

THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
- **Current Affairs**
(हिन्दी)

**Economy | Appointment | Awards | Ranking
Government Scheme | Summit | Partnership | GDP
Banking & Financial | Defence | Sports |
Book and Author | Science and technology**



The Hindu Review (April 2025)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
Tata Group's electronics retail chain Croma has appointed as its chief executive officer and Managing Director	Shibashish Roy (Updated 1 April)
Appointed as the new Private Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Nidhi Tewari (Updated 2 April)
Taken charge as the Managing Director and CEO of SBI Card	Salila Pande (Updated 3 April)
Appointed as a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth	N Chandrasekaran (Updated 3 April)
Appointed as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) About Reserve Bank of India (RBI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded - 1 April 1935 • RBI Nationalized - 1 January 1949 • Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra • RBI set up - Hilton Young Commission • 26th Governor - Sanjay Malhotra (replace Shaktikanta Das) • RBI Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao 	Poonam Gupta (Updated 3 April)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment to the post of	Sivasubramanian Ramann (Updated 3 April)

<p>chairperson, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)</p> <p>About Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded- 23 August 2003 • Headquarters- New Delhi • Chairman - Sivasubramanian Ramann (replace Deepak Mohanty) • Owner- Ministry of Finance, Government of India 	
<p>Appointed as the Chairperson of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Media and Entertainment Committee South</p>	<p>Kamal Haasan (Updated 4 April)</p>
<p>The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment as the Managing Director (MD) of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL), a subsidiary of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)</p>	<p>H Shankar (Updated 4 April)</p>
<p>Appointed brand ambassador for GRM Overseas Limited's premium basmati rice brand, 10X Zarda King, and stars in their new "#RishtaMubarak" campaign celebrating food's role in building relationships</p>	<p>Salman Khan (Updated 4 April)</p>
<p>Given the additional charge as the NFRA Chairperson</p>	<p>Ravneet Kaur (Updated 5 April)</p>
<p>Taken over as the new president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), replacing Ashwani Kumar</p>	<p>SC Ralhan (Updated 5 April)</p>

Thomas Cook India Limited has appointed as brand ambassador for its foreign exchange business	Kartik Aaryan (Updated 8 April)
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest information technology services firm, has appointed as executive director-president and chief operating officer of the company	Aarthi Subramanian (Updated 12 April)
Appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh	Justice Arun Palli (Updated 14 April)
Re-appointed as the chairperson of the ICC men's cricket committee and his longtime national teammate VVS Laxman too has been picked again as one the panel members	Sourav Ganguly (Updated 14 April)
Payments company Cashfree Payments has appointed as its chief financial officer	Piyush Anchliya (Updated 16 April)
Olympic silver medallist and Commonwealth Games gold medallist have been elected chairperson and vice-chairperson, respectively, of the Athletes' Commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)	Mirabai Chanu and S. Sathish Kumar (Updated 16 April)
Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has recommended to the government for appointment as the 52nd Chief Justice of India	Justice B.R. Gavai (Updated 16 April)
The central government has appointed (1994 batch, Karnataka cadre) as the new Revenue Secretary, shifting him from the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Finance.	Senior IAS officer Arvind Shrivastava (Updated 16 April)

<p>The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of four 1989-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officers as Members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)</p>	<p>Pankaj Kumar Mishra, Sanjay Bahadur, L. Rajasekhar Reddy, and G. Aparna Rao (Updated 19 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</p> <p>About Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established- 16 July 1929 Headquarters- New Delhi Director General- Dr Mangi Lal Jat 	<p>Dr Mangi Lal Jat (Updated 21 April)</p>
<p>Elevated as Deputy CFO, Special Officer – Finance & Accounts, and designated as a Key Managerial Personnel</p>	<p>Santosh Kumar (Updated 21 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India, with approval from Prime Minister Narendra Modi</p>	<p>Dinesh Maheshwari (Updated 22 April)</p>
<p>Appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC Limited, a leading public infrastructure finance company in the power sector</p> <p>About REC Ltd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formerly - Rural Electrification Corporation Limited Founded - 25 July 1969 Headquarters - New Delhi CMD - Jitendra Srivastava 	<p>Jitendra Srivastava (Updated 26 April)</p>
<p>NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City appointed as its Chairman and Public Interest Director, after approval by the</p>	<p>Neeraj Kumar Gupta (Retd. IAS) (Updated 28 April)</p>

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)	
Home Credit India has appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), strengthening its leadership team to drive the next phase of growth	Vivek Singh (Updated 28 April)
Appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	Amitesh Kumar Sinha (Updated 29 April)
Appointed as the new Country Managing Director for YouTube India	Gunjan Soni (Updated 29 April)
Dreame Technology, a leading smart home appliance brand, has appointed as its first Indian brand ambassador	Kriti Sanon (Updated 29 April)

