

2  
0  
2  
5

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## June

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTION FOR PRACTICE
- DETAILED ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



### KL IAS Academy



<https://www.kluniversity.in/ba/default.aspx>

# PREFACE

**This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of June 2025.**

**The Magazine is divided into three sections:**

## **Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short**

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

## **Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers**

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

## **Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event**

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



# INDEX

1. Important Days	Page 04
2. Agreements	Page 11
3. Appointments	Page 14
4. Awards	Page 19
5. Banking	Page 23
6. Books and Author	Page 27
7. Defence	Page 30
8. Economy	Page 33
9. International	Page 40
10. Miscellaneous	Page 43
11. National	Page 47
12. Obituaries	Page 51
13. Ranks & Reports	Page 55
14. Schemes & Committee	Page 60
15. Science & Technology	Page 64
16. Sports	Page 69
17. State	Page 75
18. Summits & Conferences	Page 81

## Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

## Section 2

Question with Answers

- QUESTIONS - Page 86
- ANSWERS - Page 98

## Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

1. Economics	Page 113
2. Environment & Diversity	Page 118
3. Governance	Page 123
4. History	Page 128
5. International Relations	Page 132
6. Polity	Page 134
7. Science, Tech, Art & Culture	Page 136
8. Security Issues	Page 143
9. Trivia	Page 146

## SECTION 1

# Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



## 1: Important Days



### World Milk Day : 01 June :-

World Milk Day is celebrated annually on June 1 to recognize the importance of milk as a global food and to honor the dairy industry. Established in 2001 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the day highlights the nutritional benefits of milk and its role in economic development and sustainable agriculture. The 2025 theme, "Let's Celebrate the Power of Dairy", emphasizes dairy's contribution to nutrition, livelihoods, and sustainability. Events worldwide promote awareness of dairy farming, innovations in milk production, and its impact on health.



### Global Day of Parents : 01 June :-

Observed on June 1, the Global Day of Parents was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 to appreciate parents' dedication to raising children with love and care. The day acknowledges the crucial role of parents in shaping societies and fostering strong family bonds. The 2025 theme, "Raising Parents", highlights the evolving nature of parenting, emphasizing

mutual learning between parents and children. Celebrations include family gatherings, educational programs, and campaigns promoting parental well-being.



### Telangana Formation Day : 02 June :-

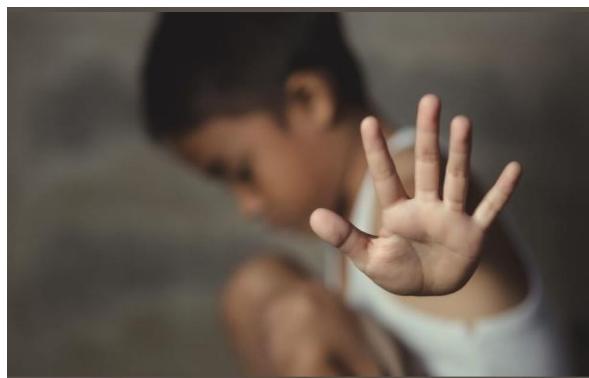
Telangana Formation Day is celebrated annually on June 2, marking the creation of the state in 2014. The demand for a separate Telangana state arose due to concerns over regional development and governance within Andhra Pradesh. After years of protests and political movements, the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was passed, officially establishing Telangana as India's 28th state. The day is significant as it honors the sacrifices of those who fought for statehood and celebrates Telangana's distinct cultural identity. Festivities include flag hoisting, parades, and cultural programs.



### World Bicycle Day : 03 June :-

World Bicycle Day is observed annually on June 3 to promote cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transportation. The United Nations declared this day in

April 2018, recognizing the bicycle's role in health improvement, environmental protection, and economic accessibility. Cycling benefits individuals by reducing the risk of heart disease, obesity, and stress, while also contributing to lower carbon emissions. Various awareness programs and cycling events are held worldwide to mark the occasion.



#### International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression : 04 June :-

Observed annually on June 4, this day was established by the United Nations in 1982 to highlight the suffering of children affected by war and violence. Originally focused on Palestinian and Lebanese children during the Lebanon War, it now acknowledges the plight of children worldwide facing physical, mental, and emotional harm due to conflicts. The day emphasizes the importance of child rights protection, urging nations to implement policies that ensure children are shielded from aggression, war-related trauma, and other forms of violence.



#### World Environment Day : 05 June :-

World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5, was established in 1972 by the United Nations during the

Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. It serves as a global movement to promote environmental awareness and action across 150+ countries. The 2025 theme, "Ending Plastic Pollution," focuses on reducing plastic waste and promoting sustainable alternatives. Hosted by South Korea, this year's campaign highlights the urgency of addressing plastic-related environmental concerns.



#### World Food Safety Day : 07 June :-

World Food Safety Day is observed annually on June 7 to highlight the importance of safe food practices in ensuring public health and economic stability. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, the day aims to raise awareness about foodborne illnesses and promote global efforts to improve food safety standards. The official theme for 2025 is "Food Safety: Science in Action", emphasizing the role of scientific research and innovation in preventing food contamination and ensuring hygienic food production.



#### World Brain Tumour Day : 08 June :-

Observed annually on June 8, World Brain Tumour Day raises awareness about brain tumours, their symptoms, and the importance of early detection and treatment.

The day was first established in 2000 by the German Brain Tumour Association (Deutsche Hirntumorphilfe e.V.) to support patients and encourage research in the field of neuro-oncology. Brain tumours can significantly impact individuals and families, making education and advocacy crucial. This day also serves as a platform for healthcare professionals to discuss advancements in treatment and share insights that could improve patient outcomes worldwide.



#### **World Oceans Day : 08 June :-**

World Oceans Day is observed globally on June 8 to highlight the essential role oceans play in sustaining life and regulating the planet's climate. The concept was first proposed in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and officially recognized by the United Nations in 2008. Oceans cover about 70% of Earth's surface, support marine biodiversity, and provide food and economic opportunities for billions of people. The theme for World Oceans Day 2025 is "Wonder: Sustaining what sustains us".



#### **World Day Against Child Labour : 12 June :-**

Observed on June 12 each year, World Day Against Child Labour was established by the International Labour

Organization (ILO) in 2002 to highlight the global issue of child labour and encourage action toward its elimination. The day focuses on raising awareness about millions of children engaged in hazardous work that deprives them of education, health, and a childhood. The event highlights ongoing challenges, urging stakeholders to adopt measures that prevent exploitation and ensure children's rights to education and well-being. The theme for this year is – "Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts!".



#### **World Blood Donor Day : 14 June :-**

World Blood Donor Day is observed annually on June 14 to recognize the contributions of voluntary blood donors and highlight the importance of safe blood transfusions in healthcare. Established by the World Health Organization in 2005, the day commemorates the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered the ABO blood group system. With blood shortages affecting medical treatments worldwide, the event encourages individuals to donate regularly to maintain a stable supply. The official theme for 2025 is "Give blood, give hope: together we save lives."



#### **World Wind Day : 15 June :-**

World Wind Day, observed annually on June 15, celebrates the power and potential of wind energy. Originating in 2007 through efforts by the European Wind Energy Association, the day later became a global initiative led by WindEurope and the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC). Its significance lies in promoting awareness about sustainable energy, reducing carbon emissions, and advancing technology in wind power. Various activities such as educational programs, exhibitions, and site visits are organized worldwide to highlight the economic and environmental benefits of wind energy.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

#### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day : 15 June :-

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, marked every year on June 15, aims to shed light on the mistreatment, neglect, and exploitation of older individuals. Established in 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), the day was formally recognized by the United Nations in 2011. Its purpose is to advocate for policies that protect senior citizens and ensure their dignity and well-being. The theme for this year is – "Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action".



Father's Day 2025 : 15 June :-

Father's Day celebrated on the third Sunday of June to honor fatherhood and paternal bonds. In 2025 it will be observed on June 15. The tradition began in 1910 in Spokane, Washington, when Sonora Smart Dodd sought to recognize the contributions of fathers, particularly her own, a Civil War veteran. Families mark the occasion with gifts, special meals, and personal tributes, appreciating fathers and father figures for their guidance, support, and sacrifices in shaping families and communities.



#### World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought : 17 June :-

Observed annually on June 17, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 to raise awareness about land degradation and promote sustainable land management. The event underscores the urgent need to restore degraded ecosystems, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, to mitigate food insecurity, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The 2025 theme, "Restore the land. Unlock the opportunities," highlights the economic and environmental benefits of proactive restoration efforts.



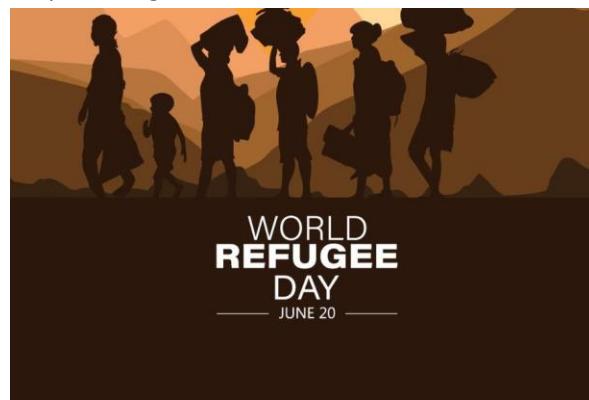
International Picnic Day : 18 June :-

International Picnic Day, observed on June 18, encourages people to gather outdoors and enjoy meals with family and friends. The tradition of picnicking dates back to the French Revolution, when public parks became accessible to all. The term "picnic" is derived from the French word "pique-nique," originally used to describe social gatherings where everyone contributed food. Today, the day is celebrated globally, promoting relaxation, nature appreciation, and social bonding.



#### World Sickle Cell Awareness Day : 19 June :-

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day is observed annually on June 19 to raise awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD), a hereditary blood disorder affecting millions globally. The United Nations officially recognized this day in 2008, emphasizing the need for better treatment and research. SCD causes red blood cells to become crescent-shaped, leading to pain, anemia, and organ damage due to blocked blood flow. The official theme for World Sickle Cell Awareness Day 2025 is "Global Action, Local Impact: Empowering Communities for Effective Self-Advocacy".



#### World Refugee Day : 20 June :-

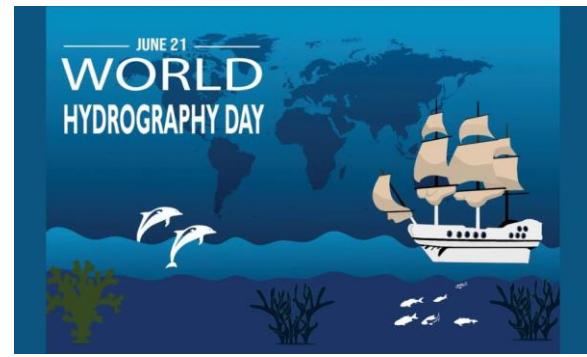
World Refugee Day is commemorated globally every year on June 20 to honor the courage and resilience of

refugees forced to flee their countries due to conflict, persecution, or disaster. Established by the United Nations in 2001, the day also marks the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention. It serves as a reminder of the humanitarian obligations countries have toward displaced people and aims to raise awareness about the challenges refugees face—from resettlement and integration to access to education and employment. Theme for this year is 'solidarity with refugees'.



#### World Music Day : 21 June :-

World Music Day, observed annually on June 21, celebrates the universal language of music. Originating in France in 1982, it was initiated by then Minister of Culture Jack Lang and music director Maurice Fleuret. The idea was to make music freely accessible to the public and encourage both amateur and professional musicians to perform in open spaces. Over the decades, the celebration has gone global, with over 120 countries participating through public concerts, music festivals, and community events. This year's theme is "Healing Through Harmony."



#### World Hydrography Day : 21 June :-

World Hydrography Day is celebrated every June 21 to commemorate the founding of the International

Hydrographic Organization (IHO) in 1921. This day recognizes the importance of hydrography, the science that measures and maps the physical characteristics of oceans, seas, lakes, and rivers. First observed in 2005, the day raises awareness about how hydrography ensures safe navigation, supports marine conservation, and enables sustainable marine resource management. The World Hydrography Day 2025 theme is "Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action".



#### International Day of Yoga : 21 June :-

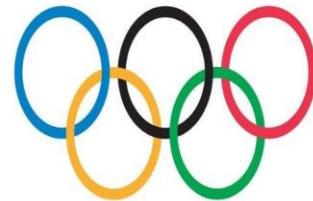
Celebrated on June 21, the International Day of Yoga underscores the holistic benefits of this ancient Indian discipline. Proposed by India in 2014 and officially adopted by the United Nations, the day highlights yoga's contributions to physical health, mental peace, and spiritual development. The choice of date aligns with the summer solstice, symbolizing renewal and vitality. The 2025 theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," emphasizes interconnected wellness—linking personal health with planetary well-being.



#### World Rainforest Day : 22 June :-

World Rainforest Day is observed every year on June 22nd to raise awareness about the vital role rainforests

play in sustaining life on Earth and to encourage actions that protect these crucial ecosystems. This global observance began in 2017, with the aim of highlighting the urgent need to conserve rainforests that are disappearing rapidly due to deforestation, mining, and agriculture. These forests are home to over half of the world's plant and animal species and play a key role in stabilizing the climate by absorbing carbon dioxide.



23 JUNE

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC DAY

#### International Olympic Day : 23 June :-

International Olympic Day is observed annually on June 23 to commemorate the founding of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894. The day marks the birth of the modern Olympic Games and promotes the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect. The idea was first proposed by Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympics. Since 1948, this day has been celebrated worldwide through sports activities, educational events, and community participation. Theme of International Olympic Day 2025 is: "Let's Move?" - Together for More Motivation, Community and Joy.



#### United Nations Public Service Day : 23 June :-

United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated every year on June 23 to recognize the value and virtue of public service to communities and development. It honors the work of public servants and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector. The day also highlights innovation in public administration and the role of governments in improving the lives of people. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2002, the observance encourages transparency, accountability, and citizen-centric governance as essential components of sustainable development and good leadership. Theme for this year is "Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future".



#### **International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking : 26 June :-**

Observed every year on June 26, the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations initiative aimed at raising awareness about the devastating effects of drug abuse and illegal trafficking on individuals, families, and communities. Established in 1987, the date marks the day Lin Zexu, a Chinese scholar-official, launched a campaign against the opium trade in Humen, China, which is considered a pivotal moment in drug control history. The day is significant as it mobilizes governments, NGOs, and citizens around the world to promote preventive education, treatment, and law enforcement to tackle drug challenges.



#### **National Statistics Day (India) : 29 June :-**

National Statistics Day is observed every year on June 29 in India to honor the remarkable contributions of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, a pioneering statistician and economist whose work laid the foundation of modern statistics in India. Celebrated since 2007, this day aims to spread awareness about the importance of statistics in socioeconomic planning and policy-making. It highlights how data-based governance and scientific statistical tools contribute to effective decision-making across sectors like health, agriculture, and education. The theme for 2025 is "75 Years of National Sample Survey".



#### **International Day of the Tropics : 29 June :-**

The International Day of the Tropics is observed globally on June 29 to raise awareness about the unique challenges and opportunities faced by nations located in the tropical zone, which includes countries in parts of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. Established by the United Nations in 2016, this observance draws attention to climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, and urbanization—issues especially pronounced in the

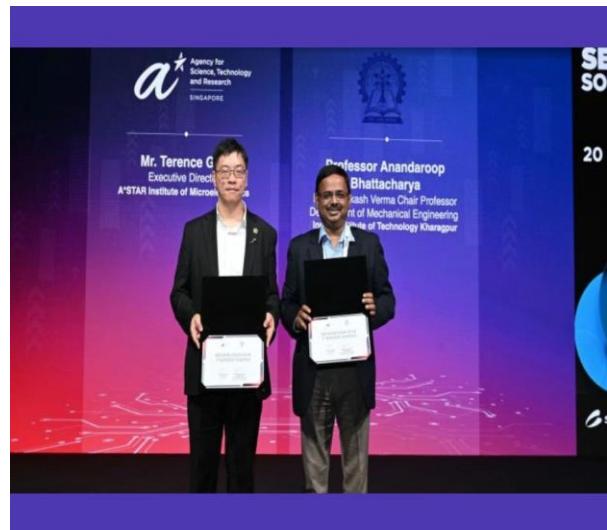
tropics. It marks the launch of the inaugural “State of the Tropics Report,” led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.



#### World Asteroid Day : 30 June :-

World Asteroid Day is marked every year on June 30 to raise global awareness about asteroids, their impact risks, and the scientific advances being made to detect and track them. The day commemorates the anniversary of the 1908 Tunguska event in Siberia, which remains the largest recorded asteroid-related explosion on Earth, flattening vast areas of forest. The purpose of observing this day is to educate the public about the role asteroids have played in Earth's history, the need for better detection technologies, and the efforts taken by space agencies to prevent potential future impacts.

## 2: Agreements



#### IIT Kharagpur & Singapore's IME Sign MoU to Boost Semiconductor Innovation :-

IIT Kharagpur and Singapore's ASTAR Institute of Microelectronics (IME)\* have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance semiconductor research. Announced at SEMICON Southeast Asia 2025, the partnership focuses on AI hardware accelerators, post-CMOS technologies, heterogeneous integration, and quantum devices. The collaboration aims to strengthen India-Singapore ties in science and technology, fostering innovation and workforce development in the semiconductor sector.



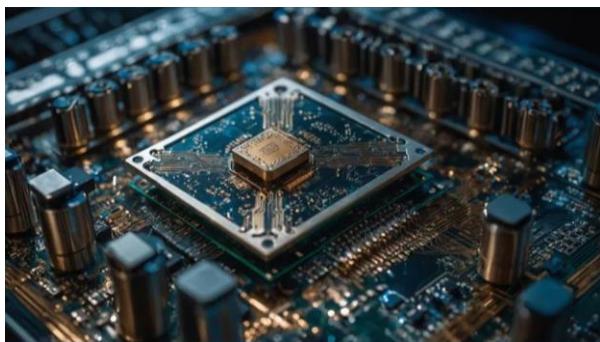
#### Nicaragua Becomes 101st WTO Member to Accept Fisheries Subsidies Agreement :-

Nicaragua formally accepted the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, becoming the 101st member to do so. This agreement, adopted at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2022, aims to curb harmful subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, overfishing, and depletion of marine biodiversity. Nicaragua's acceptance brings the WTO closer to the 111-member threshold required for the agreement to enter into force. The agreement also establishes a WTO Fish Fund to support developing nations in implementing sustainable fishing practices.



#### IIT Bhilai signs MoU with France's IMT Nord Europe :-

IIT Bhilai has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France's IMT Nord Europe to foster international academic and research collaborations. The agreement aims to facilitate joint undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs, student and faculty exchanges, and collaborative research in fields such as Mechanical Engineering, Polymer and Composite Materials, Mechatronics, and Artificial Intelligence-integrated Computer Science. This partnership is expected to enhance global exposure for students and strengthen Indo-French academic ties.



#### Tata Electronics, BEL sign MoU to develop local semiconductor solutions :-

Tata Electronics and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have signed an MoU to advance India's semiconductor ecosystem. The collaboration will focus on semiconductor fabrication, Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT), and chip design services. BEL, a key player in defense electronics, will work with Tata Electronics to develop indigenous solutions for microcontrollers, systems-on-chip, and monolithic microwave integrated circuits. This partnership aligns with India's push for self-reliance in semiconductor manufacturing.



#### MoU signed to introduce UPI services in Cyprus :-

In a strategic move to enhance digital payments internationally, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with Eurobank of Cyprus to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Cyprus. This agreement, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to facilitate seamless cross-border transactions for Indian tourists and businesses operating in Cyprus. With UPI's integration, users can conduct fast and secure digital payments without relying on traditional banking methods.



#### NSE signs MoU with Cyprus Stock Exchange to enable dual listings :-

The NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City, Gujarat, has signed an MoU with the Cyprus Stock Exchange (CSE) to enable dual listings of companies across both markets. This collaboration will enhance cross-border financial cooperation, allowing firms listed in one country to also trade in the other, expanding investment opportunities. The initiative aims to deepen financial ties between India and Europe by improving capital market accessibility, enabling international

investors to diversify their portfolios, and strengthening research-based financial collaborations.



#### **Bihar Cabinet gives nod to sign MoU with AAI to develop six small airports under UDAN scheme :-**

The Bihar Cabinet has approved an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to develop six small airports under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme. These airports will be built in Madhubani, Birpur (Supaul), Munger, Valmikinagar (West Champaran), Muzaffarpur, and Saharsa, catering to underserved regions. The UDAN scheme, launched by the Indian government, aims to boost regional connectivity by making air travel affordable and accessible to the masses.



#### **IIT Guwahati, SDU Denmark sign MoU for research and innovation :-**

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Southern Denmark (SDU) to advance research, innovation, and academic collaboration. The agreement focuses on joint Master's and PhD programs, faculty and student exchanges, and interdisciplinary projects in clean energy, sustainable technologies, and biomedical sciences. A Center of Excellence for Indo-Danish Innovation will be set up at IIT Guwahati,

strengthening ties between India and Denmark in technological advancements.



#### **Tata Elxi inks MoU with Infineon to develop EV solutions for Indian market :-**

Tata Elxi and Infineon Technologies recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop innovative electric vehicle (EV) subsystems tailored for India's growing EV market. The collaboration focuses on delivering application-ready solutions such as high-voltage inverters, battery management systems, and onboard chargers that are essential for efficient and sustainable EV performance. This move aligns with India's ambition to become a global EV manufacturing hub, especially in the two-wheeler, three-wheeler, and commercial vehicle segments.



#### **Telangana Cyber Security Bureau signs MoU with NALSAR to combat cybercrime :-**

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TCSB) has entered into a strategic agreement with NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad to bolster the fight against cybercrime. This partnership includes setting up a Legal and Forensic Advisory Unit to support law enforcement agencies in handling complex digital investigations. It also involves conducting joint research, training personnel, and

developing policy frameworks to tackle emerging threats such as online fraud, cyberbullying, and digital extortion.



### India's Northeast to Pioneer Vegan Leather Manufacturing with CSIR & NECTAR Pact :-

India's Northeast is set to become a hub for sustainable innovation through a new collaboration between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR). This initiative will focus on producing vegan leather using local resources like pineapple and banana fibers, offering an eco-friendly alternative to traditional leather. The region's rich biodiversity and agricultural waste will be leveraged to promote circular economy practices.

## 3: Appointments



### Hitachi India Appoints N Venu as Its Managing Director

Hitachi India has appointed N Venu as its Managing Director, succeeding Bharat Kaushal, who was elevated to Executive Chairman. Venu, who also serves as MD & CEO of Hitachi Energy India, will lead 28 Hitachi group companies in India, focusing on expansion under the Inspire 2027 plan. His leadership aims to enhance digital transformation and operational technology across sectors. Hitachi India, a key player in infrastructure, energy, and IT, sees Venu's appointment as pivotal in driving growth and innovation in India's industrial ecosystem.



### Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar Appointed to Top Posts in PSU Banks :-

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Asheesh Pandey as the next Managing Director (MD) & CEO of Union Bank of India, succeeding A Manimekhala, and Kalyan Kumar as the MD & CEO of Central Bank of India, replacing M V Rao. Both leaders bring decades of expertise from their roles as Executive Directors in public sector banks. Their appointments aim to drive operational improvements, digital banking innovations, and financial inclusion strategies in India's banking sector.



#### **Rajiv Memani Takes Charge as CII President for FY26 :-**

Renowned business leader Rajiv Memani, Chairman and CEO of EY India, has officially assumed the role of President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2025-26. He succeeds Sanjiv Puri, Chairman & MD of ITC Ltd. Memani has been influential in policy-making, industrial reforms, and economic growth initiatives, and his leadership is expected to focus on digital transformation, ease of doing business, and strategic collaborations between industry and government. As a member of the EY Global Executive Board, he has played a significant role in advising Indian businesses on market expansion, financial restructuring, and sustainable business practices.



#### **Ashwani Lohani Appointed Director of Prime Ministers Museum and Library :-**

Former Air India CMD and Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani has been appointed as the Director of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) in New Delhi for a three-year term. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on June 4, 2025. Lohani, known for his expertise in turning around struggling organizations, has previously led India Tourism Development Corporation

(ITDC) and Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (MPTDC). His leadership is expected to bring modernization and strategic direction to PMML.



#### **UN Elects Five Non-Permanent Members to Security Council for 2026-27 Term :-**

The United Nations General Assembly has elected Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia, and Liberia as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term starting in January 2026. These nations will replace Algeria, Guyana, South Korea, Sierra Leone, and Slovenia, whose terms end in December 2025. The Security Council consists of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected for staggered two-year terms.



#### **RBI's T Rabi Sankar Joins 16th Finance Commission as Part-Time Member :-**

RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar has been appointed as a part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission, following the resignation of Ajay Narayan Jha. The commission, chaired by Arvind Panagariya, is tasked with recommending financial devolution between the Centre and states, focusing on tax distribution and revenue-sharing models. Sankar's expertise in monetary policy,

banking regulations, and digital finance is expected to contribute valuable insights to the commission's deliberations. His tenure will last until the commission submits its report or until October 31, 2025.



#### **Sat Pal Bhanoo Appointed Interim CEO & MD of LIC :-**

Sat Pal Bhanoo, a Managing Director at LIC, has been appointed as interim CEO & MD for a three-month period following the end of Siddhartha Mohanty's tenure. His appointment will be effective until September 7, 2025, or until LIC finalizes a permanent successor. With decades of experience in life insurance operations, Bhanoo has played a key role in LIC's strategic expansion and policy implementation. His leadership is expected to ensure continuity in the organization's functioning during this transition phase.



#### **Justice N S Sanjay Gowda Sworn in as Gujarat High Court judge :-**

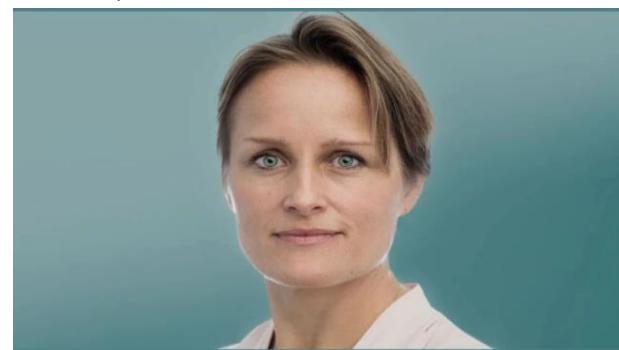
Justice Naranahalli Srinivasan Sanjay Gowda, previously serving at the Karnataka High Court, has officially taken oath as a Gujarat High Court judge. His appointment follows the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendations, aimed at optimizing judicial efficiency. Gowda, known for his expertise in constitutional law, service matters, and municipal governance, has handled significant cases related to

labour rights and administrative reforms. His tenure is expected to contribute to improved case resolution timelines and the implementation of judicial best practices in Gujarat's legal system.



#### **FSIB Picks R Doraiswamy as MD & CEO of LIC :-**

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has appointed R Doraiswamy as the new Managing Director and CEO of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Doraiswamy, who has been with LIC for over three decades, was chosen from a pool of candidates based on his leadership experience and contributions to LIC's technological advancements. He has played a key role in the insurer's digital transformation, focusing on automation, customer engagement, and operational efficiency.



#### **Blaise Metreweli Becomes MI6's First Female Chief in Historic Appointment :-**

Blaise Metreweli has made history by becoming the first female Chief of MI6, marking a significant milestone in the 116-year history of the United Kingdom's secret intelligence service. She replaces Sir Richard Moore, taking charge of Britain's overseas intelligence operations, focusing on counterterrorism, cyber security, and geopolitical threats. Metreweli, who previously led MI6's technology and innovation division, is known for

her expertise in modern surveillance techniques and intelligence gathering.



#### **Lt Commander Yashasvi Solankee Becomes First Woman ADC to President of India :-**

Lieutenant Commander Yashasvi Solankee has been appointed as the first female Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India, breaking new ground in India's armed forces. An officer from the Indian Navy, Solankee was selected for this prestigious role in April 2025, following rigorous training and assessment. ADCs serve as close aides to the President, assisting in official, ceremonial, and diplomatic functions while ensuring smooth coordination of engagements. Solankee's selection aligns with India's broader military reforms, encouraging greater female participation in leadership positions.



#### **Meta Appoints Arun Srinivas as India Head :-**

Arun Srinivas has been appointed as the new India Head for Meta, tasked with leading the company's business expansion, strategic partnerships, and market engagement efforts. Having served as Meta's Director of Ads Business in India, Srinivas brings over three decades of experience in marketing, consumer engagement, and digital business development. Before joining Meta, he held senior leadership positions at Ola and Hindustan Unilever, contributing significantly to business growth and innovation.



#### **Anantha Chandrakasan Becomes First Indian-Born Provost of MIT :-**

Anantha Chandrakasan, an electrical engineer originally from Chennai, has been appointed as the new Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), effective July 1, 2025. This marks a historic moment, as he becomes the first Indian-born individual to occupy this influential role at one of the world's leading academic institutions. Chandrakasan has previously served as Dean of Engineering and Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer at MIT. In his new role, he will oversee academic affairs, budgeting, research initiatives, and faculty development.



#### **Prof M Satish Kumar Appointed First Dean of Queen's University Belfast's GIFT City Campus :-**

Prof M Satish Kumar has been appointed as the first Dean of Queen's University Belfast's newly established GIFT City campus in Gujarat, marking a significant step in the internationalization of higher education in India. With a distinguished academic career in geography and sustainable development, Prof Kumar brings extensive experience in cross-cultural education and research. His appointment signals the university's commitment to promoting global academic standards and innovative

learning practices in India's only International Financial Services Centre.



#### **Sampath Kumar Becomes First Indian MD of Nippon Koei India :-**

Sampath Kumar has made history by becoming the first Indian Managing Director of Nippon Koei India, the local arm of Japan's oldest engineering consulting firm. With decades of experience in infrastructure development, engineering consultancy, and project management, Kumar's appointment reflects the growing confidence in Indian leadership within global companies. He has previously played key roles in transportation, water resources, and urban planning projects, contributing to sustainable development across South Asia.



#### **Professor Suman Chakraborty Appointed Director of IIT Kharagpur :-**

Professor Suman Chakraborty has been appointed as the new Director of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur. Known for his contributions in the fields of fluid mechanics and biomedical devices, he is a recipient of several prestigious awards and has served on numerous national research panels. His appointment is expected to bring fresh academic and administrative leadership to one of India's most respected technical

institutions. The government hopes that under his leadership, IIT Kharagpur will enhance its research output, innovation ecosystem, and global collaboration.



#### **Sivasubramanian Ramann Takes Charge as New PFRDA Chairperson for Five-Year Term :-**

Sivasubramanian Ramann has officially assumed office as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), marking the beginning of a five-year tenure. The PFRDA plays a crucial role in overseeing India's pension sector, including the National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). Ramann's appointment is significant given his prior experience, especially as the CMD of SIDBI, and his deep understanding of finance and regulation.



**Kirsty Coventry takes over as first woman IOC president**  
 Olympic gold medallist and Zimbabwean sports icon Kirsty Coventry has made history by becoming the first woman to serve as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Her election marks a significant step toward gender equality in international sports leadership. Coventry has previously served in leadership roles within the IOC and has been an advocate for youth and sports development in Africa. Her presidency is expected to bring a fresh, inclusive vision to

the Olympic movement, with a focus on athlete welfare, sustainable event planning, and expanding Olympic access to underrepresented regions.



#### Amitabh Kant Joins Fairfax as Senior Adviser :-

Amitabh Kant, a prominent Indian bureaucrat who previously served as the CEO of NITI Aayog and India's G20 Sherpa, has taken on a new role as Senior Adviser at Fairfax Financial Holdings, a global investment company with significant stakes in India. Known for his influential role in promoting the 'Make in India' and 'Startup India' initiatives, Kant's joining Fairfax signals the firm's intention to strengthen its position in the Indian market, leveraging his deep policy expertise and extensive network.

## 4: Awards



#### Raja Kumari Makes History As First Indian-Origin Singer To Win At AMAs 2025 :-

Raja Kumari, an Indian-American rapper and songwriter, won her first American Music Award (AMA) in the Favourite Soundtrack category for "Renegade (We Never Run)" from Arcane League of Legends: Season 2. The award ceremony, held in Las Vegas, marked a milestone as she became the first Indian-origin artist to win at the AMAs. The song, produced in collaboration with Stefflon Don and Jarina de Marco, gained global popularity, making Kumari a significant figure in the international music industry.



#### Delhi : President Droupadi Murmu confers National Florence Nightingale awards 2025 :-

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to 15 nurses at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Instituted in 1973, the awards recognize outstanding contributions in nursing. Recipients receive a medal, certificate of merit, and ₹1,00,000 cash prize. The ceremony highlighted the crucial role of nurses in healthcare, especially in underserved areas. Union Health Minister JP Nadda praised the awardees for their dedication to public health.

**Tennis legend Serena Williams awarded Princess of Asturias for sports 2025 :-**

Tennis icon Serena Williams was awarded the Princess of Asturias Prize for Sports 2025 for her extraordinary contributions to athletics. Williams, a 23-time Grand Slam winner, revolutionized women's tennis and championed gender equality in sports. The prestigious Spanish award, carrying a €50,000 prize, recognizes excellence in global sports. Williams joins past winners like Lindsey Vonn and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team. Her legacy extends beyond tennis, inspiring athletes worldwide. This honor cements her status as one of the greatest sports figures in history.

**Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri Crowned Miss World 2025 :-**

Opal Suchata Chuangsri, representing Thailand, won the Miss World 2025 crown at the 72nd edition of the global beauty pageant, held in Hyderabad, India. This marks the first time Thailand has secured the prestigious title. Opal, a student of International Relations, has been an outspoken advocate for breast cancer awareness, promoting early detection and better healthcare access through her campaign "Opal for Her." She impressed judges with her intelligence, social contributions, and stage presence.

**President Murmu Confers 92 Distinguished Service Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 :-**

President Droupadi Murmu honored 92 senior armed forces personnel at the Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The awards included 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals (PVSM) for distinguished service during peacetime, 5 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (UYSM) for exceptional service during conflict, and 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (AVSM) for high-order distinguished service. The event was attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, recognizing the contributions of officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

**Kumar Mangalam Birla Honoured with USISPF Global Leadership Award 2025 :-**

At the 8th US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, was awarded the Global Leadership Award for his contributions to strengthening U.S.-India economic relations. His company has invested over \$15 billion in the U.S., creating 5,400+ jobs across 15 states. The award

recognizes his leadership in fostering bilateral trade and investment. Other honorees included IBM's Arvind Krishna and Hitachi's Toshiaki Higashihara.



#### **David Beckham set to receive knighthood in King Charles III's birthday honours :-**

Football icon David Beckham is expected to receive a knighthood in King Charles III's birthday honours list, elevating him to Sir David Beckham. His wife, Victoria Beckham, would accordingly be styled Lady Beckham. Beckham was first nominated for the honour in 2011, following his illustrious football career, which included 115 appearances for England and successful stints at Manchester United, Real Madrid, LA Galaxy, AC Milan, and Paris Saint-Germain. Beyond football, Beckham has been recognized for his charitable work, particularly his efforts with UNICEF and The King's Foundation, which focuses on environmental and youth education initiatives.



#### **Anahat Singh Wins PSA Women's Young Player of the Season Award :-**

Rising Indian squash player Anahat Singh has been recognized with the prestigious PSA Women's Young Player of the Season award. Singh, who shares the honor with Egypt's Amina Orfi, impressed the squash

community with her performances, securing multiple titles and reaching the top 70 in world rankings. At just 16, she has demonstrated exceptional skill and potential, marking herself as one of India's emerging talents in the sport. Her achievement highlights India's growing prominence in international squash competitions.



#### **Alexander Payne to Receive Honorary Leopard Award at Locarno 2025 :-**

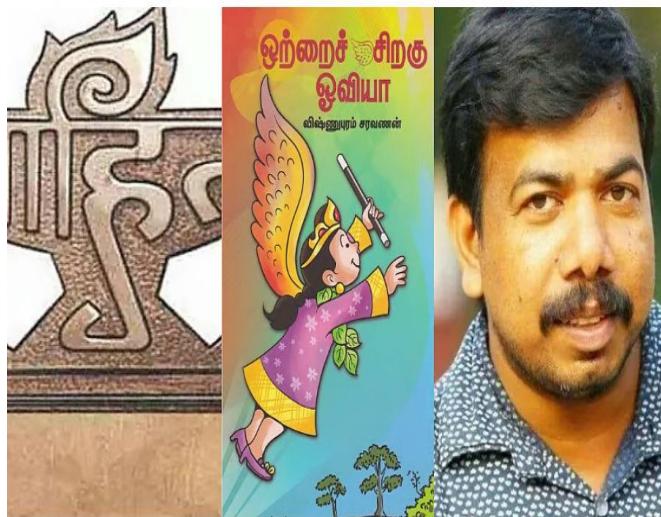
The Locarno Film Festival will bestow its prestigious Honorary Leopard Award (Pardo d'Onore) on filmmaker Alexander Payne on August 15, 2025. Payne, known for critically acclaimed films such as *Sideways* and *The Descendants*, has made significant contributions to American cinema with his distinctive storytelling and character-driven narratives. The award recognizes his artistic impact and legacy, positioning him among distinguished filmmakers celebrated for their influence on contemporary film.



#### **NitroCapt won the 2025 Food Planet Prize :-**

Swedish company NitroCapt has won the prestigious 2025 Food Planet Prize, the world's largest environmental award, for its breakthrough green fertilizer technology. Unlike traditional nitrogen fertilizers, which rely heavily on fossil fuels and

contribute to greenhouse gas emissions, NitroCapt's innovation uses plasma and renewable energy to create eco-friendly fertilizers. With the \$2 million prize, NitroCapt aims to scale its technology globally, making sustainable farming more accessible and cost-effective.



#### **Vishnupuram Saravanan bags Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for Tamil :-**

Vishnupuram Saravanan, a noted Tamil writer, has been awarded the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 by the Sahitya Akademi for his outstanding contribution to children's literature. His award-winning book, *Otrai Siragu Oviya*, blends fantasy with themes of ecological awareness and social justice, making it both entertaining and thought-provoking for young readers. The recognition is part of a prestigious annual literary award given to writers across India in 24 languages. Saravanan's storytelling reflects the cultural richness of Tamil literature while addressing modern concerns, inspiring children to think critically and creatively.



#### **The Hindu Named Champion of Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025 :-**

The Hindu has earned top honors at the Digital Media Awards South Asia 2025, being named the overall Champion in recognition of its excellence in innovation, audience engagement, and journalistic integrity across digital platforms. The prestigious title reflects the publication's successful transformation from a traditional newspaper into a dynamic digital-first media house. Through its strategic use of mobile-friendly content, multimedia storytelling, and interactive formats, The Hindu has strengthened its digital reach while maintaining its editorial values.



#### **India Post Payments Bank Wins Digital Payments Award 2024–25 :-**

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has secured the prestigious Digital Payments Award for the year 2024–25, acknowledging its significant contribution to enhancing digital financial inclusion across the country. Leveraging the vast postal network, IPPB has provided secure and accessible banking services to millions, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where conventional banks have limited reach. This award highlights the bank's efforts in promoting digital transactions, reducing the digital divide, and advancing the government's vision of a less-cash economy.

