiative primarily aims to test cloud-seeding feasibility during peak pollution periods, though it is not directly targeting air quality improvement in this phase.
- ★ A custom cloud-seeding mix will be deployed, consisting of silver iodide (AgI), powdered rock salt, and iodized salt with hygroscopic and glaciogenic properties.
- ★ Trials will target Nimbostratus clouds at altitudes between 500–6000 meters, requiring at least 50% moisture content for effectiveness.
- ★ IIT Kanpur will analyse post-rain water samples for silver iodide residue, with initial studies showing no significant environmental risk.

Tripura, 3rd Fully Functional Literate State

- ★ The Northeastern state of Tripura has become the 3rd state in India to achieve full functional literacy after Mizoram and Goa.

- ★ Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha announced this at a function held in the state capital, Agartala, to honour the top scorer of the various districts in the Foundational and Numeracy Assessment Test.
- ★ The best overall performance award was given to the North Tripura district. The Sepahijala district won the first position amongst the districts, while the West Tripura and Unakoti districts secured the second and third positions, respectively.
- ★ Tripura is the country's fourth State/Union Territory to achieve this feat after the Union Territory of Ladakh, Mizoram and Goa in the chronological order.
- ★ The National Literacy Mission, launched by the Government of India in 1988, defined a State/Union Territory (UT) as fully literate if more than 90% of its population can read, write in any Indian language and do basic arithmetic.
- ★ To promote functional literacy in the country, the Government of India in 2022 launched a new scheme – ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or the New India Literacy Programme. Under this programme, a different definition was adopted to declare a State or UT as a fully functional literate state.
- ★ Under the ULLAS definition, a State or UT is fully functionally literate if 94% of its population is functionally literate.

NAVYA Scheme for Skilling Adolescent Girls Launched in Sonbhadra, UP

- ★ The Government of India has launched a pilot initiative named NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls) to upskill and empowers adolescent girls.
- ★ The pilot project was formally launched at a function in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, on 24 June 2025. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship have jointly launched the NAVYA scheme.
- ★ Both Ministries will formalise their collaboration to institutionalise convergence on skilling efforts for adolescent girls under the NAVYA scheme.
- ★ It focuses on adolescent girls between the ages of 16 and 18 with a minimum qualification of Class 10.
- ★ They will receive vocational training, particularly in non-traditional job roles.
- ★ This is expected to open new employment opportunities for them in emerging economic sectors.
- ★ The project aims to reach the underserved region of the country and the vulnerable section of society.
- ★ Thus, it will initially be implemented in 27 districts of 19 states, including districts of northern states and the Aspirational districts.
- ★ The success and strengths of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and other flagship skill development schemes will inspire the NAVYA programme.

Centre Launches Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub

- ★ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, led by Minister Annpurna Devi, launched the Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub, a digital platform designed to support gender-responsive budgeting across central and state ministries.
- ★ The launch coincided with a national consultation marking 20 years of India's gender budgeting journey, reflecting the Government's strengthened commitment to inclusive fiscal planning and women's empowerment.
- ★ Gender budget allocation has increased 4.5 times over 11 years, from ₹0.98 lakh crore in FY 2014–15 to ₹4.49 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.
- ★ The Knowledge Hub serves as a central repository offering best practices, training manuals, case studies, and budgeting templates for ministries, departments, and states.
- ★ Minister Annpurna Devi emphasized that gender budgeting is now a strategic tool for inclusive governance, shifting focus from mere allocation tracking to outcome-based budgeting for women.
- ★ The national consultation gathered participants from 40 central ministries, 19 states, and international agencies like UN Women and ADB, discussing achievements and challenges.
- ★ Focus areas include the development of training modules, a draft Gender Budgeting Training Manual, and sector-specific integration strategies to build institutional capacity.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Addresses The EXIM Bank's Trade Conclave 2025

- ★ Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, addressed the Trade Conclave 2025, hosted by the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) in New Delhi.
- ★ Nirmala Sitharaman virtually inaugurated Exim Bank's new offices in Lucknow, Indore and São Paulo, Brazil.
- ★ The EXIM Bank's Trade Conclave was organised on the theme - 'Building Export-led Growth for Viksit Bharat'.
- ★ Over 200 participants from the Indian industry, heads of banking/financial institutions, exporters, export promotion councils, and academia attended this event physically and virtually.
- ★ Nirmala Sitharaman outlined five steps the Government of India has taken to boost exports from India.
- ★ Investments in transport and logistics have improved supply chain efficiency and global competitiveness.
- ★ Micro and Small Medium Enterprises(MSMEs) are being supported through Udyam registration, revamp of Credit Guarantee Schemes, TReDS, and Exim Bank's Ubharte Sitaare Programme.
- ★ Enhancing access to trade finance through platforms like the International Trade Finance Service Platform of EXIM Bank and Exim Bank's subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- ★ The Government's policy of designating the district as an export hub has enabled exporters to operate beyond the Special Economic Zone (SEZ).
- ★ India is negotiating a free trade Area (FTA) with many countries and regional groups to promote exports and trade from India.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Completes 10 Years

- ★ India marked a major urban development milestone as the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) completed 10 years on June 25, 2025.
- ★ Launched in 2015, the Mission aimed to enhance quality of life in urban areas through robust infrastructure and inclusive service delivery in 500 cities and towns. It has now evolved into AMRUT 2.0, expanding its reach and ambition.
- ★ It is focused on universal access to tap water, sewerage, urban mobility, and green spaces in urban India.

‘ECoR Yatra’ App Launched to Streamline Rath Yatra 2025 Travel

- ★ East Coast Railway has unveiled the ‘ECoR Yatra’ mobile app available on the Google Play Store to assist pilgrims travelling to Puri between June 25 and July 7, 2025.
- ★ The app delivers real-time railway updates, accommodation options, and amenity details to enhance the Rath Yatra experience.
- ★ It provides One-tap access to Railway Protection Force, ambulance services, and the railway grievance portal.
- ★ It is designed for pan-India pilgrims, with intuitive navigation and digital literacy guides for first-time app users.
- ★ It will locate drinking water points, e-catering services, medical aid booths, and wheelchair access at stations.

Centre of Excellence to Tackle Human-Wildlife Conflict Launched at WII-SACON

- ★ Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav announced, the establishment of a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for human-wildlife conflict management at WII-SACON.
- ★ This CoE will integrate AI tools, strategic research, rapid-response mechanisms, and community engagement to address rising incidents of tiger and elephant attacks and strengthen conservation outcomes.
- ★ It is partnered with State Governments to implement standardized protocols and establish district-level response units.
- ★ Human fatalities decreased from 111 in 2022 to 74 in 2024, yet Maharashtra accounted for 57% of 2024’s deaths, with Uttar Pradesh also prominent.

CBSE to Offer Class 10 Board Exams Twice Annually from 2026–27

- ★ Starting in the 2026–27 academic year, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will allow Class 10 students to sit for their board examinations twice a year, with an optional second session for score improvement in up to three academic subjects.
- ★ Dual Examination Sessions include Mandatory exams in February and an optional improvement session in May for eligible students.
- ★ Students may reappear in up to three core subjects (Science, Maths, Social Science, and languages) and have the best-of-two scores counted.

- ★ The student must pass at least three subjects in the first exam; those failing 1–2 subjects enter the ‘Compartment’ category and can retake them, while students failing three or more move to ‘Essential Repeat’ and cannot use the second session.
- ★ This reform supports a student-centric, stressless with N-reducing assessment model as envisaged by the National Education Policy.
- ★ The Compartment exam is merged with the May improvement session, now held in June, with further attempts aligned to the following year’s exam cycle.

NITI Aayog Releases ‘India’s Data Imperative’ Report to Improve Data Quality in Governance

- ★ NITI Aayog unveiled the third edition of its Future Front insights series titled “India’s Data Imperative: The Pivot Towards Quality”, in New Delhi.
- ★ The report emphasizes that poor data quality significantly affects public trust, service delivery, and policy-making, and highlights the urgent need to establish a data-first culture in governance.
- ★ It was released to raise awareness about poor data quality in India’s public systems and offer practical solutions to improve digital governance.
- ★ The report links data quality directly with citizen trust, efficient policy targeting, and service delivery effectiveness.
- ★ It highlights issues like outdated, inconsistent, and siloed datasets, leading to inefficient governance and resource allocation.
- ★ It introduces simple, easy-to-use digital tools designed for real-time validation, analysis, and improved decision-making by Government officials.
- ★ It urges all institutions to treat data as a shared national asset and implement a “data-first” institutional mindset.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India Central Asia Dialogue 2025

- ★ Indian External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar, hosted the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi.
- ★ The foreign ministers of the five Central Asian countries — Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan — participated in the 4th India-Central Asian Dialogue.
- ★ The foreign ministers of India and the five Central Asian countries also attended the 4th India-Central Asia Business Council meeting in New Delhi to promote business ties.
- ★ The India Central Dialogue is a foreign minister format that discusses regional issues to strengthen India’s central relations.
- ★ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI), in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, organises the India Central Asia Business Council meeting.

Bahrain, Latvia and 3 Other Countries Join UN Security Council

- ★ The United Nations General Assembly has elected Latvia, Bahrain, Colombia, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as new non-permanent United Nations (UN) Security Council members for a two-year term.
- ★ The newly elected members term will start on 1st January 2026 and end on 31st December 2027.
- ★ Latvia, a small East European country, has been elected to the Security Council for the first time.
- ★ The United Nations Security Council has 15 members. Five members -China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America are permanent members and have veto power.
- ★ The United Nations Security Council initially had 11 members, six of whom were non-permanent. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to ten.
- ★ The newly elected members will replace Slovenia, South Korea, Guyana, Algeria, and Sierra Leone, whose terms end on 31st December 2025.
- ★ The newly elected countries: Latvia, Bahrain, Colombia, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo will join Pakistan, Denmark, Panama, Greece, and Somalia as the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.
- ★ Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia's two-year term will end on 31st December 2026.
- ★ Every year, elections are held to elect five non-permanent members of the Security Council.

Bangladesh Removes Mujibur's 'Father Of The Nation' Title

- ★ Bangladesh's interim Government has dropped the title "Father of the Nation" for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ★ This change was made by amending legislation, specifically the National Freedom Fighters Council Act.
- ★ The amendment involved revising the definition of "freedom fighter" under the Act.
- ★ The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs issued an ordinance regarding the amendment on Tuesday night.
- ★ The amendment also modifies the term "Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman".
- ★ This move follows the Muhammad Yunus-led interim Government dropping Mujibur Rahman's portrait from new currency notes.
- ★ The action is seen as political, affecting the legacy of Bangladesh's founding father and the family of the current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (daughter of Mujibur Rahman).

PM Modi to Attend G7 Summit 2025

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to attend the 51st Group of Seven (G7) summit meeting in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from 15 to 17 June 2025.

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G7 summit meeting for the sixth time, having attended in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- ★ The country that hosts the G7 summit meeting can invite other countries/international organisations to participate in the summit meeting.
- ★ These meetings, in which the G7 member countries and invited non-members participate, are called “Outreach Sessions”.
- ★ These outreach sessions discuss regional and international issues.
- ★ India has been invited to the “Outreach Session”.
- ★ So far, apart from India, Australia and Ukraine have been invited by Canada.

India to Invest \$20 Billion in Maritime Infrastructure

- ★ At the Nor-Shipping Conference 2025 in Oslo, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced that India will invest \$20 billion to transform its maritime infrastructure.
- ★ The plan includes developing Green Hydrogen Hub Ports and strengthening multimodal logistics and global trade corridors, aiming to position India as a global maritime leader and advance toward net-zero maritime emissions.
- ★ The initiative will modernize Indian ports, enhance logistics infrastructure, and improve supply chain connectivity across the coastline.
- ★ India will establish Green Hydrogen production hubs at Kandla, Tuticorin, and Paradip, promoting alternative maritime fuels and sustainable shipping practices.
- ★ The project aims to develop integrated transport solutions combining port, rail, road, and inland waterways for efficient cargo movement.
- ★ India seeks to expand international co-operation for the employment of Indian seafarers in the global maritime sector.
- ★ India emphasizes its shipbuilding capacity and offers investment-friendly policies, including innovative financing for maritime growth.
- ★ The plan aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission and supports net-zero targets in the maritime sector.
- ★ The investment supports long-term maritime development under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, which governs 12 major and over 200 non-major ports in India.

International IDEA Conference

- ★ Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Gyanesh Kumar, delivered the keynote address at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) International Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10th June 2025.
- ★ Gyanesh Kumar also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Mexico, Croatia, Indonesia, South Africa, Switzerland, Moldova, Lithuania, Mongolia, Mauritius, Germany, Ukraine and the United Kingdom at the sidelines of the Conference.
- ★ The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) organised the International Conference on Electoral Integrity in Stockholm from 10-12 June 2025.

- ★ Election Management Bodies of over 50 countries participated in the Stockholm conference.
- ★ During his keynote address, CEC Gyanesh Kumar highlighted the complexity of the Indian electoral system.
- ★ During the 2024 parliamentary election, the Election Commission of India, with over 2 crore personnel, became the world's largest organisation.
- ★ He also highlighted the complexity of conducting a credible and smooth election in a country with over 969 million voters.

France and Brazil Unveil Plan to Boost Ocean-Based Climate Initiatives

- ★ On the first day of the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3), France and Brazil launched the Blue Nationally Determined Contributions (Blue NDC) Challenge.
- ★ The initiative aims to place the ocean at the center of global climate action, especially ahead of COP30, which will be hosted by Brazil in November 2025.
- ★ Eight inaugural countries joined the initiative: Australia, Fiji, Kenya, Mexico, Palau, Seychelles, along with Brazil and France.
- ★ These countries have committed to include ocean-based solutions in their NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) under the Paris Agreement.
- ★ Goals of the Blue NDC Challenge: Promote ocean-focused climate action, Emphasize ocean-based solutions for emission reduction and climate resilience and Encourage all countries to integrate ocean strategies into their national climate plans.

China and South Korea to Host the Fourth UN Ocean Conference

- ★ China and South Korea (Republic of Korea) will co-host the 4th edition of the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2028.
- ★ This was announced at the conclusion of the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, France.
- ★ At the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, over 170 countries adopted a declaration calling for urgent steps to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.
- ★ Over 55 world leaders, scientists, policymakers, and industry representatives attended the 3rd United Nations Conference to discuss collective actions to conserve and sustainably use the ocean.
- ★ “Accelerating action and mobilising all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean” was the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference 2025 theme.
- ★ The theme focused on realising Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ★ Goal 14 calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

UN Declares 4 December as International Day Against Coercive Measures

- ★ The United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution to observe the 4th of December every year as the International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures.

- ★ The first International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures will be observed in 2025.
- ★ The resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly says that the day has been established to create global awareness about the adverse effects of the unilateral coercive measures adopted by one country against another.
- ★ Unilateral coercive measures and legislation adopted by one country against another are against international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations, and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.
- ★ The unilateral coercive measure also hampers a developing country from achieving full economic and social development.
- ★ Observing the International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures aims to promote greater international co-operation and solidarity among countries in addressing the adverse consequences of such measures, especially on developing countries.
- ★ The Day also urges countries not to impose unilateral coercive measures on other countries.

Global Anti-Terror Financing Body FATF Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack

- ★ The global anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing body, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), has condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in Kashmir on 22 April 2025, in which 26 tourists were killed. The terror attack was claimed by the Resistance Front (TRF), which is a front organisation of the banned Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.
- ★ On the night of 6 and 7th May 2025, India launched Operation Sindoor to destroy the terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- ★ The FATF rarely issues condemnations of terrorist acts, and it is only the third time in the last decade that they have condemned a terrorist attack.
- ★ Though FATF has not named any country in its statement, India has clearly stated its intent to take up terror funding charges against Pakistan to make a case for putting it back in the FATF 'grey list'.
- ★ Pakistan was taken off the FATF Grey list in October 2022.

United Nations (UN) Declares 2026 as International Year of the Woman Farmer

- ★ The United Nations General Assembly has officially designated 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, spotlighting the essential but often unrecognized contributions of women in agriculture worldwide.
- ★ Globally, women contribute nearly 50% of the food supply, representing 60% to 80% of food production in developing nations and accounting for 39% of the agricultural workforce in South Asia.
- ★ Nearly 80% of rural women are engaged in agriculture.
- ★ According to the 2011 Census, India has 3.6 crore women farmers and 6.15 crore women agricultural labourers.
- ★ Women constitute 33% of the total agricultural labour force and 48% of self-employed farmers.
- ★ With increasing male migration, women are taking charge of farm operations, leading to the feminisation of Indian agriculture.

- ★ Women are also key players in agricultural extension services, information sharing, and community-based natural resource management.

PM Modi Concludes First Ever Official Visit to Croatia

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his visit to the European nation of Croatia with the signing of four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the two countries.
- ★ The Prime Minister was on a three-nation visit to Cyprus, Canada, and Croatia from 15 to 19 June 2025.
- ★ The Prime Minister attended the Outreach session of the 51st G7 summit meeting, which Canada hosted in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15 to 17, 2025.
- ★ The following four MoUs were exchanged between India and Croatia:
 - Cooperation between two nations in the field of agriculture and allied sectors,
 - Cooperation in Science and Technology,
 - Cultural Exchange Program,
 - Establishment of Hindi chair at University of Zagreb, Croatia.

TCS Partners with Council of Europe Development Bank

- ★ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced a strategic partnership with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to transform the bank's transaction reconciliation processes.
- ★ This initiative highlights India's growing influence in global financial technology and the role of AI in improving operational efficiencies.
- ★ TCS will deploy its AI-powered solution TCS BaNCS for Reconciliations.
- ★ The goal is to automate and modernise the CEB's reconciliation processes for enhanced accuracy, control, and operational transparency.
- ★ It integrates AI and automation into the core banking functions of a major European financial institution.
- ★ It aligns with CEB's mission to improve operational efficiency for better delivery of social development projects across Europe.

India and Canada to Restart Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

- ★ India and Canada have agreed to resume negotiations on a free trade agreement (FTA) that was suspended in September 2023, just before New Delhi was to host the G-20 Summit.
- ★ The decision was made during the first meeting between Canadian PM Mark Carney and Indian PM Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada.
- ★ Both leaders agreed to normalize ties, starting with the early return of High Commissioners to their respective capitals.
- ★ They discussed restarting talks on the Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) as a step towards a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

- ★ Future collaboration areas discussed include: Clean energy, Digital transformation, LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas), Food security, Critical minerals, Higher education, Mobility, Supply chain resilience
- ★ The suspension of talks followed political tensions triggered by allegations of Canadian interference in domestic affairs by India, leading to diplomatic expulsions in October 2024.
- ★ Despite tensions, bilateral merchandise trade grew from \$8.3 billion (FY23) to \$8.4 billion (FY24).

WACE Has Become The First Foreign Government-Supported School Board

- ★ Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) has become the first foreign Government-supported school board to begin operations in India in over two decades.
- ★ This marks a significant development in Australia's expanding education footprint in India, following the entry of Deakin University and University of Wollongong as the first foreign universities to establish campuses in India.
- ★ WACE has received formal equivalence for its Class X and XII qualifications from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- ★ This equivalence allows WACE credentials to be recognised across India.
- ★ The approval enables Australian-style school education to be delivered through international partner schools under the Western Australian International School System (WAIS).
- ★ Under the WAIS curriculum, students typically take five subjects in classes XI and XII, with the option to take six.
- ★ WACE is currently operational in 16 countries

India-Cyprus Sign MoU to Enable UPI-Based Cross-Border Payments

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Eurobank Cyprus to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Cyprus.
- ★ The agreement was finalized during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Cyprus, aiming to strengthen fintech and bilateral co-operation.
- ★ The pact aims to introduce UPI-based digital payment systems in Cyprus to support cross-border transactions, especially for Indian tourists, students, and businesses.
- ★ The MoU was signed between NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL) and Eurobank Cyprus, enhancing India's digital payments reach in Europe.
- ★ Cyprus is a top-10 foreign direct investor in India, with nearly \$15 billion in cumulative inflows. This partnership boosts India's fintech presence in the European and Mediterranean regions.
- ★ The MoU is one of the major economic outcomes of PM Modi's Cyprus visit and reflects India's growing global influence in digital public infrastructure.