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
Become the first African woman to assume the office of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations	Shirley Botchwey (Updated 3 April)
Appointed as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)	Mohsin Naqvi (Updated 4 April)
The Board of Oman India Joint Investment Fund—Management Company, a private equity fund manager promoted by the Oman Investment Authority and the State Bank of India, has appointed as its Chief Executive Officer	Satish Chavva (Updated 9 April)
Appointed as the Vice President of Investment Solutions at the Asian	Ajay Bhushan Pandey (Updated 17 April)

Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), headquartered in Beijing	
French luxury brand Chanel has appointed as its first-ever brand ambassador from India, following her appearance at the Chanel Spring/Summer 2025 show in Paris.	Ananya Panday (Updated 22 April)
Appointed to the jury of the 78th Cannes Film Festival 2025	Payal Kapadia (Updated 29 April)
In a major political shift, the United National Congress (UNC) has won the general elections in Trinidad and Tobago	Kamla Persad-Bissessar (Updated 30 April)
Elected as the 20th president of the Badminton World Federation (BWF)	Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (Updated 30 April)
Appointed as the Chairperson of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) for the financial year 2025-26, leading the industry's efforts in electronics system design and manufacturing	Ruchir Dixit (Updated 30 April)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The prestigious Ugadi Award from the Andhra Pradesh government	Historian and archaeologist MyNaa Swamy	For his contributions to historical research and social service
The prestigious Uttar Pradesh Anmol Ratan Award	Nikhil Singhal	This recognition highlights his remarkable contributions to the public relations industry and his exemplary

		leadership in strategic communication
The Key to the City of Lisbon	President Droupadi Murmu	The Key to the City of Lisbon is the highest honour accorded by the city of Lisbon .
The prestigious Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award 2025	Achyuta Samanta	He is the visionary founder of KIIT and KISS
The India Audio Summit and Awards 2025	Akashvani	Among the top accolades for Akashvani , former Union Minister Smriti Irani's programme 'Nai Soch Nai Kahani – A Radio Journey with Smriti Irani' was named Series of the Year on radio
The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award	Kumar Mangalam Birla	For his visionary leadership, alongside other notable honourees in Mumbai
The prestigious Udyog Vikas Award	The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC)	Recognizing its contribution to industrial development

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
The first Indian to receive the prestigious Fred Darrington Sand Master Award	Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik	To mark the occasion, Pattnaik created a 10-foot-high sculpture of Lord Ganesha carrying the message of " World Peace ".
"Sri Lanka Mitra Vibhushana"	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	For recognizing strong and friendly ties with Sri Lanka
A knighthood for his services to Cricket	Former England fast bowler James Anderson	For his services to Cricket as part of former British Prime Minister Rishi

		Sunak's resignation honours list.
The Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) by Constantine the Philosopher University	President Droupadi Murmu	Recognizing her distinguished contributions to public service, social justice, women's empowerment, and cultural diversity
The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics	Scientists from Bose Institute's Experimental High Energy Physics group	For their contribution to the ALICE collaboration at CERN's Large Hadron Collider (LHC)
The 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards	Rebeca Andrade	Honoring outstanding athletes and teams for their exceptional performances over the past year
Fiji's highest civilian honour, the 'Companion of the Order of Fiji', by President Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu	Karnataka-based humanitarian Madhusudan Sai	Madhusudan Sai received the award for his contributions to healthcare, notably for establishing the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital in Fiji , benefiting communities across Fiji and the Pacific region

Awards 2025: Complete winners list

Laureus Awards 2025: Andrade beats Rishabh Pant to win Comeback of the Year

- **The 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards** celebrated its 25th anniversary with a **grand ceremony in Madrid**, honoring outstanding athletes and teams for their exceptional performances over the past year.
- The Laureus World Sports Awards, often dubbed the "Oscars of Sports", celebrated the most remarkable athletes and sporting achievements of the past year.
- Held in the vibrant city of Madrid, the 2025 edition of the event brought together legends, rising stars, and game-changers across various disciplines.

Full List Of Winners at Laureus Sports Awards 2025-

- Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award- Armand Duplantis
- Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award- Simone Biles
- Laureus World Team of the Year Award- Real Madrid
- Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award- Lamine Yamal
- Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award- Rebeca Andrade
- Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award- Jiang Yuyan
- Laureus World Action Sportsman of the Year Award- Tom Pidcock
- Laureus Sport for Good Award- Kick4Life
- Laureus Sporting Icon Award- Rafael Nadal
- Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award- Kelly Slater

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj Unveils Special Category National Panchayat Awards-2025

- For the first time, the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj introduces** the **Special Category National Panchayat Awards-2025**, presented during the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat, Madhubani, Bihar. These awards recognize outstanding contributions by Gram Panchayats in advancing national priorities such as Climate Action and Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance) through enhanced Own Source Revenue (OSR).

