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NATIONAL NEWS

Cabinet approves caste enumeration in the upcoming census

- The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census.
- As per Article 246 of the Constitution of India, the Census is listed at Entry 69 in the Union List under the Seventh Schedule.
- Every census in independent India from 1951 to 2011 has published data on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but not on other castes. Before independence, every census until 1931 included data on caste.
- However, in 1941, caste-based data was collected but not published. Since independence, caste enumeration has been excluded from all census operations.
- In 2010, the Prime Minister Late Dr. Manmohan Singh assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered by the Cabinet.
- A Group of Ministers was formed to deliberate on this subject, and most political parties supported the idea of a caste census. Despite this, the previous government opted for a survey instead of a caste census, known as the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

India unveils its most powerful single-unit electric locomotive

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off a 9000-horsepower electric locomotive in Dahod, Gujarat.
- It is the most powerful single-unit electric engine ever developed for Indian Railways.
- It is a "Make in India" initiative, developed in collaboration with 'Siemens India'.

Key Points

Union Railways Minister — Ashwini Vaishnaw

DRDO inaugurates Quantum Technology Research Centre

- DRDO inaugurated the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) at Metcalfe House, Delhi, to further strengthen indigenous quantum capabilities for strategic and defence applications.
- QTRC is equipped with state-of-the-art experimental set-ups designed to propel research and development in critical quantum domains.

- The Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) will lead the initiatives at QTRC.

Key Points

Chairman, DRDO — Dr. Samir V Kamat

Courts have limited power to modify an arbitral award

- In a landmark ruling, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna delivered a landmark judgement in *Gayatri Balasamy v. ISG Novasoft Technologies*.
- In a 4:1 majority, the Bench upheld a court's power to modify an arbitral award under Sections 34 and 37 of the Arbitration Act, 1996.
- Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act governs the setting aside of arbitral awards. It provides the grounds on which a court can annul an award.
- Section 37 outlines the appeals process related to orders in arbitral disputes.

Key Points

Chief Justice of India — Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai

Supreme Court upholds 'One Rank One Pension' for all retired High Court judges

- In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court of India declared that all retired High Court judges are entitled to equal and full pensions under the principle of "One Rank, One Pension".
- This decision ensures that pensions will no longer be determined by tenure or the mode of appointment.
- The Chief Justice of India, BR Gavai, along with Justices AG Masih and K Vinod Chandran, issued directives mandating the Union of India to pay:
 - I. ₹15 lakh annually to retired High Court Chief Justices.
 - II. ₹13.5 lakh annually to retired High Court judges, including those who served as additional judges.
- The court emphasised that family pensions and gratuity must be granted to widows or family members of deceased judges, regardless of their service status.

SC ruling on maternity benefits in India

- The Supreme Court overturned a Madras High Court decision, affirming that maternity leave is a constitutional right, not just a matter of policy.

- The court emphasised its importance for women's health, dignity and reproductive choices. This ruling ensures that women are treated with honour and dignity in the workplace, regardless of state policies.
- The court passed a significant ruling allowing 'maternity benefit' to a Tamil Nadu-based teacher for her third child under Fundamental Rule 101 (a).
- Fundamental Rule 101(a), pertaining to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1961, addresses the eligibility criteria for maternity leave of state government servants in India.

Amit Shah inaugurates the new Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) in New Delhi

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, inaugurated the new Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) in New Delhi.
- The new MAC will synergise the efforts of all agencies and provide a seamless and integrated platform to deal with the complex and interconnected current national security challenges.
- It will strengthen the country's efforts to deal with serious threats like terrorism, extremism, organised crime and cyber attacks.
- The new MAC is housed with the Intelligence Bureau (IB). IB is India's internal security and counter-intelligence agency, functioning under the Home Ministry.

Department of Posts releases a commemorative postage stamp celebrating 125 years of Kodaikanal Solar Observatory

- The Department of Posts has released a commemorative postage stamp marking 125 years of the Kodaikanal Solar Observatory (KSO).
- KSO is located in the Palani Hills of Tamil Nadu and is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA).
- Established on 1 April 1899, KSO is India's longest-running astronomical observatory and maintains one of the world's most extensive and continuous daily records of the Sun.
- Researchers at KSO have conducted pioneering studies on sunspots, solar flares, prominences and the solar corona, significantly advancing our understanding of solar activity and its effects on Earth.

Key Points

Director, IIA — Dr Annapurni Subramaniam
Headquarters, IIA — Bengaluru, Karnataka

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in collaboration with WMFI and TCS Foundation restores Rajon ki Baoli

- In a significant step towards protecting India's cultural and environmental heritage, ASI, in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India (WMFI) and the TCS Foundation, has completed the conservation work of Rajon ki Baoli, a 16th-century stepwell located in Mehrauli Archaeological Park, New Delhi.
- The project was part of WMFI's Historic Water Systems of India initiative, funded by the TCS Foundation, and aligned with the World Monuments Fund's Climate Heritage Initiative.
- It was built around 1506 during the Lodi dynasty.
- Rajon ki Baoli is a four-tiered step-well designed not only to store water but also to provide shade and rest for travellers.
- The stepwell spans 1,610 square metres, has a depth of 13.4 metres, and features a main tank measuring 23 by 10 metres at its base.

Key Points

Director General, ASI — Yadubir Singh Rawat
Headquarters, ASI — New Delhi

Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra sign MoU for Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project

- Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly implement the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project.
- This marks the third major inter-state river project involving MP in the last five months, following the Ken-Betwa Link Project (with UP and MP) and the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project (with MP and Rajasthan).
- The Tapti River, originating from Multai in Madhya Pradesh, will see three of its streams developed collaboratively with Maharashtra government to maximise water usage for irrigation in both states.
- The total planned usage of water under the project is 31.13 TMC, with 11.76 TMC allocated to Madhya Pradesh and 19.36 TMC to Maharashtra. The project will utilise 3,362 hectares of land in Madhya Pradesh, with no displacement of villages and no need for rehabilitation. The project will provide permanent irrigation facilities to 1,23,082 hectares in Madhya Pradesh and 2,34,706 hectares in Maharashtra.

Maharashtra acquired the historic sword of Raghuj-I Bhonsle

- The Maharashtra government acquired the sword of Raghuj-I Bhonsle, founder of the royal house of the Bhonsles of Nagpur and the military general who led the expansion of the Marathas in eastern India in the mid-18th century.
- This acquisition was made at an auction held by Sotheby's London.
- The value of the sword, which includes handling, transportation and insurance, is ₹47.15 lakh. This is the first time the state government has purchased a historical antiquity in an international auction.
- It is inscribed in gold with the words 'Shrimant Raghaji Bhonsle Senasahibsubha'. The sword may have been taken by the British after the East India Company's defeat of the Bhonsle forces in the Battle of Sitabuldi in November 1817, which was followed by the loot of their treasury.

PM Modi inaugurates Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, to boost India's maritime trade.
- The port has been built by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), India's biggest port developer and part of the Adani Group, in partnership with the government under a public-private model.

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C61 mission failed

- ISRO faced a setback as its trusted Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61) mission failed to deliver the EOS-09 satellite into its intended orbit.
- The EOS-09 satellite was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- The PSLV-C61 is the 63rd flight of the PSLV series and the 27th in its XL configuration.
- It was tasked with placing the advanced Earth observation satellite EOS-09 into a sun-synchronous polar orbit. However, the mission encountered a critical anomaly during flight, resulting in the satellite failing to reach its designated orbit.
- It was the 101st launch from Sriharikota and the mission faced a failure at the third stage.

Key Points

Headquarters ISRO	— Bengaluru, Karnataka
Chairman, ISRO	— V. Narayanan

Chandrayaan-3 findings on lunar mantle samples

- A new study has revealed the potential presence of primitive lunar mantle materials at the Chandrayaan-3 landing site. These materials are believed to have formed during the creation of the South Pole-Aitken (SPA) basin, approximately 4.3 billion years ago.
- SPA basin is one of the Moon's largest and oldest impact features in the solar system. The Chandrayaan-3 landing site is located 350 km from the basin.
- The study was conducted by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad.
- Chandrayaan-3 was India's third lunar mission. It was launched on 14 July, 2023, and successfully made a soft landing near the Moon's south pole on 5 August, 2023. With this achievement, India became the fourth country to land on the Moon and the first country to achieve a soft landing on its south pole.

India to study sustainability of human life in space

- India is set to conduct its first-ever biological experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to study the sustainability of human life in space.
- This landmark initiative will be undertaken under the BioE3 Biotechnology Policy, spearheaded by ISRO in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- The experiments will be carried out as part of the upcoming AXIOM-4 mission to the ISS.
- The first experiment will examine the impact of microgravity and space radiation on the growth of edible microalgae, a nutrient-rich potential food source for long-duration space missions.
- The second experiment will study the growth and proteomic responses of cyanobacteria, such as *Spirulina* and *Synechococcus*, under microgravity conditions using urea- and nitrate-based media.
- This project is a joint initiative by ISRO, NASA and DBT and aims to analyse key growth parameters and changes in transcriptomes, proteomes and metabolomes of different algal species in space, compared to Earth-based controls.

Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor with Madhya Pradesh

- Rajasthan is all set to become a part of India's first cheetah reintroduction project. The corridor is currently operational in Madhya Pradesh and spans 17,000 square kilometres.
- It will be developed across both states, allowing cheetahs to roam freely in a protected and connected habitat.
- The corridor will link Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh with the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
- As part of the plan, seven districts in Rajasthan — Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli and Chittorgarh — will be integrated into the project.
- Of the total corridor area, 10,500 square kilometres fall within Madhya Pradesh, while 6,500 square kilometres are in Rajasthan.

India becomes the first country in the world to develop genome-edited rice varieties

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the development of two genome-edited rice varieties – DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1.
- These were developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and have the potential to bring about revolutionary changes in terms of higher production, climate adaptability, and water conservation.
- These new varieties were developed using genome-editing technology based on CRISPR-Cas, which makes precise changes in the organism's genetic material without adding foreign DNA.

Key Points

Director ICAR — Mangi Lal Jat

Asiatic lion population surge in Gujarat 2025

- The 16th Asiatic Lion Census was conducted over four days from May 10 to 13, covering 35,000 square kilometres across 11 districts of Gujarat.
- As per the 2025 census, the Asiatic lion population in Gujarat increased from 674 to 891, marking a rise of over 32%.
- For the first time, Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance was used, along with traditional direct sighting methods.

- The Direct Beat Verification (DBV) method, also known as the block count method was also employed.
- The Asiatic lion census was first conducted in 1936 and is held every five years.

Jenu Kuruba tribe returns to its ancestral village Karadikallu Attur Kolli

- 52 Jenu Kuruba Adivasi families have returned to their ancestral village, Karadikallu Attur Kolli, to reclaim their land and forest rights within the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve (NTR). They were previously evicted under the guise of wildlife protection.
- Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the land should have been restored to these indigenous communities.
- However, implementation had been delayed. In a symbolic act of reclamation, Jenu Kuruba members re-entered their haadis (hamlets) and constructed three makeshift huts, including two for Odathi (goddess) and Ajjayya (god), the deities they worship.