## 5: Banking



### UPI Transactions Hit Record High of Rs 25.14 Trillion in May 2025 :-

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed 18.68 billion transactions, amounting to Rs 25.14 trillion, in May 2025, marking a 33% year-on-year increase. This surge highlights India's rapid digital adoption and the effectiveness of UPI as a preferred payment method. The previous highest transaction volume was recorded in March 2025 at Rs 24.77 trillion. The rise is attributed to increased smartphone penetration, merchant acceptance, and financial inclusion efforts. The government's push for digital economy expansion and fintech innovation continues to propel UPI's exponential growth across retail and business transactions.



### IEPFA and SEBI Launch First "Niveshak Shivir" in Pune :-

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched the first Niveshak Shivir in Pune, aimed at helping investors reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares. Attended by 450 investors, the event provided on-the-spot KYC updates, financial literacy guidance, and

assistance in claim processing. The initiative seeks to reduce unclaimed investor assets, enhance financial awareness, and ensure better investor protection.



### Canara Bank Removes Minimum Balance Rule for All Savings Accounts :-

Canara Bank has removed the minimum balance requirement on all savings accounts, effective June 1, 2025, allowing customers to maintain zero balance without penalties. Previously, different thresholds applied based on location, often affecting low-income individuals. By eliminating this rule, the bank aims to enhance financial inclusion, benefiting students, rural populations, and senior citizens. The move aligns with a broader trend in Indian banking, reducing financial burdens and making banking more accessible.



### RBI Imposes ₹54.78 Crore Penalty on 353 Regulated Entities in FY25 :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed penalties totaling ₹54.78 crore on 353 banks and financial entities for non-compliance with regulatory norms in FY25. The

violations included cybersecurity lapses, exposure norm breaches, Know Your Customer (KYC) violations, fraud classification errors, and reporting discrepancies. Among the penalized entities, 264 cooperative banks faced fines amounting to ₹15.63 crore, while 37 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) were fined ₹7.29 crore.



#### Flipkart Secures NBFC Licence from RBI :-

Flipkart has become the first Indian e-commerce company to secure a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This approval allows Flipkart to offer direct lending services to customers and sellers through its financial arm, Flipkart Finance Private Limited. Previously, Flipkart relied on banks and other NBFCs for financing options like EMIs and Buy-Now-Pay-Later schemes. The move is expected to enhance Flipkart's fintech capabilities and improve access to credit for its users.



#### RBI launched its new five-part documentary in collaboration with Jio Hotstar :-

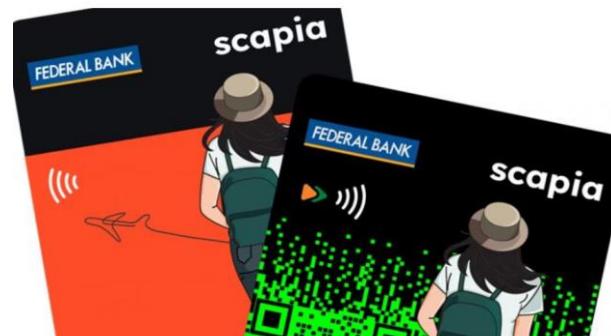
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a five-part documentary series titled "RBI Unlocked: Beyond the Rupee", in collaboration with Jio Hotstar. Produced by

Chalkboard Entertainment, the documentary provides a visual documentation of RBI's 90-year history, highlighting its currency management, monetary policy, financial inclusion, and regulatory functions. The series aims to educate the public about the inner workings of India's central bank and is available for streaming on Jio Hotstar.



#### RBI Raises Gold Loan LTV Ratio to 85% for Loans Below ₹2.5 Lakh :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for gold loans from 75% to 85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh. This move aims to improve credit access for small borrowers, particularly in rural areas, by allowing them to secure higher loan amounts against their pledged gold. The RBI also eased documentation requirements for these loans, reducing the burden on borrowers and lenders. The decision follows concerns over liquidity constraints and aims to support small businesses and households.



#### Scapia launches new dual-network card with Federal Bank :-

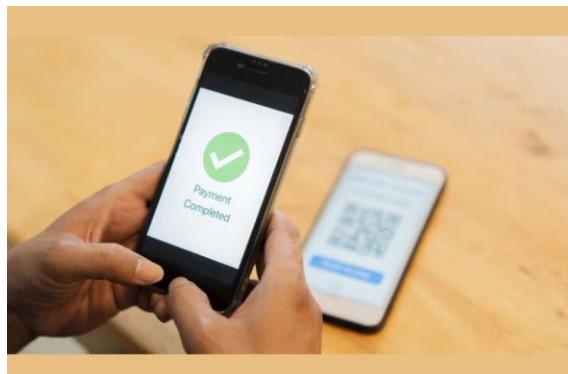
Scapia, in collaboration with Federal Bank, has launched a cutting-edge dual-network credit card integrating Visa

and RuPay, offering seamless credit and UPI transactions. With benefits like zero forex markup, unlimited airport lounge access, and travel rewards, the card caters to digital-first consumers and frequent travelers. The initiative aligns with India's growing digital payment landscape, enhancing flexibility for users by enabling global transactions while supporting domestic UPI payments. The product signifies an evolution in financial technology, combining convenience and efficiency for modern banking needs.



#### RBI Eases KYC Norms: Allows BCs and Video Uploads :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced significant changes to its Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations, making the process more accessible and efficient. Banking correspondents (BCs) are now authorized to help customers update their KYC details, which is expected to improve banking services, especially in rural areas. Additionally, video-based KYC verification has been introduced, allowing individuals to authenticate their credentials remotely without needing physical paperwork or visiting bank branches.



#### UPI transactions are faster as NPCI speeds up UPI online payment time to 10-15 seconds :-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented a significant upgrade to Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, reducing the processing time from 30 seconds to 10-15 seconds. This enhancement aims to improve user experience, ensuring quicker money transfers, balance checks, and reversals. Additionally, users can now check their bank balance up to 50 times a day, a new limit introduced to optimize system efficiency. The NPCI has also mandated that UPI apps display only the actual beneficiary's name during transactions to prevent fraud and errors.



#### PNB Supports Martyrs' Families with ₹17 Crore Aid Under Rakshak Plus Scheme :-

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has disbursed ₹17 crore in financial support to families of fallen soldiers through its Rakshak Plus Scheme. This initiative is part of the bank's corporate social responsibility and aims to honor the sacrifices made by the armed forces. The aid includes support for education, healthcare, and livelihood of the dependents. The scheme is seen as a meaningful gesture of solidarity with military families and reflects the bank's commitment to national service beyond its financial operations.



#### RBI Imposes ₹29.6 Lakh Penalty on Fino Payments Bank

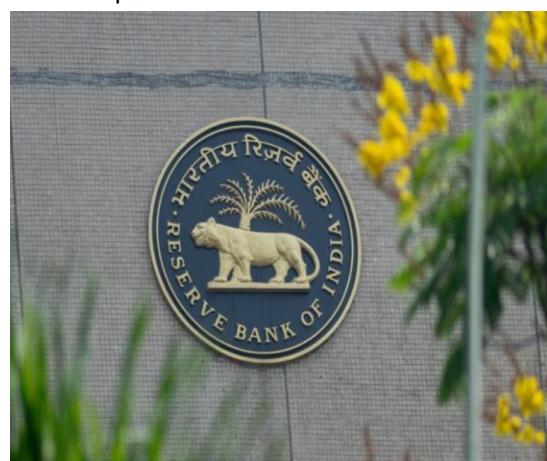
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹29.6 lakh on Fino Payments Bank for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms. The fine follows findings of deficiencies in customer due diligence and other operational lapses. While the penalty does not imply any wrongdoing by the bank's customers, it serves as a warning to ensure stricter adherence to guidelines related to payments and small finance banking operations. Such regulatory actions aim to uphold the integrity and accountability of the banking system.



#### Bajaj Allianz Launches State-Specific Health Insurance

##### Plans :-

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has introduced customized health insurance policies tailored to individual Indian states, aiming to address the diverse healthcare needs of various regions. This innovative approach factors in local disease patterns, healthcare access, cost structures, and cultural preferences to offer more relevant coverage. Such state-specific plans could include unique features such as coverage for endemic diseases, regionally prevalent health risks, or tie-ups with local hospitals.



#### RBI's New Project Finance Norms Offer Relief to NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced revised project finance norms that are expected to significantly benefit Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), particularly those engaged in infrastructure financing like REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) and PFC (Power Finance Corporation). The new guidelines include provisions that ease exposure limits, allow greater flexibility in loan structuring, and facilitate quicker disbursals for large-scale infrastructure projects. This move aims to boost private investment in infrastructure by reducing regulatory friction.



#### JioBlackRock Broking Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Brokerage Operations :-

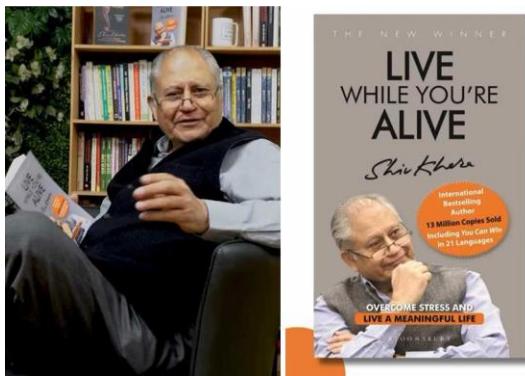
JioBlackRock Broking, a joint venture between Reliance's Jio Financial Services and US-based asset management giant BlackRock, has received the approval of India's Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) to start its stock brokerage services. This move is seen as a significant step toward disrupting the country's retail investing landscape by offering competitive brokerage solutions backed by cutting-edge digital platforms. The venture aims to blend Jio's massive digital reach with BlackRock's global asset management expertise, likely bringing low-cost, technology-driven investment options to millions of retail investors in India.

## 6: Books and Author



### Rana Preet Gill's new book on Ghadar Movement launched in Chandigarh :-

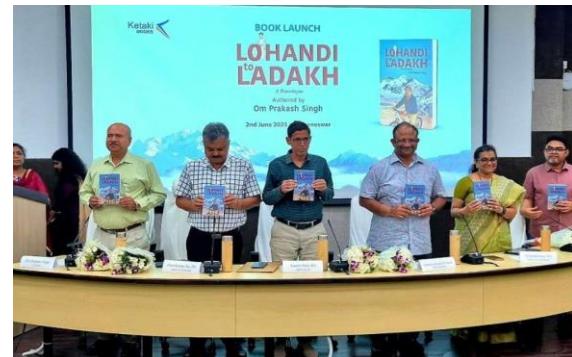
Author Rana Preet Gill has launched 'The Ghadar Movement', a book that explores the transnational fight for India's independence led by Indian immigrants in North America during the early 20th century. The Ghadar Movement, known for its secular and revolutionary ideals, played a crucial role in India's freedom struggle. The book aims to make this historically significant yet underrepresented movement more accessible. Through meticulous research, Gill sheds light on the contributions of leaders like Kartar Singh Sarabha, further enriching India's revolutionary history.



### Shiv Khera's New Book "Live While You're Alive" Launched in Singapore :-

Renowned author Shiv Khera launched his latest book, Live While You're Alive, in Singapore, offering insights on managing stress and leading a purposeful life. The book was unveiled by India's High Commissioner to Singapore, highlighting its practical solutions for personal and professional growth. Khera, known for his bestselling

work You Can Win, continues to motivate readers with strategies to overcome challenges, cultivate resilience, and develop a positive mindset. His latest book reinforces the importance of self-improvement and embracing life's opportunities.



### 'Lohandi To Ladakh' Book Released :-

The book "Lohandi to Ladakh," written by Om Prakash Singh, was launched in Bhubaneswar at an event hosted by Ketaki Books. The travelogue recounts Singh's journey through isolated landscapes, cultural richness, and personal reflection, offering readers insights into the beauty of India's diverse terrains. Discussions at the event centered on conservation, literature, and adventure, with speakers emphasizing the role of travel in self-discovery. Singh's vivid storytelling captures the essence of travel as an enriching experience, making it a compelling read for explorers and literature enthusiasts alike.



### A book titled 'Police Itihas Ke Vatayan Se' launched :-

Authored by Professor Dr. Vikas Nautiyal, the book 'Police Itihas Ke Vatayan Se' was launched at the

Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA). The book explores the historical evolution of policing in Rajasthan, tracing its roots from ancient times to the colonial era. It examines the impact of the Police Act of 1861, the 1902 Police Commission recommendations, and various police manuals on Rajputana's princely states. Nautiyal highlights two models of modern policing—community-based practices and colonial enforcement mechanisms—emphasizing the need to understand policing within its historical context.



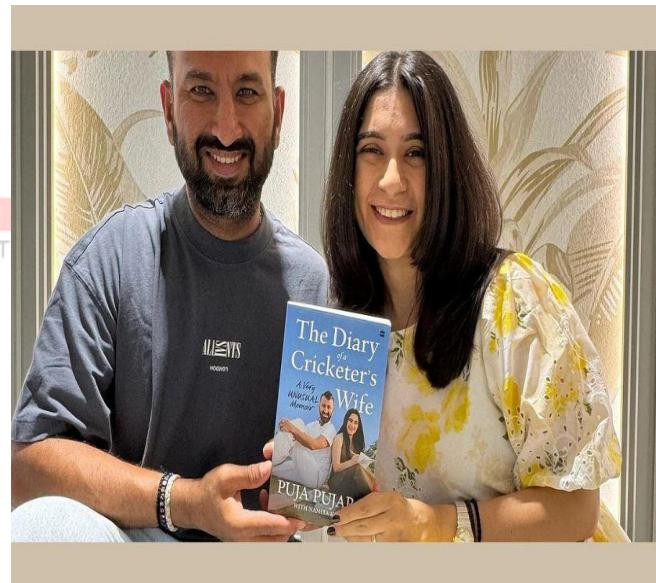
#### Book Launch of "Maa: The Mothers Journey" by Varun Sethi :-

Businessman and author Varun Sethi launched his book "Maa: The Mothers Journey" at a grand event in Pitampura, Delhi. The book is a heartfelt tribute to motherhood, inspired by Sethi's late mother, Mrs. Karuna Sethi, whose birthday coincided with the launch date. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including politicians, educators, and business leaders. The book aims to remind people to cherish and honor their mothers, making it more than just a literary work—it is an emotional movement.



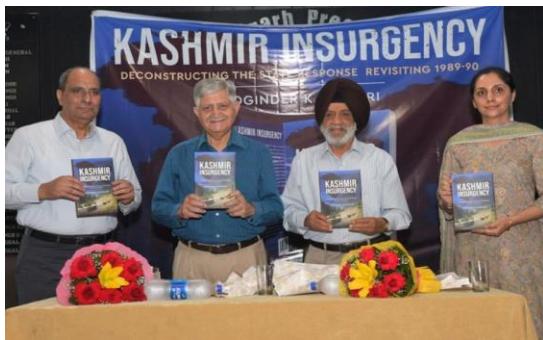
#### Centre releases e-book on Modi Government's achievements over 11 years :-

The Union Government has launched an e-book highlighting its achievements over the past 11 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It covers progress in healthcare, infrastructure, digital transformation, national security, and environmental sustainability. The book emphasizes initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, Digital India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, showcasing their impact on governance and citizen welfare. Through this e-book, the government aims to document policy successes while reinforcing its commitment to inclusive development and national progress.



#### Wife Of Indian Cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara Puja Pujara's Book Launched :-

Puja Pujara, wife of Indian cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara, has launched her book "The Diary of a Cricketer's Wife", offering a behind-the-scenes look at life as the spouse of a professional athlete. The book delves into personal anecdotes, including Pujara's cricketing journey, family sacrifices, and emotional moments. The launch event featured Rohit Sharma and Anil Kumble, who shared their experiences. Puja narrates how she adapted to the cricketing world, balancing personal and professional life. The book also highlights Pujara's resilience, particularly his struggles with injuries and his mother's influence on his career.



**A book authored by Col Yoginder Kandhari (retd) on Kashmir insurgency released :-**

Retired Army officer Col Yoginder Kandhari has authored a book titled "Kashmir Insurgency: Deconstructing the State Response – Revisiting 1989-90". The book critically examines the events surrounding the Kashmir insurgency and the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits. It highlights institutional failures, intelligence lapses, and the socio-political impact of the crisis. The book was launched at the Chandigarh Press Club, with former Army Chief Gen V. P. Malik praising its in-depth analysis.



**Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launches book based on Dr. Pramod Chaudhari's entrepreneurial journey :-**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled "Pailatiravarun... Tar As Zhaal", a book that chronicles the entrepreneurial journey of Dr. Pramod Chaudhari. Chaudhari, founder of Praj Industries, has been a pioneering figure in India's biofuel sector, contributing significantly to ethanol production and sustainable energy solutions. The book delves into his innovations, leadership strategies, and efforts in shaping India's ethanol policies. It serves as an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs looking to make an impact in the field of green energy and sustainability.



**A Book Titled "India: 5000 Years Of History On The Subcontinent" By Audrey Truschke Launched :-**

Historian Audrey Truschke's latest book explores India's vast historical evolution, spanning over five millennia. It covers major political and cultural transitions, from the Indus Valley Civilization to contemporary India. The book provides deep insights into governance, trade, religion, and the role of marginalized communities, challenging traditional perspectives. Truschke, known for her previous works on Mughal history, presents a thoroughly researched narrative, offering fresh interpretations on India's dynamic past.



**Shikhar Dhawan Launched His Memoir "The One" :-**

Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has officially released his memoir titled "The One," which delves into his life both on and off the cricket field. In the book, Dhawan shares personal stories about his journey from a young Delhi boy with big dreams to becoming one of India's most charismatic and successful opening batsmen. The memoir offers readers insights into the challenges he faced, his iconic performances in major international tournaments, and his approach to overcoming injuries and form slumps.

## 7: Defence



### India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025 :-

The India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is being conducted from May 31 to June 13, 2025, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The 17th edition aims to strengthen interoperability between Indian and Mongolian armed forces in semi-urban and mountainous terrain under a United Nations mandate. The Indian contingent, comprising 45 personnel from the Arunachal Scouts, will train alongside 150 Mongolian Special Forces in counter-terrorism operations, endurance training, and cyber warfare, reinforcing bilateral cooperation and military preparedness.



### Three Defence Public Sector Undertakings Get Miniratna Status :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has granted Miniratna Category-I status to Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL). These Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) demonstrated strong financial growth, with MIL recording ₹8,214 crore in revenue,

AVNL ₹4,946 crore, and IOL ₹1,541 crore in FY 2024-25. This status allows them greater financial autonomy, enhancing their ability to execute defense projects, expand production, and contribute significantly to India's defense sector and exports.



### Lt Gen Dinesh Singh Rana Appointed New CINCAN :-

Lt Gen Dinesh Singh Rana has been appointed as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN), India's only joint services operational command. Previously serving as the first Chief of Defence Intelligence, his new role focuses on maritime security and strategic defense operations in the Indian Ocean Region. With a distinguished career spanning 37 years, Lt Gen Rana has held key positions in military intelligence and international defense collaborations.



### Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann Appointed Senior Air Staff Officer of Western Air Command :-

Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann, an experienced fighter pilot, has been appointed as the Senior Air Staff Officer of the Western Air Command. A graduate of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned in 1989 and has

completed 3,000+ flying hours on multiple fighter aircraft. His career includes roles such as Chief Operations Officer of a key airbase and Air Officer Commanding of a premium fighter station. His new position is crucial for overseeing operational planning and combat readiness in the Indian Air Force, ensuring strategic defense preparedness.



#### Tri-Services All-Women Sailing Team concludes historic voyage to Seychelles :-

An all-women team from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force successfully completed a historic sailing expedition from Mumbai to Seychelles and back, covering 1,800 nautical miles over nearly two months. The expedition, launched on April 7, 2025, aboard the Indian Armed Services Vessel (IASV) Triveni, aimed to promote women-led operational excellence in the armed forces. The team faced challenging sea conditions and participated in diplomatic engagements in Seychelles, strengthening India's maritime ties.



#### Indian Coast Guard inaugurates dedicated jetty at Kerala Vizhinjam Harbour :-

The Indian Coast Guard has inaugurated a dedicated jetty at Vizhinjam Harbour in Kerala, aimed at strengthening maritime security and operational efficiency. The new facility enhances surveillance, rescue operations, and

response capabilities, particularly near major international shipping lanes. It will also support faster deployment of Coast Guard vessels for patrolling and anti-smuggling efforts, bolstering India's coastal defense. Given its strategic location, the jetty is expected to play a crucial role in safeguarding national maritime interests.



#### Government sets target of 3 lakh crore rupees defence production by 2029 :-

India has set an ambitious goal of achieving ₹3 lakh crore in domestic defence production by 2029, along with a projected defence export target of ₹50,000 crore. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh emphasized the country's strides in self-reliance, highlighting that defence manufacturing has surged from ₹40,000 crore in 2014 to ₹1.30 lakh crore currently. The move is part of the government's larger push to strengthen national security and reduce dependency on foreign defence imports.



#### Indian Army to get new air defence boost with Rs 30,000 crore QR-SAM deal :-

The Defence Ministry is set to approve a ₹30,000 crore proposal for acquiring three regiments of indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM) systems. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), QR-SAM systems are designed to

intercept aerial threats such as fighter jets, helicopters, and drones within a range of 25-30 km. The highly mobile air defence system enhances the Army's ability to respond swiftly to enemy attacks, improving battlefield protection.



#### Indian Army contingent arrives in Mongolia for Exercise Khaan Quest :-

A contingent from the Indian Army has arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to participate in Exercise Khaan Quest, a multinational military exercise focused on peacekeeping and tactical training. Scheduled from June 14 to 28, the exercise originally began as a bilateral initiative between Mongolia and the United States but has expanded to include global participants. The Indian contingent, primarily comprising troops from the Kumaon Regiment, will engage in a series of drills aimed at strengthening cooperation among international forces.



#### Indian Army Successfully Tests Rudrastra VTOL Drone :-

The Indian Army has completed successful trials of its Rudrastra Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) drone at Pokhran, marking a major step forward in India's defense technology. This drone, developed by Solar Aerospace and Defense Limited, is designed for advanced

surveillance and precision strikes, offering enhanced operational flexibility in difficult terrains. The Rudrastra drone can operate in extreme weather conditions and conduct reconnaissance missions, making it highly useful for border security and counter-terrorism operations.



#### India-US Air Force Special Forces Conclude First Joint Exercise 'Tiger Claw' :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the United States Air Force Special Forces (USAF SF) have completed their inaugural joint exercise, 'Tiger Claw,' aimed at strengthening defense cooperation and operational synergy between the two nations. Conducted across North India, the exercise focused on tactical training, high-altitude warfare, and combat readiness. The drills included joint aerial maneuvers, hostage rescue simulations, and counter-terrorism operations, allowing personnel from both forces to exchange knowledge and best practices.



#### INS Tamal to Be Commissioned on July 1 :-

The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Tamal, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC), on July 1, enhancing its coastal defense and patrolling capabilities. These fast-attack vessels are designed for quick interdiction, high-speed maneuvers, and rapid deployment in littoral waters. INS Tamal, the latest in the series, will be

stationed on the eastern coast and is expected to bolster surveillance and maritime security operations, especially in strategically sensitive regions. Its induction underlines India's continued naval modernization efforts.



#### DRDO Offers 28 Indigenous Weapons for Emergency Procurement by Armed Forces :-

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has put forth a list of 28 domestically developed weapon systems and technologies for emergency procurement by the Indian armed forces. This move is aimed at enhancing self-reliance under the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, especially in light of evolving security threats and border tensions. The offered equipment includes advanced drones, anti-drone systems, surveillance radars, and lightweight ammunition.

## 8: Economy



#### Tata-Airbus to Build India's First Private Helicopter Assembly Line in Karnataka :-

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and Airbus have partnered to establish India's first private helicopter assembly line in Kolar, Karnataka. The 740,000-square-foot facility will manufacture the Airbus H125, a multi-purpose helicopter widely used in emergency services and tourism. Production will commence in 2026, with an initial capacity of 10 helicopters annually, scaling up over time. Karnataka was chosen for its thriving aerospace ecosystem, skilled workforce, and infrastructure, further boosting India's aviation manufacturing industry.



#### Drools Turns Unicorn After Nestle Investment :-

Indian pet food brand Drools has achieved unicorn status following a Nestlé SA investment, valuing the company at \$1 billion. Drools, founded in 2010, has grown into a market leader with 40,000 retail outlets and exports to 22 countries. Nestlé's investment strengthens its position in India's fast-growing pet care industry, projected to reach \$1.2 billion by 2028. The strategic partnership will drive product innovation, global expansion, and greater accessibility, reinforcing India's pet food sector in the international market.



### Centre Notifies Guidelines to Boost Electric Car Manufacturing in India :-

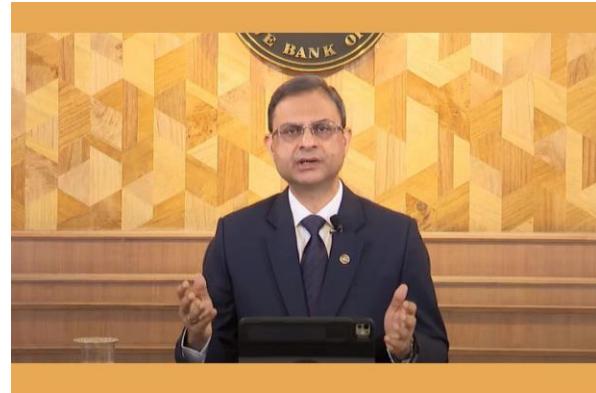
The Indian government has announced new policies to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and economic growth. The policy offers 15% concessional import duty on EVs with a minimum CIF value of \$35,000 for five years, incentivizing manufacturers. Approved companies must invest ₹4,150 crore in local production, ensuring India emerges as a global hub for electric mobility. This initiative aligns with India's Net Zero 2070 target and aims to attract international automakers, fostering advanced technology and expanding the country's EV infrastructure.



### ADB Launches \$10 Billion Urban Infrastructure Plan for India :-

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced a \$10 billion investment plan to transform India's urban infrastructure over the next five years. The initiative includes metro expansions, new Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, and urban infrastructure upgrades. The plan is anchored by India's flagship Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), which aims to attract private

investment for urban projects. ADB President Masato Kanda met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the initiative, emphasizing its role in boosting urban mobility, sustainability, and economic growth.



### RBI Monetary Policy Committee Cuts Repo Rate By 50 Bps To 5.5% :-

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has cut the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5%, marking the third consecutive reduction in 2025. This decision is aimed at stimulating economic growth amid declining inflation. The rate cut lowers borrowing costs for businesses and individuals, encouraging investments and spending. The policy stance has shifted to neutral, indicating a balanced approach towards inflation control and economic expansion. Experts anticipate positive impacts on housing, auto loans, and consumer demand.



### SBI Pays ₹8,076.84 Crore Dividend to Government for FY25 :-

The State Bank of India (SBI) has paid ₹8,076.84 crore in dividends to the Government of India, marking a 16% increase from the previous fiscal year. The dividend reflects SBI's strong profitability and stable financial performance, driven by record net profits of ₹70,901

crore. The cheque was formally handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman C.S. Setty, reinforcing the bank's commitment to supporting the government's fiscal objectives. SBI's steady financial growth has solidified its role in the Indian banking sector.



#### **Punjab Sees 20% Rise in Cotton Cultivation :-**

Punjab has reported a 20% rise in cotton cultivation, expanding to 2.98 lakh acres compared to 2.49 lakh acres last year. The increase follows the state government's push for crop diversification, aiming to reduce reliance on water-intensive paddy farming. Farmers have received a 33% subsidy on cotton seeds, encouraging participation in sustainable agriculture. Over 49,000 farmers have registered under the initiative, signaling strong support for the shift. The rise in cotton cultivation aligns with Punjab's long-term agricultural policy of promoting resource-efficient crops.



#### **Cabinet Approves ₹6,405 Cr Rail Projects to Boost Connectivity Across Three States :-**

The Union Cabinet has approved two major railway projects worth ₹6,405 crore aimed at improving connectivity and logistical efficiency across Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. The Koderma-

Barkakana doubling project, spanning 133 kilometers in Jharkhand, will play a crucial role in coal transportation and improving regional freight movement. Meanwhile, the Ballari-Chikajur doubling project, covering 185 kilometers in Karnataka, is set to enhance cargo transportation to Mangaluru Port.



#### **Centre Slashes Customs Duty on Crude Edible Oils to Ease Inflation :-**

To combat rising food inflation, the Indian government has announced a reduction in the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on crude edible oils, including palm, soybean, and sunflower oils. The duty has been lowered from 20% to 10%, increasing the tax differential between crude and refined oils. This policy adjustment aims to curb excessive refined oil imports while boosting domestic refining operations and ensuring better compensation for farmers. Edible oils are a crucial component of household consumption, and high import costs contribute to inflationary pressures.



#### **Retail Inflation Hits 6-Year Low of 2.82% in May 2025 :-**

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation fell to 2.82% in May 2025, marking a six-year low since February 2019. The decline, largely attributed to a decrease in food prices, signals easing economic pressures on consumers.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may consider adjusting monetary policies based on inflation trends, impacting interest rates and fiscal strategies. While lower inflation benefits consumers, policymakers remain cautious about long-term stability. The drop reflects improved supply chain efficiencies and potentially stronger purchasing power, boosting economic sentiment.



#### India Halts Rare Earth Exports to Japan to Boost Domestic Capacity :-

India has decided to halt rare earth mineral exports to Japan, prioritizing domestic processing and capacity building in this strategically vital sector. Rare earth elements are crucial for advanced technologies, including electronics, defense systems, and green energy solutions. India's decision aligns with its long-term strategy to develop a self-sufficient supply chain and reduce dependency on China, which dominates global rare earth production. By focusing on domestic refinement capabilities, India aims to strengthen its technological competitiveness while ensuring a steady supply of critical minerals for its growing industries.



#### India on Track to Become Global Arbitration Hub, Says Law Minister :-

India is advancing its efforts to become a global arbitration hub, according to Union Law Minister Arjun

Ram Meghwal, who emphasized the significance of institutional arbitration for efficient dispute resolution. Speaking at the National Conference on Institutional Arbitration, he outlined India's historical reliance on consensual dispute settlement mechanisms and the country's recent push toward a robust arbitration framework. The government is working on strengthening arbitration laws, improving arbitration centers such as the India International Arbitration Centre (IIAC), and streamlining procedures to attract international arbitration cases.



#### RBI Hikes Agency Commission for Banks on Government Transactions :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced an increase in the agency commission rates paid to banks for handling government-related transactions. This change, effective from April 1, 2025, includes a hike in rates for electronic receipts, pension disbursements, and general payments. For example, the commission for electronic receipt transactions has been raised from ₹9 to ₹12, while pension-related payments will now fetch banks ₹80 instead of ₹75 per transaction.



#### TVS Motor enters Indonesian electric two-wheeler market with iQube :-

TVS Motor Company has expanded into Indonesia's electric vehicle market with the launch of its popular iQube electric scooter. This strategic move marks TVS's entry into Southeast Asia's growing electric mobility segment. The iQube will be locally assembled and priced competitively to meet the rising demand for sustainable transportation. This expansion aligns with the company's global EV roadmap and supports Indonesia's national goals for green mobility. The launch is also expected to strengthen TVS's presence in international markets.



#### GST Evasion Detection Hits ₹2.23 Trillion in FY25 :-

In the financial year 2024–25, authorities have detected Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion worth ₹2.23 trillion, signaling increased vigilance and enforcement by tax officials. The rising figure indicates not only widespread non-compliance among businesses but also the growing sophistication of government surveillance tools, including data analytics and AI. Crackdowns on shell companies, fake invoicing, and under-reporting have played a major role in exposing fraudulent practices. The trend underscores the need for continuous taxpayer education and tighter compliance frameworks.



#### Net Direct Tax Collection Dips by 1.39% in Q1 FY2025-

26 :-

India's net direct tax collections have registered a slight decline of 1.39% in the first quarter of the financial year 2025–26 compared to the same period last year. This downturn includes revenues from personal income tax and corporate tax after refunds. Analysts attribute the dip to slower economic activity, delayed filings, or increased tax refunds. While the fall is modest, it raises concerns for fiscal planning, especially when the government is aiming for increased public spending and capital investment.



#### Bharti Space to Invest ₹313 Cr in Eutelsat's Satellite Expansion :-

Bharti Space, part of the Bharti Group, has announced a strategic investment of ₹313 crore in Eutelsat's satellite infrastructure development. Eutelsat, a leading European satellite operator, is expanding its constellation to enhance broadband and communication services globally, including in remote parts of India. This move is part of Bharti's broader ambition to strengthen its presence in space-based internet services, especially through its involvement in OneWeb. The investment is expected to improve satellite bandwidth, promote digital connectivity in underserved areas.



### NPCI Launches NACH 3.0 to Enable Faster Salary, EMI, and SIP :-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled NACH 3.0, an upgraded version of its National Automated Clearing House platform, which enables automatic payments like salaries, EMIs, and SIPs. This new version promises same-day settlement, improved processing speed, and enhanced security features. It addresses the long-standing demand from businesses and financial institutions for quicker crediting of funds and real-time mandate verifications.



### India's Private Sector PMI Hits 14-Month High in June 2025 :-

India's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the private sector surged to a 14-month high in June 2025, reflecting strong momentum in both the services and manufacturing sectors. PMI is an economic indicator derived from monthly surveys of private companies, where values above 50 indicate expansion. The surge suggests robust business activity, higher output, and increasing new orders across the country, likely fueled by improved consumer demand, easing input costs, and a favorable investment climate.



### SECI Floats Landmark Green Ammonia Tender to Decarbonize Fertilizer Sector :-

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has issued a major tender for green ammonia production, marking a significant step toward decarbonizing India's highly carbon-intensive fertilizer sector. Green ammonia is produced using renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels, offering a sustainable alternative for nitrogen-based fertilizers. This tender is among the first of its kind in India and aims to promote large-scale adoption of green hydrogen derivatives. It is part of India's broader push to meet its climate targets under the Paris Agreement, reduce import dependence, and establish itself as a global hub for green chemicals.



### Adani launches India's first off-grid green hydrogen plant in Gujarat :-

Adani Group has inaugurated India's first-ever standalone (off-grid) green hydrogen production facility in Gujarat, marking a significant step toward clean energy self-reliance. Unlike conventional hydrogen production, which often relies on fossil fuels, green hydrogen is generated using renewable energy like solar or wind. Being off-grid means this facility functions independently of the national power grid, relying entirely on renewables. The plant not only demonstrates India's progress in the hydrogen economy but also aligns with the nation's broader goals of achieving net-zero carbon emissions and reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels.



#### India's FDI Inflows Surge to \$8.8 Billion in April 2025:

**RBI :-**

According to the Reserve Bank of India, India received \$8.8 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in April 2025, marking a strong start to the financial year. This figure reflects renewed investor confidence in India's macroeconomic stability, improved regulatory environment, and growing infrastructure, especially in sectors like renewable energy, manufacturing, fintech, and digital services. The surge in FDI can also be linked to government incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and increasing global interest in diversifying supply chains away from China.



#### NPCI Surplus Crosses ₹1,500 Crore in FY25, Revenue Rises to ₹3,270 Crore :-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which manages digital payment systems like UPI and RuPay, reported a surplus of over ₹1,500 crore for FY2024–25, with total revenue reaching ₹3,270 crore. This financial performance reflects the massive growth of digital payments in India, driven by UPI's dominance in peer-to-peer and merchant transactions. NPCI's monetization strategy through new services, transaction volumes, and cross-border collaborations has significantly boosted its income.



#### IRDAI Fines Edelweiss Life ₹1 Crore for Corporate Governance Violations :-

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Edelweiss Life Insurance Company for breaching corporate governance norms. This significant fine follows an investigation that found the company failed to comply with certain regulatory requirements intended to ensure transparency and accountability in its operations. The violations reportedly relate to lapses in board oversight and management practices, which could potentially affect policyholders' interests.

## 9: International



### Luís Montenegro Reappointed as Portugal's Prime Minister :-

Following the May 18 snap elections, Luís Montenegro, leader of the Democratic Alliance (AD), has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Portugal. His centre-right coalition won 91 seats, while the far-right Chega party gained 60 seats, surpassing the Socialist Party (PS). Despite political shifts, Montenegro has ruled out forming alliances with Chega, instead emphasizing dialogue, economic policy reforms, and sustainable governance. His administration aims to tackle inflation, housing concerns, and infrastructure development, maintaining political stability.



### Lee Jae-myung Elected President of South Korea :-

Lee Jae-myung, leader of the Democratic Party, was elected President of South Korea, succeeding Yoon Suk Yeol, who was ousted following his controversial martial law declaration. Lee, a former human rights lawyer, has pledged to strengthen South Korea's AI industry, improve relations with North Korea, and maintain security ties with the U.S. while balancing diplomatic

relations with China and Russia. His victory marks a shift toward progressive governance, with promises to hold accountable those involved in the martial law attempt and boost economic reforms.



### Karol Nawrocki Elected President of Poland After Tight Race :-

Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian, won Poland's presidential election with 50.89% of the vote, narrowly defeating liberal Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski. Nawrocki, backed by Donald Trump, is expected to take Poland on a more nationalist path, opposing Ukraine's NATO membership while supporting military aid against Russia. His presidency poses challenges for Prime Minister Donald Tusk, whose centrist coalition may struggle to pass reforms due to Nawrocki's veto power. His victory reflects deep political divisions in Poland and a shift toward traditionalist policies.



### India Secures Presidency of IIAS for 2025–2028 Term :-

India has been elected President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for the 2025–2028 term, winning 87 votes against Austria's 54 in

elections held in Brussels. The IIAS is a global federation focused on scientific research in public administration. India's leadership in the institute will drive advancements in digital governance, administrative reforms, and inclusivity. The presidency signifies India's growing influence in global policy discourse, reinforcing its commitment to modernizing public service and governance methodologies.



#### Trump Revives Travel Ban, Targeting 12 Nations Including Iran And Afghanistan :-

U.S. President Donald Trump has reinstated a travel ban restricting entry from 12 nations, including Iran, Afghanistan, Libya, and Yemen, citing national security concerns. The decision echoes his 2017 travel restrictions, which faced legal battles before a revised version was upheld. The new ban, effective June 9, 2025, has prompted protests and diplomatic disputes, with affected nations criticizing the policy as discriminatory. While the administration defends it as necessary for counterterrorism efforts, critics argue it unfairly targets certain regions, straining U.S. foreign relations.



#### Russia to Build Eight Nuclear Reactors in Iran :-

Iran has announced that Russia will construct eight nuclear reactors, four of which will be built in Bushehr

Province under a pre-existing bilateral agreement. The decision underscores deepening Russia-Iran cooperation in civilian nuclear energy, aiming to expand Iran's nuclear power generation capacity. The reactors will enhance Iran's ability to meet growing energy demands while reducing dependency on fossil fuels. While the deal strengthens diplomatic ties, it has also drawn scrutiny from international observers due to regional security concerns.