Three Special Award Categories

- CASPA – Climate Action Special Panchayat Award
- ANPSA – Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award
- PKNSSP – Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (for excellence in capacity building institutions)

Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)

- Rank 1: Dawwa S Gram Panchayat, Gondia District, Maharashtra
- Rank 2: Biradahalli Gram Panchayat, Hassan District, Karnataka
- Rank 3: Motipur Gram Panchayat, Samastipur District, Bihar

Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)

- Rank 1: Mall Gram Panchayat, Rangareddi District, Telangana
- Rank 2: Hatbadra Gram Panchayat, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha
- Rank 3: Gollapudi Gram Panchayat, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)

- Rank 1: Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Kerala
- Rank 2: State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Odisha
- Rank 3: State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam
- Each award includes a financial incentive of Rs.1 crore (Rank 1), Rs.75 lakh (Rank 2), and Rs.50 lakh (Rank 3) respectively. The awardees will be presented with specially designed trophies and certificates. Notably, 3 of the 6 awardee Gram Panchayats – from Bihar (Motipur Gram Panchayat), Maharashtra (Dawwa S Gram Panchayat), and Odisha (Hatbadra Gram Panchayat) – are headed by women Sarpanches.

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
<p>'P4 - Margadarsi Bangaru Kutumbam' poverty eradication program</p> <p>(Andhra Pradesh)</p>	<p>Under the P4 initiative, two local affluent individuals, Vikram Narayana Rao and Vasantha Srinivasa Rao, were entrusted with supporting 30 families, collaborating with the Bapatla district collector to devise an action plan for effective implementation</p>
<p>'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan'</p> <p>(Assam Government)</p>	<p>Through the new scheme, the government will provide ₹10,000 as seed capital in the first year, ₹25,000 (₹12,500 as loan and equal amount as government support) in the second year on productive usage of seed capital, and ₹50,000 in the third stage.</p>
<p>The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1,600 crore the Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) sub-scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the 2025-26 period in a bid</p>	<p>To strengthen micro-irrigation infrastructure</p>
<p>A unified health insurance scheme (Odisha)</p>	<p>Besides the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the state government's health scheme, Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana, and the newly introduced Ayushman Vayo-Vandana Yojana, aimed at senior citizens, will also be integrated into this initiative.</p>
<p>'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam Scheme 2025'</p> <p>(Telangana)</p>	<p>To promote economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship among youth from SC, ST, BC, Minority, and EBC/EWS communities.</p>
<p>The Pink E-Rickshaw Scheme (Maharashtra)</p>	<p>To empower women and make them financially independent.</p>

<p>The Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme Guidelines and the Online portal</p>	<p>This scheme, with a funding of 22 thousand 919 crore rupees to make India Atmanirbhar in the electronics supply chain. The guidelines have been formulated with intense industry consultation.</p>
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Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<p>The National Conference on Environment</p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>The National Conference on Environment focuses on the legal aspect of Environmental laws and their proper implementation. Thus, the Conference brings together the Judges of the Supreme Court, High Court, District Court, and the policymakers- the government of India and its various ministries.</p>
<p>The 6th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit</p>	<p>Thailand</p>	<p>The theme of the Summit was – “BIMSTEC: Prosperous, Resilient and Open”. It reflected the priorities of the leaders and the aspirations of the peoples of the BIMSTEC region, as well as the efforts of BIMSTEC in ensuring shared growth in times of global uncertainties</p>
<p>The first World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES)</p>	<p>Maharashtra</p>	<p>WAVES is set to magnify India’s creative strength, amplifying its position as a hub for content creation, intellectual property, and technological innovation</p>
<p>The 4th Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on Tourism Cooperation between India and Japan</p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>The Co- Chairs of the two countries exchanged notes on the profile of the visitors and delved into the data insights of the tourists travelling between the two countries, including to Buddhist destinations, in order to undertake suitable policy interventions to make the destinations more attractive for the millennial tourists.</p>
<p>The 9th edition of the three-day Global Technology Summit</p>	<p>New Delhi</p>	<p>The theme of the 9th Global Technology Summit is “Sambhavna”</p>
<p>The Indian delegation to the 15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM)</p>	<p>Brasilia, Brazil</p>	<p>The theme of 15th BRICS AMM is “Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture through Cooperation, Innovation, and Equitable Trade among BRICS Countries”</p>