China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh Agree to Strengthen Cooperation

- ★ China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh have agreed to advance co-operation based on principles of good-neighbourliness, equality, and mutual trust.

- ★ The inaugural trilateral meeting of their foreign ministry officials was held in Kunming, southwest China.
- ★ This was the first-ever trilateral consultation between China, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, described by the Chinese Foreign Ministry as part of neighbourhood diplomacy with Chinese characteristics.
- ★ A similar trilateral meeting was previously held between China, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- ★ The meeting involved in-depth exchanges under the framework of high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- ★ Key areas of discussion included Trilateral co-operation, Common interests of the people, Peace, stability, development, and prosperity.
- ★ The three sides agreed to establish a dialogue mechanism on China-Pakistan-Bangladesh trilateral co-operation.
- ★ A broad consensus was reached on Strengthening unity and co-ordination, Addressing regional and international challenges.

IAEA and Romania to Initiate World's Largest Nuclear Emergency Drill

- ★ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Romania will launch the world's largest and most complex international nuclear emergency exercise, ConvEx-3 (2025), on June 24, 2025.
- ★ The exercise simulates a severe accident at Romania's Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant, the country's only nuclear power plant.
- ★ Over 75 countries and 10 international organizations will participate both onsite in Romania and remotely, testing global readiness for nuclear or radiological emergencies with cross-border consequences.
- ★ ConvEx exercises are held every three to five years by IAEA Member States to evaluate and improve international emergency preparedness.
- ★ The exercise will last 36 hours and include:
 - Real-time decision-making
 - Emergency communications
 - International co-ordination under the Early Notification Convention and the Assistance Convention
 - Protective actions like simulated evacuations, iodine distribution, public communication, and medical response co-ordination
 - Management of food and trade restrictions based on radiological assessments
 - The IAEA Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) will activate key tools such as: Unified System for Information Exchange (USIE), International Radiation Monitoring System (IRMIS)
 - Participants will activate national emergency centres, request/offer assistance, share data, and co-ordinate cross-border protective actions and public messaging.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IIT Kharagpur and Singapore's IME Partner for Semiconductor Research

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur and Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME), under A*STAR, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on semiconductor research and talent development.
- ★ The agreement was formalized during SEMICON Southeast Asia 2025 and supports India's India Semiconductor Mission aimed at enhancing the country's global semiconductor capabilities through innovation and international co-operation.
- ★ Joint research will focus on cutting-edge areas such as post-Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor (CMOS) technologies, advanced transistor designs, heterogeneous integration, chip packaging, AI-driven hardware accelerators, quantum devices, photonic systems, thermal management, and reliability diagnostics.
- ★ The MoU includes bilateral exchange programmes, specialized training, and joint workshops to develop the skills of researchers, engineers, and students, aligning with the evolving demands of the semiconductor industry.
- ★ IIT Kharagpur views this collaboration as a significant step in its global ambitions to lead semiconductor research.

China Launched Tianwen-2

- ★ Tianwen-2 was launched in June 2025 using a Long March 3B rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Center, China.
- ★ Mission Objective is to sample a near-Earth asteroid named 469219 Kamo'oalewa (2016 HO3) and later survey the main belt comet 311P/PANSTARRS.
- ★ The mission will spend 7 months studying and collecting samples.
- ★ Samples from the asteroid will be returned to Earth by late 2027 through a reentry module.
- ★ Scientific Goals is to understand the nature and origin of the asteroid, possibly a moon fragment.
- ★ After sample return, Tianwen-2 will perform an Earth gravity assist to head towards the comet 311P/PANSTARRS for a 6-year voyage ending around 2035.

Japanese Researchers Create Plastic That Dissolves in Seawater

- ★ Japanese scientists from the RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science and the University of Tokyo have developed a new plastic that dissolves quickly in seawater, leaving no harmful residue.
- ★ The plastic has the strength of conventional petroleum-based plastics but breaks down into original components when exposed to saltwater.
- ★ This plastic is based on supramolecular polymers, developed through three decades of research led by Takuzo Aida.
- ★ The material is composed of sodium hexametaphosphate (a common food additive) and guanidinium ion-based monomers (used in fertilisers and soil conditioners).

- ★ Upon degradation, the plastic releases nitrogen and phosphorus, which are: Metabolised by microbes, Absorbed by plants
- ★ The plastic is non-toxic to humans, fire-resistant, and does not release carbon dioxide when decomposed.
- ★ Researchers caution that excess nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) could cause algal blooms, potentially disrupting coastal ecosystems.
- ★ The study addresses the global issue of microplastics, which are tiny plastic fragments smaller than 5 millimetres, found even in remote locations such as the Mariana Trench and Mount Everest.
- ★ Microplastics have been detected in human brains, placentas, and deep ocean fish, raising serious concerns about environmental and health impacts.
- ★ Scientists have called for a global emergency declaration due to the threat posed by microplastic pollution to life on Earth.

Elon Musk's Starlink Secures Government Approval to Launch Satellite Internet Services in India

- ★ Elon Musk's Starlink has received a key licence from India's telecom ministry, clearing a major hurdle for launching satellite internet services in India.
- ★ Starlink had been awaiting approval since 2022, facing delays due to national security concerns.
- ★ In contrast, Amazon's Kuiper is still waiting for its licence to operate in India.
- ★ In March, Bharti Airtel announced a deal with SpaceX to bring Starlink to India, subject to Government authorisation.
- ★ Later, Reliance Jio also signed an agreement with SpaceX, marking a surprise collaboration after disputes over spectrum allocation.
- ★ Starlink is a satellite internet service developed by SpaceX (Elon Musk's company).
- ★ It delivers high-speed, low-latency internet using a constellation of small satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ★ As of now, Starlink operates over 6,750 satellites and serves millions of active users globally.
- ★ If launched in India, Starlink could transform internet access, especially in remote and underserved areas.

Elon Musk Launches Xchat Offering Whatsapp-Like Features

- ★ XChat is the revamped Direct Messaging (DM) feature of the X app (formerly Twitter), introduced by Elon Musk.
- ★ It aims to compete with popular messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Telegram, and Instagram DMs by offering a more advanced communication interface.
- ★ Currently, XChat is in beta testing, available only to a limited number of users.
- ★ The full rollout is expected within the week, initially for paid X subscribers.
- ★ Access to advanced features (like encrypted messaging and calling) may require a subscription.

- ★ It is unclear if free-tier users will get access to a basic version of XChat.
- ★ This move is part of Elon Musk's vision to transform X into a super app, expanding from a microblogging site to a day-to-day communication platform.

Department Of Posts Has Launched A New Digital Addressing System Digipin

- ★ The Department of Posts has launched a new digital addressing system called Digipin, developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).
- ★ Digipin stands for Digital Postal Index Number and provides precise and unique identification of geographic locations across India.
- ★ It assigns a 10-character alphanumeric code to each specific geolocation, improving accuracy significantly over the existing 6-digit PIN code system used since 1972.
- ★ Each Digipin corresponds to a 4×4 square metre grid on the Indian landmass, ensuring every inch of the country is uniquely identified.
- ★ Digipin is part of the National Geospatial Policy 2022 to promote digital-first governance, accurate last-mile delivery, and efficient emergency response.

Bharat Biotech and GSK Collaborate to Develop Shigella Diarrhoea Vaccine

- ★ Bharat Biotech partnered with GSK plc to develop a vaccine for Shigellosis, a severe form of bacterial diarrhoea.
- ★ The vaccine candidate, altSonflex1-2-3, was developed by GSK and is now advancing through a strategic collaboration with Bharat Biotech.
- ★ This vaccine candidate is among the most advanced Shigella vaccines globally.
- ★ Currently, there is no licensed Shigella vaccine available, and antimicrobial resistance is rising.
- ★ The vaccine candidate offers broad serotype coverage and uses an innovative Generalized Modules for Membrane Antigens (GMMA)-based platform with robust early clinical results.
- ★ Bharat Biotech Executive Chairman Krishna Ella highlighted the urgent need for scalable, science-backed solutions, especially for low and middle-income countries.
- ★ Under the agreement: Bharat Biotech will lead further development, including Phase 3 clinical trials, regulatory approval, and large-scale manufacturing.
- ★ GSK will assist with clinical trial design, securing external funding, and contribute to Access and Delivery Plans and commercialisation strategy.

NASA Spots Mars Volcano Standing Twice as Tall as Earth's Highest Mountains

- ★ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA's) 2001 Mars Odyssey orbiter captured a stunning image of a 20-kilometer-high volcano on Mars called Arsia Mons.
- ★ The image was taken from the upper atmosphere at dawn, showing a green haze with Arsia Mons visible through clouds.
- ★ Arsia Mons stands roughly twice as tall as Earth's tallest volcano, Mauna Loa in Hawaii, which rises 9 kilometers above the seafloor.

- ★ The summit caldera of Arsia Mons is about 120 kilometers wide, making it larger than many Earth volcanoes.
- ★ The image was taken on May 2 using the Thermal Emission Imaging System (THEMIS).
- ★ Arsia Mons is the southernmost and cloudiest of the Tharsis volcanoes on Mars.
- ★ The Mars Odyssey orbiter, launched in 2001, is the longest-running mission orbiting another planet.

Defence Research and Development Organisation and IIT Delhi

- ★ India entered a new quantum era by successfully demonstrating free-space quantum secure communication using quantum entanglement over more than 1 km distance.
- ★ The experiment was conducted through the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at IIT Delhi, using a free-space optical link on the IIT Delhi campus.
- ★ The demonstration achieved a secure key rate of nearly 240 bits per second with a quantum bit error rate (QBER) of less than 7%.
- ★ The project, titled 'Design and development of photonic technologies for free space QKD', is sanctioned by the Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM), DRDO.
- ★ This entanglement-assisted quantum secure communication is crucial for real-time applications such as quantum cyber security, long-distance Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), quantum networks, and the future quantum internet.
- ★ Quantum entanglement-based QKD offers enhanced security and functionality over traditional prepare-and-measure methods, ensuring the security of key distribution even if devices are compromised.
- ★ Quantum communication provides unbreakable encryption and is a dual-use technology with applications in defence, finance, telecommunications, and national security.

Adobe Launches Firefly App on iOS and Android

- ★ Adobe has launched its Firefly app for iOS and Android devices, enabling users to create AI-generated images and videos directly on smartphones.
- ★ Firefly was already available as a web app before the mobile launch.
- ★ Users can input text prompts to generate or edit content using Adobe's tools and models from OpenAI, Google, Flux, and others.
- ★ A new feature, Firefly Boards, is currently in beta on the web version.
- ★ Adobe Inc., formerly known as Adobe Systems Incorporated, is a US-based software company headquartered in San Jose, California.

Google Introduces AI Mode in India

- ★ Google launched AI Mode in India, integrated into the Google Search experience, accessible via Labs sign-up.

- ★ AI Mode allows users to ask longer, more complex, and exploratory questions that previously required multiple searches.
- ★ It is powered by a custom version of Gemini 2.5, AI Mode employs a query fan-out technique, dividing questions into subtopics and sending multiple related queries simultaneously.
- ★ AI Mode draws information from high-quality web content and fresh, real-time sources including: Knowledge Graph, Real-world information, Shopping data for billions of products.
- ★ It is multimodal, supporting user queries via: Text input, Voice commands (microphone icon), Images (using Google Lens capabilities).
- ★ Google cautions that AI Mode is in early stages, so not all answers may be accurate; if confidence is low, it will display traditional web search results.
- ★ AI Mode features advanced reasoning and the ability to handle follow-up questions, offering helpful links to the web for deeper exploration.
- ★ This launch marks Google's push to provide a more powerful AI-powered search experience in India.

Jahnavi Dangeti to Be First Indian Astronaut on Titans Space Mission in 2029

- ★ Jahnavi Dangeti, a 23-year-old from Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, will become the first Indian astronaut on the Titans Space mission scheduled for 2029.
- ★ She has been selected as an Astronaut Candidate (ASCAN) for the Inaugural Class of 2025 by Titan Space Industries (TSI), a US-based private space research agency.
- ★ Jahnavi is a graduate of NASA's International Air and Space Program (IASP) and is the first Indian to complete this programme, held at the Kennedy Space Centre, USA.
- ★ The mission is expected to offer a transformative environment for scientific research and human spaceflight advancement.
- ★ Jahnavi is a student of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Lovely Professional University, Punjab.
- ★ In 2022, she became the youngest foreign analogue astronaut and the first Indian selected by the Analogue Astronaut Training Centre (AATC) in Kraków, Poland.
- ★ She contributed to asteroid detection via the NASA-backed International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) using data from Hawaii's Pan-STARRS telescope.

ICMR Launches Its First High Performance Computing Facility at NIV, Pune

- ★ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) inaugurated its first High Performance Computing (HPC) facility at the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.
- ★ The computing cluster, named 'Nakshatra', was inaugurated by Dr Rajiv Bahl, Secretary of the Department of Health Research (DHR) and Director General of ICMR.
- ★ Developed under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM ABHIM), the HPC facility is a key part of the project called "High Performance Computing Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Hub".

- ★ The initiative aims to revolutionize genomic and bioinformatics data processing, addressing challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to limited computing infrastructure.
- ★ Initially, the facility will support five ICMR institutes nationwide and act as a central repository for sequencing data.
- ★ It will also extend support to Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) across India.

BANKING & FINANCE

IEPFA Launches 'NiveshakShivir' Pilot Initiative

- ★ The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in collaboration with SEBI, has launched a new pilot initiative titled "NiveshakShivir", to be held for the first time in Pune on June 1, 2025.
- ★ Objective is to provide a one-stop solution for investors to resolve issues related to:
 - Unclaimed dividends held for 6–7 years
 - On-the-spot KYC and nomination updates
 - Resolution of pending IEPFA claim issues
 - Companies with large unclaimed dividend accounts and RTAs will be present through dedicated kiosks.
 - it allows direct interaction between investors and stakeholders eliminating intermediaries.
 - It strengthens investor grievance redressal, foster transparency, and ensure investor empowerment through proactive engagement.

ADB President Announces \$10 Bn Plan For India's Urban Transformation

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a \$10 billion commitment to boost urban growth in India. ADB President Masato Kanda announced this after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 31 May 2025.
- ★ According to Masato Kanda, the ADB investment in the Indian urban infrastructure will help India achieve its target to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047. India will celebrate its 100rd year of independence in 2047.
- ★ During his three-day visit to India, Masato Kanda met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and discussed the operationalisation of the Urban Challenge Fund for India.
- ★ He also met the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar.
- ★ The ADB has launched the Urban Challenge Fund for India to support and attract investment in India's urban infrastructure.
- ★ The \$10 billion will be provided in the next five years through the Urban Challenge Fund.
- ★ The capital will include loans to the Government of India (sovereign loan), loans to the private sector, and third-party capital.
- ★ The amount will be used to fund metro extensions in cities, new regional rapid transit system corridors in urban areas, and urban infrastructure and services.

- ★ ADB will also provide \$3 million in technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of states and urban local bodies and design viable urban projects.
- ★ The Bank will invest in the National Industrial Training Institute Upgradation Program to strengthen skills development in India.
- ★ This program will help the manufacturing sector, increase private sector growth, and create quality jobs for urban youth.

RBI To Create Cash Flow Analysis System For Scheduled Commercial Banks

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to strengthen liquidity stress tests of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) by developing a cash flow analysis process.
- ★ The cash flow analysis will evaluate the impact of extreme but plausible scenarios on banks' liquidity position, ensuring they can meet obligations during crises.
- ★ The process will provide a forward-looking perspective and assess the stability of banks' liquidity under adverse conditions.
- ★ Stress testing will help in identifying vulnerabilities, ensuring adequate liquidity buffers, and protecting depositor interest while preventing systemic risks.
- ★ RBI will develop a liquidity stress test framework for NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies) in-house.
- ★ It plans to extend stress testing to rural co-operative banks and mid-sized urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- ★ RBI will assess climate transition risk impact on major carbon-intensive sectors and how it affects banks' balance sheets with exposures to emission-intensive sectors.
- ★ RBI will create a framework for liquidity risk stress testing of market portfolios using scenarios based on historical market liquidity stress events.

RBI Approves PayPal and Worldline as Cross-Border Payment Aggregators

- ★ 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.
- ★ This approval is a significant step in advancing India's digital payments ecosystem.
- ★ The approval allows PayPal and Worldline to facilitate online transactions for the import and export of goods and services, directly benefiting Indian exporters, importers, and global businesses.
- ★ The RBI's updated framework mandates payment aggregators offering cross-border services to obtain separate approvals, replacing the older Online Payment Gateway Service Provider (OPGSP) licensing regime that was in place for nearly a decade.
- ★ With this authorization, both companies can act as digital intermediaries for international payments, helping to: Streamline cross-border payment flows, Ensure strict compliance with RBI's regulatory guidelines, Simplify foreign exchange processes
- ★ Worldline ePayments India already holds licences for domestic payment aggregation and as a Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit.

Reserve Bank of India to Roll Out Indigenous Cloud Platform

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will launch its own cloud infrastructure called the Indian Financial Services (IFS) Cloud in 2025-26 to promote data localisation and reduce dependence on foreign cloud providers.
- ★ The IFS Cloud is developed by RBI's subsidiary Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS) and is a community cloud designed specifically for the RBI and regulated financial institutions.
- ★ The initiative supports India's data localisation policies and aims to bring financial data management under tighter regulatory oversight.
- ★ The cloud service will offer cost-effective, scalable solutions, especially benefiting smaller banks and NBFCs by improving access to cloud infrastructure without relying on global tech firms.
- ★ Ownership of the IFS Cloud is expected to transition to a consortium of financial sector participants over time.
- ★ RBI plans to upgrade its core banking solution, e-Kuber, which handles real-time settlements like RTGS and NEFT, by adding modules for Government auctions, public debt management, and financial literacy.
- ★ The cloud-native, API-first redesign of e-Kuber aims to enhance scalability and handle increasing digital transaction volumes; it currently services over 250 commercial banks and State Governments.
- ★ To combat digital payment fraud, RBI will introduce exclusive internet domains – 'bank.in' and 'fin.in' – managed by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) as the domain registrar.
- ★ These domains are designed to reduce phishing risks and improve trust in digital banking platforms.
- ★ RBI will also introduce an AI governance framework to regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) by its staff and partners, focusing on data protection, transparency, and operational integrity.

Reserve Bank of India Initiates 2024-25 Survey on Foreign Liabilities

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the 2024-25 round of its annual survey on Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) of Mutual Funds and Asset Management Companies (AMCs).
- ★ The survey collects data on external financial liabilities and assets of mutual funds and AMCs as of end-March of the latest financial year.
- ★ Survey results are published publicly and used for the compilation of India's external sector statistics.
- ★ AMCs must submit their annual FLA return online via the web portal: <https://flair.rbi.org.in> by July 15, 2025.
- ★ Mutual fund companies need to fill out Survey Schedule-4, available on the RBI website under Regulatory Reporting → List of Returns → FLA MF – Survey Schedule or under Forms → Survey.
- ★ Mutual fund companies must send the filled schedule via e-mail by July 15, 2025.
- ★ Schedule-4 is available in both Hindi and English formats, and companies can choose either.

- ★ The survey helps RBI monitor foreign exposure and financial stability of mutual funds and AMCs.

Canara Bank Waives Minimum Balance Penalty for Savings Accounts

- ★ Canara Bank has announced the removal of charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance across all types of Savings Bank (SB) accounts.
- ★ This waiver applies to regular, salary, and Non-Resident Indians (NRI) accounts.
- ★ The policy will be effective from June 1, 2025.
- ★ Canara Bank is the first major public sector bank to implement a blanket waiver on minimum balance penalties for all SB account categories.
- ★ Earlier, account holders had to maintain a specified Average Monthly Balance (AMB) or face penalties.
- ★ With this change, minimum balance fees will no longer apply, providing more flexibility and financial relief to customers.

HDFC Bank's NBFC Arm, HDB Financial Services, Gets SEBI Nod

- ★ HDB Financial Services, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) and arm of HDFC Bank, received approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch one of the largest Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) in the NBFC sector.
- ★ This IPO is set to be the largest NBFC IPO and the fifth-largest IPO in the domestic market.
- ★ The company filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI in October 2024.
- ★ The IPO comprises ₹10,000 crore Offer for Sale (OFS) by HDFC Bank
- ★ and ₹2,500 crore Fresh Issue (Total IPO size: ₹12,500 crore)
- ★ HDB Financial Services is mandated to list by September 2025 as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations for upper layer NBFCs.
- ★ HDFC Bank currently holds 94.36% stake in HDB Financial Services. Post-IPO, HDB Financial Services will remain a subsidiary of HDFC Bank.