CCRAS revives two rare and significant Ayurvedic manuscripts

- The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has revived two rare and significant Ayurvedic manuscripts—Dravyaratnākara Nighantu and Dravyanamākara Nighantu.
- CCRAS functions under the Ministry of Ayush.
- The manuscripts were critically edited and translated by renowned manuscriptologist and veteran Ayurveda expert, Dr Sadanand D. Kamat of Mumbai.
- Dravyaratnākara Nighantu, authored by Mudgala Pandita in 1480 AD, consists of eighteen chapters and provides detailed knowledge on drug synonyms, therapeutic actions and medicinal properties.
- Dravyanamākara Nighantu, attributed to Bhisma Vaidya, serves as a standalone appendix to the Dhanvantari Nighantu, focusing exclusively on homonyms of drug and plant names—a complex area of study vital to Ayurveda.

News in Short

- Nagshankar Temple, located in Biswanath district in north-eastern Assam, has been named a model temple for turtle conservation.
- Hyderabad's 16-year-old Vishwanath Karthikey becomes youngest Indian to conquer 7 summits.

- India is set to establish its first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Justice Bela M. Trivedi, the eleventh woman judge of the Supreme Court, retired after serving three and a half years. Justice Trivedi, who had the rare distinction of being elevated to the top court after starting as a trial court judge in Gujarat in July 1995, was part of the top court's several landmark judgements. She was part of several landmark judgements, including the EWS quota and sub-classification within Scheduled Castes. Justice Trivedi also overturned controversial Bombay High Court judgements related to the POCSO Act.
- Jaigir village, Jharkhand, has become the first village to be fully relocated from the core of Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), reducing human pressure on wildlife.
- India has been awarded the Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- ReNew Power will invest ₹22,000 crore in India's largest single-site renewable energy complex, boosting Andhra Pradesh's clean energy landscape.
- In a landmark event, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to enable night landings for fighter jets on an expressway, the Ganga Expressway.
- A rare inscription dating back to the time of Vikramaditya I of the Badami Chalukya dynasty has been unearthed at Madapura Lake in Nyamati taluk of Davangere district, Karnataka. The inscription measures approximately five feet in length and comprises 17 lines inscribed in Old Kannada script. It serves as a vital piece of evidence attesting to the administrative and social organisation of that era.
- Russia paid tribute to freedom fighter and former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik for his contributions during the Battle of Stalingrad by unveiling a memorial plaque in his honour at its embassy in New Delhi. Biju Patnaik was the chief minister of Odisha for two terms — from 1961 to 1963 and again from 1990 to 1995. He died on 17 April 1997.
- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has initiated the installation of a 150 km submarine cable project to enhance long-term observations of the Indian Ocean.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has documented eleven inscriptions during an extensive epigraphical survey in the Gundaram Reserve Forest, located about 10 km away from Peddapalli district headquarters, Telangana.
- The Supreme Court of India made a landmark interpretation of Article 21 by affirming the Right to Digital Access as a component of the fundamental Right to Life and Personal Liberty.
- Indore has become the first beggar-free city in India.
- The Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve in Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh is India's largest conservation reserve. Tsarap Chu joins Darlaghat, Naina Devi, Potter Hill and Shilli as Himachal Pradesh's fifth conservation reserve. It is one of the select areas in Himachal Pradesh with a high density of snow leopards.
- The central government has officially changed the date of Ayurveda Day from Dhanteras to September 23, starting in 2025.
- Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the Bharat Bodh Kendra at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi to understand India's cultural and civilisational heritage through curated books and resources related to art, philosophy, spirituality and history.
- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based real-time alert system on a pilot basis for active forest management using satellite images, mobile feedback, and machine learning.
- Kozhikode has been recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as an age-friendly city and has joined the WHO's Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. It is the second Indian city to join the network after Kochi.
- The Andhra Pradesh state government has signed an MoU with Creative Land Asia Private Limited to develop India's first "Transmedia Entertainment City" in the state.
- The Maharashtra government will make a film on Ahilyabai Holkar's life for her 300th birth anniversary in 2025 and the movie will be shown on Doordarshan and OTT platforms in Marathi and other languages.
- Hyderabad-based 'Goldsikka' unveiled the world's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered Gold-Melting ATM that allows users to buy, sell, exchange, lease, digitise and monetise gold and gold jewellery.
- In a move aimed at addressing the rising cases of human-elephant conflict, Karnataka handed over four

trained Kumki elephants to neighbouring Andhra Pradesh. The Karnataka government has recently transferred four trained kumki elephants to Andhra Pradesh. The elephants are Krishna (15), Abhimanyu (14), Deva (39), and Ranjan (26). Kumki elephants are specially trained to guide or drive wild elephants back into forest areas without harming them, making them crucial in conflict mitigation efforts.

- Mizoram has been declared India's first fully literate state, marking a historic milestone in the state's educational journey.
- Assam's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled 'Ankita', an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered virtual

news anchor, who delivered a detailed report on the latest Cabinet meeting.

- The Union Territory of Ladakh is home to the highest recorded density of snow leopards in the world, with nearly 68% of India's population of snow leopards found in Ladakh. There are 477 snow leopards alone in the region out of the national total of 709, which is a remarkable feat.
- Diu has become the first district in India to fulfil its complete power requirement via solar energy, achieving an installed capacity of 11.88 megawatts (MW), comprising 9 MW ground-mounted and 2.88 MW rooftop installations.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

FSSAI asks states and UTs to boost efforts against obesity

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) urged States and Union Territories to intensify efforts in response to the Prime Minister's clarion call for urgent action against obesity and a 10% reduction in oil consumption.
- States and UTs were strongly encouraged to scale up public awareness campaigns and implement concrete actions to realise the vision of an obesity-free and healthier nation.
- A key highlight of the discussions was the recent directive from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to establish 'sugar boards' in schools.
- FSSAI also urged all states and union territories to intensify inspections and conduct special enforcement drives to curb the illegal use of non-permitted fruit ripening agents, as well as the colouring and coating of fruits with synthetic colours or non-permitted wax.

Key Points

Headquarters FSSAI's	—	New Delhi
CEO	—	Ganji Kamala V. Rao
Chairperson	—	Punya Salila Srivastava

Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr Jitendra Singh launches 'Bharat Forecast System'

- India launched the world's first indigenously developed high-resolution weather forecast system — the Bharat Forecast System.
- Developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, the system represents a major advancement in India's meteorological capabilities.

- It improves India's weather prediction resolution from 12 km to 6 km, enabling village-level, precise and location-specific forecasts. This marks a quantum leap in weather services and aligns with the goals of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' initiatives.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched IITM's Hindi Rajbhasha magazine "Indradhanush", celebrating linguistic inclusion in science communication.

Key Points

Director, IITM	—	R. Krishnan
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India launches biometric e-passports

- India has officially joined over 120 countries, including the United States, Canada, France, Japan and Australia, by introducing chip-enabled biometric e-passports.
- An e-passport is a conventional passport enhanced with electronic features, including a built-in RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chip and an antenna embedded in its cover.
- The chip securely stores personal and biometric data, such as fingerprints and facial recognition details.
- A gold symbol on the passport's front cover indicates that it is electronically enabled. Security protocols such as Basic Access Control (BAC), Passive Authentication (PA), and Extended Access Control (EAC) are used to encrypt this sensitive data, ensuring global standards of protection.
- With the launch of biometric e-passports, India conforms to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines.

- Indian citizens can easily apply for the new e-passports via the Passport Seva Portal or by scheduling appointments at local Passport Seva Kendras or Post Office centres for biometric enrolment.
- All biometric passports are produced domestically at the India Security Press in Nashik. This not only ensures stringent data security but also supports the government's Make in India initiative, reinforcing national control over sensitive citizen information.

166-km Shillong-Silchar highway approved

- The Union Cabinet approved the construction of a 166.8-km-long, four-lane, high-speed corridor along National Highway-6 from Mawlyngkhung near Shillong in Meghalaya to Panchgram near Silchar in Assam.
- The project will traverse through the difficult terrain of the Northeast region; it will have a total of 19 major bridges, 153 minor bridges, 326 culverts, 22 underpasses, 26 overpasses and 34 viaducts. It is expected to be constructed in three years.
- This strategic project will be implemented in Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), one of the forms of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), at a cost of ₹22,864 crore.
- Of the total length of the project, 144.8 km lies in Meghalaya and 22 km in Assam. Silchar is the entry point for connecting Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur as well as Assam's Barak Valley region. NH-27 currently connects Silchar to Porbandar in Gujarat, traversing seven states from east to west.
- It will be the first high-speed corridor in the North-East, facilitating faster transportation.
- It will serve as an extension of the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar, providing an alternative sea link between the North-East states and Kolkata.

NCW launches Yashoda Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- The National Commission for Women has launched Yashoda AI, a landmark initiative to advance women's AI literacy and digital awareness across India.
- This initiative is a key step toward empowering women to contribute meaningfully to a Viksit Bharat driven by technology and inclusion.
- The initiative is India's pioneering nationwide effort to empower women, especially from rural and semi-urban communities, with essential skills in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and digital safety.

Key Points

Chairperson, NCW — Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar

Cabinet approves ₹3,706 Cr HCL-Foxconn Chip Plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

- The Union Cabinet has approved a joint venture between HCL and Foxconn to set up a ₹3,706 crore semiconductor manufacturing plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.
- The proposed plant will manufacture display driver chips for mobile phones, laptops, automobiles and other devices.
- The new semiconductor unit in Jewar will be one of six such facilities in India, with production expected to begin in 2027.
- The joint venture will be in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region.

Government introduces a cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims.

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) announced the Cashless Treatment of Road Accident Victims Scheme, 2025.
- The scheme has been introduced to help save lives by providing immediate treatment to those injured in road crashes, which often prove fatal due to delays in medical attention.
- The road accident victims across India will be provided access to free medical care worth up to ₹1.5 lakh during the first seven days after an accident.

Key Points

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) — Nitin Gadkari

Seven high-impact projects (e-Nodes) selected for support under MAHA-EV Mission

- The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) announced the selection of seven e-Nodes for support under its "Mission for Advancement of High-impact Areas on Electric Vehicles" (MAHA-EV).
- The current programme launched under the umbrella of ANRF's national mission aims to address the critical challenges and drive innovation in India's electric vehicle ecosystem.
- The seven e-Nodes selected under the ANRF's MAHA-EV mission are: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay,

International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials Hyderabad, National Institute of Technology Surathkal, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Indian Institute of Technology-BHU, CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute, Pilani and Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, respectively.

Biodiversity Benefit Sharing Regulations 2025

- The National Biodiversity Authority has released the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulation, 2025.
- These rules govern the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources, including digital sequence information and associated knowledge.
- The regulation introduces slabs based on the annual turnover of individuals or industries accessing the resource.
- The new Act promotes the cultivation of medicinal plants and exempts practitioners of Indian systems of medicine from the requirement to seek approvals for access or share benefits.