#### Wimbledon 2025 Sets New Prize Money Record at \$73 Million :-

Wimbledon 2025 has set a historic prize money record, with a total fund of \$73 million, elevating earnings for players across all tournament categories. Singles champions will now receive \$4 million each, highlighting growing financial incentives in professional tennis. The increase responds to players' demands for higher compensation, reflecting the sport's commercial success and expanding sponsorships. Wimbledon, as a Grand Slam event, continues to lead in financial rewards, reinforcing its status as one of the most prestigious tennis competitions globally.



#### Ukraine receives a further €1 billion G7 loan initiative :-

The European Commission has allocated an additional €1 billion to Ukraine under the G7-led Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration (ERA) initiative. This funding, part of a broader €45 billion package, aims to support Ukraine's economic stability and aid its reconstruction amid the ongoing war. A significant portion of these funds is expected to be repaid using profits from immobilized Russian state assets, marking an unprecedented financial strategy.



#### PM Modi Conferred with Cyprus' Highest Civilian Honour — Order of Makarios III :-

During his visit to Cyprus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, the country's highest civilian honor, by President Nikos Christodoulides. This prestigious award recognizes India-Cyprus diplomatic relations and Modi's contributions to global peace and cooperation. The honor is named after Archbishop Makarios III, Cyprus' first president, and is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the country or international affairs.



#### OpenAI Secures \$200 Million AI Contract with U.S. Defense Department :-

OpenAI, the artificial intelligence firm known for its generative AI technologies, has secured a \$200 million contract with the U.S. Department of Defense. The agreement is part of the newly launched "OpenAI for Government" initiative, which seeks to harness AI capabilities for national security and public service. This contract includes developing AI tools for military healthcare, cybersecurity, and decision-making systems. It underscores the growing global interest in responsible AI deployment in defense sectors.



#### Pakistan Secures \$1 Billion Syndicated Financing Backed by ADB Guarantee :-

Pakistan has successfully secured a \$1 billion syndicated loan from a consortium of international banks, with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) providing a sovereign guarantee to facilitate the deal. This financing comes as a major relief for the country's struggling economy, which is grappling with balance-of-payment issues and foreign currency shortages. The ADB's involvement helped boost lender confidence, enabling more favorable terms. The funds will help Pakistan meet its external financing needs, stabilize the rupee, and support key development programs, particularly in energy and infrastructure sectors.



### Gold Becomes World's Second-Largest Reserve Asset After U.S. Dollar :-

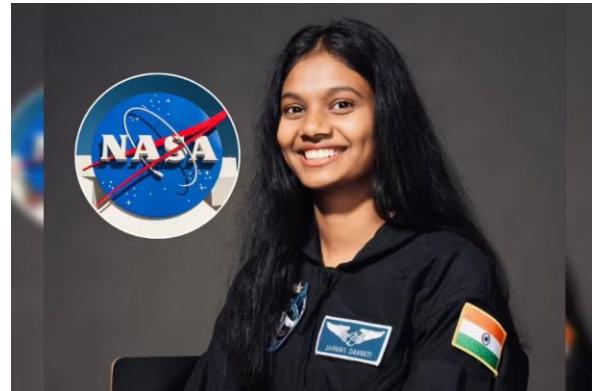
Gold has surpassed other currencies and assets to become the world's second-largest reserve holding, behind only the U.S. dollar. Central banks across the globe have ramped up their gold purchases amid geopolitical uncertainties, inflation fears, and concerns about the long-term stability of fiat currencies. With the dollar still dominating international trade and reserves, gold's rising share reflects a global pivot towards safer, tangible assets. This trend has been especially notable in emerging economies seeking to diversify away from dollar dependency.



### South Korea Appoints First Civilian Defence Minister in 64 Years :-

In a historic shift, South Korea has appointed a civilian as its Defence Minister for the first time in 64 years, signaling a major change in the country's military and political landscape. The newly appointed minister is not

from a military background, which breaks with a long-standing tradition where the role was usually reserved for retired generals or military officials. This decision is being seen as an effort to bring greater civilian oversight to the armed forces, enhance transparency, and strengthen democratic control over military affairs in a country that has faced decades of military tensions, especially with North Korea.



### Dangeti Jahnavi Becomes First Indian to Complete NASA's Space Program :-

Dangeti Jahnavi has created history by becoming the first Indian to successfully complete NASA's prestigious International Air and Space Program (IASP). The program involves rigorous training that simulates real astronaut activities, such as space mission planning, zero-gravity simulations, and robotic operations. Jahnavi's achievement is not only a personal milestone but also a significant representation of young Indian talent making a mark in global aerospace initiatives.

## 10: Miscellaneous



### TCL India Renews Rohit Sharma as Brand Ambassador for Second Year :-

TCL India has extended its partnership with Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for the second consecutive year. The collaboration aligns with TCL's "Master the Moment" philosophy, emphasizing innovation and performance. Sharma's association with TCL aims to strengthen the brand's presence in India, particularly in the smart TV and home appliance market. TCL plans to leverage Sharma's mass appeal through marketing campaigns,

product launches, and community engagement initiatives.



#### India's First E-Waste Recycling Park to Rise in Delhi's Holambi Kalan :-

Delhi government has announced plans for India's first e-waste recycling park, aimed at processing over 51,000 metric tonnes of electronic waste annually. Situated in Holambi Kalan, the 11.4-acre facility will implement cutting-edge waste management techniques, reducing environmental pollution and fostering sustainable technology disposal. The initiative aligns with India's E-Waste Management Rules, seeking to boost recycling efficiency while generating thousands of green jobs.



#### Nicholas Pooran Retires from International Cricket at 29

West Indies cricketer Nicholas Pooran, renowned for his aggressive batting and match-winning performances, has announced his retirement from international cricket at just 29 years old. Pooran played 106 T20Is and 61 ODIs, securing a reputation as one of West Indies' most explosive players. He was the leading T20I run-scorer for his country, contributing significantly to their limited-overs success. His sudden retirement comes before the 2026 T20 World Cup, leaving a crucial gap in the team's batting lineup.



#### Katrina Kaif Appointed Global Tourism Ambassador for the Maldives :-

Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has been appointed as the Maldives' Global Tourism Ambassador, a move aimed at boosting international visitor numbers, especially from India. As one of the most recognized faces in Indian cinema, Kaif's appointment is expected to enhance the Maldives' tourism appeal through promotional campaigns and engagements. The Maldives has been actively attracting Indian travelers, with Kaif's influence playing a significant role in tourism branding efforts. Her association aligns with the country's strategy to position itself as a premium travel destination, leveraging celebrity endorsements to expand its reach.



#### Cipla Health Launches 'Cipladine – Aapka Fast Aid Expert' Campaign with Neena Gupta :-

Cipla Health has launched a new advertising campaign titled 'Cipladine – Aapka Fast Aid Expert,' featuring veteran actress Neena Gupta. The campaign promotes Cipladine, a fast-acting antiseptic formulated with Povidone Iodine, known for its ability to start working within 30 seconds. Positioned as a superior first-aid solution, Cipladine is designed to provide effective relief for cuts, wounds, and burns. The campaign redefines

traditional first aid as "Fast Aid," emphasizing the importance of immediate treatment.



#### Ahmedabad plane crash: Black box recovered :-

A tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad involving an Air India Boeing 787-8 resulted in the loss of 241 lives, with only one survivor. The discovery of the flight data recorder, known as the black box, is crucial for investigators to understand the cause of the accident. The black box, a crash-resistant device, records flight parameters and cockpit conversations, aiding in aviation safety analysis. Its retrieval will provide insights into the aircraft's final moments, helping authorities establish what led to the crash and implement safety measures for future flights.



#### Cristiano Ronaldo Named Global Ambassador for Esports World Cup 2025 :-

Football icon Cristiano Ronaldo has been appointed as the Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025, which is set to be held in Riyadh. His involvement is

expected to bring global attention to competitive gaming, attracting mainstream sports audiences to the esports industry. As one of the most recognizable athletes in the world, Ronaldo's endorsement is likely to expand the tournament's reach, drawing new sponsors and investors. Esports has been growing rapidly, with millions of players and viewers worldwide, and Ronaldo's participation underscores its rising legitimacy as a mainstream sporting event alongside traditional competitions.



#### Amitabh Kant Steps Down as G20 Sherpa :-

Amitabh Kant, a seasoned policymaker and bureaucrat, has officially stepped down as India's G20 Sherpa after successfully steering India's presidency during the 2023-2024 term. Kant played a pivotal role in forging global consensus on critical economic, trade, and sustainability issues while representing India's stance on international policy discussions. With over 45 years in governance, Kant has previously held key roles in NITI Aayog and led transformative initiatives such as "Make in India" and "Ease of Doing Business."



### SBI Foundation Backs Prayoga's Science Learning Mission :-

The SBI Foundation has partnered with Prayoga, a Bengaluru-based educational research organization, to support an ambitious science learning mission aimed at transforming how students in government schools engage with scientific concepts. Through this initiative, Prayoga will expand its unique experiential learning model, where students are encouraged to explore and experiment with scientific ideas through hands-on activities. The foundation's funding will help scale up the program across Karnataka and other regions, targeting under-resourced schools and enhancing teaching capacity.



### DU launches JAIHIND scheme to train tribal students :-

The University of Delhi (DU) has launched a new scheme titled JAIHIND (Joint Action for Indigenous Heritage, Inclusion, Nurturing, and Development) to provide dedicated training and support to tribal students from underserved communities. The initiative focuses on holistic academic support, including coaching for competitive exams, mentoring, skill development, and language enhancement. The program seeks to bridge the gap in access to higher education and employment opportunities for tribal youth by addressing socio-economic and educational disparities.



### India Launches Logo and Mascot 'Viraaj' for 2025 World Para Athletics Championships :-

India has unveiled the official logo and mascot for the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships, which will be held in New Delhi. The mascot, named 'Viraaj', symbolizes strength, resilience, and excellence, echoing the spirit of para-athletes who overcome immense challenges. This is the first time India will host the prestigious event, and the launch reflects a major step in promoting inclusivity in sports. The event is expected to attract global attention, enhance India's image as a host of world-class sporting events.



### JCB Prize for Literature Cancelled After 7 Editions :-

The JCB Prize for Literature, one of India's richest literary awards that recognized exceptional writing in English and translated fiction, has been discontinued after running for seven successful editions. This decision came as a surprise to the literary community, given the prize's critical role in elevating Indian authors and translators, especially those writing in regional languages. The cancellation is reportedly linked to a strategic reassessment of the sponsor's philanthropic activities.

## 11: National



### Hyderabad's 16-Year-Old Vishwanath Karthikey Becomes Youngest Indian to Conquer 7 Summits :-

Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, a 16-year-old climber from Hyderabad, became the youngest Indian and the second youngest globally to complete the Seven Summits challenge. His final ascent was Mount Everest (8,848m) on May 27, 2025. Beginning his journey in 2020, Vishwanath overcame extreme conditions, rigorous training, and logistical hurdles to achieve this feat. His record-breaking achievement highlights perseverance and India's growing prominence in adventure sports. His success is expected to inspire more young climbers to pursue mountaineering at a global level.



### India to Conduct Population Census 2027 in Two Phases with Caste Enumeration :-

India's next decennial census will be conducted in two phases, starting with house listing in March 2026 and population enumeration in February 2027. For the first time since 1931, the census will include caste enumeration, marking a significant policy shift. The reference date for most regions is March 1, 2027, while

for snow-bound areas, it is October 1, 2026. The inclusion of caste data aims to provide accurate demographic insights for policy-making and welfare programs. The census will also be digital-first, allowing self-enumeration via mobile apps.



### Amit Shah Launches Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag to Promote Indian Languages in Governance :-

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (Indian Languages Section) to promote the use of Indian languages in governance. The initiative aims to reduce reliance on English in administrative processes and encourage decision-making in regional languages. The government has allocated ₹56 crore for this project, which will leverage technology to facilitate translations between Indian languages. The move aligns with the National Education Policy's emphasis on linguistic inclusivity.



### India's First Underwater Museum to Be Built Around INS Guldar in Maharashtra :-

In an innovative move to promote marine conservation and tourism, India is set to establish its first underwater

museum featuring the decommissioned warship INS Guldar. The museum will be located near Nivati Rock in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, serving as both a tourist attraction and an artificial coral reef. With an investment of ₹46.91 crore, the project aims to create a unique diving experience, allowing visitors to explore the submerged shipwreck while also fostering biodiversity.



#### NCC Cadets Scale Mount Everest, Felicitated by Defence Minister :-

In an inspiring achievement, ten NCC cadets successfully summited Mount Everest on May 18, 2025, marking the third successful NCC Everest expedition. The cadets demonstrated exceptional resilience and discipline, overcoming harsh conditions to reach the world's highest peak. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh felicitated the team, commending their courage and dedication. The expedition symbolizes perseverance and adventure, showcasing the role of NCC in fostering leadership, endurance, and national pride among young cadets.



#### India's 16th Census Announced for 2027 :-

The 16th Census of India, scheduled for 2027, will mark the country's first digital and caste-based enumeration, reflecting a modernized approach to demographic data

collection. Conducted in two phases, the census will have March 1, 2027, as the reference date for most regions and October 1, 2026, for snow-bound areas. The transition to a digital format aims to enhance accuracy, streamline data processing, and ensure real-time verification of population statistics. The inclusion of caste enumeration is expected to offer a deeper understanding of India's social structure, aiding in equitable policymaking.



#### Govt launches Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran :-

Operation Sindhu was launched by the Indian government to evacuate its citizens from Iran amid rising tensions and conflict in West Asia, particularly between Iran and Israel. The operation successfully rescued 110 Indian students, who were transported through Armenia before returning home. Such evacuation missions reflect India's proactive foreign policy approach in safeguarding its diaspora during international crises.



#### India Hosts First Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance in New Delhi :-

India recently hosted the inaugural assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in New Delhi,

bringing together representatives from over 90 countries to discuss strategies for protecting major wild cat species. The alliance focuses on the conservation of seven big cats—tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma, and snow leopard—across their range countries. India's Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav was elected as the IBCA president. The gathering emphasized global cooperation, habitat protection, and sharing of scientific knowledge.



#### Jio Financial Becomes Sole Owner of Jio Payments Bank

Jio Financial Services (JFS) has taken full ownership of Jio Payments Bank by acquiring the remaining 17.8% stake from State Bank of India. This transaction, valued at approximately ₹104.5 crore, marks a significant step in JFS's strategy to consolidate its digital financial offerings. With complete control of the payments bank, JFS is now better positioned to integrate banking, lending, and investment products into a seamless ecosystem. This move supports the company's broader ambition to build a comprehensive financial services platform, enhancing customer experience, and driving growth in India's competitive fintech landscape.



#### UPSC Launches 'Pratibha Setu' to Connect Top Candidates with Private Employers :-

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has introduced an initiative called 'Pratibha Setu' aimed at bridging the gap between high-performing civil service aspirants and private sector opportunities. This platform will help candidates who clear preliminary or mains stages, but do not make the final list, to find meaningful careers elsewhere. The program is designed to harness the talent pool developed through the rigorous UPSC process and align it with corporate India's need for competent professionals.



#### Govt to Set Up Centre of Excellence to Tackle Human-Wildlife Conflict :-

The central government has announced plans to establish a dedicated Centre of Excellence focused on addressing the rising incidents of human-wildlife conflict across India. As human populations expand and encroach into forested regions, clashes with wildlife, especially elephants, leopards, and bears, have increased, leading to casualties and crop damage. The proposed centre will serve as a hub for research, training, and policy development, using technology like drones, AI-based alert systems, and community engagement strategies.



### India to Integrate Rare Blood Donor Registry with e-Rakt Kosh :-

India is planning to link a newly developed Rare Blood Donor Registry with its centralized blood bank platform, e-Rakt Kosh. This integration aims to ensure that patients with rare blood groups receive timely and life-saving transfusions during emergencies. The registry will allow hospitals and blood banks to access real-time information about donors across the country, drastically improving coordination. Rare blood groups, which are often hard to find during critical times, can now be matched faster, reducing delays in treatment.



### Govt may use different base years for GDP, retail inflation :-

The Indian government is considering the adoption of different base years for calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and retail inflation to better reflect the changing economic landscape. While traditionally the same base year has been used for consistency, this approach can sometimes distort economic analysis, especially when consumer behavior and production patterns evolve at different rates. By aligning base years more appropriately with sectoral changes, policymakers hope to improve the accuracy of economic indicators.



### EPFO raises advance withdrawal limit to ₹5 lakh :-

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has increased the limit for advance withdrawals from a subscriber's provident fund account to ₹5 lakh. This move provides greater financial flexibility for account holders in times of urgent need, such as medical emergencies, education, or housing. Earlier limits were lower, and this increase aims to support the economic well-being of workers amid inflation and rising costs of essential services. The decision is also a response to demands for better social security provisions, especially for salaried employees in the private sector.



### AICF Launches Monthly Stipend Scheme to Boost Young Chess Talent :-

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has launched a monthly stipend scheme of ₹25,000 aimed at nurturing promising young chess players across India. This financial support will help selected players cover expenses related to coaching, tournament participation, travel, and equipment—barriers that often hinder the growth of talented individuals, especially from less privileged backgrounds. The initiative is designed to ensure that India's rising chess stars receive consistent institutional backing during their formative years.



**CBSE Introduces Biannual Board Exams for Class 10 from 2026-27 :-**

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that from the academic year 2026-27, Class 10 students will take board exams twice a year. The goal is to reduce exam pressure, give students multiple opportunities to perform well, and align with the

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's flexible learning model. Students will be allowed to retain the best score from the two attempts. This change is part of CBSE's efforts to make assessments more student-centric and stress-free, promoting continuous learning rather than rote memorization.

## 12: Obituaries



**Veteran Tamil Actor Rajesh Passes Away at 75 :-**

Veteran Tamil actor Rajesh, known for his performances in over 150 films, passed away on May 29, 2025, at the age of 75 due to breathing complications. Despite being rushed to Ramachandra Hospital, he succumbed on the way. Rajesh debuted in *Aval Oru Thodarkathai* (1974) and went on to feature in iconic Tamil films like *Andha 7 Naatkal*, *Sathya*, *Mahanadi*, and *Virumandi*. He was praised for his powerful on-screen presence and versatile performances. His final film appearance was in *Merry Christmas*, alongside *Vijay Sethupathi* and *Katrina Kaif*.



**Valmik Thapar, veteran tiger conservationist, author, passes away in Delhi :-**



Celebrated wildlife conservationist and author Valmik Thapar passed away at 73 in New Delhi, leaving behind an influential legacy in tiger conservation. He played a pivotal role in Project Tiger, working extensively in Ranthambore National Park and advocating for anti-poaching laws. Thapar authored over 30 books on wildlife, sharing profound insights into Indian biodiversity, tiger behavior, and conservation strategies. His contributions to ecological preservation and environmental policymaking earned him national and international acclaim.



**Tamil Director Vikram Sugumaran passes away at 48 :-**

Vikram Sugumaran, acclaimed Tamil director known for *Madha Yaanai Koottam*, passed away at 48 due to a heart attack while traveling from Madurai to Chennai. His unexpected demise shocked the Tamil film industry, with filmmakers and actors expressing condolences. Sugumaran, who trained under *Balu Mahendra*, was admired for his realistic storytelling and rural narratives. His cinematic style captured authentic human experiences, making him a promising filmmaker in Tamil cinema. His passing is a significant loss to India's film fraternity.



#### **Actor Vibhu Raghav Dies After Cancer Battle :-**

Television actor Vibhu Raghav, known for his work in "Nisha Aur Uske Cousins" and "Savdhaan India," passed away after battling stage 4 colon cancer. Diagnosed in 2022, he remained vocal about his journey, spreading awareness on early cancer detection. Fans and industry colleagues mourn his loss, recognizing his resilience and positivity during treatment. His passing highlights the importance of timely medical intervention and has sparked conversations on improved cancer care in India, reinforcing the need for heightened awareness and preventive health measures.



#### **Filmmaker Vinod Chhabra Passes Away at 55 :-**

Renowned filmmaker Vinod Chhabra passed away on June 5, 2025, in Mumbai at the age of 55. Known for directing Papi Gudia (1996) and My Husband's Wife (2010), his cinematic contributions spanned four decades across multiple languages. Chhabra's distinct storytelling style won him critical acclaim, especially in thrillers and drama genres. His passing has left the film industry mourning, with tributes from actors, colleagues, and fans recognizing his creative legacy. His films remain significant in Indian cinema, marking his influence as a versatile filmmaker.



#### **Veteran Congress leader Thennala Balakrishna Pillai passes away at 95 :-**

Senior Congress leader and former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Thennala Balakrishna Pillai has passed away at 95 due to age-related ailments. A two-time MLA and three-time Rajya Sabha MP, Pillai played a key role in Kerala's political landscape. He was known for his consensus-driven leadership and his tenure saw the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) secure historic victories. Widely respected for his integrity and commitment to public service, his passing marks the end of an era in Kerala politics.



#### **Eminent scholar and author Daji Panshikar passes away**

Renowned Marathi scholar and author Daji Panshikar has passed away at the age of 92 in Thane, Maharashtra, following a brief illness. He was widely respected for his interpretations of Indian epics, including the Mahabharata, Eknaathi Bhagwat, and Bhavarth Ramayan. Panshikar also played a significant role in theatre, serving as a guiding force behind Natyasampada Natya Sanstha. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis paid tribute to him, acknowledging his contributions to Indian literature and cultural heritage.



#### **Bill Atkinson, visionary behind Apple's graphical interface, passes away at 74 :-**

Bill Atkinson, renowned Apple software developer, passed away at 74 due to pancreatic cancer. As the visionary behind Apple's graphical user interface, he pioneered QuickDraw, MacPaint, and HyperCard, revolutionizing computing. His innovations, including pull-down menus and double-click functionality, shaped modern user experience standards. Atkinson's contributions laid the foundation for intuitive digital interactions, influencing future generations of software design. His legacy extends beyond Apple, inspiring the evolution of personal computing.



#### **Yakshagana artiste Sadashiva Shetty Mundaje passed away :-**

Renowned Yakshagana artiste Sadashiva Shetty Mundaje has passed away at the age of 67 due to cardiac arrest. He was a leading performer in the Kateel Yakshagana Mela and contributed immensely to preserving and promoting this traditional form of folk theater in Karnataka. His mastery in delivering powerful

performances and his deep understanding of Yakshagana's narrative styles made him an influential figure in the art community. His loss is a significant one for Karnataka's rich cultural heritage.



#### **Hollywood legend Pippa Scott has died at 90 :-**

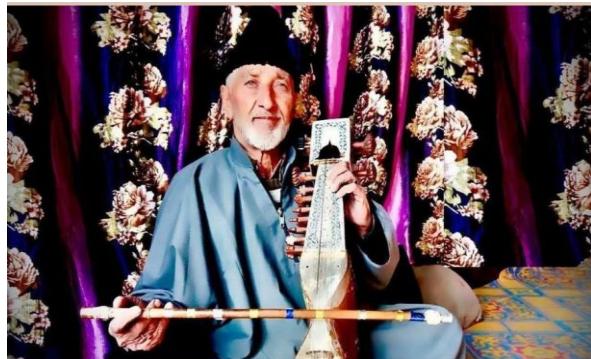
Veteran actress Pippa Scott, best known for her roles in The Searchers and Auntie Mame, has passed away at 90 due to congenital heart failure. Scott had a prolific career in Hollywood film and television, appearing in classics such as The Twilight Zone, The Dick Van Dyke Show, and Columbo. She was the daughter of Oscar-nominated screenwriter Allan Scott, and her contributions extended beyond acting to film advocacy and social causes. Her legacy as a pioneering actress in the entertainment industry remains influential.



#### **Air India Flight With 242 On Board Crashes In Ahmedabad :-**

A tragic aviation disaster unfolded in Ahmedabad as an Air India flight bound for London Gatwick crashed shortly after takeoff, claiming the lives of all 242 passengers and crew members. The Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, operating as Flight AI171, departed from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport but plummeted into the densely

populated Meghani area within minutes. The impact was devastating, striking a doctors' hostel and causing widespread destruction. Authorities confirmed that among the passengers were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian.



#### **Renowned Kashmiri singer Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah passes away :-**

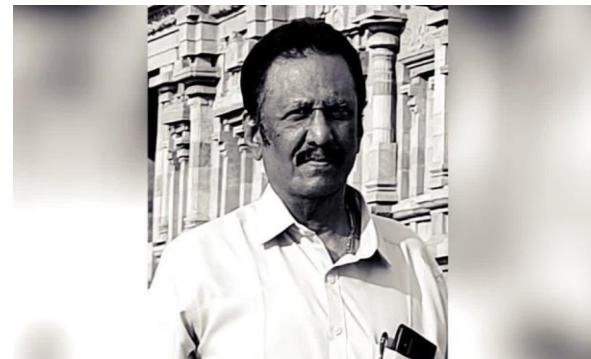
Legendary Kashmiri folk singer Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah, widely known as Hamle Bulbul, has passed away at his ancestral home in Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir. A revered figure in Kashmiri music, Shah was celebrated for his exceptional vocal skills, mastery of the sarangi, and distinctive "glass dance" performances. He played a crucial role in preserving and popularizing Kashmiri Lok Sangeet, inspiring generations of musicians. His contribution to regional music earned him the prestigious Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Award in 2011.



#### **Vijay Rupani, former Gujarat Chief Minister, dies in Air India plane crash :-**

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has tragically passed away in an Air India plane crash involving a flight traveling from Ahmedabad to London. The aircraft, carrying 242 passengers, encountered an emergency

shortly after takeoff, leading to an unfortunate accident. Rupani, who served as Gujarat's Chief Minister from 2016 to 2021, was widely respected for his leadership and contributions to the state's development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep condolences, recalling Rupani's efforts in infrastructure expansion and economic reforms during his tenure.



#### **Renowned ISRO Scientist and Tamil Author Nellai Su. Muthu Passes Away at 74 :-**

Nellai Su. Muthu, a distinguished ISRO scientist and prolific Tamil author, passed away at the age of 74 in Thiruvananthapuram. Over his illustrious career, he made significant contributions to India's space program, working closely with Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on major satellite and missile projects. Beyond science, Muthu was an accomplished writer, authoring over 70 books spanning science, history, and literature. His works played a crucial role in promoting scientific awareness among Tamil-speaking audiences.



#### **Veteran Spinner Dilip Doshi Dies Aged 77 in London :-**

Renowned former Indian cricketer Dilip Doshi, known for his left-arm spin bowling, passed away at the age of 77 in London. Doshi was among the few Indian players to debut after the age of 30 and still made a mark, claiming

over 100 wickets in Test matches. Active in the 1970s and early 1980s, he was considered one of India's most consistent and intelligent bowlers during an era dominated by spin. Beyond cricket, he was also involved in business and cricket commentary.



**Shefali Jariwala, 'Kaanta Laga' Fame Actress, Dies at 42 in Mumbai :-**

Shefali Jariwala, widely recognized for her sensational appearance in the early 2000s hit music video 'Kaanta Laga,' has sadly passed away at the age of 42 in Mumbai. Her sudden demise has shocked fans and colleagues in the entertainment industry. Shefali gained instant fame with the remixed music video, which became a pop culture phenomenon at the time and opened doors for her to act in films and reality shows. Over the years, she remained a familiar face on Indian television and social media, known for her dance performances and candid public persona.

## 13: Ranks & Reports



**WMO : Global Temperature Likely to Breach 1.5°C in Next Five Years :-**

A World Meteorological Organization (WMO) report states that global temperatures have an 80% chance of surpassing 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels between 2025-2029. This breach would intensify extreme weather events, including heatwaves, floods, and rising sea levels, severely impacting vulnerable regions. Arctic warming is expected to be 3.5 times the global average, accelerating ice melt. Scientists urge global policymakers to take immediate climate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate long-term warming effects before irreversible damage occurs to ecosystems and societies.

**India's GDP Growth Forecast at 6.5% for FY26: Crisil :-**

Crisil has projected India's GDP growth at 6.5% for FY26, driven by strong domestic demand, stabilizing inflation, and likely interest rate cuts by the RBI. An above-normal monsoon, as forecasted by the India Meteorological Department, is expected to boost agricultural production. Crude oil prices, projected at \$65-\$70 per barrel, may help reduce inflationary pressures. However, global economic uncertainties remain a potential challenge for investments and exports, affecting India's overall economic trajectory in the coming year.



**Gross GST collections surge 16.4% to Rs 2.01 lakh crore in May :-**

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections recorded a 16.4% year-on-year rise to Rs 2.01 lakh crore in May 2025, marking the second consecutive month of collections exceeding Rs 2 lakh crore. The surge was driven by higher domestic transactions (Rs 1.50 lakh crore) and GST from imports (Rs 51,266 crore). This reflects strong economic activity, improved compliance, and business growth. The steady increase in GST revenue indicates a stable tax environment, supporting government expenditure on infrastructure, healthcare, and social programs while boosting economic development prospects.



**Germany Becomes the World's Top Creditor, Overtaking Japan After 34 Years :-**

Germany has officially surpassed Japan as the world's largest creditor nation, marking a historic shift after 34 years. Japan's external net assets stood at ¥533.05 trillion (\$3.7 trillion), but Germany overtook it with ¥569.65 trillion (\$3.99 trillion). The shift is attributed to Germany's strong trade surplus and the euro's appreciation against the yen. Japan's decline follows

economic stagnation and lower foreign investments, whereas Germany's financial strategies have strengthened its position. China remains third with ¥516.3 trillion, emphasizing shifting global economic dynamics among major creditor nations.



**OECD lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%, UBS raises it to 6.4% :-**

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) revised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast downward to 6.3%, citing risks from rising U.S. tariffs and trade tensions. Meanwhile, UBS Securities raised its forecast to 6.4%, citing strong domestic demand, hopes of a U.S.-India trade deal, and lower global crude oil prices. Both organizations expect private consumption to strengthen, driven by rising real incomes, tax cuts, and a robust labor market. The OECD also warned of potential monsoon disruptions affecting agriculture and inflation.



**India's Extreme Poverty Rate Falls to 5.3% in 2022-23: World Bank Report :-**

According to a World Bank report, India's extreme poverty rate has significantly declined to 5.3% in 2022-23, marking a notable improvement from 27.1% in 2011-

12. The report attributes this reduction to strong economic growth, social welfare programs, and improved access to financial services. The World Bank recently raised the poverty threshold to \$3 per day, further emphasizing India's progress in lifting millions out of extreme deprivation. Government initiatives such as food subsidies and direct benefit transfers played a crucial role in this achievement.



#### India's population Reaches 1.46 billion, Fertility Drops Below Replacement Rate: UN Report :-

India's population is projected to reach 1.46 billion by 2025, maintaining its status as the world's most populous nation. The UN report reveals that the total fertility rate has dropped to 1.9 births per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1, indicating a long-term demographic shift. Despite the decline, India retains a large working-age population, with 68% aged 15-64 years, ensuring economic productivity. The findings highlight challenges such as an aging population and evolving labour force dynamics.



#### Wholesale Inflation Slows to 0.39% in May as Food Prices Ease :-

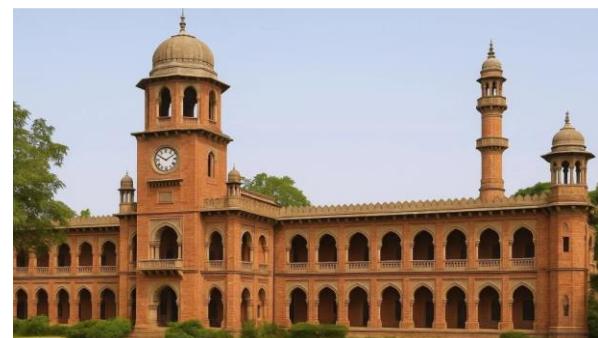
India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation fell to 0.39% in May, down from 0.85% in April, due to lower food and

fuel prices. Food inflation saw a deflation of 1.56%, with vegetable prices dropping 21.62%, contributing to the overall decline. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) responded by cutting interest rates, aiming to support economic recovery. This marks the fifth consecutive month of low wholesale inflation, offering relief to manufacturers and businesses. The trend is expected to help stabilize retail prices, benefiting consumers and improving economic conditions.



#### ICRA Predicts 6.2% GDP Growth for India in FY26 :-

ICRA, a major credit rating agency, has forecasted India's GDP growth at 6.2% for the financial year 2025–26, slightly down from 6.5% in the previous year. This moderation is attributed to expected headwinds in global trade and a dip in merchandise exports. However, domestic consumption, especially in rural areas, along with increased government capital expenditure and stable demand in services, are expected to sustain growth. Overall, the outlook reflects cautious optimism, underpinned by a mix of strong fundamentals and external uncertainties.



#### QS University Rankings: Record 54 institutions from India feature in list :-

India has achieved a new milestone in the QS World University Rankings 2026 with 54 institutions making it

to the list—more than ever before. This places India fourth globally in terms of total entries, following the United States, United Kingdom, and China. The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi leads the country's entries, ranked 123rd, followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, and IISc Bangalore. Notably, eight Indian institutions debuted in the rankings, the highest for any country this year.



#### **Uttar Pradesh Tops Digital Procurement with ₹65,227 Cr Orders on GeM :-**

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading state in digital procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) by placing orders worth ₹65,227 crore. The GeM portal is a centralized online platform that enables transparent, efficient, and cost-effective procurement of goods and services by government bodies. The state's top ranking reflects its emphasis on e-governance, fiscal discipline, and digital transformation. By leveraging digital tools, Uttar Pradesh has demonstrated improved procurement practices and significant savings for the public exchequer.



#### **India Makes Historic Entry into Top 100 in Global SDG Rankings :-**

India has achieved a milestone by breaking into the top 100 nations in the global Sustainable Development Goals

(SDG) Index for the first time since its inception. This improved ranking reflects the country's progress in key areas like poverty reduction, clean energy, sanitation, gender equality, and infrastructure. Government programs such as Swachh Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, and Ujjwala Yojana have significantly contributed to this advancement. This leap indicates that India's policy efforts and international partnerships are yielding measurable progress toward the 2030 global goals.



#### **India to Launch First All-India Household Income Survey in 2026 :-**

In a major statistical reform, the Indian government has announced plans to conduct the country's first-ever nationwide household income survey in 2026. This initiative will fill a long-standing data gap by providing direct insights into the actual earnings of Indian households across urban and rural areas. Unlike previous surveys which estimated expenditure or consumption, this new effort will assess income distribution, inequality, and financial well-being. The data will be crucial for designing targeted welfare schemes, improving tax policy.



#### **S&P raises India's FY26 GDP growth estimates to 6.5% :-**

Global rating agency S&P has revised India's projected GDP growth for the fiscal year 2025–26 upward to 6.5%, reflecting a more optimistic economic outlook. The upgrade is based on several factors, including robust domestic demand, strong manufacturing and services sector activity, and continued government spending on infrastructure. The revision signals confidence in India's macroeconomic fundamentals and resilience, especially in the face of global uncertainties.



#### Credit Card Spends Soar 14.5% in May 2025 :-

In May 2025, credit card spending in India surged by 14.5% year-on-year, reflecting strong consumer demand and rising digital transaction volumes. Factors contributing to this increase include festival-related shopping, increased travel, and greater adoption of credit cards in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Moreover, incentives such as cashback offers, EMI facilities, and rising online retail penetration have boosted spending behavior. The data also suggests improved financial confidence among consumers, despite inflationary pressures, and showcases the growing role of plastic money in the Indian economy.



#### Tata Group Becomes India's First \$30-Billion Brand: Brand Finance 2025 :-

The Tata Group has been recognized as India's first \$30-billion brand by the 2025 Brand Finance Report, solidifying its position as the country's most valuable corporate brand. Known for its diversified presence in sectors such as automobiles, IT, steel, hospitality, and aviation, Tata's brand valuation is driven by trust, ethical governance, and global reach. Key subsidiaries like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Motors, and Air India have expanded their international footprints, contributing significantly to this valuation.



#### Kerala Tops National Evaluation of Protected Areas for 2020–2025 :-

Kerala has emerged as the top-performing state in India's national evaluation of protected areas for the period 2020 to 2025. This assessment, which ranks states based on how effectively they manage their national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and conservation reserves, recognizes Kerala's consistent efforts in preserving its rich biodiversity. The state's success is attributed to community involvement, sustainable tourism practices, and robust wildlife protection measures that balance conservation with local livelihoods.



#### Salkhan Fossils Park Joins UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites :-

Salkhan Fossils Park in Uttar Pradesh has been added to UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites, marking an important step toward global recognition of this unique paleontological site. The park is renowned for its ancient fossil deposits, which date back hundreds of

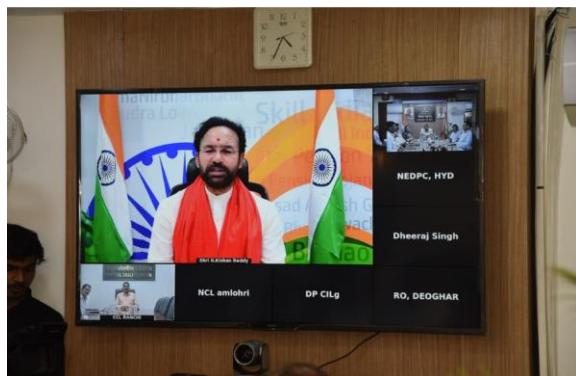
millions of years and provide valuable insights into Earth's prehistoric life forms. Inclusion in the tentative list means the site will now be considered for the final World Heritage designation, provided it meets UNESCO's stringent criteria.

## 14: Schemes & Committees



### 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' Launched at OUAT, Bhubaneswar :-

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), Bhubaneswar. The campaign aims to modernize Indian agriculture, ensuring farmers benefit from advanced techniques, seed development, and aquaculture innovations. Targeting 700 districts, the program connects scientists with farmers to provide technical training and access to cutting-edge farming solutions. The initiative aligns with PM Modi's vision of transforming agriculture using scientific expertise, enhancing food security and rural livelihoods across India.



### Union Coal Minister Launches C CARES 2.0 to Empower Coal Workers Digitally :-

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched C CARES Version 2.0, a digital platform developed by C-DAC for the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO). The portal streamlines Provident Fund (PF) and pension disbursement, offering real-time tracking, direct benefit transfers, and mobile-based access. The initiative aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in coal sector welfare programs. The platform is initially rolled out in five regional offices and will expand nationwide by July 2025.



### Uttar Pradesh Approves 20% Police Reservation for Ex-Agniveers :-

The Uttar Pradesh government approved 20% horizontal reservation for ex-Agniveers in state police recruitment, covering the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC), Mounted Police, and Fire Services. Agniveers completing their four-year tenure under the Agneepath scheme will also get three-year age relaxation. This policy supports post-service employment opportunities while encouraging participation in state law enforcement. The reservation strengthens job security for Agniveers, integrating them into essential security roles.



### Reserve Bank of India Launches Scheme to Promote Original Hindi Books on Economics, Banking, and Finance :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a scheme to encourage original Hindi-language research in economics, banking, and finance. Authors of academic books published between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025 will be eligible for monetary awards up to ₹1,25,000. The initiative, designed to enhance Hindi literature in financial studies, requires books to be original works with at least 200 pages. The move is expected to foster broader accessibility of financial knowledge in Hindi-speaking regions.