A conference on “Building Together a Clean Sport Ecosystem”	New Delhi	The event, held as part of Play True Week 2025 , brought together a wide spectrum of stakeholders committed to fostering a clean, fair, and values-based sporting environment in India.
The International Conclave	Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh	Theme- Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North-East India”
The 38th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology was hosted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)	New Delhi	The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology was constituted by the government of India in 1945. The Board is constituted by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India , after every three years.
The National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Management (NIFTEM), hosted the second edition of SUFALAM (Start-Up Forum for Aspiring Leaders and Mentors) 2025	Kundli, Sonipat, Haryana	The SUFALAM conclave aims to strengthen India’s food processing sector through innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration.
The Indian delegation at the BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers’ Meeting	Brazil’s Presidency in Brasília	The meeting, convened under the slogan “Strengthening the Cooperation of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance” , culminated in the adoption of a forward-looking declaration addressing two pivotal themes: “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work” and “The Impacts of Climate Change on the World of Work and a Just Transition”
The 6th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting	Thimphu, Bhutan	The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Surjit Bhujabal, Special Secretary and Member (Customs), CBIC, Government of India , and Mr. Sonam Jamtsho, Director General, Department of Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Finance, Royal Government of Bhutan.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
India's Axis Bank has partnered with J.P. Morgan	To offer real-time U.S. dollar payment capabilities to commercial clients in the country, facilitated by Kinexys, the U.S.-based lender's blockchain and digital assets unit
Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has entered into a partnership with Rajasthan Part I Power Transmission Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Energy Solutions Limited (AESL)	The joint venture will see the development of a 6,000 MW, ±800 kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system that will transport renewable energy from Bhadla in Rajasthan to Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh , with completion expected by 2029
PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited has partnered with Policybazaar	To launch the PNB MetLife Pension Premier Multicap Fund under its Unit-Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs)
United India Insurance Company Ltd (UIICL), a public sector non-life insurer, has partnered with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	To distribute general insurance products tailored for the MSME sector.
Japan-based global digital transformation and IT services company, NTT DATA, cloud platform company Neysa Networks, and the Telangana government have signed an agreement.	To set up an Artificial Intelligence data centre cluster in Hyderabad with an investment of 10 thousand 500 crore rupees
Poonawalla Fincorp, a leading NBFC backed by the Cyrus Poonawalla Group, has joined forces with MobiKwik	To launch instant personal loans through the fintech platform's ZIP EMI service.

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
World's Best Airport 2025	Air transport rating organization Skytrax	-	Singapore Changi Airport
'World's Best Hospitals 2025' report	Newsweek and Statista	The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic in the United States
The best University in India in the Times Higher Education 's Asia University Rankings 2025	-	The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru 38th	Tsinghua University of China

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
Renault Group will acquire Nissan Motor's 51% stake in Renault Nissan Automotive India (RNAIPL), taking full control of the Chennai-based joint venture	Nissan will continue to use RNAIPL as a key sourcing hub for its vehicles , including the Magnite, for both Indian and export markets
LIC, India's largest insurer, is set to acquire up to a 50% stake in ManipalCigna Health Insurance	For ₹3,500–4,000 crore , marking its entry into the booming health insurance market .
The amalgamation of Aditya Birla Finance Ltd (ABFL) with its parent Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL) with effect from April 1, 2025	To rationalisation and simplification of group structure, improved financial stability, and increased operational efficiency .
UBS Group has successfully merged Credit Suisse's service entities in India into UBS Business Solutions (India), consolidating 24,000 employees under one structure	This integration combines Credit Suisse Services (India), Credit Suisse Business Analytics (India), and Credit Suisse Services AG, Pune , following UBS's acquisition of Credit Suisse in 2023

<p>The Competition Commission of India approved the acquisition of 100% equity shareholding of AAM India Manufacturing Corporation Pvt. Ltd. (AAMCPL) by Bharat Forge Limited (BFL), subject to voluntary modifications offered by the parties</p>	<p>BFL is a global manufacturer of forged components and critical solutions for sectors like automotive, defence, aerospace, oil & gas, and more. Its promoters (BNK Family) also have stakes in joint ventures with Meritor Heavy Vehicle Systems (now part of Cummins Inc.)</p>
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Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
The Asian Development Bank (ADB)	a \$85.4 million	Tripura	To finance critical industrial infrastructure in the nine industrial estates of Tripura.

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
'NITI NCAER States Economic Forum' portal	NITI Aayog in collaboration with the National Council of Applied Economic Research	The portal is a comprehensive repository of data on social, economic, and fiscal parameters, research reports, papers , and expert commentary on state finances for a period of about 30 years.
A new website for the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) in New Delhi	Union Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil	This initiative aligns with the Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) framework , aiming to create a cohesive digital ecosystem across all government departments.
The Web-based Reservoir Storage Monitoring System (RSMS) Portal	Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil	The portal monitors 161 key reservoirs (total live storage capacity of 182.375 BCM) and provides real-time updates, graphs, tables, and downloadable bulletins. It is

		accessible to decision-makers and the general public
The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has officially integrated with the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal	CEIR, RPF	Through CEIR , RPF can now block the IMEI number of missing phones, making them unusable and deterring resale , while also leveraging tracking tools for quick recovery.
Digital portal	Developed by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA)	To streamline private investment in infrastructure development on National Waterways, promoting Ease of Doing Business (EODB)
The Bhu Bharati portal	The Telangana government	To make land record management simple, transparent , and accessible to the public.