RBI Approves Global FinTech Wise for Cross-Border Payment Aggregation

- ★ Global FinTech Wise has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payment Aggregator – Cross Border for export transactions.
- ★ This approval strengthens Wise's role in India's cross-border payments ecosystem, especially supporting freelancers and SMEs in the export economy.
- ★ India accounts for 10% of all money sent from abroad through Wise's platform, making it a key market for the company.
- ★ Wise has expanded its domestic presence by launching a full-stack office in Hyderabad and appointing Smrithi Ravi as the APAC Head of Engineering.
- ★ Wise introduced new product features tailored for India, such as receiving international payments in eight major currencies (USD, GBP, EUR, etc.) through its international account details

- ★ Wise operates under its own Authorised Dealer II (AD-II) licence, making transactions faster and more cost-effective
- ★ The cost to send INR 1 lakh abroad through Wise is approximately 1.5%.

RBI Cuts Policy Repo Rate by 50 Basis Points to 5.5%

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut its policy repo rate by 50 basis points (0.50%) and maintained the growth rate forecast of 6.5% for the Indian economy in 2025-26.
- ★ The policy repo rate is the rate at which the RBI gives short-term loans to the banks.
- ★ RBI has also announced a staggered 1% cut in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to 3%.
- ★ Since February 2025, the RBI has reduced the policy repo rates by 100 basis points or 1%.
- ★ The RBI Governor, Sanjay Malhotra, announced the bi-monthly monetary Policy on 6 June. The next bi-monthly monetary policy will be announced on 6 August 2025.
- ★ The new rates effective from 6 June 2025 are as follows:
 - Policy Repo Rate – 5.50% (earlier 6.0%)
 - Fixed Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% (No change)
 - Standing deposit facility (SDF) – 5.25% (earlier 5.75%)
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) – 5.75% (earlier 6.25%)
 - Bank Rate – 5.75% (earlier 6.25%)
 - The CRR will be cut in four stages. In every stage, the CRR will be cut by 0.25%.
 - Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR) – 4.00% (to be reduced gradually by 1% by 29 November 2025)
 - Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) – 18% (No change)

Adani Airports Holdings Limited raises \$750 million

- ★ Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has raised \$750 million through External Commercial Borrowings (ECB).
- ★ ECBs refer to the borrowing of funds by Indian companies from foreign sources in the form of loans, bonds, or other financial instruments.
- ★ ECBs can be used to finance Business expansion, Acquisition of assets, Repayment of existing debt.
- ★ ECBs fall under the RBI's Master Direction titled 'External Commercial Borrowings, Trade Credits, and Structured Obligations (Master Direction)' and are governed by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
- ★ The funding will be used to Refinance \$400 million of existing debt, Upgrade infrastructure and Expand non-aeronautical businesses (e.g., duty-free retail, food & beverages, airport services)

Canara Bank Waives The AMB Requirement For All Savings Bank Accounts

- ★ The Government of India-owned Canara Bank has become the latest public sector bank to waive the average monthly balance (AMB) requirement for all savings bank accounts.

- ★ Starting 1 June 2025, the bank will not charge its customers for non-maintenance of the average monthly balance in their savings accounts.
- ★ A minimum average monthly balance is the lowest amount a customer must keep in their savings account every month. Banks can levy penalties if the customer fails to maintain the required average monthly balance.
- ★ The amount of penalties differs from bank to bank.
- ★ India's largest bank, the State Bank of India, has also waived minimum balance requirement charges since 11 March 2020.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to fix the minimum balance requirement for savings accounts..
- ★ The bank can impose a penalty on the customer for non-maintenance of the average balance per the bank's board policy.
- ★ However, according to the RBI, the charges shall be reasonable.
- ★ The bank cannot fix any minimum balance requirement for savings accounts opened under the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDA).
- ★ Also, under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), savings accounts do not require a minimum balance.
- ★ The accounts opened under PMJDY are called Jan Dhan accounts.
- ★ The Jan Dhan Account is a BSBDA account with extra facilities of ₹2 lakh accidental insurance (accounts opened after 28 August 2018), life insurance cover of ₹30,000 (accounts opened between 15 August 2014 and 31 January 2015), and an overdraft facility of ₹10,000 for eligible customers.

BimaPayFinsure Introduces Financing Options For Corporate Insurance Premium Payments

- ★ BimaPayFinsure, a fintech platform, has launched financing for corporate insurance premiums.
- ★ This initiative allows businesses to pay premiums in easy equated monthly instalments (EMIs) instead of making a full upfront payment.
- ★ The company targets financing over ₹20 crore worth of premiums by the end of FY26.
- ★ The financing solution covers all sectors and includes insurance products such as: Group medical insurance, Fire insurance, Group personal accident insurance.
- ★ While BimaPay facilitates the process, the actual finance is provided by partner lending firms (such as NBFCs).
- ★ The solution uses the insurance policy itself as the only security for financing.
- ★ BimaPay is partnering with insurance companies, intermediaries, and NBFCs to expand access and make the instalment model widely available.

RBI Launches Scheme to Promote Original Hindi Books

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Scheme for writing books originally in Hindi on Economics, Banking, and Financial subjects to encourage original writings and research in Banking Hindi.
- ★ The scheme awards three prizes of ₹1,25,000 each to working or retired professors (including Assistant and Associate Professors) from UGC-recognized Indian universities.
- ★ Eligible participants must have authored at least one Hindi book of 200+ pages on relevant subjects, published between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025.
- ★ Authors who receive the award for two consecutive years will have to observe a one-year cooling period.
- ★ An evaluation committee consisting of: Two professors of Economics/Banking/Finance, One Professor of Hindi Literature/Linguistics, and RBI officials will assess the entries.
- ★ The assessment gives 60% weightage to content and 40% to language and style.
- ★ Professors must submit nominations with five copies of the book by June 30, 2025.

Thomas Cook Partners with Muthoot Forex to Expand Payment Network

- ★ Travel company Thomas Cook has announced a strategic partnership with Muthoot Forex, the foreign exchange division of the Muthoot Group.
- ★ The partnership aims to expand the reach of Thomas Cook's Borderless Travel Card and Study Buddy Card (both prepaid forex cards).
- ★ These forex cards will now be available across Muthoot's extensive network of over 7,000 branches, including 43 full-fledged forex branches.
- ★ The distribution network spans across metro cities, mini-metros, and Tier II to Tier IV markets across India.
- ★ This move is intended to increase accessibility of forex services for customers in smaller cities and towns, supporting students, travelers, and international spenders.

TransUnion CIBIL and Sa-Dhan Launch Credit Awareness Program for Microfinance Sector

- ★ TransUnion CIBIL, a leading credit information company, has partnered with Sa-Dhan, a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- ★ The partnership aims to launch a credit awareness initiative to promote credit literacy and responsible lending across India.
- ★ The initiative will empower MFIs with data-driven insights, training, and tools for better credit assessment and monitoring.
- ★ It will also help microfinance borrowers by encouraging responsible credit behaviour and improving access to financial services in underserved communities.
- ★ As part of the program, TransUnion CIBIL and Sa-Dhan will: Co-develop multilingual digital content, Conduct community outreach programs and Host joint regional workshops and state-level events.

- ★ The focus will be on increasing awareness of: Credit scores, Data-based underwriting, Financial discipline.

RBI to Increase Gold Loan Loan-to-Value Ratio to 85%

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will increase the Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for gold loans to 85% for loan amounts under ₹2.5 lakh, up from the current 75%.
- ★ The announcement was made by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra at the RBI headquarters.
- ★ The 85% LTV will include both principal and interest, unlike the earlier practice where only the principal was considered.
- ★ This move is aimed at better regulation of small-ticket gold lending with minimal risk.
- ★ Some non-bank lenders and small banks were reportedly stretching the LTV to 88%, whereas public sector banks adhered to the principal + interest inclusion.
- ★ A final regulation on gold lending will be issued after public consultation and impact assessment.
- ★ The new norms will:
 - Do away with credit appraisal for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh backed by gold.
 - Introduce self-declaration by the borrower when purchase receipts of gold are not available.
 - Make end-use monitoring compulsory only for loans counted under Priority Sector Lending (PSL).

AU Small Finance Bank Partnered with International Finance Corporation

- ★ AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) has partnered with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to incorporate climate risk considerations into its core banking framework.
- ★ The initiative aligns with evolving regulatory expectations and global standards to enhance the bank's resilience to climate-related financial risks.
- ★ AU SFB will embed environmental factors into its governance, strategic planning, risk management, and ESG disclosures.
- ★ IFC will support AU SFB in quantifying, disclosing, and managing climate risks, following frameworks like: Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD), Reserve Bank of India's climate guidelines
- ★ The program has three key components: Physical Risk Assessment, Transition Risk Assessment and Financed Emissions Calculation
- ★ IFC is collaborating with climate risk solutions firm StepChange to implement the project.
- ★ The initiative is supported by the Government of Japan.

Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank Cut Lending Rates by Up to 50 bps and 10 bps

- ★ Bank of Baroda (BoB) reduced its repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) by 50 basis points (bps), effective from June 7, 2025, following the RBI's policy repo rate cut.
- ★ BoB's new RLLR stands at 8.15%.

- ★ HDFC Bank cut its marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) by 10 basis points across all tenures, effective June 7, 2025.
- ★ New HDFC MCLR rates:
 - Overnight and one-month rate: 90% (down 10 bps)
 - Three-month rate: 95% (down 10 bps)
 - Six-month and one-year rate: 05% (down 10 bps)
 - Two-year and three-year rate: reduced from 9.20% to 9.10%
- ★ RBI also reduced the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points to 3%, releasing about ₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity into the banking system.
- ★ This move aims to boost the economy by making more money available for lending.
- ★ In 2025, RBI has cut interest rates by a total of 100 basis points, with previous cuts of 25 bps each in February and April.

State Bank of India Remits ₹8,076.84 Crore Dividend to Government for FY25

- ★ The State Bank of India (SBI) paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore to the Government of India for the financial year 2024-25.
- ★ The dividend cheque was handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman C.S. Setty.
- ★ The dividend per share declared by SBI for 2024-25 is ₹15.90, which is higher than the previous year's dividend of ₹13.70 per equity share.
- ★ SBI's dividend payout to the Government increased from ₹6,959.29 crore in 2023-24 to ₹8,076.84 crore in 2024-25.
- ★ SBI reported a record net profit of ₹70,901 crore for 2024-25, up from ₹61,077 crore in 2023-24.
- ★ The bank's net profit increased by 16% compared to the previous financial year

CreditAccess Grameen Secures \$100 Million Multi-Currency Social Loan Facility

- ★ CreditAccess Grameen, the largest NBFC-MFI (Non-Banking Finance Company – Micro Finance Institution) in India, secured a \$100 million multi-currency syndicated social loan facility.
- ★ The loan qualifies as an External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) under the automatic route of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ★ The facility was initially launched at \$70 million in November 2024 but was oversubscribed and increased to \$100 million.
- ★ The loan was raised from seven banks, predominantly from South Asia and the Far East.
- ★ It is the first of its kind ECB facility in India's microfinance sector, comprising Japanese yen and US dollar.
- ★ The borrowing cost is highly competitive, comparable to domestic borrowing rates, and lower than the company's average cost of borrowing.
- ★ The company aims to increase foreign borrowings to 25-30% by FY28.

- ★ The transaction is the second syndicated social facility led by Standard Chartered Bank for CreditAccess Grameen.

Paytm Launches Custom UPI ID Feature to Attract New Users

- ★ Paytm has introduced the ability to create custom UPI IDs to strengthen privacy and security and boost onboarding of new UPI users in India.
- ★ The new feature allows users to personalise their UPI handles, removing the need to create UPI IDs linked to mobile numbers.
- ★ This move follows the lifting of restrictions by NPCI in 2024, which allowed Paytm to onboard new UPI users again.
- ★ Recent features introduced by Paytm to attract more users include: Hide and unhide transactions for enhanced privacy, Monthly summaries to help users track spending and Downloadable UPI statements in PDF and Excel formats.
- ★ Paytm is also expanding its UPI services internationally, allowing Indian travellers to use UPI in countries such as: UAE, Singapore, France, Mauritius, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

RBI Allows Video KYC To Reactivate Dormant Bank Accounts

- ★ The banking sector regulator, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has amended the Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and allowed banks to conduct video KYC to reactivate dormant (inoperative) bank accounts and unclaimed deposits. To make banking simple and accessible, the RBI on 12 June 2025, issued several guidelines regarding the KYC norms in Banks.
- ★ KYC is a set of Customer Identification Processes (CIF) adopted by banks when opening customers' bank accounts.
- ★ The customer has to provide valid proof of identity, proof of address, and a recent photograph to the bank.
- ★ RBI has notified that Driving License, Aadhaar Card, Passport, Voters' Identity Card, or MGNREGA can be used for both as proof of identity and proof of address.
- ★ PAN cards issued by the Income Tax Department are proof of identity only.
- ★ For low-risk customers, the banks will allow all transactions and complete the updation of KYC within one year when it is due or by June 30, 2026, whichever is later.
- ★ RBI has allowed banks to use their Business Correspondents (BC) to periodically update bank customers' KYC.
- ★ Bank accounts (savings or current accounts) become inactive when there has been no customer-induced transaction for the last two years. These accounts are also called dormant accounts.

NTPC Secures \$750 Million External Commercial Borrowing Loan

- ★ NTPC Limited signed a Facility Agreement to raise an unsecured \$750 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) syndicated term loan.
- ★ ECBs refer to the borrowing of funds by Indian companies from foreign sources in the form of loans, bonds, or other financial instruments.

- ★ The facility consists of a base issue of \$500 million and a greenshoe option of \$250 million.
- ★ The loan has a door-to-door tenor of 10 years and an average maturity of 7 years.
- ★ Bank of Baroda acted as the mandated lead arranger and underwriter for the \$500 million base issue.
- ★ HDFC Bank was the mandated lead arranger and bookrunner for the \$250 million greenshoe portion.
- ★ The transaction was executed through the IFSC Banking Units (IBU) of Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank in GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- ★ The loan proceeds will be used for Financing capital expenditure on existing or new capacity addition programmes, Funding flue gas desulphurisation projects, Supporting renewable energy projects, including hydro-based projects, Refinancing existing ECBs for capital expenditure.

Scapia Partners with Federal Bank to Launch New Dual-Network Card

- ★ Scapia, a travel fintech platform, has launched a new credit card in partnership with Federal Bank named Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card.
- ★ The card supports dual networks: VISA and RuPay, enabling online, offline, UPI, and international transactions on a single credit card statement.
- ★ Users can manage both credit and UPI spends through RuPay in one consolidated place.
- ★ The card offers zero forex markup on all international transactions.
- ★ Cardholders get unlimited domestic airport lounge access and complimentary dining, shopping, and spa benefits at all airport outlets.

Reserve Bank of India Permits STRIPS Trading in State Government Bonds

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed a special trading facility called STRIPS for State Government securities, expanding the existing framework for Central Government bonds.
- ★ STRIPS stands for Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities. It allows interest and principal payments of fixed-coupon bonds to be traded separately.
- ★ Eligible Securities Criteria:
 - Must be State Government fixed-coupon bonds.
 - Must have residual maturity up to 14 years.
 - Must have an outstanding amount of at least ₹10 billion (~\$116.93 million).
 - Must be eligible to meet banks' Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
- ★ It enables dealers to sell principal and interest components independently, thereby boosting liquidity in the State Government securities market.
- ★ The move was taken after consultations with State Governments and market participants.
- ★ The guidelines are aligned with those for Central Government securities where STRIPS trading is already permitted.

NABARD Gets Government Nod to Raise ₹19,500 Crore

- ★ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has received federal Government approval to raise up to ₹19,500 crore (\$2.3 billion) through deep-discount bonds.
- ★ NABARD can raise funds by issuing deep-discount zero-coupon bonds that mature in 10 years, 11 months, and 13 days, with the deadline to complete fundraising by March 2027.
- ★ Deep-discount bonds are usually issued at a discount of 20%-25% or more to their face value and do not pay regular interest (similar to zero-coupon notes).
- ★ This structure eliminates reinvestment risks because the bonds are redeemed at face value at maturity.
- ★ Since March 2025, this is the fifth time the Government has allowed a state-run firm to issue deep-discount debt, and the largest amount approved so far.
- ★ Earlier in the month, the state-run Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) also received approval to issue such bonds.
- ★ All approved firms must complete their fundraising by March 2027.

MSIL Inks Memorandum of Understanding with Equitas Small Finance Bank

- ★ Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Equitas Small Finance Bank for a strategic vehicle financing partnership.
- ★ The partnership aims to offer comprehensive financing solutions to diverse customer profiles of Maruti Suzuki.
- ★ The collaboration will leverage the growing customer base of Equitas Small Finance Bank to benefit Maruti Suzuki customers.
- ★ Equitas Small Finance Bank was originally Equitas Microfinance Ltd, and was converted into a small finance bank in 2016.

MSC Bank Sets Up Country's First Cyber Security Operations Centre

- ★ Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSC Bank) has launched India's first Cyber-Security Operations Centre (C-SOC) specifically for co-operative banks.
- ★ The facility, named Sahakar Suraksha, is located in Vashi, Navi Mumbai and was established with an investment of ₹50 crore.
- ★ It offers round-the-clock cybersecurity monitoring using AI-enabled systems and is operated by a team of 35 cybersecurity professionals.
- ★ The centre currently serves 31 district central co-operative banks in Maharashtra, free of charge.
- ★ The C-SOC has already prevented a major cyberattack on a bank in Sindhudurg by issuing an early alert.
- ★ Over 1 million cyberattacks have been reported across co-operative banks, with some individual incidents causing losses of up to ₹50 crore.
- ★ In addition to threat monitoring, the C-SOC provides cyber hygiene training, security audits, and digital security policy support to member banks.

- ★ This initiative helps co-operative banks meet RBI guidelines and comply with Supreme Court directives on protecting depositor funds.
- ★ MSC Bank's model sets an example for other states to replicate for strengthening rural and co-operative bank security nationwide.

IOB Launches "Locate IOB" Initiative

- ★ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched a new digital feature called 'Locate IOB', aimed at helping customers easily find the nearest branches and ATMs.
- ★ The web-based service allows users to search for IOB locations, access IFSC codes, get step-by-step directions, and call branches directly through an integrated interface.
- ★ The feature allows the bank customers to access IOB's new location tool directly at the <http://locate.job.inportal> or at the bank's website iob.in.
- ★ This tool is part of the bank's effort to improve customer convenience amid growing reliance on smartphones and digital services.
- ★ It is designed to offer a seamless experience, eliminating the need for users to switch between mapping platforms when planning a visit to a branch or looking for transaction details.
- ★ By offering real-time access to branch information and support, 'Locate IOB' is expected to reduce service bottlenecks and enhance customer satisfaction.

IndusInd Bank Extends Its INDIE Super-App To 15 Million Customers

- ★ IndusInd Bank has rolled out its hyper-personalised financial super-app, 'INDIE', to all existing retail banking customers.
- ★ The initiative aims to migrate over 15 million accounts to a unified, digital-first platform offering savings, FDs, loans, credit cards, mutual funds, and more.
- ★ INDIE combines enhanced security with the ability to perform everyday banking transactions through a fully digital, branchless onboarding process, featuring industry-first innovations such as the Numberless Debit Card, Virtual Single-Use Card, and Dynamic ATM PINs.
- ★ The app has already attracted 1.4 million new users, with a 50% monthly active user rate, outperforming the industry average of 40%.
- ★ According to Charu Sachdeva Mathur, Head of Digital Banking & Strategy (Existing Business), INDIE reflects the bank's innovation-led strategy focused on security and convenience.
- ★ The app offers zero forex markup, up to 3% rewards on select spending, complimentary airport lounge access, and smart deposit tools like interest-linked savings and auto-sweep features.
- ★ Customers can access a flexible credit line up to ₹5 lakh, integrated within the app and tailored to individual financial behaviour.