### Punjab Launches 'Udyog Kranti' to Propel Industrial Growth :-

Punjab government has rolled out the 'Udyog Kranti' initiative, a comprehensive strategy to boost industrial growth by streamlining approvals and reducing bureaucratic hurdles. At the center of this effort is the FastTrack Punjab Portal, designed to process all business-related permissions within 45 days. The initiative aims to create a favorable environment for entrepreneurs,

attract investments, and generate employment opportunities. Key aspects include simplified licensing, infrastructure support, and incentives for industries to set up operations in Punjab.



### Kamlesh Paswan Inaugurates India's First Agri-Drone Indigenization Hub in Chennai :-

Union Minister Kamlesh Paswan has inaugurated India's first Agri-Drone Indigenization Facility in Chennai, spearheaded by Garuda Aerospace. This facility is designed to boost domestic manufacturing of agricultural drones, reducing dependency on imports and advancing precision farming technologies. The initiative aligns with India's vision of leveraging AI-powered drones for tasks such as crop monitoring, pesticide spraying, soil analysis, and yield predictions, aiming to enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency.



### TN govt launches structured reading initiative for Classes 1-8 to boost library use :-

The Tamil Nadu School Education Department has introduced a structured reading initiative for students in Classes 1 to 8 across government schools. The program

aims to promote critical thinking and language skills by integrating weekly themed readings, storytelling sessions, and interactive discussions. A key aspect of this initiative is its emphasis on library usage, encouraging students to explore books beyond the curriculum. The program builds on the success of the 'Vasippu Iyakkam' (Reading Movement) and seeks to cultivate a lifelong reading culture among young learners.



#### Reasi to become J&K's second district to roll out SMILE scheme for beggars :-

Reasi is set to become Jammu and Kashmir's second district, after Srinagar, to implement the SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme. Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the scheme focuses on rehabilitating beggars through education, skill-building, and livelihood opportunities. NGOs will play a key role in its execution, with Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society selected to lead the initiative. The program aims to transition vulnerable individuals into mainstream society, ensuring dignified living conditions and reducing street begging.



#### Tamil Nadu Government Launched New Mini-Bus Scheme :-

The Tamil Nadu government has introduced a Comprehensive Mini-Bus Scheme, adding 3,100 new routes to improve rural and urban connectivity. The scheme allows private operators to run mini-buses in Greater Chennai, covering underserved areas. The initiative aims to enhance last-mile connectivity, reducing travel time for commuters. The government has also increased the maximum route length to 25 km, ensuring better access to public facilities like hospitals, schools, and government offices.



#### PM Modi flags off Vande Bharat, launches projects worth Rs 5,200 crore in Bihar :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for various development projects in Siwan, Bihar, amounting to around ₹5,200 crore. The initiatives span across sectors including water infrastructure, railways, power, and manufacturing. A notable highlight was the launch of a locomotive engine made in Bihar for export to South Africa, showcasing India's manufacturing capabilities. Modi also flagged off a new Vande Bharat Express train, emphasizing modern connectivity.



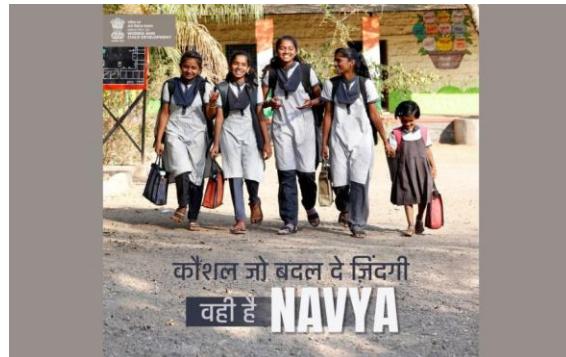
### IIT-Delhi Launches First Special PhD Admission Drive for SC/ST Candidates :-

In a move toward social inclusion, IIT-Delhi has introduced its first-ever special PhD admission campaign exclusively for SC/ST candidates. This targeted initiative aims to improve representation from underprivileged communities in advanced research and academia. The drive includes relaxed eligibility criteria, preparatory support, and dedicated faculty mentorship to bridge educational gaps. This effort aligns with national goals of equity in higher education and also addresses the persistent underrepresentation of marginalized groups in doctoral and faculty-level positions in premier institutions like the IITs.



### Indian Railways Offers ₹1 Crore Accident Compensation to Employees Without Premium :-

In a progressive step for worker welfare, Indian Railways has announced a new accident compensation policy under which employees will be eligible for ₹1 crore in compensation in the event of an accident, without having to pay any insurance premium. This benefit applies to all categories of on-duty staff, including loco pilots, guards, and maintenance workers. The scheme reflects the government's recognition of the high-risk environment railway employees often work in and aims to boost morale, security, and support for their families in times of crisis.



### Government Launches NAVYA to Skill Adolescent Girls in Non-Traditional Sectors :-

The Indian government has introduced a new initiative called NAVYA, aimed at empowering adolescent girls aged 14 to 18 by providing them with skill training in non-traditional sectors such as STEM, robotics, renewable energy, and electronics. This program is part of a broader gender equity push and aims to break stereotypes that restrict women to conventional roles. By partnering with industrial bodies, educational institutions, and state governments, NAVYA intends to equip young girls—especially from underprivileged backgrounds—with the confidence and competencies to pursue careers in high-growth, male-dominated industries.



### East Coast Railways launches 'ECoR Yatra' app for Rath Yatra in Puri :-

To enhance the travel experience during the annual Rath Yatra festival in Puri, East Coast Railways has launched a mobile application called 'ECoR Yatra'. The app offers real-time train status, special train schedules, crowd management updates, and essential passenger services, aiming to ease travel for millions of pilgrims. With Puri witnessing a massive influx of devotees during this

festival, the app is a strategic initiative to improve safety, coordination, and convenience. It reflects Indian Railways' increasing focus on digital solutions to manage large-scale religious events.



### India Launches Largest-Ever Tribal Empowerment Campaign —DAJA :-

The Indian government has initiated DAJA (Development Action for Janjatiya Adhikar), its most ambitious tribal empowerment campaign to date. This initiative focuses on the socio-economic development of tribal communities through improved access to education, healthcare, skill development, and land rights. The campaign aims to bridge long-standing gaps in tribal welfare and promote inclusive development across remote and marginalized areas. DAJA is also aligned with the broader objective of honoring indigenous culture and ensuring their equitable participation in India's progress.

## 15: Science & Technology



### India to Build First-Ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV) in Collaboration with Norway :-

India is set to construct its first indigenous Polar Research Vessel (PRV) in Kolkata, in collaboration with Norwegian company Kongsberg. The vessel, developed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), will support India's scientific missions in the Arctic and Antarctic, contributing to climate research, oceanography, and polar logistics. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) will use the PRV for deep-sea exploration and marine ecosystem studies. The project aligns with India's Make in India initiative and strengthens maritime research capabilities.

#### India launches 'BharatGen' AI model to revolutionize multilingual innovation :-

India introduced BharatGen, its first government-backed AI model, designed to support 22 Indian languages and drive multilingual technological advancements. Developed under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, BharatGen integrates text, speech, and image processing to foster AI-powered solutions across education, healthcare, agriculture, and governance. The initiative aligns with India's Techade vision, emphasizing ethical AI development, accessibility, and linguistic diversity.



### Kerala's Public Health Lab Develops Molecular Test Kits for Deadly Amoeba :-

Kerala's State Public Health Laboratory has successfully developed molecular diagnostic test kits to detect five species of free-living amoeba responsible for deadly infections. The breakthrough enables early identification of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a fatal brain disease. Previously, Kerala relied on external labs for confirmation, causing delays in treatment. This advancement ensures faster diagnosis, improving patient outcomes. The lab also identified Acanthamoeba spp., marking a significant milestone in regional healthcare.



### Starlink Gets Green Light to Launch Satellite Internet in India :-

Elon Musk's Starlink has received approval from India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to offer satellite-based internet services. Starlink will provide high-speed connectivity to underserved rural regions, addressing broadband gaps. Competing with OneWeb and Jio Satellite Communications, Starlink's service promises speeds up to 150 Mbps with low latency. The approval marks a significant step toward expanding

digital access in India, benefiting remote areas. Starlink's entry into India is expected to accelerate internet penetration, supporting economic growth and education.



### Puducherry Adopts NeVA for Paperless Legislative Work :-

Puducherry has implemented the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), making its Legislative Assembly entirely digital. Under this initiative, all legislative procedures, documents, and debates will be conducted and stored electronically, eliminating paper-based records. The move is part of India's Digital India program, aimed at improving governance efficiency and transparency. By transitioning to a paperless system, Puducherry joins 18 other legislatures in adopting NeVA, streamlining its legislative operations.



### Defence Cyber Agency Launches 'Cyber Suraksha' Exercise to Boost Cybersecurity Readiness :-

The Defence Cyber Agency has initiated 'Cyber Suraksha', a comprehensive cybersecurity exercise aimed at bolstering national cyber resilience. The program involves over 100 participants from defense and intelligence agencies, focusing on simulated

cyberattack scenarios, incident response training, and strategic planning. The exercise is designed to evaluate and strengthen India's defense infrastructure against growing cyber threats, particularly in military and strategic sectors. A key component includes expert-led discussions on best practices in cyber defense, ensuring enhanced preparedness against digital threats.



**ISRO successfully carries out model rocket launch test in UP's Kushinagar :-**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out a model rocket launch test in Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh, marking a historic milestone for the state. The 15 kg rocket reached 1.1 km altitude, deploying a small satellite that landed safely using a parachute. The test was conducted in collaboration with Thrust Tech India Limited and serves as a precursor to future student-built satellite launches. The initiative aims to generate interest in space technology among students and foster scientific innovation.



**NASA-ISRO To Launch \$1.5 Billion NISAR Satellite In July**

NASA and ISRO are set to launch the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite in July from Sriharikota. The \$1.5 billion mission will provide high-

resolution Earth observation data, tracking climate change, natural disasters, and agricultural patterns. NISAR is the first satellite to use dual-frequency radar, offering unprecedented insights into Earth's surface changes. The satellite will scan nearly all land and ice surfaces every 12 days, providing critical environmental data to scientists worldwide.



**Axiom-4 mission may launch on June 22, ISRO announces :-**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed that the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission is slated for launch on June 22, 2025. This mission, organized in partnership with the U.S.-based Axiom Space, will carry Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the International Space Station (ISS), where he will engage in scientific experiments focused on materials science and human physiology. Ax-4 represents India's expanding role in space diplomacy and human spaceflight programs. It also highlights global collaboration in space exploration.



**Bihar becomes 1st state to adopt e-voting system for urban polls :-**

Bihar has made history by becoming the first Indian state to adopt mobile-based e-voting for urban local body

elections. This forward-thinking initiative aims to increase voter turnout, especially among migrant workers, the elderly, and people with disabilities, by allowing them to vote remotely using smartphones. The system uses a combination of blockchain technology, facial recognition, and secure encryption to ensure accuracy and prevent fraud. The pilot project demonstrates Bihar's push toward inclusive and tech-driven governance.



#### Delhi Set for First Cloud-Seeding Trial by June-End :-

The Delhi government, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, is preparing to carry out its first cloud-seeding trial by the end of June 2025, marking a critical step in exploring technological solutions to combat severe air pollution and water scarcity. Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that involves injecting chemicals like silver iodide or potassium iodide into clouds to stimulate precipitation. The upcoming trial aims to induce artificial rain over the National Capital Region (NCR) to help settle suspended pollutants and dust particles, thereby improving air quality.



#### Honda Successfully Tests Reusable Rocket :-

In a significant step toward diversifying its technological capabilities, Honda has successfully conducted a test of its prototype reusable rocket, marking its entry into the private space exploration race. This test focused on achieving vertical takeoff and controlled landing—key components of reusable launch systems that reduce costs and increase mission flexibility. Honda's foray into aerospace is part of its broader innovation strategy that includes electric mobility, robotics, and renewable energy.



#### US FDA Approves Breakthrough HIV Prevention Shot :-

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a new injectable drug for HIV prevention, marking a major advancement in the global fight against the virus. Unlike traditional daily oral medications, this shot is administered every few months, significantly improving adherence and reducing stigma. Clinical trials showed high efficacy in preventing HIV transmission among high-risk groups. This approval is expected to increase access and acceptance, especially among populations with limited healthcare access or difficulty in maintaining daily medication routines.



#### India sends its first astronaut into space in 41 years :-

After a long hiatus since Rakesh Sharma's historic flight in 1984, India has successfully launched another astronaut into space, marking a monumental achievement in its space exploration journey. The mission, conducted under ISRO's ambitious Gaganyaan program, represents a leap in India's capabilities in human spaceflight. The astronaut's journey not only showcases technological advancements in crew modules, life support, and launch vehicles, but also enhances India's standing in the global space race.



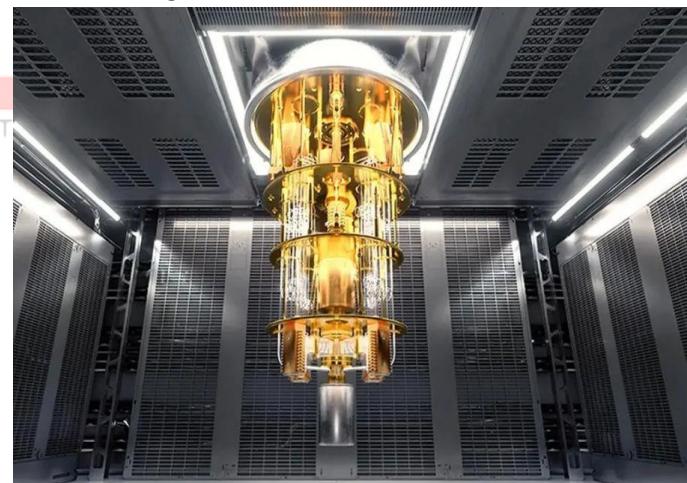
#### Google Launches Revolutionary AI Mode in India :-

Google has rolled out a groundbreaking artificial intelligence (AI) mode specifically tailored for Indian users. This new mode integrates generative AI into its core services like Search, Maps, and Android, offering localized features in multiple Indian languages. It enhances user interaction through voice, image, and text, enabling smart recommendations, summarizations, and real-time translations. The launch underlines India's growing importance as a technology hub and highlights the country's demand for AI-driven, language-inclusive tools.



#### China Detects Two New Bat Viruses with Potential to Infect Humans :-

Chinese researchers have identified two new bat viruses with genetic traits that suggest the potential to infect humans, raising fresh global health concerns. These viruses were discovered during surveillance of bat populations and show similarities to known zoonotic pathogens, including coronaviruses. While no direct human infections have been reported so far, scientists warn of the need for close monitoring and global cooperation in wildlife virology. The discovery reinforces the importance of One Health approaches, which integrate human, animal, and environmental health, especially as disease spillovers from animals to humans become more frequent due to habitat disruption and climate change.



#### India's First Quantum Computing Valley to Launch in Amaravati by January 2026 :-

India is set to launch its first Quantum Computing Valley in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, by January 2026, marking a major stride in the country's technological future. The facility will house quantum computing startups, research labs, and training centers, aiming to accelerate breakthroughs in encryption, drug discovery, material science, and artificial intelligence. It's envisioned as a world-class hub modeled after Silicon Valley, backed by government and private investments. The project aligns with India's National Quantum Mission and its aspiration to become a global leader in emerging technologies.

## 16: Sports



### Ahmedabad to Host Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1 to 10 :-

Ahmedabad will host the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1-10, marking India's first time hosting the event in 44 years. Originally planned for Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad was selected for its superior infrastructure. The competition will introduce new weight categories, aligning with updated regulations by the International Weightlifting Federation. India aims to use this event to strengthen its bid for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympics. The championship will feature elite lifters from across Asia, showcasing talent and promoting weightlifting in India.



### Mary Earps Retires from International Football :-

Mary Earps, England's star goalkeeper, has announced her retirement from international football just six weeks before Euro 2025. Earps played a crucial role in England's Euro 2022 victory and their 2023 World Cup final run. While her decision shocked the squad, she cited personal reasons for stepping away. Hannah Hampton is set to replace her as England's new first-choice goalkeeper for

the tournament. Fans and teammates expressed appreciation for Earps' contributions, acknowledging her impact on women's football at the international level.



### D Gukesh Defeats Magnus Carlsen in Norway Chess 2025 :-

In a stunning performance at Norway Chess 2025, Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh defeated World No.1 Magnus Carlsen in a classical chess match, marking his first-ever classical victory against Carlsen. The game took a dramatic turn when Carlsen made a critical endgame blunder, allowing Gukesh to secure the win. The victory elevated Gukesh's standing in the tournament, placing him third, behind Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana. His triumph adds to India's growing dominance in international chess, showcasing a new generation of elite players.



### Royal Challengers Bangalore Win Their First-Ever IPL Title :-

Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) secured their first-ever Indian Premier League (IPL) title by defeating Punjab

Kings (PBKS) in the IPL 2025 final at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. After winning the toss, RCB opted to bat first and posted 190/9 in 20 overs. Punjab Kings fought hard but fell short, managing 184/7 in 20 overs, giving RCB a 6-run victory. Krunal Pandya played a crucial role, delivering a match-winning bowling spell of 4-0-17-2, dismissing key PBKS batters. This win marks a historic moment for RCB, ending their 18-year title drought since the league's inception in 2008.



**Glenn Maxwell bids farewell to ODIs, ends 13-year innings in One-Day cricket :-**

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has announced his retirement from ODI cricket, concluding a remarkable 13-year career. Having played 149 ODIs, he amassed 3,990 runs with a stunning strike rate of 126, ranking second in ODI history. His greatest innings came in the 2023 World Cup, where he scored an unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan, securing a record-breaking run chase. Maxwell cites physical toll and injuries as reasons for stepping away but remains committed to T20 cricket, with the upcoming 2026 T20 World Cup as his next focus.



**Heinrich Klaasen Announces Retirement from International Cricket :-**

South African wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen has officially retired from international cricket at 33, after stepping away from Test cricket in 2024. Known for his aggressive playing style, Klaasen featured in 60 ODIs and 58 T20Is, accumulating over 2,000 ODI runs. His career-best 174 against Australia showcased his exceptional batting skills. Klaasen's decision stems from a desire to focus on family life, although he will continue competing in global T20 leagues, bringing his power-hitting expertise to various franchise teams worldwide.



**India vs England Test Series to be Renamed the 'Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy' :-**

Starting June 20, 2025, the India vs England Test series will be renamed the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy, replacing the Pataudi Trophy. The change honors Sachin Tendulkar, the highest Test run-scorer, and James Anderson, England's leading wicket-taker. The trophy will be unveiled at Lord's during the World Test Championship final. The renaming follows the trend of commemorating cricket legends, similar to the Crowe-Thorpe Trophy for England-New Zealand matches. The move aims to celebrate the legacy of two outstanding cricketers while enhancing cricket's historical significance.



### India Finishes Second at Asian Athletics Championships 2025 with 24 Medals:-

India secured second place in the Asian Athletics Championships 2025, held in Gumi, South Korea, winning 24 medals—8 gold, 10 silver, and 6 bronze. The team showcased impressive performances, with Sachin Yadav winning silver in javelin, Parul Chaudhary securing two silver medals in distance races, and Animesh Kujur setting a national record in the 200m sprint. India's gold tally improved from 6 to 8, marking its best performance since 2017. The results strengthen India's athletics reputation and enhance preparations for future international events.



### Magnus Carlsen Clinches Norway Chess 2025 Title :-

Magnus Carlsen has won his seventh Norway Chess title, edging out Fabiano Caruana and reigning World Champion D. Gukesh in a dramatic final round. Carlsen finished with 16 points, narrowly ahead of Caruana (15.5 points) and Gukesh (14.5 points). The tournament featured intense battles, including Carlsen's draw against Arjun Erigaisi and Gukesh's loss to Caruana, which ultimately secured Carlsen's victory. In the women's section, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk secured the Norway Chess 2025 women's title with 16.5 points.



### Muhammad Waseem and Chloe Tryon Named ICC Players of the Month for May 2025 :-

Muhammad Waseem of the United Arab Emirates and Chloe Tryon of South Africa have been named ICC Players of the Month for May 2025. Waseem secured the award for the second time, following his stellar performances in ODIs and T20Is, including a historic series win over Bangladesh. Tryon impressed in the Sri Lanka ODI Tri-Series, scoring 176 runs and taking six wickets, including a five-wicket haul with a hat-trick. Both players were recognized for their match-winning contributions.



### Alcaraz beats Sinner to win 2025 French Open men's singles final :-

Spanish tennis sensation Carlos Alcaraz secured his second French Open men's singles title by defeating Italy's Jannik Sinner in an intense five-set final. The match, lasting over five hours, was one of the longest Roland Garros finals ever played, showcasing incredible skill and determination from both players. Alcaraz demonstrated tactical brilliance, overcoming Sinner's powerful baseline game with precise shot-making and resilience. His victory solidifies his status as a dominant force in modern tennis, adding another Grand Slam trophy to his growing legacy.



### Anders Antonsen, An Se-young Clinch Singles Titles at 2025 Indonesia Open :-

Denmark's Anders Antonsen claimed his first Indonesia Open title by defeating Chou Tien-chen in a thrilling final, while South Korea's An Se-young secured her second championship after triumphing over Wang Zhi Yi. Both players displayed exceptional skill, agility, and strategic play, reinforcing their positions among the top international badminton players. Their victories reflect the intense competition at the Indonesia Open, one of the most prestigious events on the BWF circuit, drawing top-tier talents from around the world.



### Football : Portugal Crowned Nations League Champions

Portugal clinched the UEFA Nations League title after defeating Spain in a dramatic penalty shootout. The final saw Cristiano Ronaldo scoring a crucial equalizer, while goalkeeper Diogo Costa delivered outstanding saves to secure Portugal's victory. This marks Portugal's second Nations League triumph, reaffirming their status as one of Europe's top football teams. The victory highlights their consistency in international tournaments, with a well-balanced squad that blends experience and youth. Their win further cements Portugal's reputation as a football powerhouse.



### Priyanka Goswami Wins Gold at Austrian Racewalking Championships :-

Indian athlete Priyanka Goswami has secured a gold medal at the Austrian Racewalking Championships in Innsbruck, winning the women's 10km event with a time of 47 minutes and 54 seconds. Despite battling a fever and receiving a one-minute penalty, Goswami displayed resilience and determination, marking her first major victory of the season. She holds the national record in the 20km race walk, a testament to her consistency and skill in the discipline. The Austrian event served as a preparatory competition for upcoming international meets, allowing her to fine-tune her technique.



### South Africa Clinches Maiden ICC World Test Championship 2025 Title :-

South Africa has secured its first-ever ICC World Test Championship title by defeating Australia at Lord's, marking a historic moment in their cricketing journey. Led by captain Temba Bavuma, the team showcased remarkable resilience, with standout performances from Aiden Markram, who scored a crucial century. The victory ends South Africa's 27-year ICC trophy drought, making it a landmark achievement for the nation's cricketing legacy. The championship win is expected to energize South African cricket.



### Taylor Fritz tops Alexander Zverev to win Stuttgart Open title :-

Taylor Fritz secured his ninth ATP title by defeating Alexander Zverev in the Stuttgart Open final, winning 6-3, 7-6 on grass courts. The American exhibited exceptional serving power and tactical resilience, capitalizing on his strong forehand play to maintain dominance over Zverev. This victory marks his fourth ATP title on grass, reinforcing his status as a formidable contender ahead of Wimbledon 2025.



### Ankita Raina Clinches 32nd Doubles Title with Alice Robbe at Guimaraes ITF :-

Indian tennis player Ankita Raina, along with Alice Robbe of France, secured the women's doubles title at the \$40,000 ITF Women's Tournament in Guimaraes, Portugal. The duo displayed remarkable coordination and skill, defeating Japanese opponents Hiromi Abe and Kanako Morisaki in a gripping final. This victory marks Ankita Raina's third doubles title of 2025 and her 32nd overall career doubles win, reinforcing her status as a dominant force on the ITF circuit. Raina has been a consistent performer in women's doubles, maintaining her reputation as one of India's most successful tennis players in international tournaments.



### Russell retains Canadian Grand Prix victory :-

George Russell secured his first Formula 1 victory of the season at the Canadian Grand Prix, holding onto pole position throughout the race. Facing stiff competition, he successfully defended his lead against Max Verstappen, who finished second, while Mercedes' Kimi Antonelli claimed his maiden podium in third place. The race also witnessed a dramatic collision between McLaren teammates Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris, which significantly impacted their championship standings. Russell's win is a crucial milestone in his career, reinforcing Mercedes' competitiveness in the ongoing F1 season.



### Carlos Alcaraz Clinches Second Queen's Club Title :-

Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz has secured his second consecutive title at the Queen's Club Championships in London, reaffirming his prowess on grass courts ahead of Wimbledon. His victory, achieved through a combination of powerful baseline play, swift movement, and tactical intelligence, showcases his adaptability across surfaces. At just 22, Alcaraz is already being seen as a successor to the Big Three era in men's tennis. The win also boosts his confidence going into the Grand Slam season and strengthens his position in the ATP rankings.



### Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Asian to Claim 150 Test Wickets in SENA Countries :-

Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Asian bowler to take 150 Test wickets in SENA countries—comprising South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia. These countries are known for challenging conditions, especially for subcontinental bowlers, due to their pace-friendly pitches. Bumrah's consistency, unique action, and skill with the new and old ball have made him India's spearhead in overseas matches. His feat underscores a paradigm shift in India's bowling strength, which was traditionally spin-heavy.



### Thunder Win Franchise's First NBA Title in Oklahoma City :-

The Oklahoma City Thunder have made history by winning their first NBA championship since the franchise relocated to Oklahoma from Seattle in 2008. This milestone victory is the culmination of years of rebuilding and strategic drafting, featuring a young, dynamic core that outperformed veteran teams during the playoffs. The championship win represents a major moment for the city of Oklahoma, igniting celebrations across the region and highlighting the team's transformation into serious contenders.



### Rishabh Pant Becomes First Indian Keeper to hit centuries in both Test innings :-

Cricketer Rishabh Pant has created history by becoming the first Indian wicketkeeper to score centuries in both innings of a Test match. This rare and impressive feat not only highlights his explosive batting skills but also marks a major milestone in Indian cricket history. Achieving twin centuries in a single Test is difficult for any player, and even more remarkable for a wicketkeeper, who also bears the physical toll of fielding duties. Pant's performance is expected to further cement his place in the team and elevate the standard for future wicketkeepers.



### Lalit Upadhyay Bids Farewell to International Hockey :-

Veteran Indian hockey player Lalit Kumar Upadhyay has announced his retirement from international hockey, bringing an end to a successful career that saw him represent India in major global tournaments, including the Olympics and the World Cup. Known for his agility, attacking skills, and consistent performance, Upadhyay was a core member of the Indian men's hockey team for over a decade. His contribution was instrumental in India's resurgence in global hockey, and his retirement marks the departure of a reliable and experienced player whose presence greatly benefited team India.



### Neeraj Chopra Wins Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 Javelin Title with 85.29m Throw :-

Indian javelin star Neeraj Chopra continued his impressive form by clinching the title at the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 athletics meet with a best throw of 85.29 meters. This performance reinforces his status as one of the world's top javelin throwers and a strong

contender for upcoming global championships, including the Paris Olympics 2024. Competing against an elite field, Chopra's consistent excellence in international events reflects not only his personal discipline but also India's growing prominence in track and field sports, historically an area where the country has had limited success.

## 17: State



### Goa Declared Fully Literate Under ULLAS :-

Goa has achieved full literacy under the ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, becoming the second state after Mizoram to reach this milestone. With its literacy rate surpassing 95%, Goa has met the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 target. The literacy drive was supported by volunteers, educators, and government agencies, ensuring the inclusion of marginalized communities. The success of ULLAS underscores India's commitment to universal education, setting a precedent for other states to enhance adult literacy and educational accessibility.



### Karnataka cracks down on tobacco use: Legal age raised to 21, hookah bars banned :-

The Karnataka government has implemented strict anti-tobacco measures, raising the legal age for purchasing tobacco from 18 to 21, banning hookah bars, and prohibiting tobacco sales within 100 meters of schools. Violators operating hookah bars face 1-3 years of imprisonment and fines up to Rs 1 lakh. Additionally, the law bans selling loose cigarettes and increases fines for public smoking from Rs 200 to Rs 1,000. The move aims to reduce youth tobacco consumption, curb addiction rates, and promote public health awareness.



### IICA launches first northeast campus in Shillong :-

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) established its first regional campus in New Shillong Township, Meghalaya, backed by a ₹100.95 crore investment under the PM-DeVINE scheme. The campus will serve as a hub for corporate governance, ESG, CSR, insolvency, and competition law training. It is strategically located within Shillong's Knowledge City, alongside IIM Shillong, National Law University Meghalaya, and NIFT. The initiative aims to boost

entrepreneurship, policy advisory, and governance training in the Northeast region.



#### **Kichan, Menar in Rajasthan get Ramsar tags :-**

Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) in Rajasthan received Ramsar Site status, increasing India's tally to 91 wetlands of international importance. Khichan is famous for hosting thousands of Demoiselle Cranes, while Menar, also known as "Bird Village," is home to 150+ bird species. The designation promotes conservation, securing resources for wetland management and enhancing eco-tourism in Rajasthan. Ramsar recognition reinforces efforts to protect critical water ecosystems, benefiting biodiversity and sustainable tourism, while solidifying India's commitment to environmental preservation.



#### **800-Year-Old Pandya Era Shiva Temple Unearthed in Tamil Nadu :-**

Archaeologists have discovered an 800-year-old Shiva temple from the Pandya dynasty in Udampatti, Tamil Nadu. Tamil inscriptions dating back to 1217 CE indicate the temple's name as Thennavanisvaram and reveal details about its financial independence. The find provides insights into the temple administration and historical land transactions during the Pandya era.

Experts believe this discovery enriches knowledge about South Indian heritage. The temple's architectural elements and inscriptions contribute valuable data on medieval Tamil society, supporting further archaeological studies on religious and cultural developments during the Pandya rule.



#### **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Fully Operational After 28 Years :-**

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is now fully operational after 28 years, with the final section between Sangaldan and Katra inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. Spanning 272 km, the railway features the world's highest Chenab Bridge and India's longest operational rail tunnel, the Pir Panjal Tunnel. The project enhances Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity, boosting trade and tourism while improving regional mobility. The completion is a milestone in infrastructure development, easing transportation challenges.



#### **ADB Approves \$109.97 Million Loan to Transform Skills Development in Gujarat :-**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a \$109.97 million loan to modernize skills development programs in Gujarat, aiming to bridge the gap between education and industry needs. The initiative focuses on

upgrading technical training institutes, introducing new vocational courses, and enhancing employability for young professionals. The funds will be directed toward expanding infrastructure, integrating digital learning tools, and establishing industry collaborations to ensure skill sets align with evolving job markets.



#### States Redress Over 78,000 Public Grievances in May 2025 :-

Government agencies across Indian states have successfully addressed over 78,000 public grievances in May 2025 through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS). This platform allows citizens to file complaints regarding governance and services, ensuring timely resolution and accountability. The high number of redressed grievances reflects improved administrative efficiency and responsiveness. Departments are leveraging digital systems for better tracking and faster resolution of issues related to infrastructure, social services, and law enforcement.



#### Visakhapatnam is set to host the 11th International Day of Yoga :-

Visakhapatnam has been selected as the national venue for the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) on June 21, 2025, a decision that underscores the city's rich cultural and wellness heritage. The event will feature mass yoga demonstrations, meditation workshops, and wellness seminars, attracting thousands of participants, including government officials, health experts, and international delegates. India's "Yogandhra" initiative, introduced in Andhra Pradesh, aims to integrate yoga into daily life for over two crore citizens, emphasizing physical and mental well-being.



#### Finance Minister lays foundation of mini planetarium in Hanle, Ladakh :-

India's Finance Minister laid the foundation stone for a mini planetarium in Hanle, Ladakh, marking a unique initiative to promote astronomy and science education in high-altitude, remote regions. Hanle, already known for housing one of the world's highest astronomical observatories, is an ideal location for stargazing and space research. The new planetarium is expected to inspire interest in space sciences among local youth, support tourism, and enhance Ladakh's profile as a scientific and ecological destination.



### PM Modi Flags Off India's First Locomotive Export to Guinea from Bihar :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off India's first locomotive export to Guinea, marking a historic moment in the country's growing manufacturing and diplomatic outreach. The locomotives, manufactured at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Bihar, were commissioned by the West African nation as part of a bilateral cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening infrastructure development in the region. This export highlights India's capabilities in producing world-class rail technology and supports the government's vision of making India a global hub for railway manufacturing.



### PM Modi Launches ₹18,600 Crore Projects in Odisha :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for development projects worth ₹18,600 crore in Odisha, covering sectors such as railways, energy, infrastructure, and health. The projects are aimed at boosting regional development, job creation, and connectivity in the eastern state. The initiative is part of a broader push for inclusive growth and infrastructure expansion under the central government's vision. The launch reflects the government's focus on empowering states through targeted investments and modern infrastructure.



### U.P. CM inaugurates 91.35 km long Gorakhpur Link Expressway:-

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has officially inaugurated the 91.35-kilometre-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway, a major infrastructure project aimed at improving connectivity between eastern UP and the Purvanchal Expressway. The expressway is expected to drastically reduce travel time, spur economic development in less-developed areas, and enhance access to trade hubs. It also reflects the state's push for highway expansion to support logistics and industrial corridors.



### Nitish Kumar Announces 3X Hike in Social Security Pensions Ahead of Bihar Polls :-

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has announced a threefold increase in social security pensions under schemes benefiting elderly, disabled, and widowed citizens. The decision comes ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections and is seen as a major populist move to strengthen voter support. This hike aims to improve the living standards of vulnerable groups by providing more financial assistance amid rising costs of living. Critics argue that the announcement is politically timed,

but supporters highlight its potential to bring immediate relief to millions.



#### Odisha: Boudh District Connected to Rail Network for First Time :-

In a significant infrastructure milestone, Odisha's Boudh district has been linked to the Indian Railways network for the first time. This long-awaited development is expected to dramatically enhance mobility, trade, and tourism in the region, which has remained isolated due to poor transportation facilities. The railway expansion is part of a broader strategy to improve connectivity in underdeveloped parts of eastern India and reduce regional disparities in development and infrastructure access.



#### Assam Announces OBC Status for Trans Community and Reservations for Anganwadi Workers :-

In a landmark social justice decision, the Assam government has granted Other Backward Class (OBC) status to the transgender community, making it easier for them to access education, jobs, and social welfare schemes. Additionally, the government has also decided to offer reservations in government jobs for Anganwadi workers, recognizing their contribution to rural childcare and nutrition. These moves are seen as progressive steps

toward inclusivity and empowerment of historically marginalized and frontline community workers.



#### UP and Gujarat to Lead ₹10.2 Lakh Crore Capex Push in FY26 :-

In FY26, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat are set to emerge as frontrunners in India's massive ₹10.2 lakh crore capital expenditure (capex) plan aimed at boosting infrastructure, manufacturing, and job creation. These two states have secured significant investments across sectors such as electronics, defense, logistics, green energy, and industrial parks. Their strategic location, proactive policy frameworks, and rapid implementation of central schemes are contributing to this growth.



#### Tripura Declared Fully Literate Under ULLAS :-

The state of Tripura has achieved the significant milestone of being declared fully literate under the ULLAS (Udyamita Lok Shiksha Abhiyan) campaign, a national adult education and lifelong learning initiative. The declaration means that every adult in the state is now functionally literate, able to read and write basic sentences and perform simple calculations. This success is credited to sustained grassroots efforts involving community volunteers, teachers, and digital learning tools. The achievement places Tripura alongside a few

other states that have met full literacy targets and reflects the impact of sustained policy and civil engagement in promoting education access.



#### **Bihar to Get Its First Nuclear Power Plant :-**

In a historic development, Bihar is set to house its first nuclear power plant, significantly enhancing the state's energy infrastructure. The project aims to meet rising electricity demands in the region while contributing to India's clean energy goals. The proposed plant will operate under the Nuclear Power Corporation of India and is expected to reduce reliance on coal-based power, thus lowering carbon emissions. This marks a major step in Bihar's industrial modernization and energy self-sufficiency, likely attracting investment and boosting regional development.



#### **Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Flags Off Kacchi Dargah–Bidupur Bridge :-**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated the Kacchi Dargah–Bidupur Bridge, a major infrastructure project spanning the Ganga River. The bridge connects Patna and Vaishali districts, improving transport connectivity and reducing travel time significantly. It is expected to enhance economic activity in North Bihar

and support agricultural supply chains by facilitating smoother logistics. The bridge also relieves congestion on existing routes, symbolizing Bihar's broader push toward infrastructure-led development and modernized mobility solutions.



#### **'Vidya Shakti' launched in A.P. govt schools :-**

Andhra Pradesh has launched the 'Vidya Shakti' program across government schools to elevate the quality of education and promote inclusive learning. The initiative focuses on providing smart classrooms, digital tools, teacher training, and targeted support for underperforming students. It also emphasizes girl child education, vocational training, and psychological well-being. 'Vidya Shakti' aims to bridge learning gaps and raise academic standards, particularly in rural and underserved areas.



#### **Bihar Forms Trust to Oversee Construction of Grand Janaki Temple at Purna Dham :-**

The state government of Bihar has announced the formation of a dedicated trust to supervise the construction and management of a grand Janaki Temple at Purna Dham in Sitamarhi district, believed to be the

birthplace of Goddess Sita (also called Janaki). This initiative aims to develop the site into a significant spiritual and cultural destination, attracting pilgrims and tourists from across India and abroad. The trust will

handle the temple's planning, funding, and upkeep, ensuring that religious sentiments and architectural heritage are preserved while modern facilities are developed for visitors.

## 18: Summits & Conferences



### UN oceans summit in France :-

The 2025 UN Ocean Conference will take place in Nice, France, from June 9 to June 13. Co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, the summit aims to accelerate action on marine conservation and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14—protecting oceans and marine resources. The conference will bring together global leaders, scientists, and policymakers to address issues like deep-sea mining, plastic pollution, and overfishing. It is expected to drive international cooperation and strengthen commitments toward ocean sustainability and biodiversity protection.



### Canada doesn't invite India for G7 summit amid row over Hardeep Nijjar killing :-

The G7 Summit 2025 will be held in Alberta, Canada, from June 15 to June 17. For the first time in six years, India has not been invited, likely due to strained diplomatic relations following Canada's allegations of India's involvement in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023. Despite hopes for a diplomatic reset under Canada's new leadership, tensions remain, and security concerns have further complicated India's participation. The summit will focus on global challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and economic stability.



### Apple To Host Its Worldwide Developers Conference From June 9 To 13 :-

Apple's WWDC 2025 will take place from June 9 to 13, featuring major updates across iOS, macOS, watchOS, and visionOS. The event kicks off with a keynote on June 9 at 10:00 a.m. PDT, streamed on Apple's platforms and YouTube. Among expected innovations are AI-powered enhancements, redesigned interfaces, and cross-platform gaming solutions. Developers worldwide will engage in coding sessions and software previews. The conference will be held in-person at Apple Park in Cupertino, California, alongside virtual sessions.