Cabinet approves Revised SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India) Policy

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the Revised SHAKTI Policy for coal allocation to the power sector.
- This decision builds on the series of coal sector reforms introduced by the government.
- Introduced in 2017, the SHAKTI Policy marked a paradigm shift from a nomination-based regime to a transparent coal allocation mechanism through auctions and tariff-based bidding.
- The new policy will ensure coal linkage to all power producers leading to the generation of more power, cheaper tariffs and an overall positive impact on the economy, thereby leading to increased employment generation potential.

Key Points

Union Coal Minister — G. Kishan Reddy

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) introduces the Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI)

- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched Financial Fraud Risk Indicator (FRI), a new multi-

dimensional analytical tool developed under its Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP), to help financial institutions with advanced actionable intelligence for cyber fraud prevention.

- FRI enables enhanced intelligence sharing with banks, UPI service providers and financial institutions, which in turn help tackle cyber fraud and financial crime.
- It is a risk-based metric that classifies a mobile number into three categories: Medium, High or Very High risk of financial fraud.
- The move is set to help banks, non-banking financial companies, and UPI service providers prioritise enforcement and take additional customer protection measures in case a mobile number has high risk.
- The DoT regularly shares the list of mobile numbers that were disconnected for being involved in cyber-crime, failing re-verification and exceeding prescribed limits. These numbers are also usually used for financial frauds.

Key Points

Union Minister for Communication — Jyotiraditya Scindia

Department of Posts launches 'Know Your DIGIPIN' and 'Know Your PIN Code' Web Portals

- The Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, has launched two transformative digital platforms: 'Know Your DIGIPIN' and 'Know Your PIN Code'.
- This marks a significant step towards the modernisation of India's addressing system and geospatial governance and this launch aligns with the National Geospatial Policy.
- The DIGIPIN (Digital Postal Index Number) is an open-source, interoperable, geo-coded, grid-based digital address system. The portal will enable the users to retrieve their DIGIPIN based on precise geolocation. They will also allow the users to input latitude and longitude coordinates to fetch corresponding DIGIPINs and vice versa. It simplifies location mapping, enhances logistics and emergency response, and ensures last-mile delivery, especially in rural and underserved areas. DIGIPIN has been developed collaboratively by IIT Hyderabad, NRSC, ISRO and the Department of Posts.
- The 'Know Your PIN Code' web application uses GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) location features to allow users to identify the correct PIN code based on their location. They can submit feedback on PIN code

accuracy for continuous refinement of the PIN code dataset. The six-digit PIN code system was introduced in 1972.

Key Points

Director General of — Sanjay Sharan
Postal Services

CCEA approves ₹3,399 Crore for Two Multi-Tracking Railway Projects

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave a nod to two multitracking projects for Indian Railways, which are estimated to cost ₹3,399 crore.
- Completing the project by FY30 will expedite the transportation of both passenger and freight traffic.
- The two projects covering four districts across the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 176 km.
- The proposed projects are the result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, which has been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods and services.
- The project will enhance connectivity to around 784 villages with a total population of nearly 2 million.

News in Short

- In a major step toward protecting students and youth from the harmful effects of tobacco and substance abuse, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education has issued a strong call for action to all States and Union Territories (UTs) to strictly enforce rules and guidelines that keep areas around educational institutions free of tobacco, alcohol and drugs.
- India has officially commenced the development of its next-generation electric trainer aircraft, the E-Hansa. This initiative, spearheaded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), marks a pivotal step in the country's efforts to foster green aviation and reduce dependence on costly imports.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated 103 Amrit Bharat stations across 18 states from Rajasthan. The PM also dedicated 43 projects worth ₹23,400 crore to the nation. He also inaugurated projects worth ₹26,000 crore in Rajasthan and a new express train that will run between Bikaner and Mumbai.

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has recently approved the Adishakti Abhiyan to enhance grassroots women's empowerment.
- Mizoram becomes the fourth northeast state with Aizawl, its capital city connected to the national railway network. The other three states are Assam, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹69 per quintal increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy for the upcoming Kharif 2025–26 marketing season, taking the MSP for paddy (common variety) to ₹2,369 per quintal.
- Bihar has secured the first position in India for successfully implementing the PMFME (Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises) scheme in the financial year 2024-25. PMFMPE is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme designed to address the challenges faced by micro-enterprises.
- The Election Commission of India is developing a new user-friendly digital interface, ECINET, for the electors and its other stakeholders, such as the election officials, political parties and civil society. The new one-stop platform, ECINET, will integrate and reorient over 40 of ECI's existing mobile and web applications.
- The Union government has approved an additional 2.8 million tonnes of Food Corporation of India (FCI) rice for ethanol production in 2024–25.
- In a significant move to strengthen regional air connectivity, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted in-principle approval for the development of greenfield airports in Kota (Rajasthan) and Puri (Odisha).
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 15-day "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" (campaign to build developed agriculture for India) at a function near Puri, Odisha in which the government aims to improve the linkage between farmers and agriculture research.
- Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has launched the Indira Soura Giri Jala Vikasam scheme from Macharam village in Nagarkurnool district. Under the scheme, tribal farmers will receive free solar pumps of 5-7.5 horsepower for irrigating horticultural crops.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has dismantled the cybercrime networks of online child sexual exploitation with international linkages. CBI took action under

Operation Hawk, which was launched based on the inputs received from the USA.

- The Drugs and Cosmetics (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2025, aim to provide a framework for resolving certain drug-related offences outside of traditional prosecution, potentially leading to quicker resolutions while still ensuring compliance and accountability within the pharmaceutical sector.
- The Delhi government approved a draft bill named Delhi School Education Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees Bill, 2025, to provide guidelines for all private and government schools in Delhi for regulation of school fees. The bill seeks to establish a clear and transparent procedure for school fee structures, preventing arbitrary hikes and ensuring fairness for parents.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled the 'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS), a policy initiative of the Government of India to create a future-ready, gender-equitable maritime workforce with the ultimate aim to increase participation of women in the maritime sector.
- The 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' is an agricultural campaign to raise awareness among farmers about modern technology and new seed varieties.
- Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) has introduced the new e-Zero FIR initiative to expedite action against cybercriminals. Launched as a pilot in Delhi, it will automatically convert cyber financial crimes complaints filed via NCRP or 1930 to FIRs—initially applicable for cases involving amounts exceeding ₹10 lakh.
- The Odisha government has launched Sahajog, a ground-breaking initiative to enhance access to government welfare schemes for the urban poor.
- Assam introduced a state-wide policy to tackle human trafficking and witch-hunting, aiming to protect vulnerable groups and ensure coordinated legal action.
- The Haryana government has launched the "Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana" to provide financial support to senior artists and art scholars.
- Delhi's Directorate of Education introduced the PRASHAST app for early identification of students with disabilities. The teachers are responsible for identifying both obvious and subtle signs of disabilities in students.
- The Delhi Police has launched a new initiative called Nayi Disha, a community outreach initiative aimed at reintegrating school dropouts into the education system. This community outreach project focuses on children and teenagers who've left school due to poverty, family issues or other challenges.
- Uttar Pradesh launched two initiatives 'UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Accelerated Growth through Resilient, Equitable and Sustainable Agriculture)' and 'AI Pragyā' related to agricultural innovation and digital transformation.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has rolled out the Centre's 'Rahveer Yojana' aimed at saving the lives of people injured in road accidents, which promises a ₹25,000 reward to good samaritans who rush the accident victims to hospitals.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Court strikes down Trump's tariffs on imports

- A three-judge panel of the US Court of International Trade has granted an emergency motion from the Trump administration, which argued that halting the tariffs would be "critical for the country's national security".
- The court temporarily stayed an order issued by a federal trade court.
- Trump faces multiple lawsuits contending that his "Liberation Day" tariffs exceeded presidential authority and subjected national trade policy to personal discretion.

- The ruling marked a significant setback for Trump, whose unpredictable trade policies have unsettled financial markets, disrupted businesses with uncertainty and raised concerns over higher prices and slower economic growth.

Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Mount Everest for Record 31st time

- Kami Rita Sherpa, a famed Nepali mountain guide, completed his 31st climb of Mount Everest, breaking his own record for the most successful trips to the mountain's peak.

- For more than 30 years, Kami Rita, 55, has helped climbers from all over the world reach the top of the mountain.
- The most recent measurement of Everest's summit is 8848.86 metres (or more than 29,000 feet) above sea level.

U.S.–Ukraine agreement to launch U.S.–Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund

- Ukraine and the United States have officially launched a joint Reconstruction Investment Fund as part of their minerals agreement.
- The fund is a core component of the broader U.S.–Ukraine minerals agreement.
- Under the deal, the U.S. has special access to projects involving Ukraine's reserves of lithium, titanium and other critical minerals. These resources are considered critical to global supply chains for the defence, aerospace, and green energy industries.
- Ukraine's Public-Private Partnerships Agency and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will jointly manage the fund.

Donald Trump secures \$600 billion in investment commitment from Saudi Arabia

- U.S. President Donald Trump secured a massive \$600 billion investment commitment from Saudi Arabia during his first state visit to the Kingdom since being re-elected for a second term.
- It is the largest set of commercial agreements ever recorded between the United States and Saudi Arabia, encompassing major investments in energy, advanced technology, infrastructure, healthcare, defence, and global sports.
- President Trump also highlighted three sector-specific funds—each of which will deploy capital directly into U.S. industries: a \$5 billion Energy Investment Fund, a \$5 billion New Era Aerospace and Defence Technology Fund and a \$4 billion Enfield Sports Global Sports Fund.

World's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant begins operations in Denmark

- The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant began operations in Denmark, with shipping giant Maersk set to buy part of the production as a low-emission fuel for its fleet of container ships.

- The new plant is located in Kasso in southern Denmark and has cost an estimated 150 million Euros (\$167 million).
- It will produce 42,000 metric tons, or 53 million litres, of e-methanol per year and is jointly owned by Denmark's European Energy and Japan's Mitsui 8031.
- Traditional methanol is typically produced from natural gas and coal.
- The Kasso plant will make e-methanol using renewable energy and CO₂ captured from biogas plants and waste incineration.

UK to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius

- The United Kingdom has agreed to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, following a High Court ruling that has cleared the way for the UK's Prime Minister Keir Starmer to formalise the contentious agreement.
- This deal ends decades of British administration over the Indian Ocean archipelago, which has been the subject of ongoing legal and diplomatic disputes since the islands were detached from Mauritius in 1965.
- The transfer of sovereignty comes in the wake of a 2019 advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, backed by the United Nations, which called on the UK to return the islands and end its colonial administration.
- The Chagos Islands comprise a remote chain of over 60 islands situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, off the southern tip of India and to the south of the Maldives. The islands have been under British sovereignty since 1814, when they were ceded by France. The archipelago is perhaps most renowned for the military base on Diego Garcia, which has supported U.S. military operations ranging from the Vietnam War to conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2008, the US acknowledged that the base had also been used for secret rendition flights involving terror suspects.
- In 1965, Britain separated the Chagos Islands from Mauritius, a former British colony, three years before Mauritius gained independence, and designated the area as the British Indian Ocean Territory.