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Signed an MoU to provide door-to-door KYC verification services for their investors	Department of Posts (DoP) with Nippon India Mutual Fund
Signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to jointly launch Phase 2 of the "Niveshak Didi" initiative	The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) , under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), operating under the Department of Posts
Signed an MoU creating a deep and sustainable infrastructure financing market and developing a supportive ecosystem around it	The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) with the New Development Bank (NDB)
Signed an MoU to start a pilot electric rapid transit (e-RT) project between Hubballi and Dharwad	The Karnataka government MoU with European companies

Signed an MoU to boost employment in the gig and logistics sectors, especially for youth in urban and semi-urban areas	The Ministry of Labour & Employment with Swiggy via the National Career Service (NCS) portal
Signed four MoUs and agreed to expand the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council to include two new committees	India and Saudi Arabia
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop cross-border power transmission infrastructure, which will facilitate the evacuation of power from Nepal and its supply to India	India and Nepal

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

India's economy projected to grow at 6.5% in FY26: EY report

- **India's economy is expected to grow at 6.5% in the fiscal year 2025-26**, according to the latest EY Economy Watch report.
- The report emphasizes the need for a well-calibrated fiscal strategy that supports human capital development while maintaining fiscal prudence to enhance long-term growth prospects.
- For FY25, real GDP growth is projected at 6.4%, aligning with the revised estimates by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

ADB revises India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.7% amid US tariff risks

- **India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to expand at 6.7 per cent during the current fiscal year** spurred by higher domestic demand, rising rural incomes and moderating inflation, according to ADB.
- Favourable monetary and fiscal policies are expected to sustain the growth momentum, with GDP projected to increase by 6.8 per cent in FY26 (2026-27).

Crisil projects 6.5% GDP growth for India in FY26

- **Global credit rating agency Crisil projected India's GDP to grow by 6.5% in fiscal 2026**, while cautioning that US tariff hikes remain a significant downside risk to the forecast.
- The agency notes improving economic indicators in the second half of FY25, including stronger output in capital goods, infrastructure, and construction sectors, along with positive signals from RBI surveys reflecting rising consumer confidence and demand in both urban and rural areas.

First-ever all-women space tourist rocket successfully returns to Earth after a short flight

- **Blue Origin successfully launched its 11th human flight, NS-31**, carrying an all-women crew including singer Katy Perry, marking the first all-women tourist spaceflight since Valentina Tereshkova's solo mission in 1963.

- The flight reached over 100 kilometers above Earth, crossing the Karman line, with the fully automated spacecraft completing a 10-minute sub-orbital journey before safely returning to Texas.

Morgan Stanley prunes FY26 India growth forecast to 6.1%

- The **RBI revised India's FY26 GDP** growth forecast **from 6.7% to 6.5%**, while **Morgan Stanley further lowered it to 6.1%**, citing global trade and policy uncertainties affecting business sentiment and capex cycles.
- Morgan Stanley expects growth to bottom out at 5.7% in Q3 FY26, down from 6.2% in Q3 FY25, with a slower recovery projected for FY27 at 6.3%.

Fitch projects India's GDP growth at 6.4% for FY26, retains 6.3% for FY27

- **Fitch Ratings** revised India's **GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4%**, citing global economic uncertainties, while maintaining its projection of 6.3% for FY27.
- The global ratings agency also lowered its estimates for FY25 and FY26 by 10 basis points to 6.2% and 6.4%, respectively, attributing the downgrade to rising concerns over a potential global trade war.

India to Grow 6.5% in 2025, Maintain Fastest-Growing Economy Tag: UNCTAD

- **India's economy** is projected to **grow by 6.5% in 2025**, supported by strong public spending and continuing monetary easing, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Despite a slowdown from the estimated 6.9% growth in 2024, India is forecast to be the fastest-growing economy.
- In its new report, 'Trade and Development Foresights 2025 - Under Pressure: Uncertainty Reshapes Global Economic Prospects', UNCTAD stated that global growth is projected to slow to 2.3% in 2025, placing the world economy on a recessionary path.

IMF slashes India's growth rate forecast to 6.2 % for FY 26

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has slashed the economic **growth rate forecast for the Indian economy in the fiscal year 2025-26 to 6.2%**, citing increased trade tensions and global uncertainty.
- The IMF has also reduced its **growth projection for the Indian economy to 6.3% in 2026-27**.