Poonawalla Fincorp Unveils Fully Digital MSME Lending Platform

- ★ Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (PFL), a Cyrus Poonawalla Group NBFC, has launched Business Loan 24/7, targeting MSME credit needs.

- ★ The loan solution is backed by a digital risk assessment model designed specifically for self-employed individuals and MSMEs.
- ★ It offers instant loan approvals, flexible repayment options, and uses a risk-first approach for better credit evaluation.
- ★ The entire journey is fully digital, enabled through a Straight Through Processing (STP) model – removing the need for physical paperwork or branch visits.
- ★ The solution integrates advanced analytics and source-based digital information to assess creditworthiness beyond traditional financial parameters.
- ★ This offering aims to ensure faster, more accurate, and responsible lending to growth-ready small businesses.

IFC Invests \$60 Million in Motilal Oswal Alternates Fund

- ★ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, signed an agreement to invest \$60 million (about ₹510 crore) in Motilal Oswal Alternates.
- ★ The investment aims to help mid-market companies in India expand and create jobs in sectors like consumer, financial services, life sciences, and manufacturing.
- ★ IFC is investing \$60 million equity in the India Business Excellence Fund V G, managed by Motilal Oswal Alternates, the private investment arm of Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.
- ★ Along with this, IFC has an additional \$60 million co-investment envelope to selectively invest alongside the fund in future deals.
- ★ The fund targets a size of \$750 million, with an additional greenshoe option of \$150 million.
- ★ It plans to support 12-16 high-growth mid-market companies, especially those expanding beyond major cities to low-income states.
- ★ This is IFC's third fund engagement with Motilal Oswal, having previously invested \$25 million in Fund II and \$35 million in Fund IV.
- ★ The fund will encourage other local managers to raise funds focusing on underserved regions, attracting more commercial institutional investors.

State Bank of India Cuts Interest Rates by Up to 50 Basis Points

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has reduced lending rates by 50 basis points (bps) after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy rate cut.
- ★ The Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) of SBI is now 7.75%, down by 50 bps.
- ★ The External Benchmark Based Lending Rate (EBLR) has been cut from 8.65% to 8.15%, a reduction of 50 bps.
- ★ The new rates are effective from June 15, 2025.
- ★ The rate cuts follow the RBI's jumbo rate cut on June 6, 2025, where the repo rate was reduced by 50 bps to 5.5% to support economic growth, which hit a four-year low of 6.5% in FY25.

RBI Increases Agency Commission for Banks Handling Government Transactions

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased agency commission for banks conducting Government business such as revenue receipts and payments, pension payments, and other related transactions.
- ★ The move aims to encourage agency banks to improve efficiency in handling Government-related transactions.
- ★ For revenue receipt and payment transactions in electronic (e-)mode, the agency commission has been raised from ₹9 to ₹12 per transaction.
- ★ For physical mode transactions related to revenue receipts and payments, the commission remains ₹40 per transaction (unchanged).
- ★ For pension payments relating to Central/State Governments, the commission has increased from ₹75 to ₹80 per transaction.
- ★ For other payments (non-pension), the commission rate has been raised from 5 paise to 7 paise per ₹100 turnover.
- ★ The revised commission rates will be effective from April 1, 2025.
- ★ RBI clarified that commission may be paid on all payment transactions handled by agency banks, except those that are pre-funded or where the Government provides some compensation to the banks.

RuPay JCB Cards to Provide Cashback on In-Store Purchases

- ★ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in partnership with JCB International, announced a limited-time 25% cashback offer for RuPay debit and credit cardholders.
- ★ The offer aims to expand RuPay card usage in eight Asian countries: Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, and Hong Kong.
- ★ The cashback is valid for in-store (point of sale) transactions until August 31, 2025.
- ★ To be eligible for cashback, a cardholder must complete a minimum of two transactions in the eligible countries during the offer period.
- ★ The maximum cashback per transaction is ₹1,500.
- ★ The total cashback cap per card during the offer period is ₹15,000.

First Abu Dhabi Bank Adopts eMACH.ai Platform

- ★ First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB), the largest bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has implemented Intellect Design Arena's eMACH.ai Lending platform as part of its digital transformation journey.
- ★ The move transitions FAB from manual credit processes to a fully automated digital lending workflow, improving operational efficiency and customer experience.
- ★ The ai Lending platform automates a wide range of credit processes and integrates with over ten subsystems within FAB, providing real-time visibility into the credit portfolio.

- ★ The platform enables advanced collection strategies including equal distribution, percentage allocation, and bucket-based queue stamping to efficiently manage collections across loan and card products.
- ★ FAB aims to fully automate its debt collection features over the next five years.
- ★ The implementation leverages Intellect's "First Principles" technology suite, which includes over 329 microservices, 1,757 APIs, and 535 events, allowing for future-ready, composable, cloud-native solutions.

UGRO Capital to Acquire Profectus Capital for ₹1,400 Crore

- ★ UGRO Capital Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), has proposed to acquire 100% shares of Profectus Capital Pvt Ltd for a cash consideration of ₹1,400 crore.
- ★ The acquisition aims to expand UGRO's MSME loan business.
- ★ UGRO has signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with existing shareholders of Profectus for the deal.
- ★ The all-cash deal will be paid in a single tranche at closing, funded by proceeds from UGRO's recent equity raise.
- ★ Post-acquisition, Profectus Capital will become a wholly owned subsidiary of UGRO Capital.
- ★ The acquisition is expected to add approximately ₹150 crore of annualised profit to UGRO.

Bank of Maharashtra Partners with SBI Card

- ★ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered into a strategic partnership with SBI Card to launch co-branded credit cards.
- ★ The co-branded credit cards have features such as reward points, cashback offers, fuel surcharge waivers, EMI facilities, and exclusive merchant discounts across key spending categories like dining, travel, and e-commerce.
- ★ The collaboration aims to enhance customer value by leveraging Bank of Maharashtra's extensive banking network and trusted customer relationships, SBI Card's credit card expertise, digital capabilities, and diverse product suite.
- ★ The co-branded credit cards will be offered to eligible customers nationwide.
- ★ Customers can apply through both online and branch-based channels, ensuring ease of access and seamless onboarding.

RBI Announces Relaxation for Import of Shipping Vessels Through New Circular

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular introducing a relaxation for the import of shipping vessels.
- ★ The amendment is made to the Master Direction – Import of Goods and Services (MD-Imports), originally dated January 1, 2016.
- ★ It allows Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Category-I) banks to permit importers to make advance remittances for shipping vessel imports.

- ★ The significant change is that remittances up to USD 50 million can be made without requiring a bank guarantee or an unconditional, irrevocable standby Letter of Credit (LC).
- ★ This decision aims to enhance ease of doing business and address sector-specific constraints in the shipping industry.
- ★ The directions in this circular are issued under Section 10(4) and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

ADB and World Bank Sanction \$1.5 billion Loans to Bangladesh

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) approved loans totaling \$1.5 billion to support Bangladesh's banking sector reforms, climate change initiatives, and other projects.
- ★ The ADB approved \$900 million in loans:
 - \$500 million for stabilizing and reforming Bangladesh's banking sector, focusing on strengthening governance, asset quality, and system stability.
 - \$400 million for the second phase of the Climate-Resilient Inclusive Development Programme (CRIDP), which promotes climate adaptation, emissions reduction, and inclusive economic growth.
- ★ The World Bank approved \$640 million on June 19, 2025, for projects aimed at: Enhancing gas supply, Improving air quality in Bangladesh.
- ★ In Combined, these approvals amount to more than \$1.5 billion, which will help ease the pressure on Bangladesh's foreign currency reserves?

NABARD To Provide ₹10,000 Crore Funding For Green Initiatives In FY26

- ★ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) plans to lend about ₹10,000 crore in FY26 under its Green Lending Facility.
- ★ The facility was launched in FY25 to fund projects by Central and State Governments, Government agencies, and private entities aimed at achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- ★ The minimum loan amount under this facility is ₹100 crore.
- ★ NABARD's green loans support projects such as: Ethanol plants, Electric vehicle
- ★ The Green Lending Facility focuses on promoting environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly initiatives.

RBI Reduces Small Finance Banks' Priority Sector Lending Requirement To 60% From Earlier 75%

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) starting the financial year 2025-26.
- ★ The PSL loans target for SFBs has been reduced from 75% to 60% of their total loans.
- ★ Priority Sector Lending (PSL) includes loans to Agriculture, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Export credit, Education, Housing, Social infrastructure, Renewable energy, Weaker sections and other important segments.

- ★ From FY 2025-26, the additional PSL component of 35% will be reduced to 20%, making the overall PSL target 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBE), whichever is higher.
- ★ Out of this 60%, 40% of ANBC/CEOBE must be allocated to different sub-sectors under PSL as per extant prescriptions.
- ★ The remaining 20% can be allocated to one or more PSL sub-sectors where the bank has a competitive advantage.
- ★ In March 2025, the RBI also revised PSL guidelines for banks, including:
- ★ Increasing loan limits for housing and education sectors

RBI Fines Fino Payments Bank ₹29.6 Lakh

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹29.6 lakh on Fino Payments Bank Limited.
- ★ The penalty was imposed for violating certain guidelines under the Licensing of Payments Banks
- ★ The action followed a Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2024) conducted by the RBI based on the bank's position as of March 31, 2024.
- ★ During the inspection, the RBI found that the bank breached the prescribed limit for end-of-day balances in customer accounts, which occurred multiple times.
- ★ This is a regulatory compliance issue concerning the maximum balance limit allowed in payments bank accounts.

Bajaj Allianz Launches Health Insurance Coverage By State

- ★ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched State-wise health insurance policies with premiums customized according to each State's specific healthcare dynamics.
- ★ The policies factor in regional variations such as Treatment availability, Medical costs, Local hospital infrastructure, Affordability levels, Prevalent health concerns.
- ★ This approach moves beyond the traditional one-size-fits-all model in health insurance.
- ★ The product targets the "missing middle" customer segment: Urban lower middle class, Rural middle class, Those who need health insurance but face cost constraints.
- ★ Premium variation between States could be around 10-15%, based primarily on hospitalisation costs.
- ★ The concept builds on existing zoning systems insurers use to determine premiums but offers more localised customization.
- ★ The new health insurance product is available in both individual and floater.

EPFO Increases Advance Claim Auto-Settlement Cap to ₹5 Lakh for Members

- ★ The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has increased the auto-settlement limit for advance claims from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh.
- ★ This move aims to enhance member services and enable faster disbursement of funds, especially during urgent financial needs.

- ★ Auto-settlement of advance claims was first introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide quick financial assistance.
- ★ With the new ₹5 lakh limit, more advanced claims will qualify for auto-processing.
- ★ Eligible claims will now be processed within 3 days of submission.

RBI to Hold 7-Day Variable Rate Reverse Repo Auction to Absorb ₹1 Lakh Crore Surplus Liquidity

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct a 7-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction on June 27, 2025.
- ★ The auction aims to absorb surplus liquidity of ₹1 lakh crore from the banking system.
- ★ This decision comes as surplus liquidity reached ₹2.43 lakh crore as on June 23.
- ★ The move signals RBI's intent to actively manage liquidity and anchor short-term interest rates.
- ★ Objective is to reduce distortions caused by excess liquidity and bring system liquidity closer to 1% of deposits.
- ★ RBI will not conduct the usual 14-day main VRRR auction on Friday, June 27, 2025, due to evolving liquidity conditions.
- ★ The 14-day VRRR operation was also not conducted on June 13.

RBI Extends Call Money Market Hours to 7 PM Starting July 1, 2025

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will extend market timings for the call money market by two hours, making the revised hours 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, effective July 1, 2025.
- ★ The call money market is used exclusively by banks and standalone primary dealers for liquidity adjustment.
- ★ The extension is based on the recommendations of the Working Group chaired by Radha Shyam Ratho, set up to review trading and settlement timings of RBI-regulated financial markets.
- ★ The overnight money market, including uncollateralised and collateralised segments, is the most liquid segment in India's financial markets.
- ★ The market repo and Tri-Party Repo (TREP) trading hours will also be extended to 4:00 PM, starting August 1, 2025.

State Bank of India Partners with FPSB India

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) announced a strategic partnership with FPSB India to integrate the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) certification into its employee learning framework.
- ★ The program targets SBI's entire workforce of 2.36 lakh employees.
- ★ The initiative aims to enhance financial planning services for NRI, HNI, and UHNI customer segments, covering areas like: Investment planning, Retirement readiness, Insurance advisory, Estate planning.
- ★ The goal is to standardize advisory services across SBI's extensive network of 22,900 branches and 63,700 ATMs.

- ★ The initiative supports India's broader financial literacy goals.
- ★ FPSB India is a part of a global organization representing over 230,000 CFP professionals worldwide.

IRDAI Slaps ₹1 Crore Fine on Edelweiss Life

- ★ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a ₹1 crore penalty on Edelweiss Life Insurance Company for violation of corporate governance norms.
- ★ The insurer has been directed to categorise certain transactions as outsourcing in line with IRDAI Regulations and report them to the Authority.
- ★ IRDAI has mandated the company to:
 - Implement an outsourcing policy that is Board-approved.
 - Include provisions for periodic review in the policy.
 - Establish a vendor management policy with clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cost allocations.

Equitas Small Finance Bank partners with Edelweiss Life Insurance

- ★ Equitas Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Life Insurance have entered into a bancassurance partnership to offer life insurance solutions to the bank's customers.
- ★ This partnership enables Equitas SFB's vast customer base to access Edelweiss Life's comprehensive insurance products.
- ★ The tie-up aligns with Equitas SFB's strategy to provide holistic financial solutions covering savings, investments, and insurance.
- ★ Together, Equitas SFB and Edelweiss Life Insurance aim to create a strong ecosystem for protection, wealth creation, and best-in-class insurance advisory.
- ★ The partnership will offer diverse plans, including protection plans, savings, endowment policies, and ULIPs (Unit Linked Insurance Plans).

FM Nirmala Sitharaman Reviews Public Sector Banks Performance in Delhi

- ★ The annual meeting to review the performance of public sector banks for the financial year 2024-25 was held in New Delhi on June 27, 2025.
- ★ The meeting was chaired by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ★ The meeting was also attended by Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Finance, M. Nagaraju, Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, and the Managing Directors of 12 public sector banks in India.
- ★ During the meeting, the performance of the 12 public sector banks during the 2024-25 fiscal years was reviewed.
- ★ Total Business of Banks: ₹251 lakh crore as compared to ₹203 lakh crore in 2023-24.
- ★ Net Non-Performing Assets (NPA): declined to 0.52% in 2024-25 as compared to 1.24% in 2023-24.

- ★ Net Profit: Increased to ₹1.78 lakh crore in 2024-25 as compared to ₹1.04 lakh crore.
- ★ Dividend Payout: Increased to ₹34,990 crore in 2024-25 as compared to ₹20,964 crore in 2023-24.
- ★ CRAR (Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio): 16.15% as of end March 2025.

CBI Busts Mule Bank Accounts in Cyber Fraud Under Operation Chakra V

- ★ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched searches in five states under Operation Chakra V to bust mule bank accounts related to cybercrime and digital arrest scam.
- ★ CBI officers conducted searches in five states Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh as part of Operation Chakra V.
- ★ According to the CBI, around 8.5 lakh mule accounts have been opened in various banks across the country to launder the money extorted by criminals through cybercrimes and digital arrest.
- ★ The Money Mule bank account refers to the bank accounts opened by money mules for the purpose of money laundering.
- ★ Money mules are individuals with bank accounts who knowingly or unknowingly facilitate the transfer of illegally acquired money on behalf of criminals into other people's accounts.
- ★ The money of the criminals is deposited in the mule's bank accounts, and they are asked to transfer it to another person's bank account with a promise of a certain commission.
- ★ To deal with the menace of money mules, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the MuleHunter.ai mission.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India, has developed an AI (artificial intelligence)/ML (machine learning)-based system to identify money mule bank accounts.

Private Sector Companies Now Eligible to Become Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies

- ★ Private sector Indian companies with a net worth above ₹500 crore and a long-term credit rating of A and above can be designated as Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies (REIAs).
- ★ So far, four Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) — NTPC, SJVN, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), and NHPC — are designated as REIAs.
- ★ A company is designated as REIA for a period of five years, subject to termination by the Centre.
- ★ The designation is based on guidelines released by the Ministry of Power, which now allows private companies registered under the Companies Act to apply for REIA status.
- ★ REIAs act as intermediary procurers (IPs) under the tariff based competitive bidding (TBCB) framework, aggregating power from generators (Gencos) and selling it to end procurers such as Discoms and consumers.
- ★ REIAs are responsible for:
 - Conducting RE project bidding processes
 - Signing back-to-back Power Sale Agreements (PSAs) with renewable energy developers
 - Signing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Discoms or consumers

- Ensuring payment security to RE developers.
- ★ **Trading licence requirement:** Applicant entities must hold a valid Category-1 electricity trading licence issued by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

Sagarmala Finance Corporation Becomes India's First Maritime-Focused NBFC

- ★ SMFCL (Sagarmala Maritime Finance Corporation Limited) is India's first sector-specific Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in the maritime sector, registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on June 19, 2025.
- ★ Formerly known as Sagarmala Development Company Limited, SMFCL is a Mini Ratna, Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise.
- ★ SMFCL aims to bridge financing gaps in the maritime sector and catalyse economic growth.
- ★ It will provide financial products including short, medium, and long-term funding to various stakeholders such as port authorities, shipping companies, MSMEs, startups, and maritime educational institutions.
- ★ SMFCL will support strategic sectors like shipbuilding, renewable energy, cruise tourism, and maritime education.
- ★ The corporation aligns with the Government's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and the goal of making India a leading global maritime power and Viksit Bharat.
- ★ SMFCL will create a focused and accessible financial ecosystem for maritime growth, promoting sustainable development, innovation, and national logistics efficiency.
- ★ The launch was inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, accompanied by Minister of State Shantanu Thakur and Secretary TK Ramachandran.

ECONOMY

World Bank Expect The Indian Economy To Grow By 6.5%

- ★ The World Bank has retained its projection of a 6.3% growth rate for the Indian economy in 2025-26. The World Bank, in its April 2025 report, had reduced India's growth forecast to 6.3% from its January forecast of 6.7%.
- ★ The World Bank expect the Indian economy to grow by 6.5% in 2026-27.
- ★ The World Bank, in its latest Global Economic Prospects report, issued in June 2025, predicted that India would remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- ★ The World Bank report comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a 0.50% cut in the policy repo rate to 5.50%, which is expected to boost economic growth in the country.
- ★ RBI also forecasted a growth rate of 6.5% for the Indian economy for the financial year 2025-26.
- ★ According to the World Bank report, India will remain the fastest-growing economy in 2025.
- ★ The World Bank expects a strong growth in India's service sector and exports.

Reserve Bank of India Stops Daily VRR Auctions

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has discontinued daily Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions from June 11, 2025.
- ★ The decision was taken due to a liquidity surplus in the banking system estimated between ₹2.75 lakh crore to ₹3 lakh crore.
- ★ Daily VRR auctions were introduced on January 16, 2025, to manage short-term liquidity tightness caused by tax outflows and foreign exchange interventions.
- ★ Recent daily VRR auctions witnessed very low demand with banks borrowing only ₹3,711 crore on June 9 and ₹3,853 crore on June 10 against a notified amount of ₹25,000 crore.
- ★ The move follows the RBI's decision to cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points, which will inject about ₹2.5 lakh crore liquidity into the system gradually.
- ★ Despite ending daily VRR auctions, RBI will continue to manage liquidity using tools such as 14-day VRR auctions, Open Market Operations (OMO), Standing Deposit Facility (SDF).

Centre Cuts Basic Customs Duty On Key Imported Crude Edible Oils

- ★ The Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude edible oils such as crude sunflower, soybean, and palm oils has been reduced from 20% to 10%.
- ★ This change increases the import duty differential between crude and refined edible oils from 8.75% to 19.25%.
- ★ The reduction aims to address the escalating edible oil prices caused by the September 2024 duty hike and rising international market prices.
- ★ An advisory was issued to edible oil associations and industry stakeholders to ensure the full benefit of the reduced duty is passed on to consumers.
- ★ The 19.25% duty differential encourages domestic refining capacity utilization and reduces imports of refined oils.
- ★ Import duty affects the landed cost of edible oils, which impacts domestic prices and inflation.
- ★ By lowering duty on crude oils, the Government intends to reduce retail prices of edible oils and provide consumer relief.
- ★ The policy also promotes domestic refining and ensures fair compensation to farmers.