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) launches Aim4Nature to boost global ecosystem monitoring

- FAO launched Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Nature Restoration (AIM4NatuRe), a global initiative to enhance the capacity of countries to monitor and report on ecosystem restoration.

- The United Kingdom backed AIM4NatuRE with US\$ 9 million.
- The programme aims to strengthen countries' capabilities to monitor and report progress in restoring degraded ecosystems.
- It works in a targeted timeline of 2025 to 2028.
- The Soviet Union launched Cosmos 482 on 31 March 1972. It was meant to be part of a Venus mission, following the successful Venera 8 probe. However, the spacecraft's upper stage failed to fire properly, and instead of heading to Venus, Cosmos 482 got trapped in a highly elliptical orbit around Earth.

Key Points

Director General, FAO	—	Qu Dongyu
Headquarters	—	Rome, Italy

Yala Glacier declared 'Dead' in Nepal

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) mourned the loss of Nepal's Yala Glacier, believed to be the first Nepalese glacier to be declared "dead".
- A glacier is deemed "dead" when it no longer exhibits movement or internal flow under its own weight.
- Yala is the first glacier in Asia and the third glacier worldwide to carry a plaque with words by author Andri Snær Magnason in its memory. Plaques bearing his message also sit at the site of the world's first glacier funeral, which took place in Magnason's native Iceland in 2019, for OK Glacier, and at the site of the funeral for Ayoloco Glacier in Mexico in 2021.
- Yala is one of only seven glaciers in the entire 3,500 km-long arc of the Hindu Kush Himalayas to have been monitored annually for a decade or more and is one of 38 glaciers with in-situ measurements, providing crucial data on the speed and extent of losses.
- Funerals have also been held for the Swiss Pizol Glacier in 2019, Clark Glacier in Oregon in 2020 and Basodino Glacier in Switzerland in 2021.

UN launches VoTAN

- The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) has launched the Victims of Terrorism Associations Network (VoTAN).
- The network is a key outcome of the first UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held in September 2022. It brings together terrorism victims and survivors, victims' associations and civil society organisations from across the globe.
- The goal is to provide a safe space for victims and survivors to support each other, build resilience and engage as advocates, educators and peace-builders.

Kosmos 482 spacecraft set to re-enter Earth's atmosphere

- Kosmos 482 spacecraft, a Soviet spacecraft launched in 1972 to study Venus, has been stuck in Earth's orbit for more than 50 years.

- The spacecraft is slowly losing altitude and could re-enter Earth's atmosphere soon.
- In 1981, a piece of the spacecraft—part of the launch stage—fell back to Earth and landed in New Zealand. It was not radioactive and caused no damage, but it showed that fragments can survive the fall.

News in Short

- In the wake of budget cuts by the Trump administration, a Silicon Valley start-up will soon start to replace the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) weather balloons with AI-powered alternatives, which are supposed to be much cheaper. Since March, NOAA has slashed its weather balloon launches across the United States after the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) cut the government agency's budget by 25%.
- The Trump administration issued orders to begin easing sanctions on Syria, marking a major policy shift after U.S. President Donald Trump pledged earlier this month to roll back the measures during a trip to the Middle East.
- In a landmark move, Hawaii has become the first U.S. state to implement a climate impact fee, introducing a new tax on tourists to support environmental initiatives. The fee will fund climate change resiliency efforts and preserve the islands' natural resources.
- Nepal is planning to restrict Mount Everest expeditions to only those climbers who have previously scaled a peak above 7,000 metres.
- Bhutan government has launched a crypto-based tourism payment system in partnership with Binance Pay and DK Bank. With this move, Bhutan becomes the first sovereign nation in the world to officially integrate crypto payments into the national tourism policy.
- The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) has provided a comprehensive overview of Operation Gideon's Chariot. The operation focuses on advancing operations in Gaza, protecting civilians, and dismantling Hamas's capabilities.

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) officially recognised four countries — Austria, Norway, Oman and Singapore — for their outstanding leadership in eliminating industrially produced trans fats from their national food supplies.
- China and Cambodia conducted 'the Golden Dragon 2025', a bilateral military exercise in the Ream Naval Base, Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The exercise focused on counter-terrorism and humanitarian operations.
- Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb launched the platform 'TOURISE', a "bold new initiative", structured for year-round impact through collaboration, and will be anchored with a high-profile global advisory board.
- The US and China have agreed a truce to lower import taxes on goods being traded between the two countries. The extra tariffs imposed in this recent stand-off will fall from 145% to 30%, while recently-hiked Chinese tariffs on some US imports will fall from 125% to 10%.
- The United States will now refer to the Persian Gulf as the "Arabian Gulf" or the "Gulf of Arabia". The move aligns with the preference of Arab nations and comes amid broader shifts in US foreign and domestic policy.
- Iran unveiled a new solid-fuel Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) to target locations with a range of 1,200 kilometres (745 miles).
- Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang announced a \$500 billion investment in U.S. AI infrastructure, marking the company's first domestic chip manufacturing. The move aims to strengthen supply chains and meet growing AI demand.
- Taiwan conducted the first live-firing of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) from the US, enhancing defence against potential Chinese attacks with precision rockets. HIMARS is manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation and allows for the launching of multiple, precision-guided rockets.
- France's parliament has voted in favour of a bill to legalise assisted dying, paving the way for caregivers to help patients end their lives.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

The India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) finalised

- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK's Prime Minister Keir Starmer formally announced the successful conclusion of the India–UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), marking a major milestone in their bilateral trade relationship.
- The new trade agreement is projected to boost annual bilateral trade between India and the UK by £25.5 billion.
- The agreement will strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and the UK while promoting economic growth, investment, job creation, and innovation in both economies.
- The India–UK FTA, comprising 26 chapters, is expected to take around 15 months for full implementation.
- The agreement requires approval from the Union Cabinet in India, whereas in the UK, it must pass through parliamentary ratification.

India extends financial support to Maldives

- India extended financial support to the Maldives through the roll-over of the \$50 million Treasury Bill.
- Since March 2019, the Government of India has been facilitating subscription of several such Treasury Bills

by the SBI and rolling them over, annually, interest-free to the Government of Maldives.

- This has been done under a unique government-to-government arrangement as emergency financial assistance to the Maldives.

Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) launched

- The Quad partners (Australia, India, Japan and the United States) convened at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii, for a Tabletop Exercise, a simulation to launch the Quad IPLN.
- IPLN enables Quad partners to leverage shared logistics capabilities in the Indo-Pacific to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently across the region.
- IPLN reflects the Quad's commitment to ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific and highlights the value of strengthening practical cooperation to address regional challenges.

India shuts land ports with Bangladesh

- The Indian government restricted the import of several products from Bangladesh, including a ban on the entry of ready-made garments through the land route.

- However, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade permitted the shipment of garments, the primary product of Bangladesh's industry, through the ports of Nhava Sheva and Kolkata.
- The latest move will deal a blow to a significant chunk of the \$700 million garment exports to India, a large part of which lands up in stores and on e-comm platforms.
- The United States has lowered remittance tax from 5% to 3.5%, easing NRIs, and H-1B workers' burden.
- The Philippines has recently introduced a visa-free policy for Indian citizens, allowing stays of up to 14 days to boost tourism and strengthen ties. Indian residents with visas or residency from specific countries can enjoy a 30-day visa-free stay.

News in Short

- Honduras officially inaugurated its embassy in New Delhi, which marks a major move forward in diplomatic and economic relations between India and Honduras.

- Algeria has officially become a new member country of the New Development Bank (NDB). BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was established in 2015 and is a multilateral development bank aimed at mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other EMDCs.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

LIC creates history with Guinness World Record in insurance sales

- Government-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) earned a Guinness World Records title for selling the most life insurance policies in 24 hours.
- On 20 January, 2025, 4,52,839 agents of LIC completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India.

Key Points

CEO and MD, LIC — Siddhartha Mohanty

RBI transfers record ₹2.69 lakh crore surplus to centre for FY25

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board has approved the transfer of ₹2.69 lakh crores as surplus to the government for the financial year 2024-25.
- This is likely the highest-ever annual surplus transfer to the government by the RBI.
- The Central Board decided to further increase the Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) to 7.50% based on the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF) and taking into consideration the macroeconomic assessment.

Key Points

RBI's governor — Sanjay Malhotra
Headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra

RBI Seeks Nod for Rupee Loans to Neighbours in Push to Internationalise Currency

- In a fresh push towards internationalising the rupee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is seeking approval from the central government on certain measures.

- Internationalising the rupee refers to the process of making the Indian currency widely accepted and used for global finance, trade and investment.
- RBI will seek approval from the central government to let domestic banks and their overseas branches extend rupee loans to foreign borrowers.
- This move, if approved, would mark the first time Indian lenders are allowed to offer rupee-denominated credit to borrowers abroad—part of a broader effort to boost the global usage and acceptance of the Indian currency, particularly in trade settlements.

RBI to have six-member payments regulatory board

- RBI announced the formation of a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) to regulate and supervise payment systems in the country.
- The RBI governor will head the board. PRB will have three nominees from the central government, the RBI deputy governor in charge of payment systems and one RBI official nominated by the central board.
- The RBI Governor, Deputy Governor and the nominated RBI officer will be ex-officio members of the board.
- This new board will replace the existing Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement System (BPSS). The RBI Governor leads the five-member BPSS, but it does not have any government nominees.
- RBI's Principal Legal Adviser will be a permanent invitee to attend its meetings.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) & Aditya Birla Capital join hands to simplify accessibility to loan products across India

- IPPB, a Government of India undertaking and Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), India's leading diversified financial service company, have announced their strategic partnership to broaden the reach and accessibility of loan products across Bharat.
- This partnership integrates Aditya Birla Capital's diverse suite of lending products with IPPB's extensive network and digital infrastructure, aiming to provide seamless credit access to IPPB customers nationwide.
- Through this collaboration, IPPB will provide referral service for Aditya Birla Capital's wide range of loan solutions, including personal loans, business loans and loans against property to its existing customer base.

Key Points

MD & CEO IPPB	— Mr R. Viswesvaran
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (Designate), NBFC, ABCL	— Rakesh Singh

RBI mandates reporting of digital lending apps via CIMS portal

- The Regulated Entities (REs) will now be required to report details of their digital lending apps (DLAs) through the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) portal of RBI.
- The directives incorporate strategies to enhance transparency in digital lending practices, specifically in the consolidation and presentation of loan products to prospective borrowers.
- CIMS portal manages the data it collects from banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other regulated entities (REs).

RBI to issue new ₹20 banknotes with Governor Sanjay Malhotra's signature

- RBI will release new ₹20 banknotes with Governor Sanjay Malhotra's signature on them. The design of these notes is similar in all respects to ₹20 banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- The old banknotes of ₹20 issued by the RBI in the past will continue to hold legal tender in India.
- The Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series of ₹20 banknotes have the dimensions of 63 mm × 129 mm, with the base colour in "Greenish Yellow".

- The note illustrates the Ellora Caves on the back, highlighting India's national heritage, along with other designs and geometric patterns which align with the base colour scheme.