World Bank lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%

- **The World Bank** has lowered **India's growth forecast for the current fiscal by 4 percentage points to 6.3%** amid global economic weakness and policy uncertainty.
- In its previous estimate, the World Bank had projected India's growth at 6.7% for the fiscal year 2025-26.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

India launches Operation Brahma to help quake hit Myanmar

- **The government of India** has launched **Operation Brahma** to help the earthquake-hit victims in Myanmar. A 7.7 magnitude quake hit Myanmar on 28 March 2025, killing at least 1000 people.

- According to the US Geological Survey, more than 10,000 people are feared dead in Myanmar.
- India, under its Neighbourhood First policy and its policy of being the first responder in providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) has launched Operation Brahma.

PM Modi unveils projects worth Rs 33 thousand 700 crore in Chhattisgarh

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched **projects worth 33 thousand 700 crore rupees in Chhattisgarh**.
- The projects are aligned with his government's broader agenda of infrastructure expansion, housing, education, and rural empowerment.

GAIL to begin LNG supplies from Qatar Energy next month under five-year deal

- **State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd** will begin receiving **LNG supplies from Qatar Energy Trading** next month under a five-year agreement, ensuring the delivery of 12 cargoes annually.
- In addition to the Qatar deal, GAIL has signed a 10-year contract with Vitol Asia for 1 MTPA of LNG from 2026 and another 10-year deal with ADNOC Gas (UAE) for 0.5 MTPA of LNG.

Govt to launch 'Sahkar Taxi' service across India to compete with Ola, Uber

- The **Indian government** is set to launch a **new cooperative-based taxi service called "Sahkar Taxi"** across the country to offer an alternative to popular ride-hailing platforms like Ola and Uber in a market with huge growth projection.
- Union Minister Amit Shah announced the plan in Parliament stating that the new service will register two-wheeler taxis, rickshaws, and four-wheeler taxis.

Defence exports surge to a record high of Rs 23,622 crore in Financial Year 2024-25

- **Defence exports** have surged to a **record high of Rs 23,622 crore (approx. US\$ 2.76 billion) in the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25**.
- A growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04% has been registered in the just-concluded FY over the defence exports figures of FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore.

CBIC to launch E-processing for gems & jewellery trade next month

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** will introduce the **electronic processing of the import and export of gems, jewellery, and machinery samples** through personal carriage by air passengers.
- This will come into effect from the 1st of next month at specified airports. Nine airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Kochi, Coimbatore, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Jaipur would allow personal carriage export of gems and jewellery.

India produced 1,681 locomotives in FY25, surpassing U.S., Europe

- **India** has emerged as a **global leader in railway locomotive manufacturing**, achieving a **record production of 1,681 locomotives in the financial year 2024-25**.
- This milestone **surpasses** the total locomotive production of regions such as **the United States, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia**, reaffirming India's growing dominance in the global railway sector.

- The majority of the locomotives produced in the country were intended for freight trains. Among the 1,681 locomotives produced in the financial year 2024-25, the breakdown is as follows:
 - WAG-9/9H locomotives: 1,047
 - WAG-9HH locomotives: 7
 - WAG-9 Twin locomotives: 148
 - WAP-5 locomotives: 2
 - WAP-7 locomotives: 272
 - NRC locomotives: 5
 - WAG-12B locomotives: 100
 - WDG 4G/6G locomotives: 100

Thovalai's traditional 'Manikka Malai' secures GI tag

- The famous **Kumbakonam vetrilai (Kumbakonam betel leaf)** and **Thovalai maanikka maalai** have been given the **Geographical Indications (GI)** tag.
- The Kumbakonam betel leaf is found in the **Cauvery Delta region** specifically in regions like Thiruvaiyaru, Papanasam, Thiruvidadimarudhur, Kumbakonam, and Valaigaman blocks of Thanjavur and Tiruvarur.
- Almost after three years of submitting an application for the GI tag, the six-generation old craftsmanship has secured the tag accorded by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

President Droupadi Murmu Attends RBI's 90th Anniversary Closing Ceremony

- **President Droupadi Murmu** attended the **closing ceremony of RBI's 90th-anniversary celebrations in Mumbai**, marking the culmination of a year-long event that highlighted RBI's crucial role in India's economic growth.

India and China Celebrate 75 Years of Diplomatic Relations

- **India and China** celebrated **75 years of diplomatic relations on April 1, 2025**, with leaders from both nations exchanging messages, **highlighting the importance of their bilateral ties**.
- India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, advocated strong India-China relations based on non-alignment, Asian solidarity, and the Panchsheel principles of peaceful coexistence.

Mundra becomes first Indian port to handle 200 MMT cargo in FY25

- **Mundra port in Gujarat** has become the **first Indian port to cross 200 million metric tonnes of annual cargo volumes during the financial year 2025**.
- The port handled 200.7 MMT of cargo during FY25. During FY25, all the ports of APSEZ collectively handled 450.2 MMT cargo volume, a seven percent year-on-year growth compared to previous year.