Reserve Bank of India Reports India's Forex Reserves Increase by \$5.17 Billion

- ★ India's forex reserves increased by USD 5.17 billion to USD 696.65 billion for the week ended June 6, 2025, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ★ For the previous week ended May 30, 2025, the reserves had declined by USD 1.237 billion to USD 691.485 billion.
- ★ The all-time high of India's forex reserves was USD 704.885 billion at the end of September 2024.
- ★ Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), the major component of forex reserves, rose by USD 3.47 billion to USD 587.68 billion.

- ★ FCA values include effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies like the euro, pound, and yen.
- ★ Gold reserves increased by USD 1.58 billion to USD 85.88 billion during the week.
- ★ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) rose by USD 102 million to USD 18.67 billion.
- ★ India's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 14 million to USD 4.4 billion.

S&P Global Revises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast Upward to 6.5%

- ★ S&P Global has raised its forecast for India's economic growth in FY26 (fiscal year ending March 31, 2026) to 6.5%, up from the earlier estimate of 6.3%.
- ★ The upward revision is attributed to factors such as: Monetary easing, Lower crude oil prices, Normal monsoon, Income-tax concessions.
- ★ The projection was published in S&P Global's latest Asia-Pacific Economic Outlook report.
- ★ S&P Global expects India's domestic demand growth to be more resilient compared to exports.
- ★ The revised forecast of 6.5% aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) estimate for FY26.
- ★ The World Bank lowered India's growth projection to 6.3% citing weaker external demand and trade barriers.
- ★ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reduced its forecast to 6.2% for the current financial year.

BUSINESS NEWS

Flipkart Obtains Reserve Bank Of India Approval

- ★ E-commerce major Flipkart has received a lending licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – the Indian central bank and banking regulator.
- ★ Currently, e-commerce platforms offer loans only via tie-ups with banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), but this licence allows Flipkart to lend directly to its users and sellers.
- ★ The Walmart-owned company will provide lending services through its platform and fintech app, Super Money.
- ★ This marks the first time the RBI has granted an NBFC licence to an e-commerce company for direct lending.
- ★ Flipkart currently offers personal loans through tie-ups with Axis Bank, IDFC Bank, and Credit Saison.

DEFENCE

Russia Confirms Delivery of Remaining S-400 Missile Systems to India by 2026

- ★ Russia is committed to delivering the remaining two units of the S-400 air defence system to India by 2025-26.
- ★ The S-400 system performed very efficiently during the recent India-Pakistan tensions.
- ★ The contract for the remaining S-400 units is on track, with deliveries expected to meet the publicly announced timelines.
- ★ India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five squadrons of the S-400 Triumf missile system.
- ★ So far, three squadrons have already been delivered.
- ★ The S-400 is a state-of-the-art air defence platform capable of engaging multiple aerial threats at long ranges.
- ★ Russia and India are considering expanding bilateral co-operation in air defence and anti-drone systems.
- ★ The growing threat of drones, especially during the India-Pakistan clash, has highlighted the need for counter-drone technologies.
- ★ Russia has experience in modernising anti-drone systems, which are already part of ongoing India-Russia defence dialogue.
- ★ The Deputy Chief of Mission, Roman Babushkin, mentioned a potential visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to India, expected soon (possibly this month).
- ★ The ongoing India-Russia defence partnership is seen as strategically important in the current global security environment.

India to Manufacture Rafale Fighter Jet Fuselage for the First Time

- ★ The main body (fuselage) of future Rafale fighter jets will be produced in India for the first time, outside France.
- ★ Dassault Aviation (French aircraft maker) and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) have partnered to build the Rafale fuselage at a new facility in Hyderabad.
- ★ This move supports the Make-in-India initiative in the defence sector.
- ★ The Hyderabad facility will supply fuselages for India and other international markets.
- ★ From 2023 onwards, the Indian Navy will receive 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets with locally produced fuselage sections.
- ★ The partnership involves transfer of technology and transfer agreements to manufacture several aerostructure assemblies.
- ★ The project will create 1,000 direct jobs and 3,000 indirect jobs, including training and upskilling of personnel.
- ★ The fuselage is the main body of an aircraft that holds the crew, passengers, cargo, and connects wings and tail.

- ★ The facility will also produce components for Dassault Falcon business jets
- ★ It will have production, assembly lines, and MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) facilities for engines, sensors, and weapons.
- ★ The first fuselage sections are expected to roll out in 2026, with a target capacity of 30 fuselages per month.

22nd Edition of EX Khaan Quest

- ★ A 40-member Indian Army contingent has arrived in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, to participate in the 22nd edition of the multinational military exercise Khaan Quest.
- ★ The Mongolian capital will host the 22nd edition of Khaan Quest from 14 to 28 June 2025.
- ★ The Khaan Quest military exercise started as a bilateral military exercise between the United States and Mongolia in 2003.
- ★ Since 2006, other friendly countries have been invited to participate in the exercise, and it has become multinational.
- ★ The United States Indo-Pacific Command and the Mongolian Armed Forces co-sponsor the Khaan Quest multinational military exercise.
- ★ It is hosted annually by the Mongolian Defence Force.
- ★ The participating countries will share their expertise in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for conducting joint operations.
- ★ The participating military units will jointly conduct Cordon and Search Operations, Patrolling, and establish static and mobile checkpoints.
- ★ They will also conduct drills to evacuate civilians from the contested area, conduct counter-improvised explosive device drills, etc.
- ★ The exercise will enhance the Indian military's interoperability in combat situations.

First Indian and US Special Forces Exercise 'Tiger Claw' Concludes

- ★ The first-ever joint military exercise, "Tiger Claw", between the Special Forces of the Indian Air Force and the United States Air Force successfully concluded at the Garud Regimental Training Centre.
- ★ The Special Force of the Indian Air Force is also known as Garuda. The Tiger Claw exercise was held across North India from 26 May to 10 June 2025.
- ★ The Indian Armed Forces' three wings — Army, Navy, and Air Force — have their separate Special Forces, which are popularly known as commando forces.
- ★ The Tiger Claw exercise involved the Special Forces of the Indian Air Forces, called Garud, and the United States Air Force Special Forces.
- ★ This is the first such exercise involving the Special Forces of the two countries' Air Forces.
- ★ The main objective of the exercise was to expand the partnership, mutually exchange best practices in Special Operations, and conduct joint training between the two Air Forces to develop interoperability.

- ★ The Indian Air Force Special Forces Garud was raised in February 2004.
- ★ The main functions of the Garud are:
 - Protect the bases of the Indian Air Force and its key assets, especially in the border area.
 - Like a commando force, they are trained to sabotage, hinder, or destroy enemy war capabilities, operating behind enemy lines.

Israel Launches Operation Rising Lion to Hit Iran's Nuclear Site

- ★ Israel launched an air attack targeting Iran's nuclear and military facilities in the early morning of 13th June 2025.
- ★ The operation, christened 'Operation Rising Lion', was authorised by the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who also declared a state of emergency in the country, fearing a counterattack by Iran.
- ★ The United States of America, which is the biggest supporter of Israel, has said that it was not involved in the Israeli attack.
- ★ The United States also announced that the American and Iranian negotiators will meet in Oman on 15 June 2025 for the sixth round of talks on Iran's nuclear enrichment programme.
- ★ The Israeli attack follows the decision of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 12 June 2025.
- ★ The IAEA voted to declare that the Iranian nuclear programme had breached the terms of a 1974 agreement, and it was enriching uranium above the requirement of a peaceful civilian nuclear programme.
- ★ According to the Israel Defence Force (IDF), it struck over 100 sites in Iran to kill senior leaders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran and top nuclear scientists.

Nomadic Elephant Joint Military Exercise Concludes in Mongolia

- ★ The 17th edition of the India-Mongolia bilateral military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant', ended in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on June 13, 2025.
- ★ The closing ceremony of the 17th Nomadic Elephant was attended by the Indian Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.
- ★ He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, Director General Operational Logistics and Strategic Movement of the Indian Army.
- ★ Defence Secretary will also participate in the opening ceremony of the 22nd edition of the multinational exercise 'Khaan Quest' to be held at the same location on 14 June 2025.
- ★ The main aim of the 17th 'Nomadic Elephant' exercise is to help Indian and Mongolian army personnel hone their skills in responding to terror incidents.
- ★ They conducted joint drills to sharpen their skills in conducting joint counter-insurgency operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.
- ★ The exercise was a platoon-level field training exercise. A field training exercise is a military training exercise that simulates war conditions in the field.

- ★ Both armies engaged in various exercises, including endurance training, reflex shooting, room intervention, small team tactics and rock craft training etc.
- ★ Cyber Warfare was incorporated in the Nomadic Elephant exercise for the first time.

Indian Coast Guard Launches Dedicated Jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour, Kerala

- ★ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director General Paramesh Sivamani inaugurated a dedicated ICG jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour, Kerala aimed at enhancing maritime security.
- ★ The jetty is 76.7 metres long and state-of-the-art, designed to support faster deployment and turnaround of Coast Guard vessels.
- ★ The facility will boost mission readiness for Coastal surveillance, Search and rescue operations, Anti-smuggling activities, Fisheries protection
- ★ It is strategically located 10 nautical miles from key international shipping lanes and adjacent to the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Port.
- ★ The jetty is expected to play a critical role in safeguarding India's southwestern coastline.

Cyber Suraksha Exercise Launched to Boost Cyber Resilience in Defence

- ★ To bolster the country's cyber resilience, especially in the defence domain, a comprehensive Cyber Security Exercise code-named 'Cyber Suraksha' was launched on 16 June 2025. The multi-phased exercise commenced on 16 June and will continue until 27 June 2025.
- ★ The exercise assumes significance after reports that there were significant cyber attacks on the country during Operation Sindoor.
- ★ The hackers sympathetic to Pakistan targeted the defence sector's public sector enterprises and vendors. They also targeted critical infrastructure like ports, airports, power grids, telecom companies, the Indian railways network, etc.
- ★ According to the Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal Khattar, over two lakh cyber attacks were conducted on the power grids during Operation Sindoor.
- ★ The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff under the Union Ministry of Defence organised the Cyber Suraksha Exercise.
- ★ The exercise involves around 100 people from the defence sector, national-level agencies, and stakeholders involved in cybersecurity.
- ★ During the exercise, real cyber threats will be simulated, and the participants will attempt to thwart the cyber attack.
- ★ It will test the analytical skills of the cyber experts in dealing with a cyber attack.

DRDO Develops Three Kusha Air Defence System Variants

- ★ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing three variants of Project Kusha.
- ★ The phased induction of Project Kusha into the Armed Forces is expected to be completed by around 2030.

- Kusha M1: Equipped with short-range missile systems to intercept incoming threats including aircraft and missiles.
- Kusha M2: Armed with medium-range surface-to-air missiles (MRSAM).
- Kusha M3: Has a strike range exceeding 400 km.
- ★ The Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS) Kusha is promoted as an indigenous alternative to Russia's S-500 missile system.
- ★ DRDO claims Kusha will surpass the capabilities of the S-400 system currently operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ★ Kusha is designed to provide multi-layered spatial protection.
- ★ One system can launch multiple interceptor missiles to cover a range of 100 to 200 km against a variety of aerial threats.

Government Launches Operation Sindhu

- ★ The Government of India has launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals trapped in Iran due to the ongoing Israel-Iran war.
- ★ The operation was launched with the co-operation of the Government of Iran and Armenia.
- ★ According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Operation Sindhu was launched on 18 June 2025, and the first batch of 110 Indian students arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Yerevan, Armenia.
- ★ Iran has retaliated, and the war between the two countries has continued with a barrage of missile attacks by Iran on Israel and Israeli air strikes on Iran.
- ★ Indians in northern Iran were first evacuated to Armenia by road and reached the capital Yerevan.
- ★ From Yerevan, they were evacuated to India by special flights.
- ★ The Government of India is likely to use the Armenian route to evacuate Indians from Iran.

India to build Dassault Aviation Falcon 2000 Business Executive Jet

- ★ The Dassault Aviation Company of France has announced that it will build an assembly line in India to manufacture the Falcon 2000LXS business executive jet. This was announced at the 2025 Paris Air Show.
- ★ The first made in India Falcon 2000 LXS plane is expected to roll out in 2028.
- ★ For the first time, Dassault will manufacture its Falcon 2000 LXS executive business jet outside France, which will cater to both Indian and the global market.
- ★ Dassault is also the manufacturer of the Rafale fighter jets. In June 2025, Dassault Aviation signed an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited to manufacture the fuselage of the fighter jets in Hyderabad. The Hyderabad plant is expected to start production in 2028.
- ★ The Falcon 2000 LXS business executive jet will be manufactured at the Dassault Reliance Aviation Ltd, Nagpur facility in the Mihan special economic zone (SEZ), Maharashtra.
- ★ Dassault Reliance Aviation Ltd is a joint venture between Dassault Aviation and Reliance Aerostructure Limited.

- ★ Reliance Aerostructure Limited is a subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure Limited. It is owned by Anil Ambani.
- ★ India will become the fifth country in the world that have the capability to manufacture business executive jets.

Indian Army Troops Depart for India-France Joint Military Exercise Shakti

- ★ The Indian Army contingent has departed to participate in the 8th edition of Exercise SHAKTI, a biennial India-France Joint Military Exercise.
- ★ The exercise will be conducted at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France, from 18th June to 1st July 2025.
- ★ The Indian contingent includes 90 personnel, primarily from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, along with troops from other arms and services.
- ★ The French contingent, also comprising 90 personnel, will be represented by the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE).
- ★ Exercise SHAKTI is held biennially and aims to enhance interoperability, operational co-ordination, and military-to-military co-operation between the two armies.
- ★ The 2025 edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, conducted in semi-urban terrain.
- ★ The exercise will enable troops to: Rehearse tactical drills, Share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), Train on contemporary military technologies, Strengthen physical endurance
- ★ It also fosters esprit-de-corps, mutual respect, and professional camaraderie between the Indian and French forces.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Arnala

- ★ The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Arnala, the country's first indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- ★ The commissioning ceremony took place at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam and was presided over by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan.
- ★ INS Arnala was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, and was delivered on 8 May at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, under a public-private partnership.
- ★ It is the first in a series of eight ASW-SWCs intended to enhance India's coastal defence.
- ★ The vessel is 77 metres long and is named after the historic Arnala Fort off Vasai, Maharashtra.
- ★ It is equipped with advanced underwater surveillance systems and mine-laying capabilities.
- ★ The ship's crest features a stylised auger shell, symbolising resilience and vigilance in hostile environments.

Indian Navy To Commission Stealth Multi-Role Frigate INS Tamal

- ★ The Indian Navy will commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate, INS Tamal, on July 1, 2025, at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- ★ The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, along with senior Indian and Russian defence officials.
- ★ INS Tamal is the eighth Krivak-class frigate inducted from Russia and the second ship of the upgraded Tushil class, following the Talwar and Teg-class series.
- ★ The commissioning of Tamal marks the end of foreign-built warships for India, supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India
- ★ The frigate contains 26% indigenous components, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.
- ★ It is equipped with modern weapons such as vertically launched surface-to-air missiles, Anti-submarine rockets
- ★ The name “Tamal” is inspired by the mythical sword of Indra, King of the Gods.
- ★ The mascot combines India’s Jambavan and Russia’s Eurasian Brown Bear, with the crew called ‘The Great Bears’.

Iran Strikes Israel Under Operation ‘True Promise 3’ in Major 2025 Retaliatory Missile Attack

- ★ Iran launched its most significant missile strike of 2025 on Israel under Operation “True Promise 3”, targeting Ben Gurion Airport, biological research centers, and military command hubs in retaliation for recent US and Israeli strikes on Iranian soil.
- ★ The strike marks a dangerous escalation in the ongoing West Asian conflict, raising the risk of a full-scale regional war involving Iran, Israel, and the US.
- ★ A wider conflict could severely disrupt global trade by threatening key maritime chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz, potentially causing soaring oil prices, global inflation, and shipping route disruptions.
- ★ Israel initiated a “targeted military operation” against Iran on June 13, named Operation Rising Lion, aimed at thwarting Iran’s nuclear ambitions.
- ★ The name “Operation Rising Lion” symbolizes Israel’s strength, dominance, and intent for victory over Iran.
- ★ The United States carried out strikes on Iran called Operation Midnight Hammer, targeting Iran’s nuclear program.
- ★ The name “Midnight Hammer” reflects the timing and intensity of the US’s massive and unprecedented attacks on Iran.

Indian Coast Guard Inducts ‘Adamya’

- ★ ‘Adamya’, the first Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) under the eight FPV project at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), was inducted into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on June 26, 2025, in Goa.

- ★ It is the first ship in its class in the ICG fleet to feature Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs) and indigenously developed gearboxes, providing superior maneuverability, operational flexibility, and enhanced performance at sea.
- ★ The vessel is equipped with advanced technology including 30mm CRN-91 gun, Two 7mm stabilized remote-control guns with fire control systems, Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) and Automated Power Management System (APMS)
- ★ These systems enable the ICG to carry out its duties with increased precision, efficiency, and responsiveness across India's extensive maritime domain
- ★ Designed and built entirely by GSL, 'Adamyā' highlights India's growing shipbuilding capability and supports the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

RANKS, INDICES & REPORTS

Khichan And Menar Wetlands In Rajasthan To The Ramsar Sites In India

- ★ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has added Khichan and Menar wetlands in Rajasthan to the Ramsar sites in India. With the addition of these two sites, the total number of Indian wetlands as Ramsar sites stands at 91.
- ★ India, with 91 sites, has the largest number of Ramsar Wetland Sites in Asia.
- ★ Menar Wetland is a freshwater monsoon wetland formed by the Braham, Dhand and Kherodo ponds.
- ★ During the monsoon, the agricultural land adjacent to these ponds is flooded.
- ★ It becomes the habitat for 110 species of waterbirds, including 67 migratory birds.
- ★ Khichan Wetland site is a desert wetland in the Northern Thar Desert formed by the Ratri River and Vijaysagar Pond.
- ★ It is a habitat for over 150 bird species.

Global Gender Gap Index 2025

- ★ In the 2025 Global Gender Gap Report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India slipped two spots to 131st out of 148 countries, despite minor improvements in some indicators.
- ★ The country's overall parity score is 64.1%, highlighting persistent gaps in political empowerment and a slow pace toward equality.
- ★ Global gender gap closed to 68.8%, marking the strongest post-COVID progress.
- ★ Full gender parity is projected to take 123 years at the current pace.
- ★ Top 5 countries: Iceland, Finland, Norway, UK, and New Zealand.

QS World University Rankings

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi), was ranked the top Indian institute in the QS World University Rankings 2026, released on June 19, 2025.
- ★ IIT-Delhi has been ranked 123rd in the world, the highest ranking ever achieved by an Indian institution in the QS World University Ranking.
- ★ For the 14th consecutive year, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) of the United States of America has maintained its position as the best institute in the world.
- ★ Over 1500 universities around the world were ranked in the latest edition of the QS World University Ranking 2026.
- ★ This year, 54 Indian universities were included in the QS World University Rankings.
- ★ India has the fourth most represented universities in the list, behind the United States of America (192), the United Kingdom (90), and Mainland China (72).

Skytrax 2025 Awards

- ★ In a major global achievement for Indian aviation, IndiGo has been ranked 3rd in the World's Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025 by Skytrax World Airline Awards, placing India firmly on the international aviation map.
- ★ While IndiGo gained global recognition in the low-cost category, no Indian full-service airline appeared in the top 10 full-service airline rankings this year.
- ★ Skytrax Awards are regarded as the "Oscars of the aviation industry", established in 1999.
- ★ The 2025 edition was based on 22.3 million passenger votes globally, covering over 325 airlines.
- ★ The award ceremony was held at Le Bourget Airport during the Paris Air Show, attended by over 500 industry leaders including CEOs and crew members.
- ★ IndiGo ranked 3rd in the World's Best Low-Cost Airlines 2025, behind AirAsia (Malaysia) and Scoot (Singapore).
- ★ IndiGo's recognition is attributed to its affordable fares, operational efficiency, and dependable domestic and international service.
- ★ In the full-service airline category, Qatar Airways topped the rankings, winning the title for the ninth time.