RBI officially recognises FIMMDA as an SRO

- RBI has recognised the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) in financial markets.
- FIMMDA is a self-regulatory industry body established in 1998.
- It represents a diverse membership comprising scheduled commercial banks, primary dealers, public financial institutions, insurance companies, and other financial entities.
- FIMMDA serves as the calculation agent for daily valuations of government securities and corporate bonds.
- It also administers key benchmarks, including the FIMMDA-NSE Overnight MIBOR, and is recognised by the RBI as the benchmark administrator for all Indian rupee interest rates.

India takes over Chairmanship of Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) for 2025–26

- India has formally assumed the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) for the 2025–26 term during the ongoing 67th Session of the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of the APO.
- The Governing Body is the APO's highest decision-making authority and meets annually to set the organisation's strategic direction, approve major proposals and review Secretariat performance.
- Indonesia hosted the 67th GBM in Jakarta.
- APO is a Tokyo-based intergovernmental body that promotes productivity enhancement across the Asia-Pacific region through cooperation and capacity building. It was established in 1961 and comprises 21 member economies.

Govt. doubles credit guarantee for start-ups

- To ease credit access for start-ups and fuel innovation in priority sectors, the government has doubled the guarantee cover under its Credit Guarantee Scheme for Start-ups (CGSS), raising the limit per borrower from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore.

- The move comes amid tightening funding conditions, with start-ups calling for stronger institutional support as private capital flows dry up.
- The government also increases the extent of guarantee cover to 85% for loans up to ₹10 crore and 75% for loans above that threshold.
- The government slashed the Annual Guarantee Fee (AGF) for startups in 27 identified champion sectors from 2% to 1% per annum.
- These sectors, identified under the 'Make in India' initiative, include advanced manufacturing, electronics, defence, food processing and clean energy.

Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves Major Stake Acquisition in Coca-Cola India Arm by Jubilant and Goldman Sachs

- Fair trade regulator CCI cleared Jubilant Beverages' proposal to acquire a 40% stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt Ltd (HCCH).
- HCCH is a holding company with no independent activities in India and belongs to the Atlanta-based The Coca-Cola Company group. Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) is a subsidiary of the HCCH.
- CCI has also approved the proposed combination involving (an acquisition of 40% shareholding of HCCH by Jubilant Beverages Limited (JBL) and a proposed subscription to CCPS in JBL by Jubilant BevCo Limited and the investors).
- Jubilant Beverages and Jubilant BevCo (BevCo) are newly incorporated entities and belong to the Jubilant Bhartia Group.

Key Points

CCI Headquarters	—	New Delhi
Chairperson	—	Ravneet Kaur

Ant Group to sell 4% stake in Paytm worth ₹2,066 crore via Bulk Deal

- China's Ant Group will sell a 4% stake in Indian payments firm Paytm for \$242 million. Ant, a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, will sell the stake at ₹809.75 per share.
- As of March 2025, Ant, through its Netherlands-based subsidiary Antfin, held approximately 9.85% stake in Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications.
- In August 2023, Ant sold a 10.3% stake in Paytm to founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

India's exports hit record \$824.9 billion in FY 2024–25

- India's total exports have touched an all-time high of US\$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024–25.
- This marks a growth of 6.01% over the previous year's export figure of US\$778.1 billion, setting a new milestone in the country's trade trajectory.

Starlink gets government nod

- Elon Musk's Starlink has received government approval to operate satellite internet services in India, with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issuing a letter of intent (LoI) after the company agreed to comply with licensing conditions critical to national security.
- Starlink will be granted Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS), VSAT, and ISP licences, subject to full compliance with national security and infrastructure requirements.
- IN-SPACE (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre), which is India's space authorisation body, is expected to grant approval shortly, further paving the way for operations.

PNB to sell entire stake in ISARC for ₹34 crore to streamline portfolio

- In a significant step to streamline its investment portfolio, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed an agreement to offload its entire stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (ISARC) for ₹34.04 crore.
- ISARC, jointly promoted by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd, focuses on reviving distressed assets in the small and medium enterprises (SME) sector.

Key Points

PNB's Headquarters	—	Delhi
MD & CEO	—	Ashok Chandra

India's first 3nm chip design centres inaugurated in Noida and Bengaluru

- Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology, Railways and Information & Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw, inaugurated two new state-of-the-art design facilities of Renesas Electronics India Private Limited, located in Noida and Bengaluru.
- This is India's first design centre to work on cutting-edge 3-nanometre chip design, a milestone that places India firmly in the global league of semiconductor innovation.

- Renesas is an embedded semiconductor solution provider driven by its purpose, 'To Make Our Lives Easier'.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) post record ₹1.78 tn profit in FY25, growth up 26%

- PSBs cumulative profit rose to a record level of ₹1.78 lakh crore in the fiscal year ended March 2025, registering a growth of 26% over the previous year.
- All 12 PSBs had earned a total profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in FY24.

- State Bank of India (SBI) alone contributed over 40% of the total earnings. SBI logged a net profit of ₹70,901 crore in FY25, 16% higher than the previous fiscal (₹61,077 crore).

Drools turns unicorn after Nestlé investment

- Bengaluru-headquartered pet food company Drools has officially entered the unicorn club following a strategic minority investment by Swiss multinational Nestlé S.A.
- It is the fourth Indian start-up in 2025 to reach unicorn status, after Netradyne, Porter and JSW One Platforms.

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Operation Sindoor

- The Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.
- India's response was non-escalatory, precise and targeted terrorist training camps at nine different locations within Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. These include:
 - I. Markaz Taiba, Muridke, Hafiz Saeed's headquarters, nerve centre of Lashkar-e-Taiba.
 - II. Sawai Nala camp, Muzaffarabad, major LeT camp in PoK, where Pahalgam terrorists trained.
 - III. Syedna Bilal camp, Muzaffarabad, Camp for Lashkar and Jaish, terrorist recruits are provided training by Pakistani special forces.
 - IV. Barnala camp, Bhimber, close to the LoC, training camp for mountain and jungle terrain, launchpad for infiltrators.
 - V. Abbas camp, Kotli, indoctrination centre and school for fidayeen recruits, located close to Pakistani military camp.
 - VI. Sarjal camp, Narowal, near international border in Pakistani Punjab, regrouping site before specialised terror training.
 - VII. Mehmona Joya camp, Sialkot, Initial induction centre for terrorists who infiltrate through Punjab and Jammu.
 - VIII. Gulpur camp, Kotli, base of Lashkar units active in Rajouri and Poonch districts.
 - IX. Markaz Subhanallah, Bahawalpur, Headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed, the base of Masood Azhar.

- The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in the murder of 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen, prompted these steps.
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi, and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh addressed the press conference following the all-party meeting.
- Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, HQ-9P missile system and a customised version of China's HQ-9. The mission was completed in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge.
- The Indian Air Force used loitering munitions with devastating effect, identifying and destroying high-value targets such as enemy radar and missile systems.
- Loitering munitions are also known as "suicide drones" or "kamikaze drones". These weapon systems hover over or circle a designated target area, searching for suitable targets before attacking.
- The Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Pakistan called up DGMO, India on 10 May 2025. Post that, DGsMO of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to stop all firings and military actions on land, air and sea, with immediate effect.

India successfully neutralises the Pakistan military attempt to target military stations

- The Indian Armed Forces successfully foiled a large-scale drone and missile attack launched by Pakistan, which targeted multiple military stations in Northern and Western India, including Jammu, Pathankot and Udhampur, the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS).

- India's Air Defence Units intercepted eight missiles from Pakistan directed at Satwari, Samba, RS Pura and Arnia.
- Pakistan used Chinese-made PL-15 missiles, Turkish-made UAVs called 'Yiha' or 'Yeehaw', as well as long-range rockets, quadcopters, and commercial drones.
- The Indian forces responded by activating S-400 'Sudarshan Chakra' air defence missile systems. The systems successfully intercepted and neutralised multiple incoming aerial threats moving towards Indian territory.

Pakistan successfully tested Abdali ballistic missile with a 450 km range

- Pakistan has conducted a 'successful' training launch of the Abdali Weapon System— a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 kilometres as a part of Ex INDUS.
- The launch ensured the operational readiness of troops and validated key technical parameters, including the missile's advanced navigation system and enhanced manoeuvrability features.
- Pakistan has also been consistently issuing NOTAMS (Notices to Airmen) threatening missile test launches in the region as a show of force.

Pakistan used Turkish-made SONGAR drones to attack India

- Pakistan's attempted drone incursion at 36 military and civilian sites between the intervening night of May 8 and 9 likely involved Turkish-made Asisguard Songar drones.
- They are designed and manufactured by Turkey-based defence company Asisguard.
- Songar drones were first launched in April 2019 and delivered to the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) after successful completion of their testing in February 2020. They are Turkey's first indigenous armed drones.
- Songar can be equipped with a stabilised automatic machine gun, or with mini-missiles and 81mm mortar rounds, enabling it to engage a variety of targets, including personnel, vehicles and lightly fortified positions.
- The drone has a maximum take-off weight of 45 kg, a flight time of 25–30 minutes (without payload) and an operational range of 3–5 km from its ground control station. It can operate at altitudes up to 2,800 metres above sea level and 400 metres above ground.

'Red teams' of experts to map 'mind of adversary'

- For the first time, Operation Sindoor employed the concept of "red teaming" as part of its operational planning.
- Red teaming involves embedding a small group of experts familiar with the adversary's mindset, tactics and response patterns into the planning process.
- Their role is to critically challenge the plan, simulate enemy reactions, and help test the robustness of the intended military strategy.
- This marks a shift in India's strategic doctrine, bringing a more dynamic and anticipatory approach to such cross-border operation.

India cuts Chenab water flow through Baglihar Dam after Indus treaty halt

- India has stanchd the water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and is planning similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River. The Kishanganga Dam has faced legal and diplomatic scrutiny, especially regarding its impact on the Neelum River, a tributary of the Jhelum.
- Baglihar in Ramban in Jammu and Kishanganga in north Kashmir, allow India to regulate the timing of water releases.
- The Baglihar Dam has been a long-standing point of contention between India and Pakistan, with Pakistan having sought World Bank arbitration in the past.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave Pakistan \$1 billion despite India's objections

- The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) decided to allow for "an immediate disbursement" of \$1 billion (around ₹8,500 crore) to Pakistan. This disbursement was done as part of the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to Pakistan.
- The 37-month EFF was approved on 25 September 2024, and provides for a total disbursement of \$7 billion to Pakistan. The latest tranche brings the total disbursements under the arrangement so far to about \$2.1 billion.
- The IMF Executive Board also approved Pakistan's request "for an arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), with access of about US\$1.4 billion".
- In light of Pakistan's military escalation against India, New Delhi conveyed its "strong dissent" to the IMF's decision.

- For its part, India abstained from voting in the meeting — there is no option with member countries to vote against such a decision — and highlighted Pakistan's poor track record using IMF funds, pointing to the possibility of "misuse of debt financing funds for state-sponsored cross-border terrorism".
- The Extended Fund Facility (EFF) "provides financial assistance to countries facing serious medium-term balance of payments problems because of structural weaknesses that require time to address".
- The IMF assists the EFF to countries that do not have enough money to pay their bills to the rest of the world for the goods and services they import.