Cabinet approves "Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for financial years 2024-25 to 2028-29

- The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the PM Narendra Modi, **approved the Vibrant Villages Programme -II (VVP-II)** as a **Central Sector Scheme (100% Centre funding)**, furthering its commitment for the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 for 'Safe, Secured & Vibrant land borders'.

- The Programme would help in the comprehensive development of the villages located in the blocks abutting international land borders (ILBs), other than the Northern border already covered under VVP-I.
- **With a total outlay of Rs.6,839 crore**, the programme shall be implemented in select strategic villages in the States/UTs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, J&K (UT), Ladakh (UT), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till the FY 2028-29.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects to enhance Indian Railways capacity

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **four major multitracking projects for Indian Railways**, aiming to significantly enhance line capacity and improve both passenger and freight transportation across key routes.
- With an estimated **total cost of Rs. 18,658 crore**, **these projects will be completed by 2030-31** and are expected to streamline logistics, reduce costs, and support sustainable rail operations.
- **Spanning 1,247 kilometers across 15 districts in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh**, the four approved projects are crucial for increasing the efficiency of transportation for essential commodities like coal, iron ore, and other minerals.

Parliament passes the Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill 2025

- The **Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025**, passed by both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, marks the second major aviation reform under Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu.
- The **bill aims to align India's aircraft leasing and financing ecosystem with global standards**, providing a critical boost to investor confidence in the country's rapidly growing aviation market.

Lok Sabha Passes the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024

- The **Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024**, passed by the Lok Sabha, **introduces a comprehensive legal structure to promote economical, reliable, and sustainable coastal transportation, reducing pressure on road and rail networks.**
- The bill removes the requirement of general trading licenses for Indian ships and simplifies coastal trade operations, aligning with the National Logistics Policy and supporting the "Make in India" initiative.
- The bill regulates foreign vessel participation through specific licenses, encourages Indian ship ownership, boosts shipbuilding, port services, and employment, and aims to reduce logistics costs.

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Over 13,000 sq km of Forest Land Under Encroachment Across India: Govt Report Reveals

- **Over 13,000 square kilometres of forest area** — more than the total geographical area of Delhi, Sikkim and Goa combined — is **under encroachment in 25 states and Union territories** that have so far submitted data to the Union environment ministry. Ten states are yet to submit data on forest encroachment.
- Last year, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu cognisance of a PTI report that cited government data showing 7,50,648 hectares (7,506.48 square kilometres) of forest area — more than five times the size of Delhi — was under encroachment.
- According to the ministry report, **Madhya Pradesh had the highest forest encroachment, with 5,460.9 square kilometres affected**, as of March 2024. Assam has 3,620.9 square kilometres of forest area under encroachment.

President Droupadi Murmu signs Waqf (Amendment) bill 2025 into law

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has given her assent to the **Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025**, which was passed by Parliament during its budget session. The President also gave her assent to the Mussalman Waqf (Repeal) Bill, 2025, which was also passed by Parliament.
- The Rajya Sabha passed the bill with 128 votes in favor and 95 against, while the Lok Sabha cleared the bill after a lengthy debate, with 288 members voting in favor and 232 opposing it.

PM Modi inaugurates India's first vertical-lift sea bridge in Tamil Nadu

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the **New Pamban Bridge in Tamil Nadu**. This landmark project is **India's first vertical-lift sea bridge**, showcasing the nation's growing engineering and infrastructural capabilities.
- The 2.07-kilometre-long bridge, spanning the Palk Strait, stands as a testament to India's engineering prowess and visionary infrastructure development.

Government of India Procures 100 Lakh Bales of Cotton Under MSP Operations

- The **government has procured 100 lakh bales of cotton under MSP operations through its nodal agency**. This procurement accounts for 38 percent of the total cotton arrivals of 263 lakh bales and 34 percent of the estimated total cotton production of 294.25 lakh bales in the country.
- Among the states, **Telangana has recorded the highest procurement at 40 lakh bales**, followed by Maharashtra with 30 lakh bales and Gujarat with 14 lakh bales.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) — completes 10 glorious Years of empowering Small and Micro Entrepreneurs

- The **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**, launched on 8th April 2015 by PM Narendra Modi, **celebrates 10 glorious years of empowering small and micro-entrepreneurs across India**.