### India hosted 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi :-

India hosted the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue on June 6, 2025, in New Delhi, with foreign ministers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan attending. The agenda focused on trade, technology, regional security, and connectivity, aiming to bolster diplomatic ties. Counter-terrorism cooperation was a key topic, strengthening India's presence in Central Asia. Following the India-Central Asia Summit (2022), the dialogue reinforces India's role in regional stability and economic collaboration, deepening engagement with strategic partners while fostering long-term development projects.



### BRICS Parliamentary Forum Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack :-

The 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, held in Brasilia, Brazil, strongly condemned the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 civilian lives. The forum, including India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia, reaffirmed its commitment to zero tolerance against terrorism, emphasizing intelligence sharing,

financial tracking, and judicial cooperation. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led India's delegation, advocating for global unity against terrorism and urging concerted actions against UN-designated terrorist entities.



### PM Modi to Attend G-7 Summit in Canada :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has accepted Canadian PM Mark Carney's invitation to attend the G-7 Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15-17. This marks Modi's first visit to Canada since 2015, potentially resetting India-Canada relations, which had been strained under former PM Justin Trudeau over Khalistani separatist activities. The summit will focus on global challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, economic cooperation, and AI governance.



### India bats for global action in fighting terrorism during key East Asia Summit meeting :-

At the East Asia Summit Senior Officials' Meeting in Malaysia, India emphasized the need for global cooperation in counterterrorism efforts. The Indian delegation reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific while strengthening security partnerships with ASEAN nations. India's participation reflects its commitment to

combating terrorism through multilateral collaborations. Discussions focused on regional stability, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and India's proactive role in fostering diplomatic consensus on security-related challenges.



#### India Hosts ITU FG-AIINN Meeting :-

India hosted the third meeting of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Focus Group on AI-Native for Telecommunication Networks (FG-AIINN) in New Delhi, India. Organized by the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the event focused on integrating AI into telecom networks for improved efficiency and connectivity. Experts discussed AI-driven solutions for network optimization, disaster-resilient communication, and 6G advancements. India also proposed hosting the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2030 and nominated M. Revathi for a leadership role in ITU, reinforcing its commitment to global telecom innovation.



#### ICG Chairs 137th meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) :-

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has chaired the 137th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC)

meeting in New Delhi, discussing strategies to enhance offshore security preparedness. The meeting brought together key stakeholders, including the Indian Navy, Air Force, ONGC, and state police forces, to review defense mechanisms for critical energy infrastructure. Discussions focused on collaborative response systems, surveillance techniques, and emergency protocols aimed at safeguarding offshore installations.



#### The Ministry Of Agriculture Organized The National Conference On Agri Stack :-

The Ministry of Agriculture organized the National Conference on Agri Stack, focusing on digital transformation in agriculture. The event highlighted the role of AI-powered tools, blockchain verification, and farmer-centric governance in enhancing productivity and transparency. State governments and stakeholders collaborated on strategies for integrating technology into farming practices, aiming to improve efficiency and sustainability. The initiative aligns with India's broader push toward modernizing agriculture, ensuring data-driven policies and better resource management for farmers nationwide.



**'Yoga Connect' summit held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi :-**

The Ministry of Ayush organized the 'Yoga Connect' summit at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi as a precursor to the International Day of Yoga. The event brought together renowned yoga experts, policymakers, and

researchers to discuss the importance of yoga in health and wellness. Sessions focused on yoga's role in mental well-being, disease prevention, and workplace productivity. The summit also highlighted new scientific studies supporting yoga's physiological benefits and its integration into healthcare systems worldwide.



## SECTION 2



# Practice Questions with Answers

---

---

---



## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**1) When the International Day of UN Peacekeepers was observed?**

- A) 30 May
- B) 29 May
- C) 28 May
- D) 27 May

**2) Which nation's legislative body recently approved a law permitting assisted dying?**

- A) Spain
- B) Italy
- C) Germany
- D) France

**3) Which Indian state was chosen for the Tata-Airbus Helicopter Manufacturing facility?**

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

**4) Which country's mountaineer, Kami Rita Sherpa, reached the summit of Mount Everest for the record 31st time?**

- A) Bhutan
- B) China
- C) India
- D) Nepal

**5) How many medals did India secure at the 2025 World Boxing Cup in Brazil?**

- A) 8
- B) 7
- C) 6
- D) 5

**6) In which city did CDS General Anil Chauhan take part in the 22nd Shangri-La Dialogue?**

- A) Indonesia
- B) Malaysia
- C) Singapore
- D) Thailand

**7) Who was chosen as the new brand ambassador for Audi India?**

- A) Jasprit Bumrah
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Rohit Sharma
- D) Virat Kohli

**8) Which Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) partnered with Singapore's IME to advance semiconductor research?**

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Delhi
- C) IIT Kharagpur
- D) IIT Madras

**9) The military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' is being conducted between which of the following two countries?**

- A) India and Vietnam
- B) India and Thailand
- C) India and Mongolia
- D) India and Japan

**10) Who holds the record as the youngest Indian to climb the Seven Summits?**

- A) Vishwanath Karthikey
- B) Shivangi Pathak
- C) Malavath Purna
- D) Arjun Vajpai

**11) What was a major outcome of Prime Minister Modi's recent visit to Madhya Pradesh?**

- A) Inauguration of Delhi Metro Blue Line
- B) Release of a ₹300 coin honoring Ahilyabai Holkar
- C) Launch of PM-KISAN scheme
- D) Announcement of new national highway

**12) What was the primary reason for Colombia withdrawing its condolence statement regarding Operation Sindo?**

- A) Support for Pakistan
- B) Miscommunication with UN
- C) Indian delegation's briefing



D) Pressure from international media

**13) What is the primary aim of the IndiaAI Mission recently expanded by the Indian government?**

- A) Exporting AI talent abroad
- B) Building national AI compute infrastructure
- C) Restricting AI use in government
- D) Acquiring foreign AI startups

**14) Which Indian airports were recently inaugurated to boost regional connectivity under the UDAN scheme?**

- A) Varanasi and Indore
- B) Satna and Datia
- C) Jabalpur and Gwalior
- D) Raipur and Ujjain

**15) Who led the all-party Indian parliamentary delegation to Spain to advocate India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism?**

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Kanimozhi Karunanidhi
- C) Rajeev Rai
- D) Ashok Kumar Mittal

**16) Which state government recently announced a 20% reservation for Agniveers in police and PAC recruitment?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Punjab
- D) Haryana

**17) What was a major highlight of the recent report by Bank of Baroda on Indian companies' Q4 FY25 performance?**

- A) Record high inflation
- B) Decline in rural demand
- C) Satisfactory corporate growth despite global challenges
- D) Major increase in oil prices

**18) Which denomination of Indian banknote has seen 98% returned to banks since its withdrawal was announced?**

- A) ₹500

B) ₹1000

C) ₹2000

D) ₹100

**19) Which Indian grandmaster recently defeated Magnus Carlsen for the first time at Norway Chess 2025?**

- A) Viswanathan Anand
- B) R Praggnanandhaa
- C) D Gukesh
- D) Pentala Harikrishna

**20) Who recently hosted Paraguayan President Santiago Peña at Rashtrapati Bhavan, emphasizing India-Paraguay ties?**

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- B) Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar
- C) President Droupadi Murmu
- D) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

**21) Which major infrastructure project, inaugurated by PM Modi in June 2025, is the world's highest railway arch bridge?**

- A) Bogibeel Bridge
- B) Chenab Bridge
- C) Anji Bridge
- D) Howrah Bridge

**22) India won the Presidency of which global institution in June 2025 for the first time in its 100-year history?**

- A) UNESCO
- B) World Bank
- C) IIAS
- D) World Health Organization

**23) Which Indian government initiative celebrated over 1.63 crore youth being trained in industry-relevant skills by 2024?**

- A) Skill India Mission
- B) PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- C) Start-Up India
- D) Digital India

**24) Which Indian parliamentary session is scheduled from July 21 to August 12, 2025?**



- A) Winter Session
- B) Budget Session
- C) Monsoon Session
- D) Special Session

**25) Who was elected as President of South Korea?**

- A) Yoon Suk Yeol
- B) Kim Moon-soo
- C) Lee Jae-myung
- D) Moon Jae-in

**26) Which city will host the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue involving foreign ministers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan?**

- A) Tashkent
- B) New Delhi
- C) Almaty
- D) Bishkek

**27) What significant development was announced regarding the manufacturing of Rafale fighter aircraft in June 2025?**

- A) India will assemble Rafale engines
- B) Tata Advanced Systems will produce Rafale fuselages
- C) HAL to manufacture Rafale wings
- D) Rafale production remains exclusive to France

**28) Which Indian government scheme, extended in 2024 for five more years, provides free food grains to over 81 crore beneficiaries?**

- A) PM Ujjwala Yojana
- B) PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
- C) Ayushman Bharat
- D) PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

**29) On World Environment Day 2025, which major initiative did PM Modi launch to promote tree plantation across India?**

- A) Meri LiFE Portal
- B) Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0
- C) Ganga Rejuvenation Mission
- D) Green India Movement

**30) Which two wetlands in Rajasthan were recently added to the Ramsar list, increasing India's total to 91 Ramsar Sites?**

- A) Keoladeo and Sambhar
- B) Khichan and Menar
- C) Chilika and Loktak
- D) Nal Sarovar and Bhitarkanika

**31) Which new digital initiative was launched in June 2025 to modernize Waqf property management in India?**

- A) e-Waqf Portal
- B) UMEED Central Portal
- C) WaqfNET Platform
- D) Digital Imam App

**32) What was the main reason for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cutting the repo rate by 50 basis points in June 2025?**

- A) Increase in gold prices
- B) Sharp moderation in inflation
- C) Rise in crude oil prices
- D) Weakening rupee

**33) Which two nations held a high-level economic cooperation meeting in Brescia, Italy, in June 2025?**

- A) India and Germany
- B) India and Italy
- C) India and France
- D) India and UK

**34) What is the projected GDP growth rate for India in the financial year 2025-26 according to the RBI?**

- A) 5.8%
- B) 6.0%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 7.2%

**35) Which biometric method saw a surge in Aadhaar authentication transactions in May 2025?**

- A) Iris scan
- B) Fingerprint
- C) Face authentication
- D) Voice recognition

**36) Which two landmark bridges were inaugurated by PM Modi in Jammu & Kashmir in June 2025 to boost regional connectivity?**

- A) Bogibeel and Howrah Bridges
- B) Chenab and Anji Bridges
- C) Sethu and Pamban Bridges
- D) Godavari and Yamuna Bridges

**37) What is the main benefit of the newly launched Vande Bharat Express service between Srinagar and Katra?**

- A) It connects India with Pakistan
- B) It reduces travel time to three hours
- C) It is India's first maglev train
- D) It operates only during festivals

**38) Which Indian state achieved full functional literacy in May 2025, becoming the first in the country to do so?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Assam
- C) Mizoram
- D) Rajasthan

**39) What was a major outcome of the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Brasília in June 2025?**

- A) Creation of a BRICS common currency
- B) Zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism
- C) Establishment of BRICS Space Agency
- D) BRICS military alliance

**40) Which government initiative directly transferred ₹3.7 lakh crore to over 11 crore Indian farmers for income support?**

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) PMGSY
- C) PM-FBY
- D) e-NAM

**41) Which recent initiative has been launched by FSSAI to combat obesity in India?**

- A) Mission POSHAN 2.0
- B) Eat Right Activity Book
- C) Awareness Initiative to Stop Obesity
- D) Sugar and Oil Boards

**42) What is the primary goal of the 'Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz' launched by MyGov?**

- A) Promote digital literacy
- B) Test knowledge on India's development
- C) Encourage sports participation
- D) Support women entrepreneurs

**43) As of May 2025, what is the market share of electric passenger vehicles in India?**

- A) 2.6%
- B) 3.5%
- C) 4%
- D) 5.2%

**44) What is the projected CPI inflation for India in FY 2025-26 as per RBI's latest outlook?**

- A) 2.5%
- B) 3.2%
- C) 3.7%
- D) 4.5%

**45) India is set to host the next summit of \_\_\_\_\_, focusing on unity against terrorism and artificial intelligence.**

- A) G7
- B) NATO
- C) BRICS
- D) ASEAN

**46) Which government scheme has enabled over 52.5 crore entrepreneurs to access collateral-free loans in India?**

- A) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- B) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- D) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

**47) What is the primary aim of the recently notified SEZ reforms by the Indian government?**

- A) Boost agricultural exports
- B) Ease setting up of semiconductor manufacturing units
- C) Increase textile production
- D) Enhance defense exports

**48) Which milestone did the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana achieve by March 2025?**



- A) 5 crore LPG connections
- B) 10.33 crore LPG connections
- C) 15 crore LPG connections
- D) 20 crore LPG connections

**49) Under the BharatNet project, how much optical fibre cable has India laid as of June 2025?**

- A) 10 lakh km
- B) 20 lakh km
- C) 42 lakh km
- D) 55 lakh km

**50) As of March 2025, how many Jan Dhan accounts have been opened under the government's financial inclusion drive?**

- A) 25 crore
- B) 35 crore
- C) 45 crore
- D) 55 crore

**51) Who will become the first Indian astronaut in over four decades to travel to space as part of Axiom Mission 4 in June 2025?**

- A) Ajit Krishnan
- B) Angad Pratap
- C) Shubhanshu Shukla
- D) PB Nair

**52) Which government initiative was launched to boost India's technical textiles sector from 2020–21 to 2025–26?**

- A) National Textile Modernization Scheme
- B) Textile Innovation Programme
- C) National Technical Textiles Mission
- D) PLI for Textiles

**53) What is the main focus of the recently signed TEPA agreement between India and EFTA countries, as discussed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal?**

- A) Nuclear energy exports
- B) Cooperation in innovation and technology transfer
- C) Labour migration
- D) Defence alliances

**54) Which major Indian sports programme, launched in 2016–17, has been key to India's rise in international sporting achievements?**

- A) Fit India Movement
- B) Mission Olympic Gold
- C) Khelo India
- D) Sports for All

**55) Which Indian government scheme is specifically designed to provide financial incentives for increased production and incremental sales in key sectors?**

- A) Stand Up India
- B) PLI Scheme
- C) Make in India
- D) Digital India

**56) From which date will Aadhaar authentication become mandatory for all online Tatkal bookings in Indian Railways?**

- A) July 1, 2025
- B) June 15, 2025
- C) July 15, 2025
- D) August 1, 2025

**57) Which city is set to become the first to host the FIFA World Cup for the third time in 2026?**

- A) London
- B) Paris
- C) Mexico City
- D) Berlin

**58) What is the estimated value of India's defence production in 2023–24, the highest ever recorded?**

- A) ₹46,429 crore
- B) ₹1.27 lakh crore
- C) ₹53,439 crore
- D) ₹8,658 crore

**59) By how much did India's social protection coverage increase between 2015 and 2025, according to the ILO?**

- A) From 19% to 64.3%
- B) From 40% to 80%
- C) From 50% to 75%

D) From 25% to 60%

**60) Which port, inaugurated in 2025, is India's first dedicated container transshipment port?**

- A) Paradip Port
- B) Kandla Port
- C) Vizhinjam Seaport
- D) Tuna Tekra Terminal

**61) What major policy change did the Indian government implement to curb rising edible oil prices in June 2025?**

- A) Increased import duty on refined oils
- B) Reduced Basic Customs Duty on crude edible oils
- C) Subsidized all edible oil imports
- D) Banned palm oil imports

**62) Which city recorded a maximum temperature of 45°C, prompting a red alert by IMD in June 2025?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Delhi
- D) Ahmedabad



**63) Which international body was set to vote for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in Gaza in June 2025?**

- A) UN Security Council
- B) European Union
- C) United Nations General Assembly
- D) G7

**64) Which campaign, concluding in Bardoli, aimed to engage farmers and shape agricultural research in June 2025?**

- A) Krishi UDAN Abhiyan
- B) Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan
- C) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- D) Doubling Farmers' Income Mission

**65) What key reform did Indian Railways introduce for Tatkal ticket bookings starting July 1, 2025?**

- A) Cash-only bookings
- B) Mandatory Aadhaar authentication
- C) No online bookings allowed
- D) Tatkal window reduced to 5 minutes

**66) Which Indian airport recently issued a travel advisory due to escalating Iran-Israel tensions?**

- A) Chennai International Airport
- B) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- C) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- D) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai

**67) What milestone did the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) achieve in the first 10 months of FY 2024-25?**

- A) ₹2 lakh crore GMV
- B) ₹4.09 lakh crore GMV
- C) ₹5 lakh crore GMV
- D) ₹3 lakh crore GMV

**68) Who will be the first Indian astronaut to go to the International Space Station from India's astronaut corps?**

- A) Rakesh Sharma
- B) Kalpana Chawla
- C) Shubhanshu Shukla
- D) Sunita Williams

**69) By which year is India's digital economy expected to contribute nearly one-fifth of national income?**

- A) 2025
- B) 2027
- C) 2029-30
- D) 2035

**70) Which Indian city will see its metro extended directly to the international airport under PM GatiShakti Plan?**

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Ahmedabad
- C) Kolkata
- D) Hyderabad

**71) Which initiative received a ₹6,000 crore allocation from the Indian government to boost digital agriculture infrastructure in 2025?**

- A) eNAM
- B) Agri Stack

- C) PM-KISAN
- D) Soil Health Card

**72) Who was the only survivor of the Air India AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad in June 2025?**

- A) Ramesh Viswashkumar
- B) Vijay Rupani
- C) Campbell Wilson
- D) Harsh Sanghavi

**73) What theme was chosen for the 2025 International Day of Yoga celebrations?**

- A) Yoga for Wellness
- B) Yoga: Harmony and Peace
- C) One Earth, One Health
- D) Yoga for All Ages

**74) Which Indian city is set to host the main International Day of Yoga celebration in 2025?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Ahmedabad
- C) Visakhapatnam
- D) Mumbai

**75) Which Indian leader passed away in the Air India AI-171 crash in June 2025?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Vijay Rupani
- C) Amit Shah
- D) Bhupendra Patel

**76) Who emerged as the All India Topper in NEET UG 2025, securing 686 out of 720 marks?**

- A) Anjali Sharma
- B) Rohan Verma
- C) Mahesh Kumar
- D) Priya Singh

**77) What major action did the Indian government take after the Air India Flight AI-171 crash in June 2025?**

- A) Banned Boeing 737 aircraft
- B) Launched a high-level committee to review SOPs
- C) Privatized Air India
- D) Shut Ahmedabad airport indefinitely

**78) Which Indian city hosted the 'Yoga Connect' global summit in June 2025?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Bengaluru
- C) New Delhi
- D) Ahmedabad

**79) Which country clinched its first ever World Test Championship title in June 2025?**

- A) India
- B) Australia
- C) South Africa
- D) England

**80) What is the primary purpose of the ₹6,000 crore allocation to the Agri Stack initiative by the Indian government in June 2025?**

- A) Wheat procurement
- B) Farmer insurance payments
- C) Building digital infrastructure for farmers
- D) Subsidizing fertilizers

**81) What is the main purpose of the NAKSHA Capacity Building Programme launched by the Department of Land Resources?**

- A) Developing new urban infrastructure
- B) Modernising urban land records
- C) Promoting environmental sustainability
- D) Financial inclusion for rural women

**82) Which Union Minister recently reviewed the progress of the Gorakhpur Haryana Anu Vidyut Pariyojana (GHAVP) nuclear power project?**

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Sarbananda Sonowal
- C) Manohar Lal
- D) Amit Shah

**83) Which Indian state's reservoirs have seen a significant rise in water levels due to intensified southwest monsoon in June 2025?**

- A) Kerala
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

**84) Which city did a UK Royal Air Force F-35 fighter jet make an emergency landing at in June 2025?**



- A) Mumbai
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Thiruvananthapuram
- D) Chennai

**85) What major scheme completed 10 years in 2025, having sanctioned over Rs 32.61 lakh crore in loans with a focus on women entrepreneurs?**

- A) Stand Up India
- B) Prime Minister Mudra Yojana (PMMY)
- C) Jan Dhan Yojana
- D) Startup India

**86) What major step has the EU proposed to end its reliance on Russian gas imports?**

- A) Ban imports from all non-EU countries
- B) Enforce new tariffs on Russian gas
- C) Legally ban all Russian gas and LNG imports by 2027
- D) Subsidize Russian gas for EU members

**87) Which Indian institute was recently designated as a Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility by WOAH and FAO?**

- A) IVRI Bareilly
- B) ICAR-NIHSAD Bhopal
- C) NDRI Karnal
- D) IARI New Delhi

**88) What is the primary objective of the 'DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs?**

- A) Promote organic farming
- B) Inclusive development and tribal empowerment
- C) Digital literacy among tribals
- D) Urban housing for tribals

**89) Which two countries will jointly host the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup?**

- A) India and Bangladesh
- B) Australia and England
- C) India and Sri Lanka
- D) Sri Lanka and Pakistan

**90) Which Indian city will host the opening match of the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup?**

- A) Delhi
- B) Mumbai

- C) Bengaluru
- D) Kolkata

**91) What is the price of the new FASTag-based Annual Pass for non-commercial vehicles announced by the Indian government, effective from August 15, 2025?**

- A) ₹1,500
- B) ₹2,000
- C) ₹3,000
- D) ₹5,000

**92) Which Indian state registered the highest number of yoga locations for the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, according to official data?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Andhra Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Madhya Pradesh

**93) Which Indian naval vessel, commissioned on June 18, 2025, is the country's first indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)?**

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Kavaratti
- C) INS Arnala
- D) INS Kamorta

**94) Who was chosen as the captain of the Indian Test cricket team for the upcoming five-match series against England, replacing Rohit Sharma?**

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Shubman Gill
- C) Jasprit Bumrah
- D) KL Rahul

**95) As per the 2025 Global Wealth Report by UBS, which country accounted for almost 40% of global millionaires in 2024?**

- A) China
- B) India
- C) United States
- D) Germany

**96) What is the name of the Indian government's recent evacuation mission for citizens stranded in Iran amid escalating Middle East tensions?**

- A) Operation Samudra Setu
- B) Operation Vande Bharat
- C) Operation Sindhu
- D) Operation Ganga

**97) Which country did Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit in June 2025, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian PM to that nation?**

- A) Slovakia
- B) Croatia
- C) Serbia
- D) Slovenia

**98) What is the new time frame for Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) delivery announced by the Election Commission of India in June 2025?**

- A) 7 days
- B) 30 days
- C) 15 days
- D) 45 days

**99) Which major highway travel initiative was announced by Nitin Gadkari for non-commercial vehicles, effective from August 15, 2025?**

- A) Toll-Free Sundays
- B) FASTag-based Annual Pass
- C) e-Highway Cards
- D) Dynamic Tolling System

**100) What is the primary role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the relaunched Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan for the Rabi season?**

- A) Distributing free fertilizers
- B) Nodal agencies for region-specific farming solutions
- C) Procurement of crops
- D) Weather forecasting

**101) According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), which country recorded the third-largest growth in power generation capacity over the past five years?**

- A) Germany

- B) Japan
- C) India
- D) Brazil

**102) Which Indian animated film won the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025?**

- A) Bombay Rose
- B) Desi Oon
- C) Mighty Little Bheem
- D) The Legend of Hanuman

**103) Which Indian chess player defeated World No. 1 Hou Yifan in the 2nd leg of the Blitz semifinal at the World Team Blitz Championships in London?**

- A) Koneru Humpy
- B) R. Vaishali
- C) Divya Deshmukh
- D) Harika Dronavalli

**104) Which Indian institution topped the national list in the QS World University Rankings 2026?**

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IISc Bangalore
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Madras

**105) Which public sector company supplied the entire special steel requirement for the Indian Navy's INS Arnala?**

- A) BHEL
- B) SAIL
- C) HAL
- D) DRDO

**106) Which two countries signed a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in May 2025 to enhance cooperation in trade and technology?**

- A) India and United States
- B) India and United Kingdom
- C) India and Australia
- D) India and France

**107) Which Indian state recently saw the inauguration of the Vaishali–Deoria railway line and a Vande Bharat Express service by PM Modi?**

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Bihar
- D) Gujarat

**108) Which city's stock exchange was among the sites damaged by Iranian missile attacks as reported in June 2025?**

- A) Haifa
- B) Tel Aviv
- C) Jerusalem
- D) Beersheba

**109) How many Indian institutions featured in the QS World University Rankings 2026, a record rise as per June 2025 data?**

- A) 11
- B) 25
- C) 54
- D) 39

**110) Which Indian policy, highlighted in June 2025, focuses on 'Economy, Employment, and Environment' to boost the biotech sector?**

- A) National Education Policy
- B) BIO-e3 Policy
- C) Start-up India
- D) PLI Scheme

**111) Which global institution officially recognized June 21 as International Yoga Day, following India's proposal in 2014?**

- A) World Health Organization
- B) United Nations
- C) World Bank
- D) Commonwealth

**112) Who performed yoga at over 14,000 feet on the banks of Pangong Tso during International Yoga Day 2025?**

- A) Indian Army
- B) Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- C) Border Security Force
- D) National Disaster Response Force

**113) What major sporting achievement did Neeraj Chopra accomplish at the Paris Diamond League in June 2025?**

- A) Set a new world record
- B) Won with a throw of 88.16m
- C) Secured silver medal
- D) Broke Olympic record

**114) Which Indian ministry organized a mega yoga event in Hyderabad with over 35,000 participants for IDY 2025?**

- A) Ministry of AYUSH
- B) Ministry of Health
- C) Ministry of Mines
- D) Ministry of Sports

**115) Which two countries launched fresh missile attacks on each other in June 2025, escalating regional tensions?**

- A) India and China
- B) Iran and Israel
- C) Russia and Ukraine
- D) Turkey and Syria

**116) Which three Iranian nuclear sites were targeted by US airstrikes in June 2025?**

- A) Bushehr, Qom, Tabriz
- B) Fordow, Natanz, Esfahan
- C) Tehran, Shiraz, Khorramabad
- D) Mashhad, Bandar Abbas, Isfahan

**117) Who was the senior Iranian military commander, linked to Hamas and the October 7 attacks, killed by an Israeli airstrike in June 2025?**

- A) Ali Saadi Wasfi al-Agha
- B) Assad Abu Sharia
- C) Saeed Izadi
- D) Mohammad Ali Qazim

**118) Which Indian regulatory authority declared there were 'no obstacles' left for the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to proceed with its IPO in June 2025?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India
- B) Ministry of Finance



- C) SEBI
- D) NITI Aayog

**119) Which Indian artist created a sand sculpture of PM Modi performing yoga on International Yoga Day 2025?**

- A) M.F. Husain
- B) Sudarsan Pattnaik
- C) Subodh Gupta
- D) Anish Kapoor

**120) Which two countries' citizens were also evacuated by India from Iran in June 2025, as per requests from their governments?**

- A) Bangladesh and Myanmar
- B) Nepal and Sri Lanka
- C) Afghanistan and Bhutan
- D) Pakistan and Maldives

**121) Which Indian Navy frigate, to be commissioned in Russia on July 1, 2025, marks the end of foreign-built warships for India?**

- A) INS Talwar
- B) INS Teg
- C) INS Tamal
- D) INS Kolkata

**122) The NIA confirmed that the perpetrators of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam terror attack were nationals of which country?**

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Pakistan
- D) Nepal

**123) Which international conflict escalated with U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites in June 2025?**

- A) Russia-Ukraine war
- B) Israel-Iran conflict
- C) China-Taiwan tensions
- D) Yemen civil war

**124) Which weapon system was highlighted for its use in the U.S. strike on Iran's Fordow nuclear facility?**

- A) Patriot missiles

- B) BrahMos
- C) GBU-57A/B Massive Ordnance Penetrator
- D) Tomahawk cruise missile

**125) Which Indian state recently received joint Centre-State compensation for mango farmers affected by falling prices?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Karnataka
- C) Gujarat
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**126) Which two countries jointly unveiled the India-Africa Commemorative Pillar in Kenya in June 2025?**

- A) India and Nigeria
- B) India and South Africa
- C) India and Kenya
- D) India and Tanzania

**127) What is the primary aim of India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey announced for 2026?**

- A) To estimate population growth
- B) To assess household consumption patterns
- C) To generate detailed insights into income distribution
- D) To evaluate literacy rates

**128) Which Indian institution partnered with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to train Panchayats in Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation in June 2025?**

- A) IIM Bangalore
- B) IIM Ahmedabad
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) NITI Aayog

**129) Which sector recorded the largest increase in area sown during the 2025 kharif season, as per the Agriculture Ministry's June report?**

- A) Oilseeds
- B) Rice
- C) Sugarcane
- D) Jute and mesta

**130) What major step did the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) announce in June 2025 to decarbonize fertilizer production?**

- A) Tender for bio-fertilizers
- B) Tender for green ammonia supply
- C) Subsidy for organic farming
- D) Ban on urea imports

**131) Which policy did Prime Minister Modi reaffirm during his conversation with Mauritius PM Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam?**

- A) Act East Policy
- B) Look West Policy
- C) Neighbourhood First Policy
- D) Indo-Pacific Strategy

**132) Which Indian government scheme recently celebrated its 10th anniversary for transforming urban infrastructure?**

- A) Smart Cities Mission
- B) AMRUT
- C) PMAY-Urban
- D) Swachh Bharat Mission



**133) Which Indian classical dancer and recipient of the Nari Shakti title was honoured during the Nari Shakti Festival in Dubai?**

- A) Mallika Sarabhai
- B) Puja Unni
- C) Sonal Mansingh
- D) Yamini Krishnamurthy

**134) According to Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, by which year is India's Wi-Fi sector projected to reach \$22 billion?**

- A) 2027
- B) 2030
- C) 2035
- D) 2040

**135) What is the newly proposed defence spending target for NATO members to be achieved by 2035?**

- A) 2% of GDP
- B) 3% of GDP
- C) 4% of GDP

- D) 5% of GDP

**136) Which state will host the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025 in November?**

- A) Bihar
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Assam

**137) What major reform regarding Class 10 Board exams did CBSE announce for 2026?**

- A) Introduction of open-book exams
- B) Exams to be held in regional languages only
- C) Class 10 Board exams to be held twice a year
- D) Removal of internal assessments

**138) What is the primary focus of the Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) recently approved in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh?**

- A) Textile production
- B) Software development
- C) Electronics manufacturing and innovation
- D) Renewable energy research

**139) Which Indian astronaut became the first to visit the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 mission in June 2025?**

- A) Rakesh Sharma
- B) Sunita Williams
- C) Shubhanshu Shukla
- D) Kalpana Chawla

**140) What is the estimated financial outlay approved for the Revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP) addressing fires and rehabilitation in Jharia Coalfield?**

- A) ₹2,100 crore
- B) ₹3,600 crore
- C) ₹5,940 crore
- D) ₹7,800 crore

**141) Which commemorative event is set to be held in July 2025 to honor Indian soldiers?**

- A) Republic Day Parade

- B) Kargil Vijay Diwas
- C) Operation Sindhu
- D) National Defence Day

**142) What major step did the Indian government authorize in June 2025 to enhance transparency in IBPS examinations?**

- A) Mandatory biometric attendance
- B) Voluntary Aadhaar authentication
- C) Use of blockchain technology
- D) Paperless examination process

**143) Which sector in India added Rs 57 lakh crore to its market capitalization from March 2020 to June 2025?**

- A) Private Banks
- B) Public Sector Units (PSUs)
- C) IT Companies
- D) Startups

**144) What initiative did President Droupadi Murmu launch on MSME Day 2025 to address delayed payments for small businesses?**

- A) Digital Payment Portal
- B) MSME Champions Scheme
- C) Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal
- D) Startup India Portal

**145) Which Indian state announced the rollout of the Lado Lakshmi Scheme in June 2025?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Haryana
- D) Punjab

**146) By 2025, what percentage of India's population is covered by at least one social security benefit, according to the latest data?**

- A) 19%
- B) 45%
- C) 64.3%
- D) 80%

**147) Which country is set to host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games?**

- A) Mumbai, India
- B) Ahmedabad, India
- C) Paris, France
- D) New York, USA

**148) Which fruit overtook mango as the top contributor to India's fruit Gross Value of Output (GVO) in 2023-24?**

- A) Apple
- B) Banana
- C) Orange
- D) Papaya

**149) What major milestone did India achieve in child immunization in 2024, as recognized by the UN IGME?**

- A) Zero polio cases
- B) Zero-dose rate halved to 0.06%
- C) Introduction of HPV vaccine
- D) Universal adult vaccination

**150) What is the key feature of the revised Waste-to-Energy Programme guidelines announced by MNRE in June 2025?**

- A) Single-stage CFA disbursement
- B) No financial support for MSMEs
- C) Two-stage CFA release linked to plant performance
- D) Mandatory waste import

## ANSWERS

**1) Correct Answer: B**

The day was celebrated on May 29, 2025. It honors the dedication and sacrifice of UN peacekeepers who serve in conflict zones worldwide. This year's theme, "The

Future of Peacekeeping," highlighted the evolving nature of peace operations.

**2) Correct Answer: D**

France's National Assembly passed a bill legalizing assisted dying for terminally ill adults. The bill allows

individuals with incurable illnesses to take lethal medication under strict conditions. It received 305 votes in favor and 199 against and now awaits Senate approval.

**3) Correct Answer: B**

Karnataka was chosen for India's first privately-led helicopter manufacturing unit by Tata-Airbus. The facility, located in Kolar, will produce Airbus' H125 helicopters for Indian and regional markets. Karnataka was selected over Andhra Pradesh due to its strong aerospace ecosystem and existing Tata Advanced Systems presence.

**4) Correct Answer: D**

Kami Rita Sherpa, a renowned Nepalese mountaineer, summited Mount Everest for the 31st time. He led a team from the Indian Army Adventure Wing to the peak, reinforcing his record as the climber with the most successful ascents of the world's highest mountain.

**5) Correct Answer: C**

India won six medals at the event, including one gold, one silver, and four bronze. Hitesh Gulia secured the gold in the 70kg category, while Abhinash Jamwal won silver in the 65kg category. The bronze medals were claimed by Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg), and Vishal (90kg).

**6) Correct Answer: C**

General Anil Chauhan participated in the Chiefs of Defence Round Table in Singapore, discussing India's defence innovation and self-reliance. He highlighted AI-driven warfare, hypersonic weapons, and autonomous systems, emphasizing India's commitment to global peace and military modernization.

**7) Correct Answer: B**

Neeraj Chopra, India's Olympic javelin champion, became Audi India's brand ambassador. Audi praised Chopra's excellence, aligning with its brand philosophy. The collaboration follows Audi's 17% sales growth, driven by the popularity of the Q7 and Q8 models.

**8) Correct Answer: C**

IIT Kharagpur signed an MoU with Singapore's IME to advance semiconductor innovation, focusing on AI accelerators, quantum devices, and chip packaging. The collaboration fosters student exchanges and industry-

oriented research, strengthening India-Singapore technological ties.

**9) Correct Answer: C**

India and Mongolia began the 17th edition of Nomadic Elephant in Ulaanbaatar. The exercise includes counter-terrorism drills, endurance training, and cyber warfare simulations, enhancing military cooperation and regional security.

**10) Correct Answer: A**

Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, a 16-year-old from Hyderabad, became the youngest Indian to complete the Seven Summits challenge, successfully scaling Mount Everest. His journey symbolizes determination and resilience.

**11) Correct Answer: B**

On the 300th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar, PM Modi released a special ₹300 coin in Bhopal. This commemorative release honors her legacy as a progressive ruler and reformer. The event also included other projects for regional development. Such symbolic acts highlight India's respect for women leaders and cultural heritage.

**12) Correct Answer: C**

Colombia withdrew its initial condolence statement for those killed in Pakistan after being briefed by an Indian delegation. Colombia clarified understanding India's position against terrorism. This diplomatic correction is significant as Colombia prepares for a UN Security Council seat, reflecting support for India's anti-terror stance.

**13) Correct Answer: B**

IndiaAI Mission, recently expanded to over 34,000 GPUs, focuses on building national compute infrastructure and indigenous foundation AI models. The mission aims at democratizing technology, supporting startups, and enhancing India's position as a global AI leader. This is crucial for technological self-reliance and innovation.

**14) Correct Answer: B**

Satna and Datia airports in Madhya Pradesh were virtually inaugurated by PM Modi. Developed under the UDAN scheme, they enhance regional connectivity, support tourism, and foster economic growth. Such

infrastructure projects are vital for balanced development in underserved regions.

**15) Correct Answer: B**

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi headed the delegation to Spain in June 2025. The team engaged Spanish officials and the diaspora, emphasizing India's uncompromising stance against terrorism. Such diplomatic outreach builds international consensus on coordinated action against terror networks.

**16) Correct Answer: B**

Uttar Pradesh has approved a 20% reservation for Agniveers in police and PAC jobs. This measure supports Agniveers post their four-year military service under the Agnipath scheme. The move aims to enhance job security for youth and strengthen state police forces. It sets a precedent for other states to follow in supporting ex-servicemen.

**17) Correct Answer: C**

The Bank of Baroda report noted that Indian companies posted satisfactory results in Q4 FY25 despite global economic difficulties. Key sectors showed recovery, and corporate optimism remains high for FY26. Stable commodity prices, low inflation, and government spending are expected to drive growth. This resilience is significant for India's economic outlook.

**18) Correct Answer: C**

The RBI reported that 98% of ₹2000 notes have been returned to banks by May 2025. The withdrawal of ₹2000 notes began in May 2023 as part of currency management. The process included provisions for exchange at banks and RBI offices. This move streamlines currency circulation and reduces illicit holdings.

**19) Correct Answer: C**

D Gukesh achieved his maiden victory over world champion Magnus Carlsen in Round 6 of Norway Chess 2025. This is a significant milestone in Gukesh's young chess career. It highlights India's rising talent in global chess. Such achievements inspire the next generation of Indian players.

**20) Correct Answer: C**

President Droupadi Murmu hosted President Peña at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The visit focused on strengthening

India-Paraguay relations and cooperation on global issues. Both countries share democratic values and aim to expand trade and digital collaboration. Such diplomatic engagements enhance India's global partnerships.

**21) Correct Answer: B**

The Chenab Bridge, inaugurated by PM Modi in June 2025, is the world's highest railway arch bridge. It stands 359 metres above the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir. The bridge improves connectivity by reducing travel time between Jammu and Srinagar. This engineering marvel enhances all-weather connectivity and is strategically significant for the region.

**22) Correct Answer: C**

India secured the Presidency of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). This marks the first time India has led the IIAS in its century-long existence. The IIAS promotes research and collaboration in public administration globally. India's leadership will focus on digital empowerment and inclusive governance.

**23) Correct Answer: B**

PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana has trained over 1.63 crore Indian youth in industry-relevant skills as of 2024. This flagship scheme focuses on enhancing employability and job-readiness. The initiative saw job-readiness among students rise from 33.9% in 2014 to 51.3% in 2024. It is key to India's demographic dividend and economic growth.

**24) Correct Answer: C**

The Monsoon Session of Parliament will be held from July 21 to August 12, 2025. Announced by Minister Kiren Rijiju, this session will address key national issues. It follows recent debates on terror attacks and legislative reforms. The session is crucial for passing important bills and discussing national security concerns.

**25) Correct Answer: C**

Lee Jae-myung was congratulated by PM Modi on his election as President of South Korea in June 2025. Lee's victory followed a snap election after the impeachment of his predecessor. He secured 49.4% of the vote, starting his term amid political and economic challenges.