Indian Army launches 'Operation Keller'

- The Indian Army launched yet another military action against terrorists called Operation Keller.
- Under Operation Keller, the Indian Army killed three "hardcore terrorists" during heavy exchange of fire in the Shoekal Keller area of Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district.
- The operation was launched based on the specific intelligence of a Rashtriya Rifles unit about the presence of terrorists in the general area of Shoekal Keller.

India deployed Israeli-made Harop drones in its operations

- The HAROP is a long-range loitering munition (also known as a suicide drone) developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)'s MBT Missiles Division.
- It is a second-generation system that builds on earlier platforms like the HARPY.
- The HAROP acts as both a surveillance tool and a weapon, thanks to its real-time intelligence capabilities and built-in explosive payload.
- The HAROP features a "man-in-the-loop" control system. Operators monitor its flight and targeting in real time via a two-way data link, allowing them to abort or reassign missions mid-flight.

India fired 15 BrahMos missiles to cripple Pakistan's air defence

- BrahMos is a long-range supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia. It operates on the 'Fire and Forget' principle. It can reach speeds close to Mach 3 and strike targets up to 290 km away with high precision.
- The missile can carry a conventional warhead of up to 300 kg and can fly as high as 15 km or as low as 10 metres, depending on the mission requirements.

India to send seven all-party delegations to partner countries as part of anti-terror diplomacy push

- As part of its ongoing diplomatic offensive under Operation Sindoor, India will dispatch seven All-Party Delegations to key partner countries—including members of the UN Security Council (UNSC).
- The delegations will communicate India's national consensus on terrorism and push for a global zero-tolerance approach.
- Each group will be led by a senior Member of Parliament, cutting across party lines. The list includes—Shashi Tharoor (Congress), Ravi Shankar Prasad (BJP), Sanjay Kumar Jha (JDU), Baijayant Panda (BJP), Kanimozhi Karunanidhi (DMK), Supriya Sule (NCP), and Shrikant Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena).

Asim Munir becomes Pakistan's second Field Marshal

- Pakistan recently promoted General Asim Munir, its army chief, to the rank of Field Marshal, considered the highest rank in the country.
- Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan was the first and only military officer to be promoted to the top rank.

India conducts 'Operation Shield'.

- Under 'Operation Shield, civil defence drills or mock drills were conducted across several states in India, including Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- These aim to test India's readiness for emergencies such as air raids, blackouts and evacuations.

DEFENCE NEWS

India successfully conducts test-firing of advanced underwater naval mine

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy have successfully

conducted a combat trial of the indigenously developed Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM).

- This will further enhance India's efforts towards strengthening undersea warfare capabilities.

- The Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories – High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune, and Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh – have developed the underwater mine.
- The MIGM is fitted with multiple sensors capable of recognising acoustic, magnetic and pressure signatures emitted by vessels. This tech allows it to operate effectively in complex maritime environments.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited, Visakhapatnam and Apollo Microsystems Ltd, Hyderabad, will handle the production of the mines.

MHA to confer honorary rank to personnel below officer rank on the day of their retirement

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will confer an honorary rank—one rank higher—on personnel below officer rank in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Assam Rifles (AR) on the day of their retirement.
- This will boost the self-respect, pride and morale of personnel retiring from the rank of Constable to Sub-Inspector.

Indian army receives a new shipment of Russian Igla-S air defence missiles

- The Indian Army received a new shipment of Russian Igla-S air defence missiles.
- Igla-S is a man-portable, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, classified as Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS).
- These missiles are designed to target and destroy low-flying enemy aircraft, helicopters and drones, by homing in on their infrared (heat) signatures.
- The compact Igla-S missiles are suitable for mobile ground units and can engage targets at an altitude of up to 3.5 km.
- This advanced variant of the Igla missile system offers improved accuracy and can carry a warhead weighing 1.17 kg.

Key Points

Chief of the Army Staff — General Upendra Dwivedi
 Chief of the Defence Staff — General Anil Chauhan

GRSE delivered the new Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft INS Arnala to the Indian Navy

- Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has delivered the first of eight

Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) shallow water crafts to the Indian Navy.

- INS Arnala is named after an island with a historic fort off the Maharashtra Coast. It has nearly 88% indigenous content. The ship was constructed through the PPP model, with GRSE collaborating with private shipyard L&T Kattupalli in Tamil Nadu.
- The ASW shallow water crafts will add punch to the Indian Navy's capability to patrol coastal areas where enemy submarines could be lurking. It is 77.6 metres long and 10.5 metres wide.
- ASW SWCs are capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters as well as search and attack.

Key Points

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) — Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

Indian army conducts Teesta Prahar exercise in West Bengal

- The Indian Army carried out a large-scale integrated field exercise titled 'Teesta Prahar' at the Teesta field firing range.
- The exercise showcased its operational readiness and coordination among combat and support arms in riverine terrain.
- The exercise witnessed active participation from key combat and support arms, including the Infantry, Artillery, Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, Para Special Forces, Army Aviation, Engineers, and Signals.
- The exercise emphasised jointness, synergy, and seamless coordination, reinforcing the Army's ability to operate swiftly and effectively across varied terrain and adverse weather conditions.
- The exercise featured tactical drills, battle rehearsals, and adaptive manoeuvres aimed at refining responses to dynamic combat scenarios.

Rajnath Singh launches BrahMos manufacturing facility in Lucknow

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated the BrahMos facility for producing supersonic cruise missiles in Lucknow, at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.
- The facility is designed to manufacture 80 to 100 missiles annually.

- BrahMos missile is developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia. The missile can be launched from land, sea or air and follows a “fire and forget” guidance system.
- The missile has a range of 290 to 400 km and a top speed of Mach 2.8.
- The next-generation BrahMos missile will have a strike range of over 300 kilometres and weigh 1,290 kilograms, compared to the current BrahMos missile, which weighs 2,900 kilograms.

Tata-Airbus to build India’s first private helicopter assembly line in Karnataka

- Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus will set up India’s first privately led H125 helicopter assembly plant in Karnataka’s Kolar district under the Make in India initiative.
- The facility will boost indigenous aerospace manufacturing and create a global export hub.
- It will be the fourth such facility in the world after France, US and Brazil.
- Last year, the TASL set up a new C-295 aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, jointly with Airbus. The facility is India’s first private-sector final assembly line for military aircraft.

Indian Navy Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini successfully returns after eight-month voyage

- Indian Navy women officers Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A returned home after the successful completion of ‘Navika Sagar Parikrama II’.
- The officers covered a distance of 25,600 nautical miles over a period of eight months with port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port

Stanley (Falkland Islands) and Cape Town (South Africa).

- The circumnavigation of the earth under sail was first attempted by the Navy’s Capt. Dilip Dhonde, who became the first Indian to do so. It was followed by Commander Abhilash Tomy, who became the first Indian to do so nonstop.
- An all-women crew of six naval women successfully completed a circumnavigation of the earth on the same sailing yacht INSV Tarini as part of the first edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama in 2017.

India approves ‘execution model’ for indigenous fifth-generation fighter jet project

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has formally approved the “execution model” for India’s ambitious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, marking a major milestone in the country’s pursuit of indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter capability.
- The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), will lead the project in partnership with both public and private Indian industry players.
- The approval introduces a competitive framework where Indian companies—either independently or as joint ventures or consortia—can bid for contracts related to the design and production of the AMCA prototype.
- The AMCA is envisioned as a twin-engine, medium-weight multirole fighter jet incorporating advanced stealth features such as a stealth airframe, internal weapons bays, sensor fusion and supercruise capability.

Name of the Exercise	Countries/ Entities	Region/Place
Exercise Raahat – a joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) simulation	Indian Army and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)	Doom Dooma and Tinsukia, Assam
Nomadic Elephant	India-Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Ajay Kumar	Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai	52 nd Chief Justice of India

Parameswaran Iyer	India's Representative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Anurag Bhushan	India's Ambassador to Sweden
Bhawna Agarwal	Senior Vice President (SVP) and Managing Director (MD), Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)
Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal	Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar
Justice Surya Kant	Executive Chairman, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)
Ms. Sujata Chaturvedi	Member, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
Alok Joshi	Chairman, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
Harvansh Chawla	Chairman, BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Prakash Magdum	Managing Director, National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
Justice Kempaiah Somashekar	Chief Justice, Manipur High Court
Sanjay Joshi	CMD, Oriental Insurance Company Limited
Tapan Kumar Deka	Director, the Intelligence Bureau (IB)
Kapil Dev	Brand ambassador, SoBo Mumbai Falcons
Shraddha Kapoor	Brand Ambassador, Eureka Forbes Ltd
Dr. Sameer Kamath	Chief of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
Anil Kumble	Ambassador, Karnataka Forest Department
Neeraj Chopra	Brand Ambassador, Audi
Sunil Bharti Mittal	Member, World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab (PSIL)
Ram Mohan M.K.	Director, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
Shahid Kapoor	Brand Ambassador, Vogue Eyewear
Shubman Gill	Brand Ambassador, Oakley
Warren Buffett	Stepped down as CEO of Berkshire Hathaway
Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago
Anthony Albanese	Prime Minister, Australia
Salem Bin Braik	Prime Minister, Yemen
Robert Francis Prevost (Pope Leo XIV)	267 th Pope
Friedrich Merz	Chancellor, Germany
Anita Anand	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Authors
PMO: Prime Minister's Office Through the Years	Himanshu Roy
The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife	Puja Pujara
Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha	Bandaru Dattatraya

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Dr. Mathew Kalarickal	Father of Angioplasty in India
Vishnu Prasad	Malayalam actor
Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan	Fisheries scientist
K.V. Rabia	Social worker and literacy activist
Dr M. R. Srinivasan	Indian nuclear scientist and mechanical engineer
Shaji N Karun	Legendary filmmaker from Malayalam cinema
Valmik Thapar	Wildlife and tiger conservationist
Jayant Narlikar	Astrophysicist, Padma Vibhushan Awardee
Rajesh	Tamil actor
Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	Politician, Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and former Member of Parliament (MP)

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Joseph Nye	American political scientist
Luis Galván	Footballer
Jose Mujica	President of Uruguay

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
May 1	International Labour Day	
May 1	Gujarat Day	
May 1	Maharashtra Day	
May 2	World Tuna Day	
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media
May 4	Coal Miners Day	
May 4	International Firefighter's Day	
May 4	World Portuguese Language Day	
May 6	World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)	Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL
May 7	World Athletics Day	
May 8	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	On the Side of Humanity
May 8	World Thalassaemia Day	Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritising Patients

May 9	Maharana Pratap Jayanti	
May 9	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti	
May 10	World Lupus Day	LUPUS 2025: Gateway to the Future
May 11	National Technology Day	YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration
May 12	International Nurses Day	Our Nurses, Our Future
May 15	International Day of Families	Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development
May 16	National Dengue Day	
May 16	International Day of Light	Light, Innovation, Society
May 16	Sikkim Foundation Day	
May 16	National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday in May)	
May 16	International Day of Living Together in Peace	
May 17	World Telecommunication	Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development
May 17	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!
May 18	International Museum Day	The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities
May 18	World AIDS Vaccine Day	
May 19	World Fair Play Day	
May 20	World Bee Day	Bee Inspired by Nature to Nourish Us All
May 21	Anti-Terrorism Day (India)	
May 21	International Tea Day	
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity	
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development
May 23	World Turtle Day	
May 25	World Football Day	
May 25	World Thyroid Day	
May 25-31	International Week of Solidarity with Non-Self-Governing Territories	
May 28	World Hunger Day	
May 28	Menstrual Hygiene Day	Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld
May 29	International Everest Day	
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	The Future of Peacekeeping
May 30	Hindi Journalism Day	
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

NITI Aayog Releases Report on “Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India”

- NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC), released the report on ‘Enhancing MSMEs Competitiveness in India’.
- The report presents a detailed blueprint for unlocking the immense potential of India’s Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through systemic reforms in financing, skilling, innovation and market access.
- Between 2020 and 2024, the share of micro and small enterprises accessing credit through scheduled banks rose from 14% to 20%, while medium enterprises saw an increase from 4% to 9%.
- The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) has expanded significantly but still faces significant limitations.
- To bridge the credit gap and unlock inclusive, scalable finance for MSMEs, the report calls for a revamped CGTMSE, supported by institutional collaboration and more targeted services.
- The report also highlights the pressing issue of skill shortages within the MSME sector.