Banks' Supervisory Data Quality Index of March 2025

- ★ The Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) improved to 3 in March 2025 from 86.8 in March 2024, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ★ The sDQI measures data quality in terms of: Accuracy, Timeliness, Completeness, Consistency of regulatory returns submitted by banks.
- ★ **sDQI Score Categories:**
 - Above 90: Good
 - 80 to 90: Acceptable
 - 70 to 80: Needs Improvement

- Below 70: Not Acceptable
- ★ State-owned banks, private sector banks, and foreign banks scored in the “80–90” acceptable range.
- ★ Small finance banks scored above 90, categorized as “good”.
- ★ The sDQI for SCBs covers 87 banks and evaluates the quality of key regulatory returns such as: Asset-Liability and Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (ALE), Asset Quality (RAQ), Operating Results (ROR), Risk-Based Supervision Return (RBS), Liquidity Return (LR), Capital Adequacy (RCA), Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC).

WEF Energy Transition Index 2025

- ★ India has fallen to 71st place in the World Economic Forum’s Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025, down from 63rd in 2024, despite making strides in energy efficiency and green investments.
- ★ The index evaluates 118 countries on energy security, sustainability, and equity.
- ★ Top five countries: Sweden (1st), Finland (2nd), Denmark (3rd), Norway (4th), Switzerland (5th).
- ★ Only 28% of countries improved in all three pillars of the index.
- ★ 77 out of 118 countries showed overall improvement in ETI scores.
- ★ Despite \$2 trillion clean energy investments in 2024, global emissions reached a record 37.8 billion tonnes.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index 2025

- ★ In a significant achievement for sustainable development, India has entered the top 100 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index for the first time, securing the 99th rank out of 193 countries in the 2025 edition of the UN Sustainable Development Report, published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and led by economist Jeffrey Sachs.
- ★ It was released ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville.
- ★ It reflects India’s progress in healthcare, education, infrastructure, and digital access, despite global SDG slowdowns.
- ★ It is based on progress toward 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 for achievement by 2030.
- ★ Top 3 Countries include Finland, Sweden, Denmark.

Global Peace Index 2025

- ★ The Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025, released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), assesses the state of peace in 163 countries, covering 99.7% of the global population.
- ★ In its 19th edition, the index highlights a continuing decline in global peace, but India has shown slight improvement, moving up to Rank 115.
- ★ It was published by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a non-partisan think tank based in Sydney.

- ★ India ranked 115 out of 163 countries with a score of 2.229
- ★ Iceland secured top position with the score of 1.095

QS World University Rankings 2026

- ★ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed-to-be-University (KIIT-DU) has achieved a historic milestone by making its first-ever entry into the QS World University Rankings 2026 emerging as the top-ranked private university in Odisha and securing the 9th position among private higher education institutions in India.
- ★ KIIT made its formal debut in the QS World University Rankings 2026, evaluated among 1,500 global institutions a first for the university.
- ★ It ranked top among all private universities in Odisha, reflecting its regional academic leadership.
- ★ It achieved the 9th rank among India's top private higher education institutions, further enhancing its national reputation.
- ★ It secured 55th position in the QS Southern Asia University Rankings, showcasing its growing influence across the region.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Sadhguru Receives 'Global Indian of the Year' Award from Canada India Foundation

- ★ Spiritual leader and Isha Foundation founder Sadhguru was honoured with the 'Global Indian of the Year' award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) for his work in raising human consciousness and promoting ecological sustainability through the Conscious Planet movement.
- ★ The award included a CAD 50,000 cash prize and was presented on May 22, 2025, in Toronto by CIF Chair Ritesh Malik and National Convenor Sunita Vyas.
- ★ Sadhguru dedicated the prize to the 'Cauvery Calling' initiative, aimed at revitalising the Cauvery River through large-scale tree planting and improving regional livelihoods.
- ★ The Canada India Foundation is a public policy think tank focused on strengthening Canada-India relations. Its Global Indian Award honours Indians making significant global impact.

Miss World 2025 in Hyderabad

- ★ Opal Suchata, Miss Thailand, was crowned Miss World 2025 at a glittering finale of the 72nd Miss World 2025 held at the Hitex Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, Telangana, on 31 May 2025. She is the first female from Thailand to be crowned Miss World.
- ★ She beat three other contestants to win the title and a prize money of around ₹8 crore.
- ★ Miss World 2024, Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic, as per tradition, crowned Opal Suchata Miss World 2025.
- ★ The Miss World beauty pageant is organised by the London-based Miss World Organisation.

- ★ India has hosted the event three times: in 1996 in Bengaluru, Karnataka, and again in 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Hyderabad, Telangana, hosted the 2025 Miss World from 7 May to 31 May 2025. During the event, the contestants were showcased India's rich and varied culture.

Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025

- ★ American tennis legend Serena Williams, widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time, has been awarded the Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025, Spain's highest honor recognizing outstanding personalities across various fields.
- ★ Serena boasts an extraordinary record of 73 career titles, including 23 Grand Slam singles titles and four Olympic gold medals, underscoring her dominance in tennis.
- ★ Nearly a year ago, she was among the distinguished athletes who carried the Olympic torch at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Games, alongside icons like Rafa Nadal and Nadia Comaneci.
- ★ The award jury highlighted Serena's role as a strong advocate for gender equality and equal opportunities in sports and society.
- ★ Beyond sports, Serena has actively supported education and aid for victims of violence through initiatives like The Serena Williams Foundation, The Williams Sisters Fund, and the Yetunde Price Resource Center.
- ★ She was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Education in 2011, reflecting her commitment to social causes.

USISPF Global Leadership Award 2025

- ★ At the 8th USISPF Leadership Summit held in Washington, D.C., Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, was awarded the prestigious Global Leadership Award 2025 by the S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).
- ★ This award recognises his significant contributions to advancing S.-India economic relations through sustained investment and job creation in the United States.
- ★ Birla received the award for leading India's largest investor in the U.S.
- ★ Aditya Birla Group has invested over \$15 billion in the U.S.
- ★ The Group operates in 15 states and employs more than 5,400 people.
- ★ The award was presented alongside honours to Arvind Krishna (IBM) and Toshiaki Higashihara (Hitachi).
- ★ The award was presented by USISPF, a non-profit fostering U.S.-India strategic and commercial co-operation.
- ★ It recognizes leadership in promoting investments, job creation, and bilateral ties.

Guinness World Records for Highest Single-Day Insurance Sales

- ★ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has made history by entering the Guinness World Records for selling the highest number of life insurance policies in a single day.

- ★ Under the “Mad Million Day” campaign, over 5.88 lakh policies were sold in 24 hours by 4.52 lakh agents across the country.
- ★ The record was officially recognized on May 25, 2025.
- ★ Spearheaded by LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty, the initiative showcased LIC’s unmatched agent network, public trust, and its leadership in India’s insurance sector.

Pulitzer Prizes 2025

- ★ The Pulitzer Prizes 2025 for journalism were announced, recognizing outstanding contributions to public service, investigative journalism, photography, and storytelling.
- ★ The New York Times won 4 awards, including:
 - Breaking News Photography (Doug Mills – Trump assassination attempt)
 - International Reporting (Sudan conflict)
- ★ The Washington Post: Won for Breaking News Reporting on Trump assassination attempt with forensic precision.
- ★ Reuters: Honored in Investigative Reporting for its deep-dive series “Fentanyl Express”.
- ★ Wall Street Journal: Awarded National Reporting for exposing Elon Musk’s personal, political, and business controversies.
- ★ The New Yorker: Won 3 prizes:
 - Commentary (Gaza war essays – Mosab Abu Toha)
 - Feature Photography (Syrian prison images – Moises Saman)
 - Audio Reporting (In the Dark podcast)

2023 Sankardeva Award

- ★ Eminent classical dancer Dr Sonal Mansingh was conferred the 2023 Srimanta Sankaradeva Award by the Assam Governor Laxmanacharya in a function in Guwahati, Assam, on 12 June 2025.
- ★ Initially, President Droupadi Murmu was to present the award to Dr Sonal Mansingh on 22 April 2025, but it was postponed due to the Pahalagam terror attack.
- ★ Dr Sonal Mansingh was honoured for her immense contribution to Indian classical dance, social reform and for cultural advocacy.
- ★ Assam Government instituted the Srimanta Sankaradeva Award in 1986.
- ★ It is a national level award and it given to an individuals who symbolises the values of Srimanta Sankaradeva through their contributions to art, culture, and society.
- ★ The awardee is honoured with an Angavastram, a gold medallion, a citation and a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. The awardee is also honoured with the traditional Assamese bell-metal ‘Xorai’ (a tray).

PM Modi Receives Cyprus Highest Honour: Grand Cross of Makarios III

- ★ Cyprus has become the latest country to honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award, the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-nation official tour of Cyprus, Canada, and Croatia from June 15 to 19, 2025.
- ★ In the first leg of his visit, he visited Cyprus on 15 and 16th June 2025.
- ★ This is the first foreign visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after India launched Operation Sindoor to hit terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir on the night of 6/7 May 2025.
- ★ The award was instituted by the Cypriot Government in 1991 in memory of its first President, Archbishop Makarios III.
- ★ The award is given to the Head of State/Head of Government and global leaders for exceptional service, leadership, or contributions that have positively impacted the country or the world.
- ★ It is Cyprus's highest civilian award.

Alexander Payne to Receive Honorary Leopard at Locarno Film Festival 2025

- ★ American filmmaker Alexander Payne will be conferred with the Honorary Leopard (Pardo d'Onore) at the 78th Locarno Film Festival, to be held from August 6–16, 2025.
- ★ The award, presented on August 15, recognizes Payne's distinguished cinematic career and lasting impact on international filmmaking.
- ★ The Honorary Leopard, sponsored by Manor, is Locarno's highest tribute for career excellence in global cinema.
- ★ Payne is widely respected for films like Election, Sideways, The Descendants, Nebraska, and The Holdovers, noted for their emotional depth and subtle humor.
- ★ He will screen and discuss The Descendants and Nebraska, and hold a public dialogue with audiences.

NitroCapt's Green Fertiliser Wins \$2M Food Planet Prize 2025

- ★ Swedish startup NitroCapt has won the 2025 Food Planet Prize, the world's largest environmental award, for developing a fossil-free green fertiliser that uses plasma and renewable energy to extract nitrogen from air.
- ★ This groundbreaking innovation can drastically cut emissions from fertiliser production and strengthen global food security.
- ★ The award recognizes solutions that transform food systems with lower environmental impact.
- ★ NitroCapt uses plasma to oxidise nitrogen, powered entirely by green electricity.
- ★ It eliminates fossil fuel use and reduces energy consumption by 90%.

Annecy International Animation Festival 2025

- ★ 'Desi Oon' has become the first Indian animation film to win the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025.

- ★ Earlier, the 7-minute animation short 'Desi Oon' won the Best Film award at the WAVES Awards of Excellence 2025, which was held in Mumbai, India.
- ★ The Annecy International Animation Festival was held in Annecy, France.
- ★ The Mumbai-based Studio Eeksaurus have produced the Desi Oon animation film.
- ★ The Desi Oon was directed by noted animator Suresh Eriyat and narrated by Swanand Kirkire. Rajat Dholakia composed the music, and Resul Pookutty, who won the 2009 Oscar, designed the film's sound.
- ★ The film uses actual Deccani wool derived from the Deccani sheep breed. The Deccani breed is the only coarse black wool sheep breed in India.
- ★ The animation Desi Oon is about the plight of the declining wool industry based on the Deccani sheep and their weavers, their shepherders, and their lifestyle.
- ★ The Annecy International Animation Festival is considered one of the most prestigious animation film festivals.
- ★ It was established in 1960 and has been held annually since 1998.
- ★ It is sponsored by the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA).

Digital Payments Award 2024–25

- ★ The India Post Payment Bank has won the Digital Payments Award 2024-25 for its outstanding contribution in expanding digital payments and financial inclusion across the country.
- ★ The award has been instituted by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ★ The India Post Payment Bank was ranked first amongst the Payment Banks in the Performance Index for Financial Year 2024–25.
- ★ It received the Digital Payments Award 2024-25 for this achievement.
- ★ The India Post Payment Bank also received a 'Special Mention Award' for its performance in the financial year 2023-24.
- ★ The award was presented by Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, and Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State of Finance.
- ★ The award was received by R. Visweswaran, the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the India Post Payment Bank, at a ceremony in New Delhi.

WAN-IFRA Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025

- ★ The Hindu earned the prestigious title of Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025 at the WAN-IFRA Digital Media Awards held in Chennai, clinching 10 awards across various categories.
- ★ This recognition highlights the publication's leadership in digital storytelling, innovation, and audience engagement.
- ★ It was organised by World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).
- ★ Total Awards Won by The Hindu: 10, 4 Gold, 3 Silver, 3 Bronze

★ **Gold Awards:**

- Best Use of Video – The Hindu Made of Chennai
- Best Native Advertising Campaign – The Hindu Made of Chennai
- Best Use of AI in Revenue Strategy
- Best Podcast – In Focus: Why does the Election Commission need seven phases to conduct the General Election?

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

MD and CEO of Union Bank

- ★ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Asheesh Pandey as MD and CEO of Union Bank of India (UBI) and Kalyan Kumar as MD and CEO of Central Bank of India (CBoI).
- ★ FSIB conducted an interface with 23 candidates from various public sector banks between May 27 – May 30, 2025 for the MD and CEO positions.
- ★ The recommendation was based on candidates' performance in the interface, overall experience, and other parameters.
- ★ The current UBI Chief AManimekhalai's three-year term ends next month.
- ★ The tenure of MV Rao, MD and CEO of Central Bank of India, ends in July 2025.

Shailendra Nath Gupta assumes office as Director General of Defence Estates

- ★ Shri Shailendra Nath Gupta took charge as Director General of Defence Estates on May 31, 2025.
- ★ He is a 1990-batch Indian Defence Estates Service Officer with a distinguished career in Cantonments and Defence land management.
- ★ He previously served as CEO of various Cantonment Boards, Defence Estate Officer of multiple circles, Staff Officer, Director Defence Estates (Central Command), and Principal Director Defence Estates (Eastern Command).
- ★ The Directorate General of Defence Estates manages approximately 18 lakh acres of defence land across India.
- ★ It functions under six commands, 38 Defence Estates Circles, and 61 Cantonment Boards.

President of South Korea

- ★ Lee Jae-myung was sworn in as the 14th President of South Korea, officially known as the Republic of Korea, in Seoul on June 4, 2025, after winning the Presidential by-election.
- ★ The Presidential by-election was held in the country on 3rd June 2025, following the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk-yeol.
- ★ President Yoon Suk-yeol was ousted from office after he imposed martial law in the country on the night of December 3rd, 2024.

- ★ A presidential by-election was held in South Korea on 3rd June 2025, in which the opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung stood against Kim Moon-soo of the ruling People Power Party.
- ★ Lee Jae-myung was contesting his third Presidential election.
- ★ According to the South Korean constitution, the President has a term of five years and serves a single term.
- ★ The South Korean governance system is patterned after the presidential system of the United States of America. The President is the Head of State and the Commander in Chief of the country's Armed Forces.
- ★ The Presidential office and residence are known as the Blue House.

Chairman of Tata Chemicals

- ★ S. Padmanabhan, PGP '82 alumnus of IIM Bangalore and recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award (2008), has been appointed Chairman of Tata Chemicals effective 30 May 2025.
- ★ He has been associated with the Tata Group for over four decades, holding key leadership roles across various companies within the Group.
- ★ Most recently, he served as Director at Tata Chemicals before becoming Chairman.
- ★ Padmanabhan completed his Post Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) at IIMB with a specialization in Marketing.
- ★ He took over as Executive Director of Operations at Tata Power Co. Ltd. in February 2008, overseeing Generation, Transmission, and Distribution businesses, including the Mumbai Licence Area and Maharashtra Projects.
- ★ He also served as Director of Operations at Tata Power Trading Co. Ltd.

Chairman of Fertiliser Association of India

- ★ Sailesh C Mehta, Managing Director of Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd (DFPCL), has been elected as the new Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI).
- ★ He succeeds N Suresh Krishnan, the Managing Director of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd, who was the previous Chairman of FAI.
- ★ Sailesh Mehta has over 40 years of experience in the fertiliser and petrochemical industry.
- ★ He also served as the Chairman of FAI (Western Region) for more than 5 years.
- ★ Mehta is also the Chairman and Managing Director of Mahadhan Agri Tech Ltd, a subsidiary of DFPCL.

President of the 80th UN General Assembly

- ★ Annalena Baerbock, former German Foreign Minister, was elected President of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly.
- ★ She won 167 votes in a secret ballot, defeating write-in candidate Helga Schmid who got 7 votes; 14 delegations abstained.

- ★ Baerbock is the first woman from the Western European group and the fifth woman overall to hold the post.
- ★ At 44 years old, she is one of the youngest leaders to become GA President.
- ★ The UN General Assembly presidency rotates among five regional groups.
- ★ Her election comes amid global challenges: ongoing conflicts, deadlock in the Security Council, faltering development goals, and the upcoming selection of the next UN Secretary-General.
- ★ The Assembly acts as a platform for accountability through initiatives like the Veto Initiative (2022), ensuring issues blocked in the Security Council are debated.

Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to PM

- ★ S.Mahendra Dev, noted economist and former Independent Director of the Axis Bank, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ★ The post of the Chairman of the EAC-PM has been vacant since November 2024 when the then Chairman Dr Bibek Debroy passed away on 1st November 2024.
- ★ S.Mahendra Dev is the second person to be appointed as the Chairman of the EAC-PM since its constitution in 2017.
- ★ There is no fixed tenure of the Chairman of the EAC-PM and he holds the post on the pleasure of the Central Government. It means the Government can dismiss him any time.
- ★ The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was established on 26 September 2017 by the Central Government.
- ★ It is an independent body that was set up through an executive order by the President of India.
- ★ He was honoured with the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies in 2016.

Interim CEO of LIC

- ★ Sat Pal Bhanoo has been given additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Government-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). Sat Pal Bhanoo is also the LIC's Managing Director (MD).
- ★ Sat Pal Bhanoo was given the additional responsibility of the CEO following the approval of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ★ Sat Pal Bhanoo replaces Sidhharta Mohanty, who retired as the MD and CEO of the LIC on 7 July 2025.
- ★ According to the Department of Financial Services order, Sat Pal Bhanoo will be the CEO of LIC for three months, effective 8 June 2025.
- ★ He will remain the CEO and MD of LIC until 7 September 2025 or until the Government appoints a new CEO.

Interim Managing Director And Chief Executive Officer Of LIC

- ★ The Government has appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ★ His interim tenure is for three months, from 8 June to 7 September 2025, or until a regular incumbent assumes office, or until further orders.
- ★ The appointment was made by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- ★ Sat Pal Bhanoo has been given the financial and administrative powers of the CEO and MD role after the completion of Siddhartha Mohanty's
- ★ Bhanoo has over 30 years of experience with LIC.
- ★ Prior to becoming Managing Director, he served as Zonal Manager of LIC's Central Zone (Bhopal).

Justice NS Sanjay Gowda Takes Oath as Gujarat High Court Judge

- ★ Justice Naranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda, formerly a judge of the Karnataka High Court, was sworn in as a judge of the Gujarat High Court.
- ★ The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Justice Sunita Agarwal.
- ★ The Supreme Court Collegium, in April 2025, recommended the transfer of seven sitting High Court judges, including four judges from Karnataka, among whom was Justice Gowda.
- ★ The oath-taking ceremony was held in the First Court of Gujarat High Court, attended by Advocate General Kamal Trivedi, senior advocates, and other dignitaries.
- ★ Justice Gowda is 58 years old and began his legal career as an advocate in 1989.
- ★ He was appointed as Additional Judge of the Karnataka High Court in November 2019.
- ★ Later, he was made a permanent judge of the Karnataka High Court in September 2021.