**26) Correct Answer: B**

New Delhi is set to host the 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue on June 6, 2025. The meeting enhances regional cooperation, trade, and security ties. India and Central Asian nations share deep-rooted historical and cultural bonds. Such dialogues strengthen India's engagement with its extended neighborhood and promote strategic partnerships.

**27) Correct Answer: B**

In June 2025, Tata Advanced Systems signed agreements with Dassault Aviation to produce Rafale fighter fuselages in Hyderabad. This marks the first time Rafale fuselages will be made outside France. The move supports the 'Make in India' initiative and strengthens India's position in the global aerospace supply chain.

**28) Correct Answer: B**

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was extended for five years from January 2024. It provides free food grains to over 81 crore people, mainly targeting vulnerable households. The scheme plays a vital role in ensuring food security and supporting the poor across India.

**29) Correct Answer: B**

On June 5, 2025, PM Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' tree plantation drive, targeting 10 crore trees nationwide. The campaign blends environmental action with cultural values, encouraging people to plant trees in their mother's name. It supports India's efforts to increase forest cover and promote sustainability.

**30) Correct Answer: B**

In June 2025, Khichan (Phalodi) and Menar (Udaipur) wetlands in Rajasthan were designated as Ramsar Sites. Their addition brings India's total to 91 globally recognized wetlands. Ramsar designation supports conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable use of wetlands—crucial for ecological balance and local livelihoods.

**31) Correct Answer: B**

The UMEED Central Portal was launched in June 2025 for digital and transparent management of Waqf properties. It enables real-time monitoring, geo-tagging, and efficient grievance redressal. This initiative aims to ensure community-owned assets support education and

welfare. It marks a major step towards accountable and inclusive Waqf governance in India.

**32) Correct Answer: B**

RBI reduced the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5% in June 2025 due to a sharp moderation in inflation, which fell to 3.2%. This rate cut aims to stimulate growth and investment. Lower inflation provided room for monetary easing. It strengthens India's position as a fast-growing major economy.

**33) Correct Answer: B**

India and Italy co-chaired the 22nd Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation in Brescia, Italy, in June 2025. The talks focused on strategic sectors like Industry 4.0, aerospace, energy, and mobility. The meeting aligns with the Action Plan 2025–2029 to deepen bilateral ties. Such engagement bolsters India's global industrial partnerships.

**34) Correct Answer: C**

The RBI projects India's GDP growth at 6.5% for 2025-26. This projection is based on strong agriculture, reviving industrial activity, and robust services. The positive outlook reflects resilient domestic demand. Sustained growth is vital for employment and global investor confidence in India.

**35) Correct Answer: C**

Face authentication transactions crossed 15 crore in May 2025, showing rapid adoption in Aadhaar-based services. Over 100 entities use this method for secure service delivery. The trend enhances digital inclusion and service reliability. Biometric innovations are central to India's expanding digital economy.

**36) Correct Answer: B**

PM Modi inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, and the Anji Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, in June 2025. These bridges are part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, aimed at enhancing connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir.

**37) Correct Answer: B**

The Vande Bharat Express between Srinagar and Katra, launched in June 2025, reduces travel time to just three hours. This is less than half of the previous six to seven

hours required by road. The new service provides faster, more reliable transport for residents, tourists, and pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi.

**38) Correct Answer: C**

Mizoram achieved full functional literacy on May 20, 2025, under the ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. This historic milestone marks Mizoram as India's first fully literate state. Achieving functional literacy is a key indicator of social progress and sets a benchmark for other states.

**39) Correct Answer: B**

At the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in Brasília, all member parliaments unanimously adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. The forum strongly condemned the recent Pahalgam terror attack in India. India's firm stance on counter-terrorism and global cooperation was widely supported.

**40) Correct Answer: A**

The PM-KISAN scheme has, by June 2025, directly transferred ₹3.7 lakh crore to over 11 crore farmers. This scheme provides income support through Direct Benefit Transfer, ensuring transparency and timely payments. It is central to India's farmer empowerment and rural welfare strategy.

**41) Correct Answer: C**

FSSAI launched the 'Awareness Initiative to Stop Obesity' on World Food Safety Day 2025. The campaign is part of the Eat Right India programme to raise nationwide awareness about obesity risks. Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda highlighted the alarming rise in obesity in both urban and rural India.

**42) Correct Answer: B**

The 'Viksit Bharat 2025 Quiz' aims to test participants' knowledge about India's progress over the past decade. Launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in June 2025, it celebrates 11 years of transformative governance. The quiz enhances public awareness and citizen engagement.

**43) Correct Answer: C**

The market share of electric passenger vehicles in India surpassed 4% in May 2025. This reflects a rise from 2.6% the previous year, showing growing adoption of electric

mobility. Retail sales data from FADA confirm this upward trend. The milestone underlines India's transition toward green transportation solutions.

**44) Correct Answer: C**

The RBI projects CPI inflation at 3.7% for FY 2025-26. This follows a significant decline to 3.2% in April 2025, the lowest in nearly six years. The moderation is due to record food production and favorable monsoon forecasts.

**45) Correct Answer: C**

India will host the next BRICS Parliamentary Forum after assuming chairmanship at the 11th Forum in June 2025. The forum emphasized collective action against terrorism and responsible use of artificial intelligence. India's leadership in BRICS strengthens global cooperation on security and technology.

**46) Correct Answer: C**

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has sanctioned over ₹33.65 lakh crore in loans to more than 52.5 crore small and micro-entrepreneurs in the last eleven years. Launched in 2015, it provides collateral-free loans under various categories. This scheme has especially empowered women and marginalized groups, fostering self-reliance and entrepreneurship in India's MSME sector.

**47) Correct Answer: B**

On June 3, 2025, the government amended SEZ Rules to ease the establishment of semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing units. The reforms reduce minimum land requirements and relax compliance norms. These changes aim to attract investments, reduce import dependency, and strengthen India's position in high-tech manufacturing sectors.

**48) Correct Answer: B**

As of March 2025, PMUY had provided 10.33 crore LPG connections, making it the largest clean energy program for households globally. Launched in 2016, it has improved health and empowered women, particularly in rural India. The scheme's affordable LPG access reduces indoor air pollution and supports environmental sustainability.

**49) Correct Answer: C**

India has laid over 42 lakh km of optical fibre cable under BharatNet, one of the world's largest rural telecom initiatives. This expansion has dramatically improved digital access in rural areas, boosting e-education, telemedicine, and financial inclusion.

**50) Correct Answer: D**

Over 55.02 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened as part of India's financial inclusion push. Launched in 2014, the scheme extends formal banking to the unbanked, especially in rural and marginalized communities. This initiative is vital for direct benefit transfers and inclusive economic growth.

**51) Correct Answer: C**

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is set for space travel on Axiom Mission 4, launching June 11, 2025. He will be the first Indian in space since Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission, marking a major milestone for ISRO's Human Spaceflight Programme.

**52) Correct Answer: C**

The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) was launched for 2020–21 to 2025–26 with an outlay of ₹1,480 crore. It aims to promote research, innovation, and export of technical textiles, vital for sectors like defence and agriculture. The mission includes education, training, and market expansion components.

**53) Correct Answer: B**

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) emphasizes innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable manufacturing between India and EFTA. Piyush Goyal highlighted these aspects during meetings with Swiss leaders in June 2025. TEPA is expected to boost investments and integrate India into global value chains.

**54) Correct Answer: C**

Khelo India, launched in 2016–17, is central to India's sports transformation. It supports grassroots infrastructure and athlete development, with ₹1,000 crore allocated in 2025–26. The programme has nurtured thousands of athletes and built over 1,000 training centers.

**55) Correct Answer: B**

The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme incentivizes increased production and incremental sales in sectors like electronics, textiles, and pharmaceuticals. It ties financial support to clear performance metrics, attracting investment. PLI is a cornerstone of India's self-reliance and export growth strategies.

**56) Correct Answer: C**

Aadhaar-based OTP authentication for all online Tatkal bookings will be mandatory from July 15, 2025. This move aims to enhance user authentication and curb misuse of the Tatkal system. The policy will restrict agent bookings and require OTP verification for tickets booked at counters and through agents.

**57) Correct Answer: C**

Mexico City will make history by hosting the FIFA World Cup for the third time in 2026. The iconic Azteca Stadium will be the venue for the opening match. Renovations are underway to modernize the stadium, reflecting the nation's football heritage and readiness for a global spectacle.

**58) Correct Answer: B**

India registered its highest-ever defence production in 2023–24 at ₹1.27 lakh crore. This achievement is attributed to policy reforms and a push for indigenous manufacturing. It marks a 174% increase over 2014–15 figures, highlighting India's progress towards self-reliance in defence. Such growth bolsters India's position as a defence manufacturing hub.

**59) Correct Answer: A**

India's social protection coverage rose from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, as per the ILO. This notable growth is due to welfare initiatives and digital governance improvements. India now covers over 94 crore citizens, ranking second globally. This reflects the country's commitment to inclusive welfare and social security.

**60) Correct Answer: C**

Vizhinjam International Deepwater Seaport in Kerala was inaugurated in 2025 as India's first dedicated container transshipment port. Built at a cost of Rs 8,800 crore, it is designed to handle the world's largest cargo ships. The port reduces India's reliance on foreign ports, boosting trade and strategic maritime capacity.

**61) Correct Answer: B**

The Centre reduced the Basic Customs Duty on crude edible oils from 20% to 10% in June 2025. This move aimed to lower edible oil prices and curb inflation. By increasing the duty differential with refined oils, it supports domestic refining. This policy is significant for India's food economy and consumer welfare.

**62) Correct Answer: C**

Delhi experienced a severe heatwave with temperatures reaching 45°C in June 2025. The IMD issued a red alert due to dangerously high temperatures. Heat index values soared above 51°C, impacting daily life. This underscores growing climate risks in Indian mega-cities.

**63) Correct Answer: C**

The United Nations General Assembly planned a vote for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza on June 12, 2025. Unlike the Security Council, the General Assembly's resolutions are not binding but reflect global opinion. The vote followed a U.S. veto in the Security Council. This highlights international concern over the Gaza conflict.

**64) Correct Answer: B**

The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan concluded in Bardoli, Gujarat in June 2025. Led by the Union Agriculture Minister, it engaged over 1 crore farmers and 16,000 scientists. The campaign focused on region-specific research and policy feedback. It demonstrates India's emphasis on participatory agricultural development.

**65) Correct Answer: B**

From July 1, 2025, Aadhaar authentication became mandatory for Tatkal bookings on IRCTC. This aims to prevent misuse and ensure genuine passenger access. OTP verification was also introduced for PRS and agent bookings. The reform improves transparency and fairness in ticketing.

**66) Correct Answer: B**

Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi issued the advisory on June 13, 2025. The advisory was in response to increased hostilities in the Middle East impacting flight schedules. Passengers to Iran and Iraq were urged to check with airlines for updates. This highlights how international conflicts can directly affect Indian air travel and safety protocols.

**67) Correct Answer: B**

GeM surpassed a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹4.09 lakh crore in just 10 months of FY 2024-25. This represents nearly a 50% growth compared to the previous year. It underscores the platform's role in driving digital procurement and transparency in India's public sector. Such digital initiatives strengthen economic efficiency and governance.

**68) Correct Answer: C**

Shubhanshu Shukla, an Indian Air Force pilot, is set to be the first from India's astronaut corps to visit the ISS. He is part of the Axiom Mission 4, delayed due to safety concerns. His mission marks a major milestone for ISRO's human spaceflight programme. This elevates India's global profile in space exploration.

**69) Correct Answer: C**

India's digital economy is projected to contribute about one-fifth of national income by 2029-30. This projection is based on rapid sectoral growth and technology adoption. The digital sector is already outpacing traditional sectors in productivity and job creation. The shift reflects India's commitment to digital transformation and global competitiveness.

**70) Correct Answer: B**

The Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-2A involves extending the metro line to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. The project was reviewed at the 95th NPG meeting in June 2025. It will enhance urban mobility and airport connectivity. Such upgrades are vital for India's urban infrastructure and economic growth.

**71) Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of Agriculture allocated ₹6,000 crore to strengthen the Agri Stack initiative in June 2025. This aims to accelerate digital infrastructure for farmer-centric governance and data-driven delivery. Funds support Farmer Registries and Digital Crop Surveys. The move is significant for modernizing Indian agriculture and improving service delivery to millions of farmers.

**72) Correct Answer: A**

Ramesh Viswaskumar, seated near the emergency exit, was the sole survivor of the AI-171 crash on June 12, 2025. He escaped through a broken emergency hatch

after the plane crashed into a hostel. His survival amid 241 fatalities makes him central to rescue and investigation narratives in this major Indian aviation tragedy.

**73) Correct Answer: C**

The 2025 International Day of Yoga adopted the theme 'One Earth, One Health.' This was announced at the 'Yoga Connect' global summit in Delhi. The theme emphasizes holistic wellness and global health, reflecting India's leadership in promoting yoga as a global movement for physical and mental well-being.

**74) Correct Answer: C**

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, was selected to host the main International Day of Yoga event in 2025. Prime Minister Modi will lead the celebration, highlighting the city's role in India's global yoga outreach. The event is set to attract delegates from around 40 countries, showcasing the growing international stature of Yoga Day.

**75) Correct Answer: B**

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died in the Air India AI-171 crash near Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025. He served as CM from 2016 to 2021 and was known for key reforms in Gujarat. His passing was widely mourned, and schools in Rajkot were shut in his honor.

**76) Correct Answer: C**

Mahesh Kumar from Hanumangarh, Rajasthan topped NEET UG 2025 with 686 marks. He prepared for three years at a Sikar institute, surpassing over 20 lakh candidates in the May 4 exam. His disciplined journey stands out, marking Sikar as a hub for medical aspirants. This achievement reinforces Rajasthan's growing prominence in national competitive exams.

**77) Correct Answer: B**

A high-level multi-disciplinary committee was formed to probe the AI-171 crash and review Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The June 12 crash, which killed 241 people, prompted this move to improve future air safety. The committee will recommend preventive and responsive measures, highlighting India's focus on aviation safety.

**78) Correct Answer: C**

The 'Yoga Connect' summit was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, in June 2025. Organized by the Ministry of Ayush, it attracted over 1,000 global participants. The event is part of the International Day of Yoga build-up, affirming India's leadership in promoting holistic health worldwide.

**79) Correct Answer: C**

South Africa won its first World Test Championship title in June 2025 by defeating Australia at Lord's. This marked a historic turnaround for the team. Their victory is significant in world cricket, breaking a decades-long drought in major tournaments.

**80) Correct Answer: C**

The ₹6,000 crore allocation strengthens Agri Stack's digital infrastructure, supporting farmer registries and digital crop surveys. Announced at a national conference in June 2025, it aims to enable better scheme delivery and financial inclusion. This initiative signals India's push toward data-driven agriculture.

**81) Correct Answer: B**

The NAKSHA programme aims to modernise urban land records through advanced geospatial and survey technologies. The second batch of Phase 2 begins on June 16, 2025. It trains officers in GNSS, GIS applications, and legal frameworks for better land management. This enhances transparency and efficiency in urban governance across India.

**82) Correct Answer: C**

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal visited the GHAVP nuclear power project to review its progress. The project involves the installation of four 700 MWe reactors in Haryana, with commercial operations expected by March 2031. The initiative supports India's clean energy goals. Such projects are vital for India's long-term energy security.

**83) Correct Answer: B**

Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts have experienced rising water levels in key reservoirs like Papanasam and Servalar due to intensified southwest monsoon rains in June 2025. This has improved irrigation and drinking water supply. Effective water management

is crucial for agriculture and flood mitigation in the region.

**84) Correct Answer: C**

A UK Royal Air Force F-35 fighter jet made an emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport after running low on fuel over the Indian Ocean. The incident, occurring in June 2025, showcased close coordination between Indian and UK authorities. Such events highlight India's strategic importance in international aviation safety.

**85) Correct Answer: B**

The Prime Minister Mudra Yojana (PMMY) completed 10 years in 2025. It has sanctioned over Rs 32.61 lakh crore in loans, with nearly 70% of beneficiaries being women entrepreneurs. PMMY has empowered women in small towns and villages, supporting financial inclusion and self-employment in India.

**86) Correct Answer: C**

The European Commission plans to legally ban all Russian pipeline gas and LNG imports by 2027. This move follows the EU's vow after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine to end energy ties. The proposal uses legal measures to prevent member states from blocking the ban.

**87) Correct Answer: B**

ICAR-NIHSAD Bhopal has been granted Category A Rinderpest Holding Facility status by international organizations WOAH and FAO in May 2025. This recognition follows rigorous evaluation of its biosafety and management standards. Only six global facilities hold this role.

**88) Correct Answer: B**

The 'DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' focuses on inclusive development and empowerment of tribal communities. Launched on June 17, 2025, it covers over 549 tribal districts, ensuring doorstep delivery of welfare schemes. The campaign aims to uplift tribal regions through saturation of key government benefits.

**89) Correct Answer: C**

The 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2. The schedule was announced by the ICC in June 2025. The event will feature matches across five

cities and marks a milestone for women's cricket in the subcontinent.

**90) Correct Answer: C**

Bengaluru is set to host the opening match of the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup between India and Sri Lanka on September 30. This was announced by the ICC in June 2025. Bengaluru is a key cricket venue in India. Hosting the opener highlights India's central role in global women's cricket.

**91) Correct Answer: C**

The government announced a FASTag-based Annual Pass priced at ₹3,000 for non-commercial vehicles. This pass allows seamless nationwide travel on National Highways for a year or up to 200 trips. The move aims to simplify toll payments and reduce congestion. It is significant as it promotes ease of travel and digital payments across India.

**92) Correct Answer: C**

Rajasthan registered the highest number of yoga locations with 1,38,033 organisations participating in IDY 2025. This reflects the state's strong engagement in the nationwide wellness initiative. Rajasthan's leadership in participation shows the growing popularity of yoga.

**93) Correct Answer: C**

INS Arnala was commissioned into the Indian Navy on June 18, 2025, as the first indigenously designed and built ASW-SWC. It was built by GRSE under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. The vessel enhances coastal defense and showcases indigenous shipbuilding.

**94) Correct Answer: B**

Shubman Gill was appointed as the captain for the Test series against England after Rohit Sharma stepped down. Jasprit Bumrah declined the role due to workload concerns. Gill's leadership in this high-profile series marks a generational change.

**95) Correct Answer: C**

The United States accounted for nearly 40% of global millionaires in 2024, according to UBS. This reflects the country's strong economic performance and wealth creation. The report highlights the dominance of the US in global wealth distribution. It is significant for understanding shifts in global economic power.

**96) Correct Answer: C**

Operation Sindhu was launched by India to evacuate its nationals from Iran in June 2025. The mission ensured the safe return of 110 Indian citizens, including students, as conflict intensified. The operation was coordinated via Armenia and highlighted India's priority on citizen safety abroad.

**97) Correct Answer: B**

PM Modi visited Croatia in June 2025, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the European country. The visit aimed to deepen cooperation in trade, culture, defence, and innovation. It marks a significant milestone in India-Croatia relations. Such visits help expand India's strategic and economic partnerships globally.

**98) Correct Answer: C**

The Election Commission of India launched a new SOP to deliver EPICs within 15 days after updates or enrollments in June 2025. This includes real-time tracking and SMS notifications for applicants. The initiative enhances voter convenience and service efficiency.

**99) Correct Answer: B**

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced a FASTag-based Annual Pass for non-commercial vehicles, effective August 15, 2025, priced at ₹3,000. It allows seamless, cost-effective travel on national highways. This move simplifies toll payments and reduces congestion. Such steps modernize India's highway infrastructure and enhance commuter convenience.

**100) Correct Answer: B**

In the renewed Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, KVKs have been designated as nodal agencies in every district. They will lead region-specific solutions and facilitate farmer-scientist interactions. This approach aims to modernize agriculture through localized strategies.

**101) Correct Answer: C**

India emerged as the third-largest in power generation growth after China and the US, per the IEA's 2025 report. This reflects India's rapid industrialization and push for renewables. Solar power accounted for over half of non-fossil energy investment. India's performance is significant for meeting domestic demand and advancing global clean energy goals.

**102) Correct Answer: B**

Desi Oon, directed by Suresh Eriyat, won the Jury Award at Annecy 2025. The Annecy Festival is the world's premier animation event. The film is celebrated for its rooted Indian storytelling and cutting-edge animation. This achievement enhances India's global reputation in the animation industry.

**103) Correct Answer: C**

Divya Deshmukh defeated World No. 1 Hou Yifan in the Blitz semifinal in London, June 2025. This win was lauded by Prime Minister Modi and the Sports Minister. The World Team Blitz is a prestigious FIDE event. Divya's victory inspires aspiring chess players across India.

**104) Correct Answer: C**

IIT Delhi was ranked as the top Indian institution in QS Rankings 2026, climbing to 123rd globally. This marks its best performance so far. The number of Indian institutions in the QS list rose to a record 54. The rise reflects the impact of NEP 2020 and ongoing education reforms.

**105) Correct Answer: B**

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) supplied all special steel for INS Arnala, commissioned in June 2025. INS Arnala is India's first indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft. SAIL's contribution highlights defence indigenisation and reduces import dependency.

**106) Correct Answer: B**

India and the UK signed a historic FTA in May 2025. The agreement aims to deepen trade, technology, and innovation ties between the two democracies. Key areas include SME growth, technology collaboration, and skilled mobility. This FTA strengthens India's global economic leadership and benefits both nations.

**107) Correct Answer: C**

The Vaishali-Deoria railway line and a new Vande Bharat Express were inaugurated in Bihar by PM Modi in June 2025. These projects enhance connectivity and infrastructure, promoting regional development. Such initiatives are crucial for Bihar's growth, especially ahead of state elections.

**108) Correct Answer: B**

Tel Aviv's stock exchange suffered damage due to Iranian missile attacks in June 2025. The escalation marked a severe phase in the Israel-Iran conflict. Such strikes have drawn global concern over regional stability and civilian safety.

**109) Correct Answer: C**

A record 54 Indian institutions were featured in the QS World University Rankings 2026. This five-fold increase since 2014 highlights major reforms in India's education sector. It reflects India's growing global academic stature and youth opportunities.

**110) Correct Answer: B**

The BIO-e3 Policy, announced in 2025, centers on Economy, Employment, and Environment to drive India's biotechnology revolution. It aims to create jobs and foster sustainable growth in biotech. The policy is a catalyst for India's innovation and economic progress.

**111) Correct Answer: B**

The United Nations declared June 21 as International Yoga Day in December 2014. This was initiated by India's proposal and rapidly gained support from more than 170 countries. The recognition marked yoga's journey as a global movement. It boosted India's cultural diplomacy and soft power worldwide.

**112) Correct Answer: B**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) performed yoga at altitudes exceeding 14,000 feet at Pangong Tso. The event showcased the commitment of security forces to wellness in extreme environments. It reinforced yoga's role in discipline and resilience. Such initiatives highlight India's holistic approach to health even in border regions.

**113) Correct Answer: B**

Neeraj Chopra won the Paris Diamond League with a throw of 88.16m. This victory marked his dominance in international javelin competitions. His consistent top performances enhance India's reputation in athletics. Such achievements inspire Indian youth and raise the nation's global sports profile.

**114) Correct Answer: C**

The Ministry of Mines held a massive yoga event in Hyderabad, with over 35,000 attendees. The event was part of the International Day of Yoga celebrations. It

reflected the government's push to integrate wellness in workplaces. Large-scale participation demonstrated unity and the importance of collective well-being.

**115) Correct Answer: B**

Iran and Israel exchanged new missile attacks in June 2025 amid escalating conflict. The hostilities involved strikes on military and nuclear-related sites. This confrontation has significant implications for global security and energy markets. The conflict underscores the fragile stability in West Asia.

**116) Correct Answer: B**

The US military targeted Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan nuclear facilities in Iran with airstrikes on June 22, 2025. These sites are central to Iran's nuclear program. The action marked a significant escalation in the US-Israel-Iran conflict. These events have major implications for regional and global security.

**117) Correct Answer: C**

Saeed Izadi, commander of the Palestine Corps of the Quds Force, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on June 21, 2025. He was a key architect of Iran's coordination with Hamas and involved in the October 7 attacks. His death represents a setback for Iran's regional operations against Israel.

**118) Correct Answer: C**

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey announced in June 2025 that there were no remaining obstacles for the NSE IPO. SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is India's key market regulator. This paves the way for one of India's most anticipated public offerings, boosting investor sentiment.

**119) Correct Answer: B**

Sudarsan Pattnaik, a renowned sand artist and Padma Shri awardee, crafted a sand art of PM Modi performing Ustrasana at Puri Beach on June 21, 2025. His artwork was themed on 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health.' Such creative efforts raise public awareness about yoga's benefits.

**120) Correct Answer: B**

India extended evacuation support to citizens of Nepal and Sri Lanka during Operation Sindhu in June 2025. This was done at the request of their respective governments.

Such diplomatic efforts enhance India's image as a reliable regional partner. It also demonstrates India's commitment to humanitarian assistance.

**121) Correct Answer: C**

INS Tamal, an upgraded Tushil-class frigate, will be commissioned in Russia on July 1, 2025. This ship is the eighth Krivak-class frigate and the last foreign-built warship for India. It embodies advanced stealth, indigenous components like BrahMos missiles, and marks a shift to 'Make in India.'

**122) Correct Answer: C**

NIA investigations revealed that the three terrorists in the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack were Pakistani nationals linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba. The attack killed 26 civilians, including tourists, and was one of the deadliest in recent years. This finding underscores cross-border terrorism concerns and the need for regional security vigilance.

**123) Correct Answer: B**

In June 2025, the U.S. conducted airstrikes on three Iranian nuclear sites, escalating the Israel-Iran conflict. The strikes followed missile exchanges between Israel and Iran, with global leaders expressing concern. This crisis has significant implications for regional and global stability, including energy security.

**124) Correct Answer: C**

The GBU-57A/B 'Massive Ordnance Penetrator' bunker-buster bomb was reportedly used by U.S. B-2 bombers to strike Iran's Fordow facility. This weapon can penetrate over 200 feet of concrete. Its deployment demonstrates advanced precision strike capabilities against fortified underground targets, impacting nuclear non-proliferation issues.

**125) Correct Answer: B**

Karnataka's mango farmers received joint compensation from the Centre and State governments due to plummeting mango prices, especially for the Totapuri variety. The initiative covers up to 2.5 lakh metric tonnes. This support addresses agricultural distress and demonstrates responsive governance for farmer welfare.

**126) Correct Answer: C**

India and Kenya jointly unveiled the India-Africa Commemorative Pillar in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. The ceremony honored Indian and African soldiers who died in World War I. This event highlights growing defense ties and shared history between India and Kenya and reflects India's commitment to international military cooperation.

**127) Correct Answer: C**

India will conduct its first comprehensive Household Income Survey in 2026 to generate detailed insights into income distribution. Announced by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the survey addresses longstanding data gaps. Accurate income data is crucial for effective policy design and economic planning in India.

**128) Correct Answer: B**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj partnered with IIM Ahmedabad for a Training of Trainers programme on Own Source Revenue (OSR) generation in June 2025. This initiative aims to enhance Panchayats' financial autonomy. Strengthening local revenue systems is vital for the Atmanirbhar Panchayat vision and rural development.

**129) Correct Answer: B**

Rice sowing saw the largest increase in area during the 2025 kharif season—up by 4.86 lakh hectares over the previous year. The Agriculture Ministry's June report indicated a strong start to the season, reflecting positive trends for food security and farmer incomes in India.

**130) Correct Answer: B**

SECI issued a landmark tender for supplying green ammonia to fertilizer plants in June 2025. This step aims to decarbonize fertilizer production by replacing fossil-fuel-based hydrogen with green hydrogen, supporting India's climate goals and clean energy transition in agriculture.

**131) Correct Answer: C**

On June 24, 2025, PM Modi reaffirmed India's Neighbourhood First Policy in a call with Mauritius PM Ramgoolam. This policy prioritizes strong ties with neighboring and Indian Ocean region countries. The discussion highlighted cooperation in development,

security, and cultural exchange, further cementing India's leadership in regional diplomacy.

**132) Correct Answer: B**

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) completed a decade on June 25, 2025. Launched in 2015, it revolutionized urban services like water supply, sewerage, and green spaces across 500 cities. AMRUT's success has led to the launch of AMRUT 2.0, underlining the government's sustained focus on inclusive and sustainable urban growth.

**133) Correct Answer: B**

Puja Unni, a classical dancer, was among the three women conferred the Nari Shakti title at Dubai's Nari Shakti Festival on June 24, 2025. The event celebrated women's empowerment through the arts, drawing global attention to Indian culture and the contributions of women in society.

**134) Correct Answer: C**

Union Minister Scindia announced on June 24, 2025, that India's Wi-Fi industry is forecasted to grow to \$22 billion by 2035. He emphasized Wi-Fi's critical role in bridging the digital divide, supporting rural connectivity, and powering the nation's digital transformation.

**135) Correct Answer: D**

NATO leaders are expected to endorse a new defence spending target of 5% of GDP by 2035, as discussed at The Hague summit in June 2025. This substantial increase is in response to heightened security threats and U.S. pressure for enhanced European defence commitments.

**136) Correct Answer: C**

Rajasthan will host the fifth edition of KIUG in November 2025. This was announced by Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on June 25, 2025. The Games will showcase top university athletes and further strengthen India's grassroots sports ecosystem.

**137) Correct Answer: C**

CBSE will conduct Class 10 exams twice a year starting from 2026. This aligns with NEP 2020, aiming to reduce exam stress and offer students flexibility. Students can improve scores in up to three subjects. The reform is

expected to promote a more inclusive, student-centric education system in India.

**138) Correct Answer: C**

The central government approved a ₹417 crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) in Uttar Pradesh for electronics manufacturing and innovation. Announced on June 25, 2025, this cluster will attract investment, generate 15,000 jobs, and support the 'Make in India' initiative.

**139) Correct Answer: C**

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian on the ISS during the Axiom-4 mission in June 2025. He is also the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma. Shukla's mission advances India's role in global space research and paves the way for future Indian space exploration.

**140) Correct Answer: C**

The Cabinet sanctioned ₹5,940.47 crore for the Revised Jharia Master Plan on June 25, 2025. The plan addresses fires, land subsidence, and resettlement of affected families. It emphasizes sustainable livelihoods and infrastructure for displaced people. This step is significant for environmental safety and social welfare in India's coal sector.

**141) Correct Answer: B**

Kargil Vijay Diwas will mark its 26th anniversary on July 26, 2025. The event commemorates India's victory in the 1999 Kargil conflict. The Indian Army is conducting nationwide outreach to honor fallen soldiers and support their families. This day reinforces national pride and remembrance of military bravery.

**142) Correct Answer: B**

The government authorized voluntary Aadhaar authentication for IBPS exams in June 2025. This measure aims to prevent impersonation and ensure fair recruitment. It helps streamline identity verification and reduces administrative burdens. The initiative strengthens trust in public sector examinations.

**143) Correct Answer: B**

Indian Public Sector Units (PSUs) increased their market capitalization from Rs 12 lakh crore to Rs 69 lakh crore between March 2020 and June 2025. This 57 lakh crore

growth reflects improved profitability and policy reforms. PSUs outpaced private peers in earnings growth during this period. Their turnaround is significant for India's economic stability.

**144) Correct Answer: C**

The Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal was launched by President Droupadi Murmu on MSME Day 2025. This portal allows MSMEs to resolve payment disputes efficiently from any location. It aims to free up blocked capital and boost business competitiveness.

**145) Correct Answer: C**

Haryana announced the Lado Lakshmi Scheme in June 2025, providing Rs 2,100 monthly aid to women from economically weaker sections. The scheme has a budgetary allocation of Rs 5,000 crore. It aims to support women's financial independence. This step reflects the state's commitment to social welfare and gender equity.

**146) Correct Answer: C**

India's social security coverage rose from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025. This progress, recognized by the ILO, brings over 94 crore people under protection. The increase is due to labor reforms and digital infrastructure. It signifies India's leadership in social protection globally.

**147) Correct Answer: B**

Ahmedabad, India, will host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games. This biennial event involves police, fire, and

disaster personnel from around the world. The announcement reflects India's rising status in global sports. It showcases the country's improved sports infrastructure and international reputation.

**148) Correct Answer: B**

Banana became the leading fruit contributor to GVO in 2023-24, surpassing mango. The GVO of banana was ₹47.0 thousand crore, slightly ahead of mango. This marks a significant shift in India's fruit production trends. The change highlights diversification in horticulture and growing market demand.

**149) Correct Answer: B**

India's zero-dose rate, the percentage of children not receiving any vaccine, fell from 0.11% in 2023 to 0.06% in 2024. The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME) recognized this achievement. It reflects India's robust immunization efforts.

**150) Correct Answer: C**

The revised guidelines allow Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to be disbursed in two stages, linked to plant performance. This replaces the earlier single-stage system. The change accelerates financial support and incentivizes efficiency. It supports India's clean energy goals and business-friendly environment.

## SECTION 3



# **Detailed Analysis of        Important Events**

**of**



## Economics

### RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Decisions



#### Why in the News?

The RBI, in its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 1% to release ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system by November 2025.



#### Key Changes Announced:

- By November 29, 2025, the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) had dropped by 1% in four installments to 3%.
- By December 2025, the banking system will have ₹2.5 lakh crore in liquidity thanks to this CRR drop.
- 18% of Nett Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) is still the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

#### Key terms related to the MPC instruments:

	Explanation
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of a bank's total deposits that must be kept in liquid cash with the RBI is known as the CRR.</li> <li>This sum cannot be used by banks for investments or loans. On CRR, no interest is earned.</li> <li>It is employed to manage the economy's inflation and liquidity.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bank lending capacity is decreased when CRR rises, while liquidity is increased when it falls.</li> <li>4.5% of Nett Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) is the current CRR.</li> </ul>
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minimal proportion of NDTL that banks are required to keep in liquid form is known as SLR.</li> <li>It consists of money held by the bank itself, such as gold, cash, or authorised government securities.</li> <li>It limits the expansion of loans and helps guarantee bank viability.</li> <li>Lowering SLR increases credit and growth, whereas raising it decreases the amount of money available for lending.</li> <li>Additionally, it assists the government in guaranteeing demand for its securities.</li> </ul>
Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public deposits and balances held with other banks are included.</li> <li>Deposits made by the bank itself with other banks are not included.</li> <li>Current accounts and demand drafts are examples of demand liabilities.</li> <li>Recurring and fixed deposits are examples of time obligations.</li> <li>As a percentage of NDTL, CRR and SLR are computed.</li> </ul>
Repo Rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate at which the RBI lends commercial banks short-term money secured by government assets is known as the repo rate.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banks sell securities to the RBI with the intention of eventually buying them back.</li> <li>• A lower repo rate increases liquidity and lowers the cost of borrowing.</li> <li>• A higher repo rate reduces liquidity by making borrowing more expensive.</li> <li>• It is an essential monetary policy instrument for controlling the money supply and inflation.</li> </ul>
Variable Rate Repo (VRR) Auction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RBI uses the VRR auction process to carry out repo transactions at variable interest rates.</li> <li>• Banks use competitive bidding to determine interest rates.</li> <li>• It displays the supply and demand for liquidity in real time.</li> <li>• allows the RBI to manage liquidity more effectively and flexibly.</li> </ul>
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banks can deposit excess funds with the RBI through SDF without having to provide any collateral.</li> <li>• The RBI determines the interest rate that banks pay.</li> <li>• Its function is to remove surplus money from the system.</li> <li>• a component of the RBI's methodology for managing liquidity.</li> </ul>
Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the interbank call money market, banks borrow and lend overnight cash at the weighted average interest rate, or WACR.</li> <li>• It is a crucial sign of the state of short-term liquidity.</li> <li>• In order to inform monetary policy choices, RBI keeps an eye on WACR.</li> </ul>

## What is Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)?



### Why in the News?

The Finance Ministry has firmly denied recent online rumours suggesting that the government is planning to impose Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on UPI transactions.

### About Merchant Discount Rate (MDR):

- Overview: The price that banks or payment service providers charge businesses to process digital payments via credit cards, debit cards, or other digital methods is known as MDR.
- Its goal is to reimburse the various parties that are engaged in a digital transaction, such as the network operator, payment gateway, issuing bank, and acquiring bank.
- Fee Structure: Depending on the transaction and merchant type, MDR is normally computed as a percentage of the overall transaction amount, commonly falling between 1% and 3%.
- RBI Regulation: MDR is governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and retailers are not allowed to charge this tax to consumers.
- Discontinuation: In 2020, the government abolished MDR on UPI and RuPay card transactions to encourage cashless payments, which benefited consumers and small businesses.

### How does it work?

- Transaction Flow: After subtracting the MDR fee, the merchant's account is credited with the payment amount when a customer makes a digital payment.

- For instance, if a consumer pays ₹1,000 and the MDR is 2%, the merchant gets ₹980, while the banks and service providers split the remaining ₹20.
- Automatic Deduction: During transaction processing, the settlement system automatically deducts the MDR amount.
- Variable Rates: A number of variables, including the kind of card being used, the type of business, the volume of monthly transactions, and the average transaction value, might affect the MDR rate.
- Merchant Agreements: Before starting to take digital payments, merchants must execute MDR agreements with their payment service providers.
- Operational Cost: When providing consumers with the ease of digital payment methods, MDR is regarded as a component of the merchant's operating expenses.

### Shipki La Mountain Pass opened for Tourists



#### Why in the News?

For the first time since India's independence, the Shipki La pass in Himachal Pradesh has been opened to domestic tourists, marking a historic shift in India's border tourism strategy.



#### About Shipki La Pass:

- Situated in the Kinnaur area of Himachal Pradesh, on the boundary between India and Tibet (China), this high-altitude mountain pass rises to 3,930 metres.
- Along with Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La (Sikkim), it is one of just three recognised border commercial locations between India and Tibet.
- The region gains geographical significance when the Sutlej River, known in Tibet as the Langqen Zangbo, reaches India close to Shipki La.
- The pass is regarded as one of India's highest motorable roads and is located along National Highway 5 (NH5).
- In the past, it was a vital trading route that allowed India and Tibet to exchange tea, yak tails, salt, wool, and spices.
- Following the India-China conflict in 1962, trade was discontinued; it was restarted in 1992, but it was once more blocked during COVID-19.
- For the first time since independence, Himachal Pradesh opened the pass to Indian tourists on June 9, 2025.
- Along with the opening of the Sarhad Van Udyam (Border Forest Park), the project is a component of a "Border Tourism" strategy.
- Additionally, it is being contemplated as a potential detour for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

#### Other Important Himalayan Passes:

- **Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir:**

- Khardung La (5,359 m) – Among the highest motorable passes; connects Leh with Nubra Valley.
- Zoji La – Links Srinagar with Leh; vital for year-round Ladakh access.
- Chang La, Baralacha La, Umling La (5,798 m) – Crucial for Leh connectivity and defense.
- Rezang La – Famous for the 1962 India-China war battle.
- Karakoram Pass, Aghil Pass, Demchok Pass – Strategic India-China border passes.

- **Himachal Pradesh:**

- Rohtang Pass – Connects Kullu with Lahaul-Spiti; key for tourism and logistics.
- Parang La – Links Spiti Valley and Parvati Valley; used by trekkers and herders.
- Shipki La – Now open to tourists; historical Indo-Tibetan trade route.