Report Card 19: Child Well-being in an Unpredictable World

- UNICEF released the report Card 19: Child Well-being in an Unpredictable World.
- The top three countries for children, based on mental well-being, physical health and skills are Netherlands, Denmark and France.
- The report compared data from 2018 and 2022, providing insight into how the COVID-19 pandemic and global shut-downs affected children in 43 OECD and EU countries.
- Children experienced academic setbacks of between seven months and one year, on average. Those from disadvantaged families were disproportionately affected.
- Across the 43 countries, an estimated 8 million 15-year-olds — around half of the age group — were found to be not functionally literate and numerate, meaning they could not understand a basic text, raising concerns about their long-term prospects.

- Children’s life satisfaction declined substantially in 14 of the 32 countries with available data. Japan was the only country to record a marked improvement in this area.
- In terms of physical health, levels of overweight increased substantially in 14 out of 43 countries with available data, continuing a long-term trend.

Global EV Outlook 2025

- India remains the world’s largest market for electric three-wheelers the second consecutive year, with sales rising nearly 20% to about 7 lakh vehicles in 2024.
- Despite the global Three-Wheeler (3W) market shrinking by 5% compared to the previous year, electric 3W sales grew by more than 10%, surpassing 1 million vehicles in 2024.
- Electric 3Ws accounted for nearly one-quarter of all 3W sales, up from one-fifth in 2023.

Human Development Report 2025

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR), titled “A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI”.
- India ranked 130th out of 193 countries and territories and falls in the “medium human development” category.
- Iceland ranked first with an HDI of 0.972, while South Sudan ranked last with an HDI of 0.388.

International Energy Agency (IEA’s) Global Methane Tracker 2025

- According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) report, about 145 million tonnes (MT) of methane emissions will occur from the energy sector in 2024.
- The three main sources of methane emissions are the agriculture, energy and waste management sectors.
- China, the United States and Russia are leading countries in energy sector methane emissions.

World Press Freedom Index

- India ranked 151st out of 180 countries in the 2025 World Press Freedom Index.

- Finland, Estonia and the Netherlands rank in the top three on the index.
- Reporters Without Borders releases this index after recording the responses from more than 5,000 persons from across the world to finalise the ranking.
- India has nearly 900 privately-owned TV channels, half of which are dedicated to news.
- Around 1,40,000 publications are published in more than 20 languages, including some 20,000 daily newspapers with a combined circulation of more than 390 million copies.

India becomes the World's Fourth Largest Economy

- India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy with India being a 'four trillion dollar' economy.
- According to the IMF, India's GDP currently stands at 4.3 trillion dollars.
- The high rate of growth will see India's GDP increase to 5.5 trillion dollars in 2028, overtaking Germany to become the third-largest economy.
- The IMF has projected a zero growth rate for Germany in 2025, followed by 0.9% in 2026, as it is expected to be hit the hardest among the European countries due to the ongoing global trade war.
- The GDP of the US, the world's largest economy, has been pegged at 30.5 trillion dollars for 2025, while that of China, the second biggest, is around 19.2 trillion dollars.

Forbes India unveils W-Power List 2025

- Forbes India, in collaboration with L'Oréal Paris, unveiled the 2025 edition of its esteemed W-Power List, which honours self-made women who are transforming industries, inspiring change and leading with vision and purpose.
- The list includes notable women such as Manu Bhaker, shooter; Leena Nair, Global Chief Executive Officer of Chanel; Gita Gopinath – First Deputy Managing Director, IMF; Vishakha Mulye – CEO, Aditya Birla Capital Limited; Rohini Iyer – PR and marketing entrepreneur; Shefali Goradia – Chairperson, Deloitte South Asia; Kaku Nakhate, India Chief Executive Officer of Bank of America, N.A. (BANA) and many others.
- The W-Power List 2025 includes achievers from various fields such as finance, entrepreneurship,

sports, entertainment, technology, social impact, and governance.

Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021

- The Registrar General of India (RGI) released the Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021.
- As per the Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India, 2019-21 based on the Sample Registration System (SRS), the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of the country has shown a marked reduction, declining by 37 points from 130 per lakh live births in 2014–16 to 93 in 2019–21.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of the country has declined from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- The Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) has declined from 26 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 19 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- Under-five Mortality Rate (U5MR) has declined from 45 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 31 per 1000 live births in 2021.
- The Sex Ratio at Birth improved from 899 in 2014 to 913 in 2021. Total Fertility Rate is consistent at 2.0 in 2021, which is a significant improvement from 2.3 in 2014.

ISRO released the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2024

- ISRO successfully performed ten Collision Avoidance Manoeuvres (CAMs) in 2024 to protect its satellites from potential collisions with other objects in space.
- The number of CAMs required in 2024 was lower than in the previous year. This decrease is due to ISRO using better methods to analyse close approaches, which involved looking at a bigger area for potential collisions and using more accurate orbital data.
- In 2024, 89 manoeuvre plans for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites were revised to avoid such risks, while two manoeuvre plans for Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellites were similarly adjusted.
- For the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter (CH2O), 14 orbit maintenance manoeuvres were conducted, eight of which were adjusted for safety.

News in Short

- According to the data released by the Ministry of Coal, India's coal production rose by 3.63% in April 2025, reaching 81.57 million tonnes (MT).

- According to the State of the World's Nursing 2025 report, published by the World Health Organisation (WHO), International Council of Nurses (ICN) and partners, the global nursing workforce has grown from 27.9 million in 2018 to 29.8 million in 2023, but wide disparities in the availability of nurses remain across regions and countries.
- According to the Himalayan Clean-up Campaign 2024, 84% of plastic waste in the Himalayan region comprises single-use food and beverage packaging, with 71% non-recyclable.
- According to a report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), India recorded 5.4 million displacements in 2024 due to floods, storms and other disasters, the highest figure in 12 years.
- According to the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects, India will grow at 6.3% in the current fiscal year, the highest among large economies. The World Economic Situation and Prospects is a report produced by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, known as UN DESA. It is developed in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, or UNCTAD, and the five regional commissions of the UN.

EVENTS

Ramman Mahotsav

- Ramman is an annual religious and theatrical festival celebrated in the twin villages of Saloor-Dungra Chamoli district, Uttarakhand. The festival honours Bhumiya Devta, the local deity who is considered the guardian of the village.
- UNESCO recognises it as an Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Reckitt, with its Dettol Banega Swachh India programme, worked with the Uttarakhand government as the hygiene partner for the 14-day event.

Shirui Lily Festival

- The State-Level Shirui Lily Festival was held from 20 to 24 May, 2025, commemorating the flower's 75th anniversary.
- Shirui Lily was first discovered in 1950 and the flower is found exclusively in Shirui Hills.
- The Shirui Lily Festival celebrates the Shirui flower and is aimed at fostering sustainable and responsible tourism across the state.
- The flower was declared Manipur's state flower in 1989.

Pushkar Kumbh Mela

- The Pushkar Kumbh began at Keshav Prayag, located in the border village of Mana in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand, after 12 years.
- According to religious tradition, when the planet Jupiter enters the Gemini sign once in 12 years, the Pushkar Kumbh is held at Keshav Prayag, the confluence of the Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers in Mana village.

- This event is primarily attended by devotees of the Vaishnavite tradition from South India.

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) 2025

- The BRS Convention was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 30th April to 1st May 2025.
- An inter-ministerial delegation from India, led by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, participated in the Conference of the Parties (COPs) to BRS 2025.
- The theme of this year's high-level segment is "Make visible the invisible: Sound management of chemicals and wastes."

Global Media Dialogue at Waves 2025

- India hosted the Global Media Dialogue (GMD) for the first time as part of WAVES in Mumbai.
- This marks a significant milestone in the country's engagement with the global media and entertainment landscape.
- The Dialogue was organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, with support from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
- The Global Media Dialogue brought together key stakeholders from around the world to discuss the evolving role of media and entertainment in shaping societies, economies and international cooperation.

World Bank Land Conference 2025

- The four-day World Bank Land Conference 2025 was held in Washington DC, United States.

- India assumed the role of a Country Champion under the leadership of Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary of, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- During the conference, global attention was drawn towards India's flagship initiatives like SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform as models of inclusive, technology-driven rural governance.
- The Summit included ministerial sessions, business-to-government sessions, business-to-business meetings, start-ups and exhibitions of policy and related initiatives taken by state government and central ministries for investment promotion.

Seatrade Maritime Logistics Middle East (SMLME) conference

- The 11th edition of the SMLME conference opened at the Dubai World Trade Centre with a significant announcement from the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- IRS, a leading international classification society and a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), announced the opening of its new office in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.
- This expansion coincides with the IRS marking 25 years of operations in the UAE and its 50th anniversary globally.
- This strategic move enables closer engagement with local clients, faster service delivery, and dedicated support for ship owners and operators in the region.

India Chairs Asian Productivity Organisation for 2025-26

- India has formally assumed the Chairmanship of APO for the 2025–26 term during the ongoing 67th Session of the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) of the APO, being held from 20 to 22 May 2025 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- As Chair of the APO, India reiterated its commitment to advancing the APO Vision 2030 and expanding the Green Productivity 2.0 framework.
- The Governing Body is the APO's highest decision-making authority and meets annually to set the organisation's strategic direction, approve major proposals and review Secretariat performance.

Rising North East Investors Summit 2025

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

- It drew an unprecedented ₹4.3 lakh crore in investment interest, setting the stage for the Northeast Region (NER) to become India's next economic powerhouse.
- Mukesh Ambani pledged ₹75,000 crore over the next five years, targeting agriculture, telecommunications, digital services, and local enterprise development.
- Adani Group chairperson Gautam Adani also announced an additional ₹50,000 crore investment over the next decade, and Vedanta Group chairman Anil Agarwal announced more than ₹30,000 crore investment in the Northeast.