Yes Bank CEO Prashant Kumar's Tenure Extended by RBI for Six Months

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a six-month extension to Prashant Kumar's tenure as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yes Bank. Prashant Kumar's three-year tenure will end in October 2025.
- ★ The extended six months of Prashant Kumar's tenure will start from 6th October 2025.
- ★ Under section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949, Indian private banks need permission from the RBI to appoint a Chairman, Managing Director, or Chief Executive Officer.
- ★ Prashant Kumar took over the management of Yes Bank in 2020, when it was facing a severe financial crisis.
- ★ A consortium of Indian banks — SBI, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bandhan Bank, Federal Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Axis Bank — invested in Yes Bank and provided liquidity support.

- ★ RBI initially appointed Prashant Kumar, former Deputy Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of State Bank of India (SBI), as the administrator of Yes Bank and later made him the bank's MD and CEO for two years.

Maldives Appoints Katrina Kaif as Global Tourism Brand Ambassador

- ★ Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has been appointed as the Global Brand Ambassador for Maldives tourism by the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC).
- ★ The announcement was made as MMPRC launched its global summer sale campaign to attract international tourists to the Maldives.
- ★ Katrina Kaif, known as both an actress and entrepreneur, is expected to enhance the Maldives' image as a premium tourist destination due to her wide fanbase in India and abroad.
- ★ The Maldives remains a popular destination for Indian tourists, and this move comes at a crucial time to boost inbound tourism from the Indian subcontinent.

Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SBI General Insurance

- ★ Mohd Arif Khan has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Deputy CEO) of SBI General Insurance.
- ★ Khan is a seasoned banking professional with over 25 years of experience at State Bank of India (SBI).
- ★ He has held several strategic and leadership roles across various banking domains including: Retail banking, Training and development, Core Banking Solution (CBS) implementation.
- ★ Khan started his career with SBI in 2000 as a Probationary Officer.
- ★ In his most recent role, he was General Manager – Network-I at SBI's Local Head Office in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ★ At SBI, he led large-scale business and operational initiatives contributing to the bank's transformation and growth.
- ★ His appointment is a key leadership addition aimed at strengthening SBI General Insurance's growth trajectory and operational excellence.

CEO and MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India

- ★ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended R Doraiswamy for the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) at Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ★ R. Doraiswamy has been a Managing Director at LIC since September 2023.
- ★ FSIB conducted interviews on June 11, 2025, for the CEO and MD post with four candidates from LIC: R. Doraiswamy, Sat Pal Bhanoo, Dinesh Pant, Ratnakar Patnaik
- ★ Based on performance in the interview, overall experience, and existing parameters, FSIB recommended R Doraiswamy for the role.

- ★ The Government had recently entrusted Sat Pal Bhanoo with financial and administrative powers and functions of CEO and MD for three months starting June 8, 2025.

India's Ambassador to North Korea

- ★ After a four-year gap, India has appointed an ambassador to North Korea or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).
- ★ The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed Aliawati Longkumer, a 2008 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, as the Indian ambassador to North Korea.
- ★ Aliawati Longkumer is currently the Charge d'affaires at the Indian Embassy in Asuncion, Paraguay.
- ★ Atul Malhari Gotsurve was the last Indian ambassador to North Korea.
- ★ India closed its embassy in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang, in July 2021 and asked its ambassador, Atul Malhari Gotsurve and its staff to return to India.
- ★ According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the embassy was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ India reopened the embassy in December 2024.

President of International Big Cat Alliance

- ★ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, has been unanimously elected as the President of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).
- ★ Bhupendra Yadav was elected as the President of the IBCA at the first Assembly of IBCA in New Delhi on 16 June 2025.
- ★ The IBCA is an initiative of India, which was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 April 2023 in Mysuru, Karnataka, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
- ★ IBCA is a multinational/multi-agency coalition of 95 big cat range countries, non-range countries, conservation partners, and scientific organisations engaged in big cat conservation.
- ★ It also includes business groups and corporations that sponsor and finance conservation efforts.
- ★ The International Big Cat Alliance came into force on 23rd January 2025 after its framework agreement was ratified by the minimum required countries.
- ★ The first Assembly of the IBCA was held in New Delhi on 16 June 2025 and it was chaired by Bhupendra Yadav.
- ★ The Assembly is the apex decision making body of the IBCA and the member countries which have ratified the IBCA agreement attend the meeting.

Executive Director of ICICI Bank

- ★ ICICI Bank Limited, a private sector lender, announced that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the reappointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director.
- ★ The RBI has approved his reappointment for a two-year term, effective from December 23, 2025, to December 22, 2027.

- ★ Sandeep Batra is currently serving as Executive Director, with his ongoing term from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025, also previously approved by the RBI.
- ★ The earlier RBI approval for the current term was communicated on December 20, 2023.
- ★ This marks a continuation of leadership at ICICI Bank, with regulatory backing from the central bank.

Anuradha Thakur Appointed as Economic Affairs Secretary Effective July 1, 2025

- ★ Anuradha Thakur, a 1994-batch IAS Officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the new Economic Affairs Secretary, effective from July 1, 2025.
- ★ She will replace Ajay Seth, who retires on June 30, 2025.
- ★ She will also become an ex-officio member of the SEBI Board and will be notified shortly as a member of the Central Board of the RBI, joining M Nagaraju as a Government nominee.
- ★ Anuradha Thakur is originally from Bihar and will be the first woman Economic Affairs Secretary.
- ★ The post of Economic Affairs Secretary has previously been held by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia, ex-Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.
- ★ She has served in key roles in the Corporate Affairs Ministry, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), DIPAM, and has been involved in: Air India's disinvestment, Bharat Bond ETF, PM Internship Programme, 3Is Initiative (Inquiry, Inspection, and Investigation)
- ★ As Economic Affairs Secretary, she will represent the Government on the boards of both SEBI and RBI.

Chairperson of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

- ★ Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann assumed charge as Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on 20th June 2025.
- ★ He was appointed by the Government of India via notification dated 8th April 2025, for a tenure of five years or until he attains the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ★ He served from 2006 to 2013 at Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as Chief General Manager (CGM) and Executive Director
- ★ Shri Ramann brings extensive experience in public finance, technology, and financial regulation.
- ★ He is expected to lead PFRDA in strengthening India's pension system and enhancing retirement security for all citizens.

First Female President of the International Olympic Committee

- ★ Kirsty Coventry became the first female and first African President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
- ★ She was inaugurated on June 23, 2025, which is the IOC's 131st birthday.
- ★ Coventry is a two-time Olympic gold medallist in swimming from Zimbabwe.
- ★ She won a seven-candidate election in March 2025 to succeed Thomas Bach as IOC President.

- ★ She is 41 years old at the time of taking office.
- ★ Thomas Bach, the Outgoing President, served the maximum 12-year term and handed over the symbolic key to Coventry.
- ★ The inauguration ceremony took place at the Olympic House gardens, in a temporary building designed like the Grand Palais, Paris.
- ★ Coventry plans to lead the IOC for the next eight years, including overseeing the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

President of New Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- ★ Zou Jiayi, former Vice Finance Minister of China, was appointed as the next President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- ★ The appointment was announced during the 10th Annual Meeting of the AIIB Board of Governors held in Beijing.
- ★ Zou Jiayi will succeed the founding AIIB President Jin Lique, whose second five-year term ends on January 15, 2026.
- ★ Zou's five-year term as AIIB President will begin on January 16, 2026.
- ★ China is the largest shareholder of AIIB, holding 26.54% voting shares.
- ★ India is the second-largest shareholder with 7.58%, followed by Russia (5.9%) and Germany (4.1%).
- ★ Zou Jiayi has extensive experience working with major international financial institutions including World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank (ADB), New Development Bank (NDB).

UGRO Capital Elevates Anuj Pandey to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Role

- ★ UGRO Capital, a leading DataTech NBFC focused on MSME lending, has promoted Anuj Pandey as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ★ Anuj Pandey is a founding team member of UGRO and was previously the company's Chief Risk Officer.
- ★ The promotion reflects UGRO's aim to strengthen institutional leadership as it scales its MSME lending business.
- ★ Pandey has been instrumental in building UGRO's risk governance framework and credit architecture since inception.
- ★ He brings around 25 years of diverse experience, having worked in leadership roles at GSK Consumer, ABN AMRO Bank, Barclays Bank, Religare.
- ★ As CEO, Pandey will lead UGRO's pan-India MSME business operations, Digital platforms, Partner ecosystem.

SPORTS

Shubman Gill Becomes Oakley Brand Ambassador for “Artifacts from the Future” Campaign

- ★ Indian Test captain Shubman Gill has been named the brand ambassador for Oakley, aligning with their new “Artifacts from the Future” eyewear campaign.
- ★ At 25 years old, Gill adds off-field style to his on-field elegance, embodying the values of performance, innovation, and resilience.
- ★ Gill’s elegant batting, composed temperament, and consistent performance across formats made him a natural fit.
- ★ Oakley sought an athlete who personifies passion, progress, and peak performance.
- ★ “Artifacts from the Future” celebrates Oakley’s 50th anniversary with futuristic designs — Plantaris, Lateralis, and Masseter — that blend heritage with cutting-edge innovation. The collection launches in May 2025.

Asian Athletics 2025

- ★ The Indian athletes finished their campaign at the 26th Asian Athletics Championship 2025 with 24 medals — eight gold, 10 silver, and six bronze.
- ★ Gulveer Singh bagged two gold medals to help India finish second, behind China in the medal tally.
- ★ The 26th edition of the Asian Athletics Championships was held at Gumi, South Korea, from 27 to 31 May 2025.
- ★ The Asian Athletics Championships, organised by Asian Athletics and hosted by South Korea, have been held every two years since the first edition in 1973 in Marikina, Philippines.
- ★ India sent a strong 60-member athletics team to Gumi. They participated in 30 medal events.
- ★ Servin Sebastian opened the medal account at Gumi by winning a bronze medal in the men’s 20km race walk.
- ★ Gulveer Singh won the first gold medal for India in the men’s 10,000-meter race.
- ★ In the women’s section, Rupal Chaudhary opened the medal account with a silver in the 400-meter race.

2025 UEFA Champions League

- ★ The French football club Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) made history by defeating the Italian football club Internazionale Milan (popularly known as Inter Milan) 5-0 in the finals to win their first UEFA Men’s Champions League title.
- ★ The final of the 2024-25 UEFA Men’s Champions League was held in the German city of Munich on 31 May 2025.
- ★ The conclusion of the final match also marked the end of the 2024-25 European football season.

- ★ The French domestic football league winner, PSG, dominated the final from the start and never allowed the Italian club to come back into the game. PSG, coached by Luis Enrique, quickly took the lead in the 12th minute of the game when Achraf Hakimi scored the goal.
- ★ The 19-year-old Desire Doue scored two goals, and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Senny Mayulu scored one each, making it 5-0 for the PSG.
- ★ Desire Doue, who won the Player of the final, also became the youngest player to score a goal in the Champions League final.

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh Defeats Magnus Carlsen at Norway Chess 2025

- ★ Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh achieved a historic victory over World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen at the Norway Chess 2025 tournament, marking his first classical win against Carlsen and a major milestone in his career.
- ★ After losing to Carlsen in the first round, Gukesh showed remarkable resilience in the rematch, overturning a losing position to secure victory in a tense endgame.
- ★ Gukesh opened with 1.e4; Carlsen responded with the Berlin Defense.
- ★ Despite Carlsen's strong control and 98.7% accuracy mid-game, a critical mistake at move 44...f6 gave Gukesh the advantage.
- ★ Under intense time pressure, Carlsen's blunder at 52...Ne2+ allowed Gukesh to outmaneuver him and win.

Glenn Maxwell Announces Retirement from One-Day International Cricket

- ★ Star Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs), concluding a distinguished 13-year career in the format.
- ★ Maxwell debuted in August 2012 and played 149 ODIs, scoring 3,990 runs and taking 77 wickets.
- ★ He is a part of Australia's ICC World Cup-winning squads in 2015 and 2023.
- ★ Last ODI match was against India in the Champions Trophy 2025
- ★ He chose to prioritize preparation for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, the Big Bash League, and other global commitments.
- ★ Maxwell's dynamic batting and handy bowling made him a key contributor to Australia's white-ball success, leaving a lasting impact on the game.

Ulaanbaatar Open 2025

- ★ Indian wrestlers ended their campaign at the 2025 Ulaanbaatar Open Wrestling Ranking Series with 21 medals – six golds, seven silvers, and eight bronzes.
- ★ The event was held in the Mongolian capital, Ulaanbaatar, from 29 May to 1 June 2025.
- ★ It was the third-ranking series organised by the United World Wrestling (UWW) in 2025. The first ranking series for the senior wrestler was held in Zagreb, Croatia (February 5-9), and the second was held in Tirana, Albania (February 26-March 2).

- ★ The fourth and last Ranking series of 2025 will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 17 -20 July 2025.
- ★ India sent a 31-member wrestling team to the Ulaanbaatar Open 2025.
- ★ The team included Aman Sehrawat, who was participating for the first time in an international event after winning a medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ★ Aman won a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics and, at the age of 21, became the youngest Indian to win a medal in Olympics history.

RCB Win First IPL Title

- ★ The Royal Challenger Bengaluru (RCB) finally won their first Indian Premier League (IPL) title, beating Punjab Kings by 6 runs to end their 18-year title drought.
- ★ The final of the 18th edition of the IPL was held at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, on June 3, 2025.
- ★ It was also Virat Kohli's first IPL title, as he has been with RCB since he started playing the IPL.
- ★ Virat Kohli was the top scorer for RCB, scoring 43 runs in 35 balls. Virat Kohli was ably supported by RCB Captain Rajat Patidar, who scored 26 runs off 16 balls.
- ★ RCB ended their innings at 196 for 9 in their allotted 20 overs.
- ★ Chasing 191 to win in their allotted 20 overs, the Punjab Kings fell short by 6 runs.
 - Winner: RCB, Collected a cheque of ₹20 crore and the winner's Trophy
 - Runner-Up: Punjab Kings, collected a cheque of ₹12.5 crore and the Shield.
 - Orange Cap: It is given to the highest run scorer in the IPL – Sai Sudarshan of Gujarat Titans (759 runs).
 - Purple Cap: Given to the highest wicket taker - Prasidh Krishna of Gujarat Titans (25 wickets)
 - Most Valuable Player of the IPL: Surya Kumar Yadav of the Mumbai Indians
 - Emerging Player of the IPL: Sai Sudarshan of Gujarat Titans

ICC Hall of Fame

- ★ One of India's most successful Indian cricket captains, Mahender Singh Dhoni, has been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket Hall of Fame.
- ★ MS Dhoni is the 11th Indian cricketer to be inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- ★ MS Dhoni is known as one of the best finishers in the shorter format of the game, an inspiring leader, and an explosive wicketkeeper-batsman.
- ★ MS Dhoni, who was ice cool on the field, is considered one of the most successful Indian captains in all three formats. Under his captaincy, India was ranked the world's No. 1 Test team for 18 consecutive months starting in December 2009.
- ★ He led India to three ICC Trophies: the 2007 T20 World Cup, the 2011 ODI World Cup, and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.
- ★ The ICC, the world's cricket governing body, launched the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2009 in partnership with the Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA).

- ★ The ICC Hall of Fame honours retired, present and past international cricketers.
- ★ The ICC organises a special induction ceremony for the inducted player, at which they are physically present. For deceased players, their relatives are present at the induction ceremony.
- ★ The living ICC Hall of Fame players also help select the next players to be inducted into the hall every year.

Coco Gauff Wins Maiden French Open Women's Singles Title 2025

- ★ American tennis star Coco Gauff won her first French Open title and second Grand Slam crown by defeating World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in the Women's Singles final of the French Open 2025.
- ★ Gauff staged a comeback to win the match 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-4 and became the first American woman to win the Roland Garros title since 2015.
- ★ Gauff became the youngest American woman to win the French Open since Serena Williams in 2002, and the first since Williams in 2015 to claim the title.
- ★ She added this win to her 2023 US Open title, making her the youngest player to win both the French Open and US Open since 2002.
- ★ Gauff entered the tournament as World No. 2 and beat the top-ranked player, marking the first Grand Slam final between the top two women seeds since the 2018 Australian Open.
- ★ Aryna Sabalenka was playing her third consecutive Grand Slam final, but her first on clay.
- ★ Carlos Alcaraz (Defending Champion) will face World No.1 Jannik Sinner in the men's singles final. Alcaraz has a 7-4 head-to-head record against Sinner and has won their last four matches.
- ★ After defeating Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, Sinner became only the second Italian man to reach the Roland Garros final in the Open Era, following Adriano Panatta (1976 champion).

UEFA Nations League Title

- ★ Portugal won their second UEFA Nations League title, defeating Spain at the iconic Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory.
- ★ Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo set a new world record by becoming the oldest player in the history of men's football to score a goal in an international football match.
- ★ Portugal progressed to the final after defeating the host country, Germany, 2-1, with Ronaldo scoring the winning goal.
- ★ Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal emerged as the highest goal scorer in the tournament, scoring eight goals.
- ★ The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) started the UEFA Nations League in the 2018-19 season.
- ★ Germany hosted the 4th edition of the UEFA Nations League finals.

ICC World Test Championship

- ★ The South African men's cricket team won the 3rd ICC World Test Championship, defeating defending champion Australia by five wickets.

- ★ Also, it was the first time in the last 15 years that Australia lost in an ICC Tournament. England defeated Australia in the 2010 ICC Men's T20 World Cup final in the West Indies.
- ★ The 2023-25 ICC World Test Championship final was played at the Lord's cricket ground in London, England, from 11 to 14 June 2025.
- ★ Man of the Match – Aiden Makram of South Africa.

ISSF World Cup

- ★ Indian shooting star Elavenil Valarivan secured the bronze medal on the opening day of the ISSF World Cup, registering a final score of 231.2 in the women's 10m air rifle event.
- ★ Elavenil finished third, behind China's Wang Zifei (gold, 252.7) and Korea's Kwon Eunji (silver, 252.6).
- ★ She ranked second in qualifications with 635.9 points, just behind Wang Zifei's world-record 637.9.

Munich ISSF World Cup 2025

- ★ India finished its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Munich with four medals- two gold and two bronze. On the medal table, India finished third behind China and Norway.
- ★ The ISSF World Cup/Rifle was held in Munich, Germany, from 8 to 15 June 2025, and was organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).
- ★ At the first ISSF World Cup of the 2025 season, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, India won 8 (four gold, two silver, and two bronze) medals. India finished second behind China on the medal table.
- ★ At the Munich event, India sent a 36-member shooting contingent.
- ★ India won two gold and two bronze (four) medals at the Munich event..
- ★ Gold medal:
 - Suruchi Singh – women's 10m air pistol event.
 - Arya Borse/Arjun Babuta – 10m air rifle mixed team
- ★ Bronze medal winner:
 - Sift Kaur Samra – women's 50m rifle 3 positions
 - Elavenil Valarivan – women's 10m air rifle

13th Women's ODI World Cup 2025 Tournament

- ★ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the schedule of the 13th ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from 30 September to 2 November 2025.
- ★ India will play Sri Lanka in the opening match of the World Cup on September 30, 2025, in Bengaluru.
- ★ The defending champion, Australia, will take on its neighbour and the 2024 ICC Women's T20 Champions, New Zealand, in Indore on 1 October 2025.

- ★ The matches will be played at five venues in India: Bengaluru, Vizag, Indore, and Guwahati. Sri Lanka will host all the matches in Colombo.

Global Ambassador for Esports World Cup 2025

- ★ Football legend Cristiano Ronaldo has been named Global Ambassador by the Esports World Cup Foundation for the 2025 Esports World Cup in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (July 7–August 24, 2025).
- ★ This landmark partnership underscores the growing synergy between traditional sports and competitive gaming.
- ★ Ronaldo will promote esports globally, inspiring the next generation of gamers.

Indian-American Faizan Zaki wins 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee

- ★ Faizan Zaki, a 13-year-old Indian-American student from Texas, won the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “éclaircissement”, meaning “the clearing up of something obscure: enlightenment”.
- ★ Zaki is a 7th-grade student at C.M. Rice Middle School and had finished second in 2024, losing in a spell-off to Bruhat Soma.
- ★ This was Zaki’s fourth time participating in the Spelling Bee, previously finishing 21st in 2023 and 370th in 2019.
- ★ He became only the fifth speller in Bee history to win after finishing second the previous year.
- ★ Zaki won the title in Round 21, outlasting eight other accomplished spellers.
- ★ In what could have been the final round, Sarvadnya Kadam and Sarv Dharavane misspelled their words, giving Zaki another chance after an earlier miss.
- ★ The championship trophy was presented by Adam Symson, President and CEO of The E.W. Scripps Company.