- **Uttarakhand:**

- Lipulekh Pass (5,632 m) – Used for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
- Mana Pass – One of the highest vehicle-accessible passes; connects to Tibet.
- Niti Pass, Milam Pass, Kuthi Pass – Historical trade and pilgrimage routes.

- **Sikkim:**

- Nathu La – Major border trade route; part of the ancient Silk Route.
- Jelep La – Historical route linking Sikkim with Lhasa via Chumbi Valley.

- **Arunachal Pradesh:**

- Se La, Bum La – Connect to Tawang and Bhutan border.
- Pangjau Pass, Diphu Pass – Connect Arunachal with Myanmar; important for WWII history and connectivity.

## What are Passively Managed Funds?



## Passive Funds

### Why in the News?

Passively Managed Funds—those that track a market index without active stock selection—have become increasingly popular among investors seeking low-cost, predictable returns.

### About Passively Managed Funds:

- Investment vehicles called passively managed funds, or simply passive funds, are made to mimic the performance of a certain market index, such as the Sensex or the Nifty Fifty.
- The fund manager of a passive fund does not choose stocks or make frequent buy-and-sell decisions, in contrast to actively managed funds.
- Rather, the fund's holdings are identical to those of the underlying index in terms of percentage.

### How Passive Funds Work?

- These funds invest in all or a representative sample of the securities in a benchmark index in order to track it.
- Instead of outperforming the index, the goal is to replicate its results.
- They consequently have less portfolio turnover and reduced management expenses.

### Types of Passive Funds:

#### 1. Index Funds:

- These mutual funds are available for direct purchase or redemption from the fund company.
- Only one transaction per day is performed, and it is determined by the Net Asset Value at the end of the day.

- They are simple to use and appropriate for long-term investors and systematic investment programmes.

## 2. Exchange Traded Funds:

- Stock markets such as the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange list these funds.
- Like stocks, units are purchased or sold by investors through brokers during trading hours.
- They are appropriate for investors looking for freedom in intraday trading and require a dematerialized account.

### Advantages of Passive Funds:

- Low Expense Ratios: Because no active research or trading is involved.
- Transparency: Holdings closely follow a well-known index.
- Diversification: Spreads investment risk across multiple securities.
- No Human Bias: Avoids mistakes due to the fund manager's poor decisions.

### Limitations:

- No Outperformance: Returns will always be close to the index and cannot exceed it.
- Tracking Error: Slight variation between the fund's performance and the index due to operational reasons.
- Limited Flexibility: Cannot adapt to sudden market downturns.

## FASTag Annual Pass Scheme



### Why in the News?

Union Transport Minister announced a new FASTag-based Annual Pass system for private non-commercial vehicles (cars, jeeps, vans) to ensure smoother travel across National Highways.

### What are FASTags?

- Automatic toll collection at National Highway toll plazas is made possible by the FASTag contactless toll payment system, which makes use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology.
- It was introduced in 2014 and made mandatory for all four-wheeled vehicles in 2021. It is overseen by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- It is a sticker attached to a savings account or prepaid wallet that is placed on the windscreen of a car. When a car goes through an electronic toll gate, tolls are automatically subtracted.
- It facilitates digital payments, eases traffic, and improves convenience along India's highway system.
- According to the Motor Vehicles Rules, all new four-wheelers must have FASTags, which are also required for the renewal of national permits and fitness certifications.

### About the FASTag Annual Pass Scheme:

- Overview: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has unveiled a new programme to make private non-commercial car travel more affordable and hassle-free.
- Implementation: The optional pass, which is just for automobiles, jeeps, and vans (not for commercial vehicles), will go into effect on August 15, 2025.
- The program's goals are to lower per-trip expenses (to as low as ₹15/toll) and give regular travellers yearly savings of up to ₹7,000.
- Benefits: It allows unlimited passage at National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) toll plazas for either:
  - One year, or

- 200 toll crossings, whichever is earlier.

#### Key Features:

- Eligibility: Only private, non-commercial vehicles with a current, valid FASTag associated with a registered vehicle number are eligible.
- Activation: For FY 2025–2026, an initial payment of ₹3,000 is required to activate through the Rajmargyatra mobile app or the NHAI website.
- Validity: Unless renewed, it covers 200 trips or one year before switching back to standard FASTag mode.
- Trip Count:
  - Point-based plazas: Each pass counts as one trip per crossing.

- Closed toll systems: Entry and exit combined count as one trip.
- Transfer Restrictions: The pass is only good for the car that has the FASTag registered on it and cannot be transferred.
- Coverage: Exclusive to the Center-managed NH and NE toll plazas. Local toll plazas and state highways are exempt.
- Charge Revision: Beginning on April 1 of each year, the base charge is subject to revision.
- Current Users: If a FASTag is already attached and active, there's no need to get a new one. Once eligibility has been confirmed, the pass can be attached to the current tag.

## Environment & Diversity

### Jharkhand to set up its first Tiger Safari near Palamau TR



#### Why in the News?

The Jharkhand government has announced to establish its first tiger safari in the fringe area of the Barwadih Western Forest Range in Latehar district, which is part of the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR).

#### What is a Tiger Safari?

- About: Tiger safaris allow tourists to see tigers in environments that are similar to their native habitats, typically in the vicinity of tiger reserves.
- Legal Status: The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 prohibits development in protected regions without National Board for Wildlife approval, although it does not define tiger safaris.

- Policy Origin: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) initially presented the concept in 2012 as part of its tourist guidelines.
- Tiger Inclusion Rules (2016): At first, safaris could only take tigers that had been rescued or in conflict—not zoo-bred ones—and were only permitted in buffer or periphery zones.
- Amended Rules (2019): The Central Zoo Authority (CZA), which is responsible of animal care, later permitted even tigers that were reared in zoos.
- Supreme Court Decision (2024): In order to preserve natural ecosystems, the court mandated that safaris be constructed outside of core and buffer zones.

#### About Jharkhand's Tiger Safari Project:

- Location: Per the Supreme Court's directive, it is planned in the Barwadih Western Range, outside the core and buffer zones of the Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR).
- Animal Inclusion: No wild tigers from PTR will be housed here; only rescued, injured, or orphaned tigers from other reserves and zoos will.
- Employment and Tourism: The project intends to increase tourism while providing work for over 200 people as staff members and guides.

- The approval process is still in its infancy. NTCA and CZA will receive a Detailed Project Report (DPR) following clearance from the state Forest Department.

#### Palamu Tiger Reserve

- One of India's earliest tiger reserves, it was created in 1973 as part of Project Tiger and is situated in the Latehar and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand.
- With a land area of more than 1,014 square kilometres, it boasts a varied terrain of plains, hills, and valleys and is fed by rivers such as the Burha, Auranga, and North Koel.
- Sal and bamboo are the predominant species in the reserve's abundant dry and damp deciduous forests.
- Tigers, Asiatic elephants, leopards, and sloth bears are among the important animal species that call it home.



### Rising 'Black Carbon' heating Himalayan Snow: Study



#### Why in the News?

A recent study by the think-tank Climate Trends has revealed that levels of black carbon in the Himalayas have been rising steadily over the past two decades.

#### About Black Carbon (BC):

- What it is: Black carbon is a type of fine particulate pollution that is produced when fossil fuels and biomass are not completely burned.
- Impact: It is the second-largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide and a short-lived climate pollutant.

- Lifespan: Black carbon has a shorter half-life in the atmosphere than CO<sub>2</sub>, and it can be swiftly eliminated if emissions cease.
- Warming Mechanism: When deposited on snow and ice, it acts as an aerosol, absorbing sunlight, heating the atmosphere, and decreasing albedo, which speeds up melting.
- Health Effects: Premature death, birth difficulties, and heart disease are all become more likely by exposure.
- Major Sources in India:**
  - Burning of residential biomass, which includes burning straw and cow dung, is responsible for 47% of BC emissions.
  - Vehicles and Industries: Vehicles add 17% and industries contribute 22%.
  - various Sources: 2% comes from various small sources, and 12% comes from open burning.
  - High-Emission States: Because of forest and agricultural fires, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are the two states with the highest emissions.
  - Usage of Biofuel: This source alone accounts for around 42% of India's overall BC emissions.

#### Key Findings from the Study (2000–2023):

- Snow Temperature Rise: Over a 20-year period, the Himalayan snow surface temperature increased from -11.27°C to -7.13°C.
- Regional Trends: The Central and Western Himalayas were the next warmest, after the Eastern Himalayas.
- BC Influence: Black carbon deposits speed glacier melt, increase heat absorption, and decrease snow reflectivity.
- Population Risk: Nearly 2 billion downstream people's access to freshwater is at risk due to glacier loss.
- Snow Depth Increase: The average snow depth increased from 0.059 metres to 0.117 metres in spite of warming.

- Causes include increased snowfall, shifting precipitation patterns, and wind redistribution.
- Regional Comparison: Because of height and winter storms, the Western Himalayas experienced the deepest snowfall, whilst the Eastern and Central Himalayas had less snow because they are closer to BC sources.

### EnviStats India Report, 2025



#### Why in the News?

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the 8th edition of *EnviStats India: Environment Statistics Report*.

#### About EnviStats India Report:

- Launch: First published in 2018, this yearly report is issued by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Data Compilation: The report compiles environmental data from several Indian government agencies and departments.
- Support for Policymaking: By recognising environmental issues, resource requirements, and trends, it aids in evidence-based policymaking.

#### Key Highlights of EnviStats India, 2025:

- Energy and Fisheries:
  - Thermal power generation rose from 7.92 lakh GWh (2013–14) to 13.26 lakh GWh (2023–24).
  - Renewable energy generation increased from 65,520 GWh to 2.26 lakh GWh over the same period.

- Inland fish production jumped from 61.36 lakh tonnes to 139.07 lakh tonnes.
- Marine fish production grew from 34.43 lakh tonnes to 44.95 lakh tonnes.

#### • Climate and Weather Trends:

- Annual mean temperature increased from 25.05°C (2001) to 25.74°C (2024).
- Minimum temperature rose from 19.32°C to 20.24°C; maximum temperature from 30.78°C to 31.25°C.
- Rainfall patterns showed year-to-year variability, but no clear long-term trend.

#### • Biodiversity Statistics:

- India's faunal diversity includes 1,04,561 species, contributing to the global count of 16,73,627 species.
- It includes 20,613 marine, 9,436 freshwater, and 22,404 soil species.
- Mangrove and estuarine ecosystems show high biodiversity richness.

#### • Expenditure Trends:

- The largest allocation, ₹2,433.24 crore, went to the Environment Sustainability sector in 2021–2022.
- The amount spent on natural resource conservation was trending upward.
- Out of the three main environmental sectors, agro-forestry received the least amount of money.

### Global Energy Investment Report, 2025



### Why in the News?

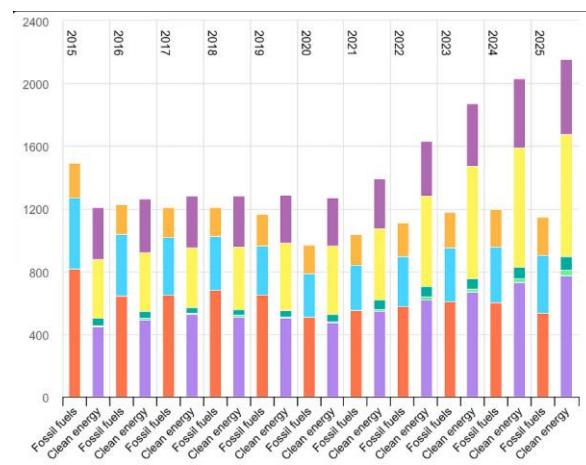
China will lead global energy investments in 2025, making up over a quarter of total spending, says the International Energy Agency's (IEA) 10th edition Global Energy Investment Report, 2025.

### International Energy Agency (IEA)

- Creation: The IEA, which has its headquarters in Paris, France, was established in 1974 as part of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in reaction to the 1973 oil crisis.
- Membership: It has 11 associate nations, including China, Brazil, India, and the United States, as well as 31 member nations, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Japan.
- India's Role: In 2017, India became an Association Country, granting it access to technical collaboration, policy support, and data sharing.
- The IEA's purpose has been expanded to include policy creation, emissions monitoring, sustainable energy transitions, and energy security.
- Worldwide Impact: Governments and investors around the world are guided by its key studies, which include Energy Technology Perspectives, Nett Zero by 2050, and World Energy Outlook.

### About the Global Energy Investment Report:

- Origin and Goals: The IEA's premier annual report is officially known as the World Energy Investment Report.
- Since 2016: to evaluate the flow of investments throughout the world's energy system.
- Coverage Scope: It keeps tabs on investments in energy efficiency, essential minerals, renewable energy, fossil fuels, R&D, and innovation funding.
- Strategic Value: The study aids in assessing if present investments promote universal energy access and climate goals.



### Key Highlights from the 2025 Report:

- China's Role: Although it also approved 100 GW of new coal plants in 2024, China will contribute more than 25% of global energy investment, with over \$625 billion going towards clean energy.
- Worldwide Trends: Investment in clean energy will reach \$2.2 trillion, more than twice as much as that spent on fossil fuels, yet it will still fall short of the COP28 targets.
- Africa's Investment Gap: Due primarily to debt loads, Africa's investment in fossil fuels has decreased from \$125 billion to \$54 billion, and it continues to receive only 2% of global clean energy funds.
- India's Role: Investment in renewable energy in India climbed from \$13 billion in 2015 to \$37 billion in 2025, concurrently with a rise in investment in fossil fuels. Spending on storage and the grid, however, decreased to \$25 billion.
- Financial Obstacles: Growth in renewable energy is constrained by India's high cost of capital, which is 80% more than that of other nations. By 2035, the "Baku to Belem Roadmap" aims to raise \$1.3 trillion for these areas.
- Global Mismatch: Only \$400 billion being allocated to grid infrastructure each year, despite \$1 trillion being spent on power generation, which has an impact on distribution capacity.

## First Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)



### Why in the News?

The first Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was held on June 16, 2025, in New Delhi, with the Union Environment Minister presiding over the session.

### About the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

- The goal of this multi-country, multi-agency collaboration is to conserve big cats and their habitats in 95 nations, including both range and non-range countries.
- Launch: The partnership was formally introduced in April 2023 to commemorate Project Tiger's 50th anniversary, having been suggested by Prime Minister Modi in 2019.
- Tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, and puma populations are among the seven big cats that the IBCA aims to preserve and replenish.
- The alliance's primary functions include resource mobilisation, advocacy, information sharing, and ecotourism promotion.
- Resolution of Conflict: It seeks to lessen conflicts between people and wildlife and repair damaged habitats that are essential to the survival of big cats.
- Global Participation: IBCA brings together 95 range countries from:
  - Asia: India, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Iran
  - Africa: Kenya, Congo, Ghana
  - Americas: Brazil, Ecuador, United States

- Europe/Central Asia: Russia, Kazakhstan
- Members that have deposited a ratification document include Bhutan, Eswatini, Cambodia, Guinea, India, Liberia, Nicaragua, Somalia, and Suriname.
- A General Assembly, an elected Council, and a secretariat headed by a Secretary-General make up its institutional structure.
- Permanent Base: IBCA is now ready to establish its permanent headquarters in India thanks to the confirmation of the headquarters agreement.

### India's Role:

- Species Richness: India is home to 70% of the world's tiger population and five of the seven big cats: tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, and cheetahs.
- Funding Commitment: To support the alliance's objectives, the Indian government has invested ₹150 crore (2023–2028) and is looking for more international donations.
- Conservation Leadership: India is a global leader in the protection of big cats, establishing standards for ecological management and wildlife conservation.

## Ancient Assam Fossils Link to Western Ghats Biodiversity



### Why in the News?

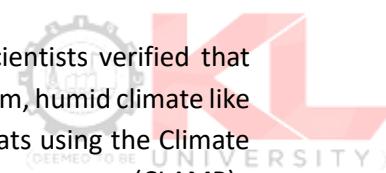
In Assam's Makum Coalfield, BSIP scientists found 24–23 million-year-old fossil leaves resembling today's Nothopedia, now limited to the Western Ghats.

### About the Nothopedia Fossil Discovery

- Overview: In Assam's Makum Coalfield, paleoscientists from Lucknow found fossilised leaves. It is from the late Oligocene epoch, around 24–23 million years ago.
- The *Nothopegia* genus, a tropical plant that is currently endemic to the Western Ghats and is not currently found in North-east India, has the oldest known fossils.
- Identification Techniques: To identify the fossil leaves, researchers employed cluster analysis, morphological analysis, and herbarium comparisons.
- Tropical Legacy: *Nothopegia*, a member of the Anacardiaceae family, is a reflection of the formerly prevalent tropical environments in North-east India.
- Climate Reconstruction: Scientists verified that the area formerly had a warm, humid climate like to the current Western Ghats using the Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Programme (CLAMP).

#### Why did *Nothopegia* disappear from the Northeast?

- Tectonic Disruption: The Himalayas rose as a result of the Indian and Eurasian plates colliding,



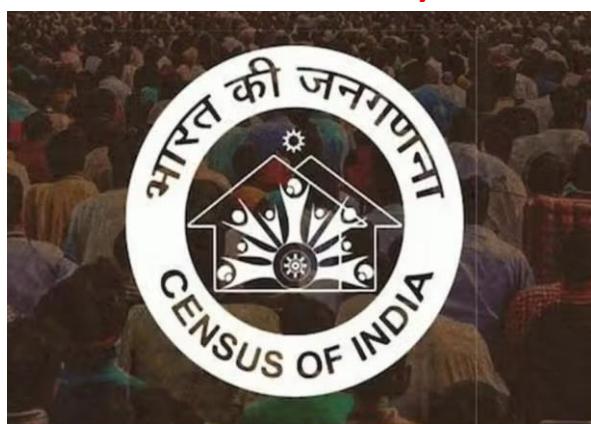
- significantly changing the climate, precipitation, and wind patterns in North-east India.
- Loss of Habitat: Because of these changes, the area became drier and colder, making it unsuitable for tropical plants like *Nothopegia*.
- Migration Southward: The plant eventually made its way to the Western Ghats, which provided a stable climate and enabled its survival.

#### Significance of the Study:

- Climate Lessons: A deep-time example of a species' reaction to long-term climate change is provided by the extinction and migration pattern of *Nothopegia*.
- Value to Science: Predicting survival routes under present global warming scenarios is made easier with an understanding of past plant resistance.
- Refuge Significance: The study emphasises how ancient lineages are preserved throughout significant environmental shifts because to climate refuges like the Western Ghats.

## Governance

### Next Census to conclude by March 2027



#### Why in the News?

The Government of India will conduct its next population census by March 1, 2027, after an unprecedented 16-year gap.

#### About the Census of India:

- Definition: Regardless of citizenship, every resident of India is asked to provide demographic, social, economic, and cultural information as part of the country's decadal census.
- Authority: In accordance with the Census Act of 1948, it is carried out by the Office of the Registrar General (Ministry of Home Affairs) and Census Commissioner.
- Utility: Census data is used to execute welfare programmes, create policies, and alter electoral boundaries.

#### Significance of the Upcoming Census:

- Reference Dates: Ladakh, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand will use October 1, 2026, whereas the majority of India will use March 1, 2027.

- Two-Phase Format: The population census, which will include caste data, will come after the house listing and housing schedule phases.
- Digital Firsts: This will be India's first digital census, with self-enumeration available through an internet portal and a smartphone app (for homes updated by NPR).
- Preparation: The 24 lakh enumeration blocks that were chosen for the census in 2021 will be utilised again.
- Delimitation Link: According to the 84th Constitutional Amendment (2001), the first census conducted after 2026 must be used to determine the boundaries of constituencies.
- Women's reserve: Information from this census is also essential to the 128th Amendment's 33% women's reserve law.
- New Inclusion: Caste enumeration will be included in the next census, most likely as a plain list without OBC categorisation.
- NPR Update: Although the National Population Register (NPR) contains information on 119 crore people, no formal notification has been made about an update.

#### History of Census in India:

1. Ancient Mentions: *Rig Veda* (800–600 BCE) and *Arthashastra* (321–296 BCE) mentioned population counting for taxation and governance.
2. Early Colonial Efforts:
  - Partial censuses conducted in Allahabad (1824), Banaras (1827–28), and Dacca (1830).
  - Fort St. George conducted returns in 1836–37; quinquennial returns started in Madras (1851–67).
3. First Attempted Pan-India Census:
  - 1872: Non-synchronous census; not all British territories covered.
  - 17 questions were asked via a house register.
4. First Modern Census:

- 1881: Conducted under W.C. Plowden; considered the first synchronous and scientific census of India.
- Covered most of British India except Kashmir, French & Portuguese territories.

5. Subsequent Censuses (1891–1941):

- Held every 10 years: 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931, and 1941.
- Introduced and refined questions on caste, religion, language, literacy, occupation, disability, etc.

6. 1941 Census:

- Conducted during World War II under difficult conditions.
- Introduced sampling, and used individual slips for detailed data.

#### UMEED Portal for Waqf Properties



#### Why in the News?

Union Minister for Minority Affairs has launched the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) portal—a centralised digital platform to manage Waqf properties across India.

#### About the UMEED Portal

- Launch: On June 6, 2025, the Ministry of Minority Affairs unveiled it.
- Its primary goal is to guarantee the real-time registration, authentication, and surveillance of Waqf properties throughout India.
- Legal Alignment: The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, which was approved by the president in April 2025, is in line with the portal.

- Governance Shift: By enabling digital tracing of Waqf data, UMEED hopes to encourage accountability, openness, and public involvement.

#### Key Features:

- Centralized Registration: All Waqf properties must be registered on a single digital platform.
- Documentation: Each property receives a 17-digit ID and must include ownership papers, exact measurements, and geotagged location data.
- User-Friendly Design: Features include dropdown-based input, GIS mapping, and a grievance redressal system.
- 3-Tier Verification:
  - Maker: Mutawalli enters the property data.
  - Checker: District official verifies the entry.
  - Approver: CEO or authorised Waqf Board officer grants approval.
- Transparency and Privacy: Public access to basic property details is allowed, while data privacy is ensured.
- Eligibility Rule: Properties registered in women's names are not eligible as Waqf properties, though women and vulnerable groups remain priority beneficiaries.
- Support System: A toll-free helpline is available for technical assistance.

#### Registration Process:

- Responsible Authority: Property registration is the responsibility of State Waqf Boards.
- Deadline: After the portal launches, all registrations must be finished within six months.
- The size of the property, ownership records, geotagging, and whether the land is government-owned are all examples of required data.
- Extension Policy: Upon a legitimate request, an extension of one to two months may be granted.

- Non-Compliance: Unregistered properties will be brought to the Waqf Tribunal and tagged as "disputed."
- Missing Documents: The mutawalli must request confirmation from the Tribunal in certain situations.

#### In news: President's Rule



#### Why in the News?

Despite the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur, the situation on the ground remains volatile, with fresh instances of violence being reported.

#### What is President's Rule?

- About: It is the situation where the central government takes over a state's administration due to the failure of constitutional machinery, as per Article 356 of the Indian Constitution.
- Historical Origins:
  - Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, which allows the British Governor to assume control of provincial governance, is the source of Article 356.
  - utilised for the first time in 1951 in Punjab and again in 1959 to overthrow Jawaharlal Nehru's elected communist government in Kerala.
  - President's Rule was frequently imposed under Indira Gandhi's administration, frequently to overthrow states that were run by the opposition, which raised worries about political abuse.

- **Constitutional Articles involved:**

- The Union is required by Article 355 to defend states from both internal unrest and external aggression.
- When a state's constitutional apparatus fails, Article 356 gives the President the authority to impose President's Rule.
- During President's Rule, Parliament may enact legislation on behalf of the state under Article 357.
- According to Article 365, a state may be considered to have a breakdown in constitutional government if it disregards directives from the Union.

- **Grounds for Imposition:**

- According to Article 356 if the President is certain that the state cannot operate in accordance with the constitution, whether or not this is supported by the Governor's report.
- A state may be presumed to have a constitutional breakdown under Article 365 if it disregards Union guidelines.

- **Approval and Duration:**

- The proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within 2 months.
- Once approved, it remains in force for 6 months and can be extended in 6-month intervals for up to 3 years.

- **Revocation of Rule:**

- President's Rule can be revoked at any time by a new proclamation by the President.
- No parliamentary approval is required for revocation.

### Consequences of President's Rule:

- **Effect on State Executive:**

- The CM and the Council of Ministers are dismissed immediately.

- The Governor administers the state, often with the help of civil servants or advisors appointed by the President.

- **Effect on State Legislature:**

- It is possible to suspend or dissolve the state assembly.
- The Parliament is in charge of passing the state budget and enacting laws pertaining to state matters.
- The President may approve spending from the state's Consolidated Fund when the legislature is in recess.
- Until the newly elected legislature specifically repeals them, all legislation passed during the President's Rule are still in effect.

- **Effect on State Judiciary:**

- The High Court's powers and jurisdiction remain unaffected.
- The President cannot assume judicial functions or alter the constitutional status of the judiciary.

- **Misuse and Political Abuse:**

- Over the years, several central governments have undermined state autonomy by using Article 356 as a political instrument.
- It turned into a contentious clause that was criticised for undermining federalism and going against democratic principles.

### Judicial Safeguard against arbitrary President's Rule: S.R. Bommai Case (1994):

- Strict rules were established by the Supreme Court to stop Article 356 from being used arbitrarily.
- The Court decided that objective information, not just the Governor's report, must serve as the foundation for the President's Rule.
- The governor's personal opinion cannot be used to test the majority of a state government; rather, it must be tested on the assembly floor.

- Crucially, the Court affirmed constitutional accountability by declaring that the President's decision is susceptible to judicial review.
- The ruling made clear that Article 356 should not be utilised as a political tool, but rather as a last option.

## Estimates Committee of Parliament



### Why in the news?

The Lok Sabha Speaker inaugurated the National Conference of Estimates Committees of Parliament and State/UT Legislative Bodies in Mumbai.

### About the Estimates Committee:

- Overview: Together with the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU), the Estimates Committee is one of Parliament's three main financial standing committees.
- Goal: It looks at ministries' and departments' budget estimates and aims to improve public spending's economy, effectiveness, and accountability.
- Another term for the committee is the "Continuous Economy Committee," which gets its name from its constant examination of public spending.
- Legal Foundation: The Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Rule 310, governs the committee's operations.

- History: On the recommendation of John Mathai, the finance minister at the time, it was established in 1950.

### • Composition and Tenure:

- Lok Sabha Exclusive: The Rajya Sabha is not represented on the committee, which consists of 30 members exclusively from the Lok Sabha.
- Election and Chairperson: The Speaker selects the Chairperson, usually a member of the ruling party, and members are chosen yearly via proportional representation and a single transferrable vote.
- Ministers are ineligible: A member immediately forfeits their committee seat upon becoming a minister.
- Term Limit: Every member is in office for a single year.

### Key Functions and Powers:

- Examining the budget estimates, it makes recommendations for how to cut costs without compromising the results of policy.
- Reform Suggestions: In order to reduce waste and boost productivity, it suggests using different administrative procedures.
- Project Review: It conducts study visits and assesses how well significant public sector projects are being implemented.
- Submission of Reports: The committee provides the Lok Sabha with thorough reports and recommendations, which could result in modifications to format or policy.
- Mechanism for Follow-Up: Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on the committee's recommendations must be submitted by ministries.
- Limitations on Jurisdiction: The Committee on Public Undertakings is the only body with the authority to examine PSUs.

## History

### Neolithic Site of Daojali Hading in Assam

#### Why in the News?

A recent archaeological survey has confirmed that Daojali Hading, located in Assam's Dima Hasao district, was a Neolithic habitation zone over 2,700 years ago.

#### About Daojali Hading Neolithic Site:



- Location:** It is a significant Neolithic archaeological site situated in the Langting-Mupa Reserve Forest in the Dima Hasao district of Assam.
- What is its age?** A diverse team's recent assessments have verified that the location is a settled Neolithic habitation zone that dates back more than 2,700 years.
- Key discoveries:**
  - Furnace remains and iron slag, indicating early metallurgical activity.
  - Cord-marked pottery, grinding stones, mortars and pestles, and polished stone tools such as arrowheads, celts, and adzes.
- Significance:** These findings suggest that Daojali Hading was not just a tool-making site, but a functioning settlement where people lived, cooked, crafted tools, and worked with metals.

#### Neolithic Period in India

- The Neolithic Age in India began around 7,000 B.C. and lasted until 1,000 B.C. It is the final phase of the Stone Age, following the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Ages.

- This period is marked by:

- The beginning of settled agriculture and the domestication of animals.
- Use of polished stone tools like axes, celts, and chisels.
- Construction of mud and reed houses, sometimes using mud bricks.
- Introduction of pottery in forms like grey ware, black burnished ware, and mat-impressed ware.
- A community lifestyle with shared ownership of land and tools.

- In addition to domesticating sheep, goats, and cattle, the Neolithic people of India cultivated wheat, barley, rice, cotton, horse gramme, and ragi.
- They relied on hunting, fishing, and early farming, and they lived in dwellings that were round or rectangular, close to rivers and lakes.

### Evidence of Pre-Harappan Human Presence discovered in Rann of Kutch



#### Why in the News?

IIT Gandhinagar researchers have found evidence that humans lived in the Great Rann of Kutch 5,000 years before the Harappans, likely as coastal hunter-gatherers.

#### About the Khadir Island Sites:

- Location:** Khadir Island, also known as Khadir Beyt, is located close to the famous Harappan site of Dholavira in Gujarat's Great Rann of Kutch.

- **Geographic Context:** Because of rising sea levels, the island is one of six that were submerged under water 5,000–6,000 years ago.
- **Discovery Site:** About a km from Dholavira, close to Bambhanka, ancient remains were found by researchers in 2016.
- House complexes, shattered potsherds, marine shells, carnelian and agate flakes, and wall fragments formed from haphazard rubble masonry are among the site's features.
- **Shell Deposits:** On the western side of a mound, where a pipeline trench was visible, a shell deposit that was 30 to 40 cm thick was discovered. In 1872, geologist Arthur Beavor Wynne made the first report of similar shells.
- **Shell Species:** This area originally had a mangrove ecology, as evidenced by the *Terebralia palustris* shell species.
- **Other Sites:** Other shell midden sites, primarily 2–2.5 km from the coast, were found at Laungwali, Kunduwari, Ganeshpar, and Janan.

#### Key Findings:

- **Archaeological Significance:**

- There is evidence that this area was inhabited by hunter-gatherers 7,000–7,500 years ago, before the Harappans.
- According to the results of 15 shell samples' carbon dating, they are between 5,000 and 5,500 years older than Harappan bones.
- Because shellfish diets can cause a 400–500 year time lag, true dates may be older.

- **Diet and Food Practices:**

- Broken shell middens and discoloured shells suggest people cooked and ate shellfish.
- The diet likely included plants, fruits, tubers, and nuts, though no plant remains have yet been found.

- **Lifestyle and Settlement:**

- These were mobile hunter-gatherers, not permanent agriculturalists.
- They likely moved seasonally, occupying each site for part of the year.

- **Tool Use:**

- Stone tools (flakes and cores) made of chert, jasper, chalcedony, basalt, limestone, and quartzite were found.
- Smaller fragments may have served as arrow tips.
- Agate, found locally, and other materials suggest trade or resource mobility.

- **Trade and Cultural Links:**

- Non-local tool stones indicate exchange networks.
- Similarities with tools from Las Bela (Pakistan) and coastal Oman point to long-distance prehistoric connections across the northern Arabian Sea.

## Sowa-Rigpa Traditional Medicine



#### Why in the News?

A one-day Samyoga event was organised at the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh, with the participation of experts from 10 states of India.

#### About Sowa-Rigpa:

- **Overview:** One of the world's oldest continuously practiced medical systems is Sowa-Rigpa, generally referred to as Traditional Tibetan Medicine or the Amchi system.

- Origin: The phrase, which means "knowledge of healing" in the Bhoti language, has been used for more than 2,000 years.
- Historical Development: During the reign of King Trisong Detsen in the eighth century CE, it was codified, and in the twelfth century, it underwent more development.
- Foundational Text: The Gyud-Zi (4 Tantras) incorporates concepts from Chinese medicine, Ayurveda, Greek customs, and Buddhist and Bon philosophy.
- Global Presence: Tibet, Mongolia, Bhutan, Nepal, and portions of China and Russia all practice Sowa-Rigpa.
- Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh (Lahaul & Spiti), Jammu & Kashmir, and Darjeeling are among the Indian regions where it is prevalent.
- Fundamental Principles: The system views the body as a microcosm of nature that coexists peacefully with the environment, encouraging longevity, disease prevention, and comprehensive mind-body well-being.

#### Diagnosis and Treatment:

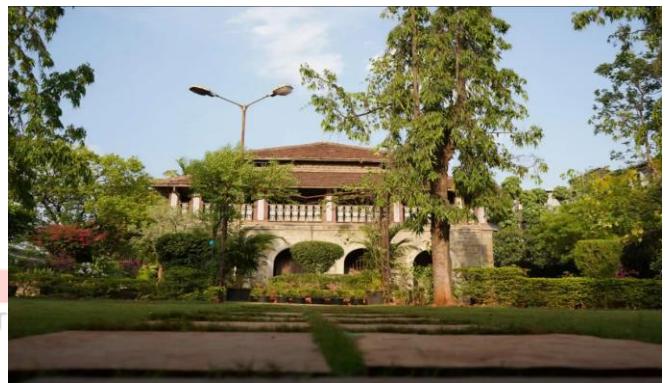
- Diagnostic Techniques: Physicians employ case histories, urine and pulse analyses, and close observation.
- Therapies: Kunyé massage, moxibustion, acupuncture, herbal remedies, dietary and lifestyle changes, and spiritual healing are among the treatments.
- Ayurvedic Influence: Ayurveda, particularly the Ashtanga Hridaya, provides roughly 75% of its theoretical foundation.
- Common Herbs: Guggulu, triphala, and ashwagandha are common medical herbs.

#### Education and Recognition:

- Traditional Training: Traditionally, knowledge was transmitted orally through family lineages or guru-shishya parampara.

- Contemporary Institutions: Standards for practice and education are supervised by the Central Council for Tibetan Medicine.
- National Institute: In Leh, the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR) is a leader in research, education, and the application of policies.
- Government Recognition: Since 2010, Sowa-Rigpa has been promoted in several Himalayan states and has received formal recognition under the AYUSH systems in India.

#### In news: Servants of India Society



#### Why in the News?

Pune's Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) has recently called for a neutral takeover of its parent body, the Servants of India Society (SIS), following allegations of financial irregularities.



#### About Servants of India Society:

- Establishment: Gopal Krishna Gokhale, N.A. Dravid, G.K. Devadhar, and A.V. Patwardhan formed it in Pune on June 12, 1905.
- The Society's mission was to educate Indians, prepare them for selfless national service, and use constitutional tools to advance social and political change.
- Core Values: Members vowed to live simply, to be secular, and to treat all people equally regardless of their caste or religion.
- Non-political Nature: Many SIS members made substantial contributions to the independence movement despite not being political or sectarian.
- Notable Members: A.V. Thakkar, Hriday Nath Kunzru, and V.S. Srinivasa Sastri were all influential members.
- Key Activities: Since 1911, SIS has published The Hitavada, funded healthcare, operated night classes, and founded schools.
- Welfare Work: It was actively involved in rural development, women's and children's welfare, and disaster assistance.
- Secular Legacy: With an emphasis on nation-building by service, it was India's first secular social reform group.
- Present Situation: With its headquarters in Pune, it is still in operation today, albeit with a small membership, upholding its core principles.

#### Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915):

- Early Life: He was a social reformer, senior leader of the Indian National Congress, and a liberal nationalist.
- Political Journey: Under Justice M.G. Ranade, he joined the Indian National Congress in 1889, and in 1905, he was elected Congress President.
- Institution Building: To develop devoted public servants, Gokhale established the Servants of India Society in 1905.
- Legislative Work: He was a non-official member of both the Imperial Legislative Council and the Bombay Legislative Council (1899).

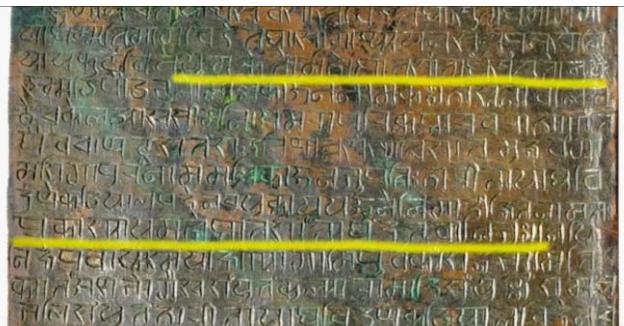
- Reform Advocacy: Gokhale presented India's economic circumstances to the Welby Commission and was instrumental in winning the Morley-Minto Reforms (1909).
- Gandhi's political mentor Gokhale helped finance the Sabarmati Ashram and encouraged Mahatma Gandhi's early activities.
- Journalism and Education: He started The Hitavada newspaper (published from Nagpur) and founded the Ranade Institute of Economics.
- Philosophy: Gokhale linked social reform and political activism by advocating for constitutional reform, education, and social justice as the means to achieve Indian self-rule.

#### India's First Epigraphical reference to Halley's Comet found in Vijayanagar Period

##### Why in the News?

The first Indian inscriptional reference to Halley's Comet has been discovered on a copper plate dated 1456 CE, from the Vijayanagar Period.

##### What does the inscription say?



- The inscription was discovered on a copper plate that was kept at the Sri Mallikarjunaswamy temple in Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh, and was dated June 28, 1456 CE, during the Vijayanagara Empire.
- It details the observation of a comet (dhūmaketu) and a meteor shower, which coincide with the recorded appearance of Halley's Comet that year. It is written in Sanskrit using the Nagari alphabet.
- According to the inscription, a Vedic scholar named Limgaṇarya from Kaḍiyalapura (perhaps

modern-day Kadriyapulanka, Kadapa district) received a village grant from King Mallikarjuna of Vijayanagar.

- In reference to the traditional idea that such celestial happenings are unlucky, the grant's stated goal is "to mitigate the great calamity believed to arise due to the appearance of a comet and meteor shower."
- "This grant was made in order to pacify the calamities that may arise due to the illuminating comets and meteor shower upon the king and his kingdom," as the Sanskrit phrase "Prakāśyāya mahōtpāta śāntyartham dattavān vibhuh" translates.
- This is the earliest inscriptional record that links a comet to a particular historical period and royal response, even though dhūmaketus (comets) are mentioned in ancient Indian astronomy writings.



- **Periodicity:** Observable from Earth around every 76 years, it is one of the most well-known periodic comets.
- The origin of its name is the English astronomer Edmond Halley, who used Newton's equations of motion to accurately forecast its return in 1758.
- **Early observations:** Babylonian, Chinese, and mediaeval European sources are only a few of the more than 2,000 years that watchers have documented the comet.
- **Most recent appearance:** Halley's Comet is anticipated to make a comeback in 2061 after last appearing in 1986.
- **Visibility:** Because solar radiation vaporises its frozen surface, it appears as a dazzling streak of light with a glowing tail to the unaided eye.
- **Significance:** It was very bright and visible in Europe and Asia in 1456 CE, and it has now been identified in an Indian epigraphical record for the first time.