National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune celebrates Vat Amavasya

- NIN, Pune, hosted a unique celebration combining Vat Amavasya with the Ministry of Ayush's Harit Yoga initiative as part of the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY).
- This initiative aims to intertwine yoga practices with environmental consciousness, fostering a holistic approach to wellness. The theme of IDY-2025 is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health".
- The event emphasised the deep-rooted cultural and ecological significance of the Banyan tree, or Vat Vriksh (*Ficus benghalensis*). The Banyan tree holds a revered place in Indian culture, symbolising longevity, wisdom, and spiritual growth. Its ecological benefits are profound, offering shade and habitat for wildlife, and contributing to air purification.

News in Short

- Wings India 2026 will take place from 28 to 31 January 2026 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad, and will gather key players from across the aviation spectrum, including airlines, manufacturers, cargo firms, airport developers, skill agencies, and investors.

AWARDS

Actor Sonu Sood Honoured for Philanthropic Work During Covid-19

- Actor and founder of the Sood Charity Foundation, Sonu Sood, will be presented with the prestigious Humanitarian Award at the Grand Finale of the 72nd

Miss World Festival in Telangana for his philanthropic work during COVID-19.

- This special honour recognises his exceptional service to humanity and unwavering commitment to social upliftment through his foundation.

58th Jnanpith Award

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and renowned poet-lyricist Gulzar.
- Sampooran Singh Kalra, popularly known as Gulzar, is celebrated for his contributions to Hindi cinema and is considered one of the finest Urdu poets of this era.
- Rambhadracharya, 75, founder and head of Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, is a renowned Hindu spiritual leader, educator and writer.
- The Jnanpith Award is India's highest literary honour, awarded since 1961 for extraordinary contributions to Indian literature.
- Hindi author Vinod Kumar Shukla has been named the recipient of the 59th Jnanpith Award for the year 2024.

Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa wins UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025

- The Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa has been named the laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025, on the recommendation of an international jury of media professionals.
- The Prize is a tribute to all journalists who continue to inform us despite numerous risks and threats to their safety.

World Food Prize for Sustainable Farming Innovation

- Dr. Mariangela Hungria, a leading microbiologist from São Paulo, has been awarded the 2025 World Food Prize for her pioneering work in reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and developing biological seed and soil treatments to boost crop yields and nutrition.
- She has been awarded the \$500,000 prize by the World Food Prize Foundation.

Pulitzer Prize 2025

- Columbia University (USA) announced the Pulitzer Prizes 2025, awarded in a total of 23 categories — including 15 in journalism and 8 in books, drama, music, etc. The list of winners includes:
 - I. Fiction: Percival Everett won the award for his novel 'James', which tells the story of 'Huckleberry Finn' from the point of view of a slave.
 - II. Drama: Branden Jacobs-Jenkins was honoured for "Purpose", which delves into the inner complexities of a wealthy Black family.

- III. Journalism: The New York Times won four Pulitzers, The New Yorker three, and The Washington Post three for their swift reporting on the Trump assassination attempt.
- IV. Public Service: Kavita Suarna, Lizzie Presser, Cassandra Jaramillo and Stacy Kranitz (reporting on deaths of pregnant women due to obscure abortion law exceptions).
- V. Investigative Reporting: Reuters Staff (supply chain expose on fentanyl crisis).
- VI. Explanation: Azam Ahmed, Christina Goldbaum and Matthew Aikins (NYT).
- VII. Local reporting: Alissa Zhu, Nick Thiem and Jessica Gallagher (Baltimore fentanyl crisis).
- VIII. National Reporting: Wall Street Journal Staff (reporting on Elon Musk).
- IX. International reporting: Declan Walsh and NYT staff (reporting on the Sudan conflict).
- X. Special Writing: Mark Warren (Esquire).
- XI. Commentary: Mosab Abu Toha (The New Yorker).
- XII. Review: Alexandra Lang (Bloomberg CityLab).
- XIII. Editorial writing: Raj Mankad, Sharon Steinman, Lisa Falkenberg and Leah Binkowitz (Houston Chronicle).
- XIV. Featured reporting and commentary: Ann Telnes (Washington Post).
- XV. Breaking News Photography: Doug Mills (NYT).
- XVI. Exclusive photography: Moises Saman (The New Yorker).
- XVII. Audio reporting: The New Yorker Staff.

Banu Mushtaq wins International Booker Prize for 'Heart Lamp'

- Indian author Banu Mushtaq and translator Deepa Bhashti won the International Booker Prize for the short story collection "Heart Lamp".
- It is a collection of 12 short stories written over a period of more than 30 years which chronicle the everyday lives and struggles of women in southern India.
- This marks the first time the prize has been awarded to a short story collection.
- Bhashti is the first Indian translator — and ninth female translator — to win the prize since it took on its current form in 2016. Mushtaq is the sixth female author to be awarded the prize since then.

News in Short

- Bhuvan Ribhu became the first Indian lawyer to receive the prestigious Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association at the World Law Congress 2025 in the Dominican Republic. He is an Indian child rights activist known for using legal interventions for over two decades.
- Indian-origin singer, songwriter and rapper Raja Kumari, aka Svetha Yallapragada Rao, made history at the 51st American Music Awards (AMAs). She was awarded for her contribution to the soundtrack of Arcane League of Legends: Season 2 with her song Renegade (We Never Run).

SPORTS NEWS

MMA debuts and cricket retained at Asian Games 2026

- The Olympic Council of Asia confirmed that cricket has been retained for the upcoming Asian Games 2026, while Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is set to make its debut at the quadrennial showpiece.
- The Asian Games 2026 are scheduled to be held in Japan's Aichi and Nagoya prefectures from September 19 to October 4, with around 15,000 athletes expected to compete.

PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurates Khelo India Youth Games

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the seventh edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) in Bihar.
- The Games featured 27 medal disciplines and one demonstration sport. This is the first major multi-discipline sporting event hosted by Bihar.
- KIYG will be held over five cities – Patna, Rajgir, Bhagalpur, Gaya and Begusarai – and New Delhi.
- For the first time in the KIYG programme, Sepaktakraw has been included as a medal sport and esports will be a demonstration event.

Rohit Sharma announces retirement from Test cricket

- Rohit Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket ahead of India's Test cricket tour against England.
- He made the announcement via Instagram, sharing a picture of his Test cap along with a message stating that he will continue to represent India in ODI cricket.
- Rohit Sharma boasts of 4,301 runs in 67 Tests, registering 12 centuries and 18 fifties at an average of 40.57 throughout his career.

Virat Kohli announces retirement from Test cricket

- Virat Kohli announced his retirement from Test cricket with just a little over a month to go before the England tour.

- He made his Test debut in 2011 and ends his career with 9,230 runs in 123 Tests at an impressive average of 46.85, including 30 centuries and 51 half-centuries.
- He ended his test career as India's fourth-highest run-scorer in Tests behind Sachin Tendulkar (15,921), Rahul Dravid (13,265), Sunil Gavaskar (10,122) and Virat Kohli (9,230).
- Under his captaincy (2014–2022), India never lost a home Test series and recorded their first-ever Test series win in Australia in 2018–19.

Srihari LR becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster

- Srihari LR from Tamil Nadu has become the 86th grandmaster after securing his third grandmaster norm at the Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship 2025.
- In 2024, P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu became the 85th chess Grandmaster of India.
- The Asian Individual Men's Chess Championship was held at Al-Ain, United Arab Emirates.

Archery World Cup 2025

- India won four medals — one gold, one silver and two bronze — in the first stage of the 2025 Archery World Cup.
- Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam won the gold for India in the mixed-team competition. Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Atanu Das won the silver for India in the Indian men's recurve team.
- India finished fourth in the medal tally behind Mexico, China and the USA.
- The first stage of the World Cup was held in Auburndale, Florida, in the United States.

Neeraj Chopra crosses 90M mark, finishes second in Doha Diamond League 2025

- Neeraj Chopra finally crossed the 90m mark in his first event of the 2025 season — the Doha Diamond League

— an accolade he had been chasing throughout his career.

- He recorded a 90.23m throw in his third attempt.
- Germany's Julian Weber produced a brilliant 91.06m throw and won the Doha Diamond League 2025.

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Chess Classic in Romania

- In Chess, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa won the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, Romania.
- He triumphed after a tense tiebreak against Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. World Champion D Gukesh finished ninth in the tournament.
- The next leg of the Grand Chess Tour, SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz event, will be played in Croatia, starting July 1, 2025.

SAFF U-19 title

- India defeated Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout to lift the 2025 SAFF U-19 Championship title.
- The championship was held at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Andhra Pradesh.
- India won the SAFF U-19 title for the second time after 2023.

Mahendra Gurjar sets world record in World Para Athletics Grand Prix

- India's Mahendra Gurjar set a world record in the men's javelin F42 category with a throw of 61.17m en route to winning gold at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland.
- He bettered the previous world record of 59.19m set by Brazil's Roberto Floriani Edenilson in 2022.
- His world record throw of 61.17m came in the third attempt after 56.11m and 55.51m in his first two throws.

Women's Champions League 2025

- Arsenal defeated Barcelona 1-0 to win the Women's Champions League for a second time.
- Arsenal's title came 18 years after it became the first, and still the only, English club to win the top club title in women's football.

News in Short

- India's star athlete Neeraj Chopra has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army.

- Kush Maini, a young racer from Bangalore, has etched his name in motorsport history by securing a Formula 2 victory at the prestigious Monaco Grand Prix in May 2025. This landmark achievement marks him as the first Indian to win an F2 race.
- In a historic moment for Estonia, Eliise Randmaa, clinched the gold medal at the 72nd Miss World Sports Challenge, held at the iconic Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad.
- Brazil will host the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup across eight prominent cities.
- The Bureau of the FIFA Council decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the Congolese Football Association (FECOFOOT).
- China won the world badminton Sudirman Cup for the 14th time after defeating South Korea.
- Liverpool Football Club secured the 2024–25 Premier League title after a dominant 5-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur.
- Pankaj Advani won the 2025 CCI Billiards Classic title in Mumbai by defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5-2 in the final.
- England star Joe Root became the first Englishman—and the fifth batter overall after Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Ricky Ponting and Jacques Kallis—to score 13,000 runs in Test cricket. He became the fastest batter to 13,000 runs in terms of matches, reaching the mark in just 153 Tests.
- Tottenham Hotspur beat Manchester United 1-0 in the Europa League final at Athletic Bilbao's San Mames Stadium, ending a 41-year wait for a European trophy. This victory earned Spurs a place in next season's Champions League.
- Praggnanandhaa defeated Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France to win his first-ever tournament on the Grand Chess Tour of the Superbet Classic 2025 in Romania.
- India cricketer Rohit Sharma's parents inaugurated a stand named after their son at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. The event celebrates his illustrious cricket career and lasting legacy.
- Rohit Sharma became the first Indian batter, and the second overall, to smash 300 sixes in the IPL. Chris Gayle tops the list with 357 (141 innings) while Rohit came in his 266th visit to the crease.
- Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner 7-6 (5), 6-1 to claim his maiden Italian Open title.