2025 Paris Diamond League

- ★ Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra made a remarkable comeback by winning the 2025 Paris Diamond League with a massive throw of 88.16 metres on his very first attempt.
- ★ This triumph marks his first Diamond League title since June 2023 and reinforces his status as one of the world’s leading javelin throwers, boosting his confidence ahead of the Zurich Diamond League Final in August 2025.
- ★ Neeraj’s opening throw of 88.16m secured him first place, outpacing fierce rivals like Germany’s Julian Weber (87.88m) and Brazil’s Luiz Mauricio Da Silva (86.62m).

Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 in Czechia

- ★ 2020 Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra of India won the javelin event at the 64th Ostrava Golden Spike 2025, which was held on June 24, 2025, at the Mestský Stadion in Czechia.

- ★ This was Neeraj Chopra's second title win within a week of winning the Paris Diamond League on June 20, 2025.
- ★ The Golden Spike is one of the most prestigious events in world athletics and is a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold label meet.
- ★ The Ostrava Golden Spike athletics javelin throw record is held by Neeraj Chopra's current coach and world record holder, Jan Železný of Czechia, with a throw of 94.64m in 1996.
- ★ With a throw of 84.12 meters, Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal.
- ★ Douw Smit of South Africa finished second with a best throw of 84.12 meters.
- ★ Two-time world champion and Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medallist Anderson Peters of Grenada came third, with a best throw of 83.63m.

Priyanka Goswami wins the Austrian Race Walking Championships

- ★ Priyanka Goswami of India won the 10-kilometre Austrian Race Walking Championship in Innsbruck. She won the gold medal with a time of 47 minutes and 54 seconds on 9th June 2025.
- ★ Sandeep Kumar of India finished second in the men's 35 km race walk event, with a time of 2 hours 38 minutes and 45 seconds.
- ★ Another Indian, Ram Baboo, was third with a time of 2 hours 41 minutes and 47 seconds.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Shikhar Dhawan Releases Autobiography

- ★ Renowned Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has unveiled his autobiography titled "The One: Cricket, My Life and More", offering a deeply personal and emotional account of his journey.
- ★ The book, published by HarperCollins India, was officially launched and provides readers with an intimate insight into Dhawan's cricketing milestones, inner battles, and personal evolution.
- ★ The book reflects on his cricketing career, mental health, and personal identity
- ★ It highlights a turning point during the Australia tour, marked by emotional challenges

IMPORTANT DAYS

World No Tobacco Day

- ★ World No Tobacco Day is observed every year on May 31.
- ★ This day is also known as World Anti-Tobacco Day.
- ★ World No Tobacco Day is to spread awareness to the people about the harmful effects of tobacco which causes cancer, lung disease, etc.
- ★ It is an initiative taken by the World Health Organisation against the use of tobacco.

- ★ The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2025 is 'Bright products. Dark intentions. Unmasking the Appeal' which focuses on highlighting the hidden dangers of tobacco products that come in appealing flavours and packaging.
- ★ World No Tobacco Day is one of the public health campaigns organized by the World Health Organization.
- ★ In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution called "World No Smoking Day".
- ★ The main objective of this day was to urge tobacco users to withdraw tobacco products.

International Sex Workers Day

- ★ International Sex workers Day 2025 is celebrated by the Sex worker groups across the world on June 2nd.
- ★ Every year, it is celebrated globally on June 2nd each year all over the world.
- ★ The day, also known as International Whore's Day, is a commemoration of the prejudice faced by prostitutes, as well as their frequently exploitative living and working conditions.
- ★ On 2nd June, 1975, A protest happened where 100 sex workers in France gathered at Lyon's Saint-Nizier Church and protested against the criminalisation of their work and exploitative living conditions.
- ★ The 1975 protest sparked a nationwide strike, but it failed to bring about any reforms, and the sex workers were evicted by the police after eight days of occupying the chapel.
- ★ However, the demonstration is credited with igniting the European sex workers' rights movement.
- ★ From 1975, the June 2nd is marked as International Sex Workers day.

World Bicycle Day

- ★ On the 3rd June, World Bicycle Day 2025 is celebrated all over the world.
- ★ World Bicycle Day is celebrated all over the globe every year on the 3rd of June to recognize the versatility and uniqueness of the bicycle, as well as its reliability and sustainability as a mode of transportation.
- ★ World Bicycle Day 2025 with the theme 'Cycling for a Sustainable Future'.
- ★ **History:**
 - In February 2015, The Movement Begun Leszek Sibilski, a Sociology Professor and cycling and physical education activist, writes a blog post for the World Bank titled, 'Cycling Is Everyone's Business'.
 - In February 2016, World Bicycle Day Gains Momentum. Professor Sibilski publishes another blog post for the World Bank titled, 'Why is there no world day for the bicycle?'
 - In March 2016, Sibilski appeared at Scientists for Cycling and Sibilski spoke at the Scientists for Cycling colloquium in Taipei, Taiwan, and argues for a World Bicycle Day.
 - On April 12, 2018, Stamp of Approval happened and The United Nations officially designated June 3 as World Bicycle Day.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression

- ★ On June 4th, International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression 2025 is observed all over the world as an awareness event.
- ★ Every year on June 4th, the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression acknowledges the pain that children around the world suffer.
- ★ In 1982, the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression was established on August 19.
- ★ In 1997, U.N.O.D.C. was established. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the agency tasked with ending violence against children, was formed.
- ★ In 2018, the Unprecedented Refugee Crisis out broke and this year marks the first time the number of people including children fleeing war, persecution, and conflict exceeds 70 million, according to the U.N. refugee agency.
- ★ In 2019, The Case of Disappearing Human Rights Defenders appeared.
- ★ The United Nations tracked 357 killings and 30 enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists, and trade unionists in 47 countries.

World Environment Day

- ★ Every year the 5th of June has been observed as World Environment Day to raise awareness about environmental pollution and the need to protect the Earth's environment.
- ★ Theme of the World Environment Day 2025: Beat Plastic Pollution.
- ★ The Rajasthan Government has launched a statewide "Vande Ganga water conservation campaign" to address the issue of water scarcity in the state.
- ★ Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma launched the campaign, which aims to make it a jan bhagidari for water conservation.
- ★ The campaign was launched on the 5th of June 2025, which is also World Environment Day.
- ★ The campaign also coincides with the Ganga Dusshera, which is being observed on 5th June 2025.
- ★ Ganga Dusshera is celebrated to mark the descent of Goddess Ganga from Swarg to Earth.
- ★ The Vande Ganga water conservation campaign commenced on 5th June 2025 and will continue till 20th June 2025.
- ★ The campaign will be conducted in all 41 districts of the state.
- ★ The Karmabhoomi se Matribhumi campaign is inspired by the Catch the rain campaign, which focuses on rainwater collection and recharging of groundwater replenishment.

World Food Safety Day

- ★ World Food Safety Day, observed on June 7, promotes awareness about the importance of safe and hygienic food in supporting public health and sustainable development.

- ★ The 2025 theme, “Food Safety: Science in Action”, focuses on leveraging scientific research, innovation, and modern technology to strengthen food safety systems globally.
- ★ Declared by the UN General Assembly in 2018 and first observed in 2019, the day is jointly led by the FAO and WHO.
- ★ The 2025 theme encourages the use of AI, Internet of Things (IoT), and genomic tools to improve contamination detection and food handling.
- ★ It emphasizes data-driven decision-making and risk-based food safety management to reduce foodborne diseases.
- ★ In India, the observance is timely due to the growing informal food sector and challenges in food quality regulation.
- ★ It aims to promote investment in food safety infrastructure, including testing labs, inspection systems, and skilled personnel.

World Brain Tumour Day

- ★ World Brain Tumour Day, observed on June 8, focuses on raising awareness about brain tumours, promoting early diagnosis, and supporting patients and their families.
- ★ In 2025, it falls on Sunday, June 8, when global events such as health talks and campaigns will highlight challenges faced by those affected and emphasize the need for improved treatment and research.
- ★ It raises awareness about early signs and symptoms to enable faster diagnosis.
- ★ It provides emotional support to patients and caregivers.

World Oceans Day

- ★ Every year on June 8th, World Ocean Day is commemorated to raise awareness of the ocean’s vital role in human life and ways to conserve it across the world.
- ★ The 2025 theme, “Wonder: Sustaining What Sustains Us”, is a powerful reminder: the ocean not only sustains us materially — through food, energy, and trade — but also inspires, connects, and nurtures us.
- ★ In 1992, during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the notion of World Ocean Day was introduced.
- ★ In 2008 World Ocean Day was officially created by the United Nations General Assembly to be observed yearly on June 8 to address ocean issues and conserve ocean water.
- ★ On June 8, 2009, The United Nations General Assembly formally designated the day with Resolution 63/111.

Global Wind Day

- ★ Global Wind Day 2025 is observed all over the world on 15th June.
- ★ On June 15, Global Wind Day, also known as World Wind Day, is commemorated. It’s a day for learning about wind energy, and its potential for reshaping energy systems, decarbonizing economies, and boosting employment and growth.

- ★ In 2007, The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) organized the first Wind Day.
- ★ In 2009 the EWEA joined forces with the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and made it a worldwide event.
- ★ In recent years, WindEurope and the GWEC have organized the day together.
- ★ In 2012, the organization sponsored a photo competition. People around the world were encouraged to enter photos that best captured the theme for the year.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

- ★ On June 15th, every year the world commemorates World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- ★ This day is marked in order to raise awareness about the plight of the elderly who are abused and harmed.
- ★ Theme for the day is Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action
- ★ In 1978, SAGE was formed and the Advocacy and Services for LGBT elders were created.
- ★ In 1983, The first book on elder abuse, “Abuse and Maltreatment of the Elderly: Causes and Interventions”, was published.
- ★ In 1988, The National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) was established by the U.S. Administration on Aging.
- ★ In 2003, A group of UCI Professors created the nation’s first-ever Elder Abuse Forensic Center
- ★ The day was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011 bypassing the resolution 66/127 of the United Nations following a request by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), which first established the commemoration in June 2006.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- ★ Every year on June 17th, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is commemorated to increase public awareness about the critical need to combat desertification and drought.
- ★ This World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025 aims to inspire people to believe that the land degradation problem can be solved with collaboration and constructive participation on their part.
- ★ On January 30, 1995, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 17th as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.
- ★ This day has been observed every year since 1995 to raise public awareness about the importance of reaching land degradation neutrality across the world.
- ★ This day raises awareness that desertification and drought may be combated via community collaboration and participation, as well as a variety of alternatives.
- ★ Furthermore, this day strives to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries that are experiencing severe drought, land degradation, and desertification.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

- ★ World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed annually on 17 June to raise awareness on land degradation and promote sustainable land management.
- ★ It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 after adopting the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- ★ The 2025 theme is “Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities”., emphasizing the need to restore 1.5 billion hectares of degraded land by 2030.
- ★ The observance traces back to the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, which identified desertification, climate change, and biodiversity loss as major threats.
- ★ The UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment, development, and land.
- ★ India’s initiatives include restoring 26 million hectares by 2030, supported by the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) 2023, incorporating programs like CAMPA, Green India Mission, and Forest Fire Management.
- ★ India also promotes carbon sequestration and hosts a Centre of Excellence in Dehradun for global knowledge exchange on land restoration.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day

- ★ Every year on June 19th, World Sickle Cell Day is commemorated to raise awareness of the human Sickle Cell illness.
- ★ The UN declared the day, and it has served to raise awareness of the condition, its organization, the care and measures that should be taken, and the treatment that should be given to someone who is suffering from it.
- ★ This year, 2025, the World Sickle Disease Day theme is “Global Action, Local Impact: Empowering Communities for Effective Self-Advocacy”.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly declared World Sickle Cell Day in 2008 to promote awareness of sickle cell illness.
- ★ They also highlighted the agony and emotional devastation that a patient with the condition must endure.
- ★ As a result, on June 19, 2009, World Sickle Cell Day was commemorated for the first time.

World Sauntering Day

- ★ On the 19th of June every year, World Sauntering Day is observed each year all over the world to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the world around them and connect with nature.
- ★ World Sauntering Day 2025, sometimes also known as International Sauntering Day.
- ★ The purpose of this day is to remind the public to slow down and enjoy their life.
- ★ In 1979, T. Rabe established World Sauntering Day. He was the one who started this holiday in the 1970s.
- ★ This day was created in response to jogging’s growing popularity. W.T. Rabe, it appears, has also devised a few sauntering norms.

- ★ This act must be performed in comfortable clothing, and “some people are just born with it”, according to W.T. Rabe.
- ★ The purpose of commemorating this day is to encourage people to take a break, enjoy life, and appreciate what they have.

World Refugee Day

- ★ Every year on June 20th, World Refugee Day is commemorated to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and the difficulties they face.
- ★ The theme of World Refugee Day 2025 is to recognize refugees all throughout the world – “Health for All: Solidarity with refugees”.
- ★ In 1914, World Day of Migrants and Refugees is established by Pope Pius X and is celebrated in January.
- ★ On December 4, 2000, Resolution 55/76 i.e., The United Nations General Assembly decided to observe World Refugee Day from June 2001.
- ★ In 2000, the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was observed.

World Hydrography Day

- ★ Every year on June 21st, World Hydrography Day is commemorated to promote awareness about the importance of hydrography, safe navigation, and maritime environmental conservation.
- ★ The theme this year is “Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action”.
- ★ The International Hydrographic Bureau was founded in 1921 with the goal of providing a forum for states to confer on issues such as safe navigation, technical standards, and the conservation of the maritime environment.
- ★ In 1970, the name was changed to the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ★ In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the International Hydrographic Organization to commemorate World Hydrography Day on June 21st.
- ★ The international commemoration of World Hydrography Day began in 2006.
- ★ The day honors hydrographers’ efforts and raises awareness about the vital importance of hydrography in people’s lives.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

- ★ Every year on June 26th, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is commemorated to raise awareness about the impact and negative consequences that drugs have on society.
- ★ International Day Against Drug Abuse on 26th June 2025, with the theme “Breaking the chains: Treatment, Prevention and Recovery for All”.
- ★ On December 7, 1987, the United Nations General Assembly established June 26 as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. During the early twentieth century, the global epidemic of drug usage was already recognized.

- ★ Illicit drugs and drug trafficking pose a significant health risk to humanity. Even though the younger generation is aware that drugs are hazardous to them, they continue to use them for recreational purposes.
- ★ This delight later turns into addiction, which can lead to poor health, disease transmission through needle sharing, poor self-hygiene, psychological illness, overdose death, and so on.
- ★ It socially, physically, culturally, emotionally, and monetarily devastates people and society.

OBITUTARY NEWS

Wildlife And Tiger Conservationist Valmik Thapar

- ★ Valmik Thapar, noted wildlife and tiger conservationist, died at 73 in Delhi on May 31, 2025.
- ★ Valmik Thapar is known for evocative photographs and authoring nearly 50 books on tigers, especially those in Ranthambore, Rajasthan.
- ★ He served on several Government committees, including the National Board for Wildlife and a Supreme Court empowered committee on wildlife.
- ★ He was a founder of the Ranthambhore Foundation, an NGO working with about 100 villages around the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.
- ★ He was critical of the implementation of Project Tiger (launched in 1972), which aimed to restore India's tiger population through forest reserves and tiger corridors.
- ★ He is famous for books like "Land of the Tiger" (1997) and "Tiger Fire", and for producing wildlife films, including the BBC series Land of the Tiger.

Renowned Scholar and Author Daji Panshika Passed away

- ★ Eminent scholar and author Daji Panshikar passed away at the age of 92 in Thane, Maharashtra after a brief illness.
- ★ He was renowned for his deep knowledge of Indian epics and major contributions to Marathi literature.
- ★ Panshikar was especially respected for his scholarly interpretations of texts such as the Mahabharata, Eknaathi Bhagwat, and Bhavarth Ramayan.
- ★ He was a prominent figure in Maharashtra's intellectual and cultural landscape.
- ★ Panshikar played a significant role in the theatre world as a guiding force behind the organisation Natyasampada Natya Sanstha.
- ★ His final rites were held at the Jawahar Bagh Crematorium.

Apple Software Pioneer Bill Atkinson

- ★ Bill Atkinson, a pioneering software designer, died at the age of 74 at his home in Portola Valley, California, due to pancreatic cancer.

- ★ He was born in Washington and studied computer science and neurobiology at the University of Washington.
- ★ Atkinson was a key figure at Apple Computer, best known for: Programming QuickDraw, a foundational graphics library used in Apple Lisa and Macintosh computers & Being the visionary behind the Macintosh graphical user interface (GUI).
- ★ He is credited with inventing major graphical computing features like: Pull-down menus, The “double-click” gesture.
- ★ QuickDraw was initially designed for the Lisa computer (introduced in January 1983) and later became crucial to the Macintosh GUI (launched in January 1984).
- ★ Atkinson also created MacPaint, a digital drawing program bundled with the original Macintosh: Enabled users to draw pixel by pixel, Introduced the “tool palette”, now standard in graphic design software.

Scientist and Abdul Kalam’s Translator Nellai S Muthu

- ★ Nellai S Muthu, aged 70, a former ISRO scientist and renowned translator of APJ Abdul Kalam’s books, was found dead at his residence in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ★ He was a native of Nellai (Tirunelveli), Tamil Nadu.
- ★ He authored over 100 books covering diverse subjects including science, children’s literature, poetry, history, and literary criticism.
- ★ His notable works include: Ariviyal Penmanigal, Vinveli 2057, Arivuttum Vignana Vilayattu, Vaira Padigangkal, Sevvayil Uluvettakum Naal Vaippum
- ★ He translated Kumaran Asan’s Chandalabhikshuki into Tamil, contributing to the field of literary translation.
- ★ He was recognized for his contributions to science communication and Tamil literature, he was honoured by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Former Indian Spinner Dilip Doshi

- ★ Former India cricketer Dilip Doshi passed away at the age of 77 due to cardiac arrest in London.
- ★ Doshi was a left-arm spinner with a classical bowling action.
- ★ He represented India in 33 Test matches and 15 One Day Internationals (ODIs) from 1979 to 1983.
- ★ Doshi took 114 wickets in Tests and 22 wickets in ODIs.
- ★ He made his international debut during the First Test of Australia’s tour of India in 1979, held in Chennai.
- ★ Doshi is among only nine Indian male cricketers to take a five-wicket haul (five-for) on Test debut.
- ★ In domestic cricket, he played First-Class cricket for Saurashtra and Bengal.
- ★ He also played County Cricket in England for Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire.
- ★ Over his entire First-Class career, Doshi took a total of 898 wickets.

MISCELLANEOUS

Air India Dreamliner AI 171 Crash in Ahmedabad

- ★ The Air India flight number AI 171 crashed shortly after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 12 June 2025.
- ★ More than 200 people are feared killed in the accident.
- ★ The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner plane was bound for Gatwick Airport, London, United Kingdom. It was also the first accident worldwide involving a Boeing 787 Dreamliner since the aircraft made its commercial debut in 2011.
- ★ The Tata Group owns Air India.
- ★ The flight, which took off from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, lost control of the air traffic control (ATC) and crashed into the hostel of the BJ Medical College.
- ★ The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau has started an investigation into the Air India crash.

NPCI and IDRBT Signed MoU

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aiming to enhance cybersecurity and resilience in India's rapidly evolving digital payments ecosystem.
- ★ This collaboration will focus on capacity building, certification, and improved threat intelligence sharing to safeguard the financial infrastructure.
- ★ The MoU aims to strengthen cyber resilience in India's retail and digital payment systems, especially amid rising cyber threats.
- ★ An NPCI-certified security programme will be introduced to upskill professionals in cybersecurity and data privacy, in line with regulatory standards.
- ★ NPCI and its partners will gain access to IDRBT's upgraded threat intelligence platform, सचेत (IBCART 3.0), enhancing real-time threat detection.
- ★ Joint initiatives will include specialized training programs for professionals in both urban and rural banking ecosystems.
- ★ The collaboration aims to develop a culture of proactive cyber risk mitigation and awareness across the financial sector.