#### About Halley's Comet:

## International Relations

### India opposed to ADB's funding to Pakistan



#### Why in the News?

India has strongly objected to the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) decision to provide an \$800 million loan to Pakistan under its Resource Mobilisation Reform Programme.

#### About the Asian Development Bank (ADB):

- **Established:** 1966, following a UN-led conference on Asian Economic Cooperation.
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines

- **Status:** Official Observer at the United Nations
- **Objectives:**
  - To reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific.
  - To promote inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth and regional economic integration.
- **Functions:**
  - Provides loans (hard and soft), grants, and technical assistance.
  - Offers direct funding to private sector projects with social benefits.
  - Supports countries through policy dialogues, co-financing, and advisory services.
- **Funding Sources:**
  - Issues bonds on global capital markets.
  - Receives member contributions, loan repayments, and retained earnings.
- **Membership and Shareholding:**

- 67 members: 48 from Asia-Pacific.
- Major shareholders: Japan and USA (each 15.607%), China (6.444%), India (6.331%), Australia (5.786%).
- **Climate Goals:**
  - Aims to mobilize \$100 billion for climate finance between 2019 and 2030.
  - Promotes sustainable development initiatives such as green fuel projects, including one in Pakistan funded partly by ADB.

#### India's concerns over ADB Funding:

- India emphasised that Pakistan's defence spending has skyrocketed, even while the country's tax-to-GDP ratio has decreased from 13% in 2017–18 to 9.2% in 2022–23.
- Since this tax ratio is significantly lower than the Asia-Pacific average of 19%, it suggests insufficient revenue collection and financial mismanagement.
- India made it clear to the ADB that it expects strict control measures to be implemented to stop financial diversion.
- Allegedly, India is submitting a dossier to request Pakistan's re-admission to the FATF grey list. In other forums, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India has previously blocked financial assistance to Pakistan.

#### Key Highlights of the Global Liveability Index, 2025



#### Why in the News?

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released its Global Liveability Index 2025, evaluating 173 cities worldwide on their quality of life.

#### About the Global Liveability Index:

- Publisher: The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) publishes it once a year.
- Its goal is to evaluate the standard of living in 173 cities across the globe by determining how difficult or comfortable it is to live there.
- Use: Companies, governments, and development organisations use the index to guide their decisions, especially when it comes to policy planning and expatriate relocation.
- Five Assessment Categories:
  1. Stability (25%): Considers levels of crime, civil unrest, and terrorism threats.
  2. Healthcare (20%): Evaluates the quality, accessibility, and availability of medical services.
  3. Culture & Environment (25%): Includes climate, cultural offerings, and environmental conditions.
  4. Education (10%): Measures access to public and private education and overall quality.
  5. Infrastructure (20%): Covers transport, roads, housing, and utility services.
- Scoring: Cities are rated from 1 (intolerable) to 100 (ideal) using 30+ qualitative and quantitative indicators.

#### Top ten positions

City	Location	Rank	Index	Stability	Healthcare	Culture and environment	Education	Infrastructure
Copenhagen	Denmark	1	98.0	100.0	95.8	95.4	100.0	100.0
Vienna	Austria	2	97.1	95.0	100.0	93.5	100.0	100.0
Zurich	Switzerland	2	97.1	95.0	100.0	96.3	100.0	96.4
Melbourne	Australia	4	97.0	95.0	100.0	95.8	100.0	96.4
Geneva	Switzerland	5	96.8	95.0	100.0	94.9	100.0	96.4
Sydney	Australia	6	96.6	95.0	100.0	94.4	100.0	96.4
Osaka	Japan	7	96.0	100.0	100.0	86.8	100.0	96.4
Auckland	New Zealand	7	96.0	95.0	95.8	97.9	100.0	92.9
Adelaide	Australia	9	95.9	95.0	100.0	91.4	100.0	96.4
Vancouver	Canada	10	95.8	95.0	95.8	97.2	100.0	92.9

#### Key Global Rankings (2025):

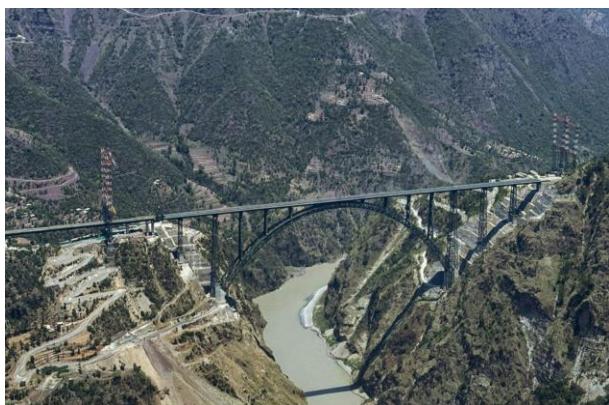
- Top Cities:

- Copenhagen (Denmark) ranked 1st, scoring 98/100 with perfect marks in stability, education, and infrastructure.
- Vienna and Zurich tied for 2nd, followed by Melbourne (4th) and Geneva (5th).
- Regional Trends: Because of their excellent public transportation, healthcare, and educational systems, Western European cities topped the top 10.
- Asia-Pacific Performers: Adelaide, Auckland, Osaka, Sydney, and Melbourne all made the top

- 10, demonstrating their ongoing high level of liveability.
- Improvements: Thanks to advancements in healthcare and education, Al Khobar (Saudi Arabia) rose 13 positions.
- Lowest Ranked: Damascus, Syria, continues to be the least liveable city, followed by Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Tripoli, Libya.
- India's position: Delhi and Mumbai both came in at number 141 out of 173 cities, which is indicative of ongoing problems with public safety, infrastructure, healthcare, and air quality.

## Polity

### PM inaugurates Chenab Railway Bridge



#### Why in the News?

Prime Minister inaugurated the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir.

#### About the Chenab Rail Bridge:

- Location: In the Reasi area of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chenab Rail Bridge is the tallest railway bridge in the world. It spans the Chenab River. The Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) includes it.
- Elevation: Reaching 359 metres, the bridge is 35 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower.
- Structure and Length: Made up of a 785-meter steel arch bridge and a 530-meter approach bridge, it is 1,315 metres long overall.
- Project Execution: Konkan Railway Corporation built the structure, with assistance from VSL

India, Afcons Infrastructure, and Ultra Construction & Engineering (South Korea).

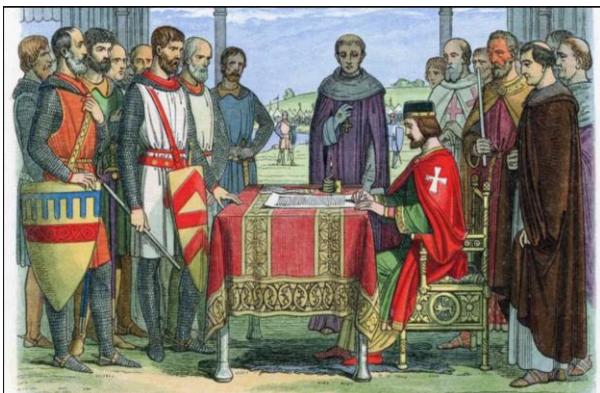
- **Design and Engineering:**
  - IISc Bengaluru designed the foundation.
  - IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee conducted seismic analysis.
  - DRDO ensured it is blast-proof.
- **Safety and Durability:** The bridge can endure blasts up to 40 tonnes of TNT, temperatures as low as -20°C, wind speeds of 266 km/h, and magnitude 8 earthquakes.
- **Speed and Lifespan:** It has a 120-year lifespan and can accommodate train speeds of up to 100 km/h.
- **Important Milestones:** The Golden Joint Ceremony took place on August 13, 2022, following the completion of the arch closing in April 2021.

#### PM also inaugurated Anji Bridge:

- **About:** Constructed across the Anji River, a tributary of the Chenab, the Anji Bridge is the first cable-stayed railway bridge in India.
- **Ranking:** After the Chenab Bridge, it is India's second-highest railway bridge.
- **Design:** Due to geological difficulties, the original arch bridge idea was modified to a cable-stayed bridge.

- Details of the structure: It is 725 metres long and consists of a central embankment, approach bridge, and ancillary viaduct.
- Features include a deck width of 15 metres and 96 cables that span 82 to 295 metres.
- Resilience: The bridge is designed to survive explosions, powerful winds, severe storms, unstable terrain, and seismic activity.

### Magna Carta: The 'blueprint for democracy'



#### Why in the News?

On June 15, 1215, King John of England agreed to a seminal document called the Magna Carta, laying down principles that would help establish the foundations of modern democracies.

#### About Magna Carta:

- Overview: The Magna Carta, meaning "Great Charter" in Latin, was signed on June 15, 1215, at Runnymede near London by King John of England under pressure from rebel barons.
- Content: The charter originally had 63 clauses, with two of the most important being:
  - Clause 39: Protection against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.
  - Clause 40: Guarantee of justice without delay or denial.
- It was established in reaction to both exorbitant taxes and military failures, especially after England's defeat at the Battle of Bouvines (1214).
- First Setback: Despite being revoked by Pope Innocent III, it was republished several times,

particularly under King Henry III, and eventually found its way into English statute law.

- Its approach to the masses: The original intent of Magna Carta was to safeguard free men, namely landowners and barons, while keeping women, serfs, and commoners out.
- Radical Impact: Historians consider it to be Europe's most radical early check on monarchical authority, despite its limited reach.
- Legal Influence: The U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and legal doctrines such as habeas corpus were all impacted by the charter.
- Relevance in the Modern Era: Clauses 39 and 40 are still included into UK legislation.
- Significance: It is regarded as one of the first documents to establish the rule of law and constitutional governance, as well as to restrict royal power.

#### Magna Carta of the Indian Constitution: Part III (Fundamental Rights)

- Part III (Articles 12 to 35) of the Indian Constitution is often called the "Magna Carta of India".
- It guarantees justiciable Fundamental Rights, protecting citizens against arbitrary state action and forming the core of Indian democracy.
- **Why it's called India's Magna Carta?**
  - Historical Parallel: Part III protects individual liberties and restricts the authority of the government, same like the charter of 1215.
  - It is one of the most extensive rights charters in the world and was modelled after the U.S. Bill of Rights.
  - Legal enforceability gives judges the authority to protect people's rights and overturn unconstitutional legislation.
- **Six Categories of Fundamental Rights:**
  1. Right to Equality (Articles 14–18): Equality before law and prohibition of discrimination.

2. Right to Freedom (Articles 19–22): Freedom of speech, movement, assembly, etc.
3. Right against Exploitation (Articles 23–24): Ban on forced labour and child labour.
4. Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25–28): Freedom to practice and propagate religion.
5. Cultural and Educational Rights (Articles 29–30): Rights of minorities to preserve culture and run institutions.
6. Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32): Right to move the Supreme Court for enforcement of rights.

## Science, Technology, Art & Culture

### Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN)



#### Why in the News?

The Centre has launched DIGIPIN, a geo-coded digital address system that aims to bring precision and efficiency to address identification across the country.

#### What is DIGIPIN?

- **About:** To enhance location identification throughout the nation, the Indian government implemented the DIGIPIN digital address system.
- **Development Team:** The Department of Posts worked with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to build the system.
- **Technology Base:** It accurately geocodes any physical place using GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) data.
- **Key Features:**
  - **Accessibility:** The India Post internet portal allows users to view their DIGIPIN,

and it functions flawlessly on any device with GPS.

- The system's nature is open source, interoperable, and privacy-focused, which means it is available to the general public, functions on various platforms, and doesn't keep personal information.
- **Code Format:** A distinct 10-character alphanumeric code, such as 39J-53M-TJF9, is allocated to each place. This code corresponds to an area of roughly 4x4 square metres.
- **Coverage Area:** Even in areas without official addresses, DIGIPIN operates across India's cities, rural areas, forests, and oceans.

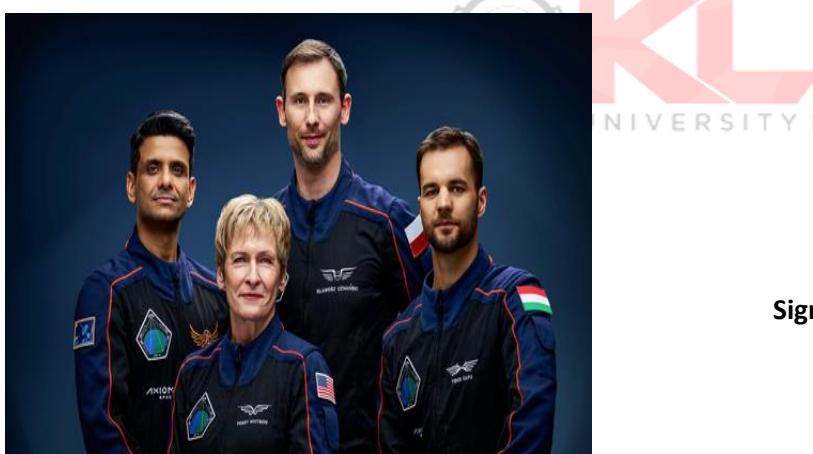


#### Significance of DIGIPIN:

- **Precision Mapping:** Even in locations without conventional street addresses or house numbers, DIGIPIN allows for extremely precise geolocation.

- E-Commerce Improvement: For websites like Amazon, Flipkart, and other logistics companies, the method increases the effectiveness of last-mile deliveries.
- Emergency Response: In dense or unmapped locations, DIGIPIN helps police, ambulance, and fire personnel get to their destinations fast.
- Public Service Delivery: By making it simpler to provide welfare programmes, notifications, and necessary services in outlying areas, it enhances government outreach.
- Inclusion of Remote Areas: To support national mapping initiatives, the system provides digital address visibility to maritime zones, forests, and tribal areas.

### What is Axiom-4 Mission?



The launch of Axiom-4 (Ax-4), a private mission to the International Space Station (ISS), has been postponed to June 11 due to weather conditions.

### About Axiom-4 Mission

- Axiom Space is the organisation behind the private spaceflight known as Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).
- It is intended to carry a crew on a 14-day journey to the International Space Station (ISS).
- After its Ax-1, Ax-2, and Ax-3 flights, this will be Axiom Space's fourth trip to the ISS.
- SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket will launch the mission from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

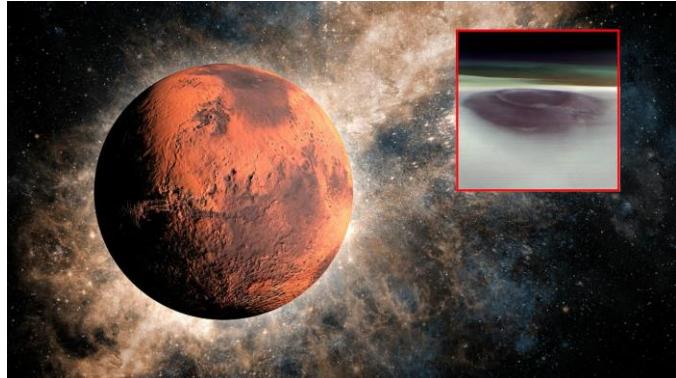
- A SpaceX Crew Dragon, renowned for its cutting-edge technology and security features, is the spacecraft used for this voyage.
- The fact that this mission is being arranged in cooperation with NASA shows how well private space businesses and government space organisations work together to further space exploration and research.
- **Crew:**
  1. Peggy Whitson: An accomplished astronaut with a wealth of experience who has made several trips to the International Space Station.
  2. An important turning point for Poland in space exploration was reached when Sławosz Uznanski, a Polish astronaut, joined the mission.
  3. Tibor Kapu: An astronaut from Hungary who contributes to the mission crew's diversity.
  4. As a member of this global team, Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla is making waves as the group captain.

### Significance of Ax-4 Mission for India

- Because of an agreement between ISRO and NASA, the mission is a joint endeavour.
- It gives ISRO a head start on testing space experiments that were initially scheduled for Gaganyaan.
- **Key Indian Experiments on Axiom-4:**
  - Microgravity's impact on muscle dysfunction.
  - Use of computer screens in zero gravity and their effects on human cognition and vision.
  - Growth of six varieties of crop seeds in space conditions.
  - Tardigrade survival study—these microscopic creatures can endure extreme environments and may provide insight into life support systems in space.

**International Space Station (ISS)**

- With 16 orbits every day, the ISS, which is 430 kilometres above Earth, sees 16 sunrises and sunsets.
- At a speed of 8 km/s, the ISS circles the planet every 90 minutes.
- It is nearly as long as an American football field, measuring 109 metres.
- The ISS has a gym, two restrooms, six sleeping quarters, and a bay window with a panoramic outlook.
- The station has roughly 13 km of electrical cable, and its solar array wingspan is 109 metres.
- Russia's Zarya Control Module launched the ISS on November 20, 1998.
- On December 4, 1998, the United States launched a working space lab with the addition of the Unity Node 1 module.
- After forty-two assembly flights, the station took on its current configuration.

**NASA captures image of Mars' Arsia Mons Volcano****Why in the News?**

NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter has captured a spectacular image of Arsia Mons, one of Mars' largest volcanoes.

**About Arsia Mons Volcano:**

- Location: The Tharsis region, close to the equator of Mars, is home to the enormous shield volcano known as Arsia Mons.
- Volcanic Chain: Along with Pavonis Mons and Ascraeus Mons, it is a member of the Tharsis Montes triad.

- Size and Structure: The volcano is one of the largest in the Solar System, rising roughly 20 kilometres (12 miles) in height and spanning 450 km in diameter.
- Summit Caldera: Unlike other volcanoes on Earth, Arsia Mons boasts a massive caldera, or summit crater, that is 120 km large.
- Volcano Type: Shield volcano, distinguished by mild slopes created by a series of lava flows.
- Surface Features: Its flanks have shown evidence of landslides, lava channels, and maybe old glaciers.
- Water-ice clouds frequently form on the summit of Arsia Mons, the cloudiest volcano on Mars, particularly around sunrise and during aphelion, when Mars is furthest from the Sun.

**Its Significance:**

- Recent Imaging: Scientists can now see Martian landscape at horizon level thanks to a new NASA photograph that shows Arsia Mons cutting through morning haze.
- Scientific Importance: Scientists use observations to evaluate atmospheric behaviour, seasonal climate trends, and Martian weather.
- Relevance to the Mission: Arsia Mons is essential to comprehending the genesis of dust storms, Mars' volcanic past, and locating potential landing sites.
- Exploration Support: Information from this area helps with safe mission planning for future robotic and human missions as well as enhancing planetary weather models.

**NASA's Mars Odyssey Orbiter**

- Launch: NASA's longest-running spacecraft at Mars, Mars Odyssey, was launched in 2001.
- Technology: The THEMIS (Thermal Emission Imaging System) camera on the orbiter took the picture of Arsia Mons.
- Capabilities: By detecting both visible and infrared light, this device enables researchers to

- examine air characteristics, mineral compositions, and surface temperatures.
- Unique Technique: Instead of orienting its camera normally towards the ground, the orbiter rotated it 90 degrees to take a picture of Arsia Mons against the Martian horizon.
- Contributions: It still keeps an eye on climate change, researches dust storms and volcanoes, and helps choose landing sites.
- Support Role: It facilitates data transfer and rover and lander navigation by acting as a communication relay for other ongoing Mars missions.

### Kashmir Merino: India's First Gene-Edited Sheep



#### Why in the News?

Researchers at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) have successfully created India's first gene-edited sheep—a Kashmir Merino breed.



#### About Kashmir Merino Sheep:

- Overview: Known for its fine wool and capacity to flourish in cold regions, the Kashmir Merino is a premium domestic sheep breed.

- Genetics: In Jammu and Kashmir, it was created by crossing local sheep breeds with imported Merino rams.
- Features: The breed yields high-quality, soft, and dense wool that is valuable to the textile industry.
- Resilience: It can withstand the harsh cold and low oxygen levels found in the high-altitude Himalayas.
- Significance: It makes a substantial contribution to the production of wool and mutton in Jammu and Kashmir and is an important part of the local livestock economies.

#### Gene-Editing Breakthrough in Kashmir Merino:

- Gene Targeted: The myostatin gene, which typically prevents muscle growth, was edited by researchers using CRISPR-Cas9 technology.
- Impact: By turning off this gene, muscle mass increased by 30%, increasing meat yield and boosting farmers' profits.
- Lab-to-Field Success: A full-cycle gene-editing accomplishment was made when the modified embryo was created in a lab and subsequently successfully transplanted into a surrogate mother.
- Biotech Significance: This achievement is a significant breakthrough in livestock biotechnology in India, creating new avenues for study into transgenic protein production, disease resistance, and improving the quality of wool.

#### How DNA identification works?



#### Why in the News?

Following the tragic crash of the Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner in Ahmedabad, authorities concluded the identities of the victims using DNA analysis.

#### What is DNA?

- Summary: The molecule known as DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) contains the genetic information necessary for every living thing's growth, development, and reproduction.
- It is found in almost all human cells and is specific to each individual, with the exception of identical twins.
- Structure: Adenine (A), Cytosine (C), Guanine (G), and Thymine (T) are the four chemical bases that make up DNA. These bases are organised in sequences that contain genetic information.
- Biological Fingerprint: DNA functions similarly to a biological fingerprint because each person is unique, which makes it helpful for identifying victims of disasters and investigating crimes.

#### How DNA Identification Works?

- Use in Forensics: DNA is extracted from human remains when visual identification is not possible due to burns, decomposition, or trauma.
- Reference Matching: Extracted DNA is compared with:
  - Family reference samples (from parents, children, siblings)
  - Personal belongings (like a toothbrush, razor, or hairbrush)
- Sample Reliability: Bones and teeth are preferred in degraded conditions, as they preserve DNA more effectively.
- Forensic Accuracy: Specialized forensic labs analyze and match DNA sequences, confirming identity with high levels of accuracy.

#### Common DNA Analysis Methods:

##### 1. Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Analysis:

- Focuses on short, repeating sequences of DNA that vary among individuals.
- Requires nuclear DNA, typically from well-preserved samples.

- Considered the gold standard for forensic identification.

##### 2. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) Analysis:

- Extracts DNA from mitochondria, not the nucleus, making it more resilient in degraded samples.
- Inherited only from the mother, allowing tracing through the maternal lineage.

##### 3. Y-Chromosome Analysis:

- Targets Y chromosomes, passed from father to son.
- Useful for identifying male victims when paternal relatives are available.

##### 4. Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP) Analysis:

- Detects single-letter changes in the DNA sequence.
- Applied when DNA is highly degraded and other methods are less effective.
- Can be used with reference items like personal hygiene tools.

#### IIT- Delhi demonstrates Quantum Communication over 1 Km



#### Why in the News?

The Defence Ministry announced a breakthrough as IIT-Delhi and DRDO scientists successfully demonstrated quantum communication over 1 km in free space.

#### What is Quantum Communication?



- This new method of communication is so secure that no one can surreptitiously listen in.
- It makes advantage of the laws of quantum physics, particularly quantum entanglement, to ensure that you will be alerted right away if someone attempts to eavesdrop on your transmission.
- Two minuscule particles, similar to photons of light, are mysteriously linked in quantum entanglement; even if they are far away, anything that happens to one instantly affects the other.
- As a result, the system recognises that the message is no longer safe if one particle is attempted to be distorted.
- Because of this, quantum communication is ideal for finance, defence, and private, confidential communications.

#### Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) – Explained Simply:

- Let's say you want to send your friend a locked box, but you also want them to have the key so that no one else can duplicate it.
- Using quantum particles rather than metal keys, QKD is a unique method of securely sharing the key.
- Without anyone else knowing, two persons combine entangled particles to create the same secret key.
- The particles will exhibit indications of disruption if someone attempts to intercept the key during its transmission, alerting the system to discard it and try again.

- Using standard encryption methods, both individuals can lock and unlock messages once they have the same key.
- QKD securely shares the secret message key without sending the actual message.

#### What did the IIT-Delhi team achieve?

- In cooperation with DRDO, a group headed by IIT-Delhi successfully demonstrated entanglement-based quantum communication over a distance of one kilometre in free space.
- This was carried out on the campus of IIT Delhi and represents a significant improvement over earlier tests that solely used optical fibre.
- The demonstration maintained a quantum bit error rate (QBER) of less than 7%, which is deemed appropriate for real-world QKD, and attained a secure key rate of 240 bits per second.
- With this capability, encrypted keys can be dispersed over large areas without the need for physical connections, marking a step towards satellite-to-ground quantum communication.

#### India's Quantum Communication Journey So Far:

- The first instance of quantum communication between Vindhya and Prayagraj was shown by Prof. Kanseri's group in 2022.
- They achieved a low QBER of 1.48% in 2023 when they extended their capacity to 380 km using regular telecom fibre.
- The team significantly advanced the dependability and scope of India's quantum infrastructure by establishing a QKD link that stretched over 100 km of optical fibre by 2024.
- These accomplishments are a part of India's broader National Quantum Mission (2023–2031) initiative, which has a ₹6,000 crore budget to fund research and development as well as implementation in quantum computing, sensing, and communication.
- Along with China and the US, India is now one of the select few countries actively working on a quantum-secure internet, which might have

uses in cybersecurity, telecom, banking, and defence.

## Integrating Rare Donor Registry of India with e-Rakt Kosh



### Why in the News?

The ICMR has launched the Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI). The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is further planning to integrate the RDRI with the e-Rakt Kosh Digital platform.

### What are Rare Blood Types?

- Rare blood groups are defined by the absence of high-frequency antigens (HFAs) or negative combinations of multiple common antigens.
- In India, examples include Bombay (hh), P-null, Rh-null, and rare profiles like S-s-U-.

### About the Rare Donor Registry of India (RDRI):

- Launch: In partnership with four regional medical institutes, the ICMR–National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIIH) launched it.
- Its goal is to alleviate the scarcity of uncommon blood types, which are essential for patients with sickle cell disease, thalassemia, and haemophilia. These blood types include Bombay (hh), Rh-null, and P-Null.
- Uniqueness: More than 4,000 donors have undergone multiplex PCR screening, been categorised using more than 300 unusual blood markers, and are suitable for the genetic variety of India.

- unusual Phenotypes Tracked: 170 donors from the Bombay group have already been identified; the register concentrates on unusual phenotypes, which are characterised by the lack of high-frequency antigens.

#### • Key Features:

- DNA-Based Testing: A centralised national database that can be accessed via a dedicated web portal is made possible by the use of molecular assays for precise donor typing.
- Integration with e-Rakt Kosh: RDRI is made to work with e-Rakt Kosh, allowing medical practitioners across the country to look for and match donors across platforms.
- Real-Time Support: For patients in need of uncommon blood types, the platform provides rapid transfusion support, secure data access, and real-time requisitions.
- Global Links: To guarantee long-term availability, the project seeks to establish a frozen rare blood inventory and establish connections with International Rare Donor Panels.
- Challenges: Lack of antibody screening at decentralised blood banks, low awareness, and a lack of skilled staff are the main obstacles.

### What is E-Rakt Kosh?

- Overview: Developed by C-DAC under the National Health Mission, e-Rakt Kosh is a nationwide digital platform that was introduced in 2016.
- Real-Time Information: Through a centralised interface, it provides real-time updates on blood availability, donor records, and donation camp specifics throughout India.
- National Coverage: UMANG, e-Hospital, and the National Health Portal are all integrated into the

system, which serves more than 3,800 blood centres in 29 states and 8 Union Territories.

- **Notable features include:**

- Donor Safety and labelling: It ensures safe and authentic transfusions by keeping track of traceable donor databases, which include health history and uncommon blood group labelling.
- Inventory Monitoring: By tracking expired units, managing stock levels, and ensuring safe disposal, e-Rakt Kosh enhances quality control.
- Camp Management: It streamlines resource planning, sends shortage

notifications, and makes it easier to register and schedule blood donation camps.

- Crucial Access Position: Direct access to uncommon blood group information will be possible if it is integrated with RDRI, which is essential for emergency transfusions.
- Logistics and Transparency: The system improves communication between donor organisations, hospitals, and blood banks while fortifying blood logistics and enhancing transparency.

## Security Issues

### Exercise KHAAN QUEST



#### Why in the News?

In Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the Indian Army has sent a detachment to take part in Exercise KHAAN QUEST 2025, a significant international peacekeeping operation.

At the same time, India and France are scheduled to participate in Exercise SHAKTI 2025.

#### About Exercise KHAAN QUEST, 2025:

- Overview: From June 14–28, 2025, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, will host a global peacekeeping military exercise.
- Origins: The exercise began as a bilateral drill between the Mongolian Armed Forces and the United States in 2003, then in 2006 it was expanded to include other countries.

- Participation of India: India has dispatched a detachment of 40 soldiers, mostly from the Kumaon Regiment, but also people from other arms and services, including two female soldiers and one female officer.
- Focus: Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which addresses action with acts of aggression and threats to peace, is used to train troops for peacekeeping missions.
- Key Training Drills: Establishing checkpoints, conducting cordon and search operations, evacuating civilians from conflict areas, counter-IED strategies, and caring for battle casualties are among the activities that participating forces will partake in.
- Building interoperability, encouraging collaborative planning, and enhancing tactical coordination among the various participating countries are the primary objectives.

#### About Exercise SHAKTI, 2025:

- Overview: From June 18 to July 1, 2025, India and France will conduct a bilateral military exercise at La Cavalerie, France.
- Exercise Series: The eighth iteration of the biennial joint exercise demonstrates the two

countries' solid and continuous defence cooperation.

- The drill's major goal is to improve the team's capacity to carry out multi-domain operations, particularly in situations involving unconventional warfare.
- Sessions on counterterrorism tactics, collaborative operations planning, and tactical coordination are among the core training areas.
- The objectives are to strengthen military cooperation, promote confidence between the Indian and French armed forces, and increase interoperability and unity.

### Rudrastra UAV passes key army trial.



#### Why in the News?

India advanced its indigenous defence tech with SDAL's successful trial of the Hybrid VTOL UAV Rudrastra at Pokhran.

#### About Rudrastra:

- The Hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL) UAV Rudrastra was created domestically and constructed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL).
- Because of its deep-strike capabilities, the UAV can execute precise missions without putting human soldiers in danger.
- With airburst weapons intended to hit targets across adversarial borders, it is specifically suited for anti-personnel duties.
- Rudrastra improves deployment over a variety of terrains by combining fixed-wing cruising capability with rotor-based vertical lift.

- Because of its independent return capability, it is regarded as a "stand-off" weapon that permits operations far into enemy territory.

#### Key Features:

- Flexibility is increased by the hybrid VTOL design, which can cruise like a fixed-wing aircraft and take off and land vertically like a helicopter.
- Extended Range: Showed a mission range of more than 170 km, including time spent loitering above the target.
- Real-Time Surveillance: Oversaw a mission radius of more than fifty kilometres while maintaining a steady video feed.
- Precision Strike Capability: Airburst weapons that have been successfully used for anti-personnel and area damage.
- Endurance: A 1.5-hour flight endurance was attained, which is perfect for prolonged ISR or strike operations.
- Autonomous Navigation: After the mission was finished, it went back to the launch location on its own.
- Made in India: Developed entirely by an Indian defence firm, promoting domestic combat drone innovation.

### Navy inducts INS Arnala



#### Why in the News?

INS Arnala, the first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), was officially commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

#### About INS Arnala:

- What it is: On June 18, 2025, at Visakhapatnam, the Eastern Naval Command commissioned INS Arnala, the first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC).
- The name is derived from the ancient Arnala Fort in the Maharashtra town of Vasai.
- Development: Using a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) paradigm, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) designed the ship and L&T Shipbuilders worked together to build it.
- Project: In order to improve India's shallow water anti-submarine capabilities, 16 ASW-SWC class ships are being introduced.



#### Key Features:

- Propulsion: 77.6 metres long; the first warship in the Indian Navy to be powered by a diesel engine and waterjet.
- More than 80% of the systems are indigenous, with assistance from more than 55 MSMEs, BEL, L&T, and Mahindra Defence.
- Arsenal: Outfitted with mine-laying systems, lightweight torpedoes, anti-torpedo decoys, and a single centerline rocket launcher.
- The sensor suite includes the Underwater Acoustic Communication System (UWACS), Low-Frequency Variable Depth Sonar (LFVDS), and Hull-Mounted Sonar (Abhay).
- Multi-role Capability: Designed for low-intensity maritime operations, ASW operations, Search and Rescue (SAR), and subsurface surveillance in shallow coastal waters.

#### Significance:

- Strategic Defence Upgrade: Enhances India's anti-submarine warfare capability and replaces outdated Abhay-class corvettes.
- Enhanced Coastal Security: Perfect for identifying Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (UUVs) and midget submarines in waters under 30 metres deep, where larger warships find it difficult to manoeuvre.
- Made in India Milestone: Supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and demonstrates India's increasing independence in defence manufacture.

#### Induction of INS Tamal



#### Why in the News?

The Indian Navy is set to commission INS Tamal, a stealth multi-role frigate and the last warship commissioned outside India, on July 1, 2025, at Kaliningrad, Russia.

#### About INS Tamal:



- Overview: It is Russia's second Tushil-class stealth frigate and eighth Krivak-class stealth frigate.

- Last to be imported: As part of the 2016 India-Russia IGA, the last Indian Navy ship to be commissioned overseas.
- The Indian Navy oversaw the design of the sister ship, INS Tushil, which was built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad and put into service in December 2024.
- Commissioning: It will become a part of the Western Naval Command on July 1, 2025.
- Etymology: The mascot combines a Jambavant with a Eurasian Brown Bear, and the name is based on a fabled Indra sword.
- "Sarvada Sarvatra Vijaya" means "victory always, always."

- Indigenous components: 26 percent of its systems, including those from Tata and BEL, are built in India.
- Stealth capability: It can identify hostile ships and submarines thanks to its electronic systems, radar, and sonar.
- Patrol features: It has the ability to transport helicopters, which aid in rescue and maritime patrol operations.
- It is 125 metres long, weighs roughly 3,900 tonnes, and has a top speed of 30 knots.
- Digital warfare: Its state-of-the-art control systems enable all of its sensors and weaponry to cooperate.

#### Important Features:

## Trivia

### What are Black Boxes?



### Why in the News?

Authorities have recovered the black box from the crash site of the recent incident in Ahmedabad.



### About Black Boxes:

- Black boxes serve as crucial flight data recording tools in aeroplanes to support flight safety analysis and disaster investigation.

- Development: After researching mid-air explosions, Australian physicist David Warren created the first workable FDR in 1954.
- Contrary to its name, black boxes are painted a brilliant orange and covered in reflective material to make them immediately visible in the event of a collision.
- **Two Main Types:** Aircraft typically have two black boxes:
  1. Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and
  2. Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR).
- **Single Unit:** Some aircraft integrate both functions into a single combined unit.
- **How does it work?**
  - Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR): The CVR captures audio from the cockpit, including as radio transmissions, pilot chats, alarm sounds, and background noises like warning tones or engine hum.
  - Key flight performance data, including as altitude, airspeed, direction, engine parameters, and system operations, are recorded by the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), which records thousands of data points every second.

- Location of Installation: Because the tail part of an aircraft has a statistically higher chance of surviving a crash, black boxes are typically placed there.
- Recording Capacity: The DFDR can save up to 25 hours of flight data, while the CVR continuously records the latest two hours of cockpit audio.
- Protection and Durability: Black boxes include solid-state memory chips that are protected by crash-resistant inclosures that can withstand deep-sea pressure, severe impact pressures, and temperatures as high as 1,100°C.

#### Use of Black Boxes in India:

- Regulation in India: Black box data is used as primary evidence in aeroplane crash investigations carried out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation's aeroplane Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).
- Recent Development (April 2025): India strengthened its capacity to independently and effectively analyse crash data by establishing its first dedicated Flight Recorders Laboratory in New Delhi.

#### 11th International Yoga Day



#### Why in the News?

Prime Minister led the celebrations for the 11th International Day of Yoga on 21st June.

#### About International Day of Yoga:

- Celebration: Since 2015, the International Day of Yoga has been celebrated on June 21 worldwide, in accordance with a 2014 UN resolution.
- India's proposal in the UN: In his September 2014 UN speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi put forth the concept, emphasising the universal applicability of yoga.
- UN Recognition: With the support of 177 nations, the resolution was adopted without a vote after being proposed by India's Permanent Representative.
- First Observance: On June 21, 2015, the first celebration took place, with events in Beijing, New Delhi, Paris, and New York.
- The day's goal is to acknowledge the health advantages of yoga, such as its ability to promote physical fitness, reduce stress, and promote spiritual well-being.
- Origin: Yoga originated in ancient India and is deeply rooted in Indian philosophy, spirituality, and culture.
- Meaning of Yoga: The word "Yoga" is derived from the Sanskrit root "yuj", meaning "to join or unite" the mind, body, and spirit.
- Historical References:
  - Rig Veda and Upanishads: Yoga-like practices are mentioned in the Rig Veda (c. 1500 BCE) and further developed in the Upanishads (800–400 BCE).
  - Patanjali's Contribution: Sage Patanjali, considered the father of classical yoga, compiled the Yoga Sutras around the 2nd century BCE, outlining a systematic philosophy.
- Eight Limbs of Ashtanga Yoga (Yoga Sutras)
  1. **Yama** – Ethical principles (e.g., non-violence, truth).
  2. **Niyama** – Personal observances (e.g., cleanliness, contentment).
  3. **Asana** – Physical postures.
  4. **Pranayama** – Breath control.

5. **Pratyahara** – Withdrawal of senses.
6. **Dharana** – Concentration.
7. **Dhyana** – Meditation.
8. **Samadhi** – State of spiritual absorption or self-realization.

- **Schools and Styles of Yoga:**
  - Multiple Traditions: Yoga is practiced in various schools, each with distinct methods and focus.
  - Popular Styles: These include Hatha, Vinyasa, Ashtanga, Iyengar, Kundalini, Bikram, and Yin Yoga,

catering to both beginners and advanced practitioners.

#### Why was 21st June chosen for this day?

- The date of June 21 was chosen because it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, symbolising spiritual significance across various cultures.
- In Hindu mythology, this day marks the transition to Dakshinayana and is associated with the first yogi, Shiva, who began teaching yoga to humanity.





## **Department of Arts**

# **Admissions are Open for the Academic Year 2025-2026**

### **Contact Us**

**KLEF, Greenfields, Vaddeswaram  
Guntur District Andhra Pradesh- 522 302**



**PHONE: 0864 - 5350200  
Extn. 1166/1167**

**Mobile No. 9182019425**



**hod.arts@kluniversity.in**



**www.kluniversity.in**



**Nearest Railway Station and  
Airport -Vijayawada, A.P.**

# BA WITH IAS COACHING



- ☑ \*Merit Scholarships
- ☑ Intense coaching for MPC/BiPC students
- ☑ Weekly Mock Tests
- ☑ Coaching by expert trainers
- ☑ \*100% placement assistance
- ☑ Spl lectures by IAS/IPS officers
- ☑ Daily review of The Hindu Newspaper for Current Affairs
- ☑ NCC/NSS/Sports facilities
- ☑ Spl. Coaching for Staff Selection Commission (SSC) exams
- ☑ Q&A Practice



QR code for admissions

**FOR DETAILS CONTACT:**

 **9182019425**

[hod.arts@kluniversity.in](mailto:hod.arts@kluniversity.in)