- Aimed at fostering financial inclusion, PMMY provides easy collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh for non-corporate and non-farm income-generating activities.
- The implementation of financial inclusion programme in the country is based on three pillars, namely,
 1. Banking the Unbanked
 2. Securing the Unsecured and
 3. Funding the Unfunded

Poshan Pakhwada 2025: Promoting Nutrition Awareness and Empowerment

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)** has launched the **7th edition of Poshan Pakhwada**, being observed from April 8 to 22, as part of the government's intensified efforts to tackle malnutrition.
- Running in collaboration with multiple ministries and state departments, this year's campaign underscores four core themes—maternal and infant nutrition in the first 1,000 days of life, promotion of the Poshan Tracker app, community-based management of malnutrition (CMAM), and encouraging a healthy lifestyle to combat childhood obesity.

NITI Aayog Releases Report on Automotive Sector's Global Competitiveness

- **NITI Aayog** released a comprehensive report analyzing **India's automotive sector**, aiming to position India as a **global player in the automotive value chain**. The report was **launched by Vice Chairman Suman Bery and CEO BVR Subrahmanyam**.
- In 2023, global automobile production hit 94 million units, with the auto components market valued at USD 2 trillion and the export share reaching approximately USD 700 billion. India's share stood at USD 70 billion, and it **emerged as the 4th-largest vehicle producer globally after China, the USA, and Japan**.

NTPC revises thermal capacity addition target to 30,000 MW by 2032

- **TPC Group** has revised its **thermal capacity addition target to 30,000 MW by 2031-32**, up from the earlier goal of 26,000 MW by 2030-31.
- For FY26, NTPC aims to add 3,580 MW of thermal capacity, a significant rise compared to just 660 MW added in FY24.
- In the renewable segment, the group targets 5,000 MW capacity addition in FY26, a 26% increase from 3,312 MW added in the previous fiscal.

NFSU Hosts Symposium on Film Forensics to Bridge Science and Cinema

- **National Forensic Sciences University- NFSU** organized a **Symposium on Film Forensics in New Delhi**.
- The objective of the symposium is to create a platform for dialogue and collaboration between forensic experts, filmmakers, and students, bridging the gap between science and cinematic storytelling.

India Celebrates Traditional Harvest Festivals, Honoring Farmers and Unity Across Regions

- **Traditional harvest festivals** are being celebrated across India, with people in different regions observing festivals like **Vaisakhi in Punjab, Vishu in**

Kerala, Poila Boishakh in West Bengal, Bohag Bihu in Assam, and Puthandu in Tamil Nadu, marking the arrival of the spring harvest season.

- These festivals, which celebrate renewal, prosperity, and gratitude, symbolize the rich cultural heritage and agrarian spirit of India, reflecting the nation's commitment to progress and social harmony.

PM Modi launches multiple projects in Haryana as tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar

- On the occasion of the birth anniversary of the Architect of the Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, **PM Narendra Modi dedicated a host of development projects to the people of Haryana.**
- He laid the foundation stone for the **third unit of 800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant in Yamunanagar, which will be built at a cost of 8,469 crore rupees.** Additionally, he laid the foundation stone for a GOBAR DHAN Plant in Yamunanagar worth 90 crore rupees and inaugurated the Rewari Bypass built at a cost of 1069 crore rupees.

Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Categorisation Act

- **Telangana** becomes the **first state in India to implement the Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act 2025**, aiming to ensure more equitable distribution of benefits among marginalized SC sub-groups.
- The state government has issued a Government Order (GO) categorizing 56 SC communities into three groups, following the Governor's consent and the Bill's passage in the State Legislature.

QNu Labs Unveils World's First Quantum-Safe Platform 'Q-Shield' to Safeguard Critical Infrastructure

- **Startup QNu Labs** launches world's 1st **unique platform Q-Shield empowering enterprises** to protect critical infrastructure
- QNu Labs, one of the startups selected by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the National Quantum Mission, has launched the world's first unique platform, Q-Shield.
- It empowers enterprises to protect their critical infrastructure. It also enables seamless cryptography management across any environment, including cloud, on-premises, or hybrid, on the occasion of World Quantum Day.

28 blocks awarded under OALP Round-IX to help India reach untapped energy potential

- The **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** has awarded **28 blocks under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy Bid Round Nine** with an area of over 1 lakh 36 thousand square kilometres.
- This will help India reach its untapped energy potential and reduce import dependency.

NITI Aayog launches Report on 'Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'

- **NITI Aayog** launched a report on **Hand and Power tools sectors - 'Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'**.

- The report suggests that the global trade market for power and hand tools, currently valued at approximately \$ 100 billion, is projected to grow significantly, reaching around \$ 190 billion by 2035.

Railways Minister commemorates 172nd anniversary of India's 1st train journey

- **Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** has commemorated **the 172nd anniversary of India's first train journey**, recalling the historic moment when the inaugural train departed from Bori Bunder to Thane in Maharashtra on the 16th of April in 1853.

Indian Navy Hosts 3rd Meghayan Symposium to Mark WMO Day 2025

- **The 3rd edition of Meghayan**, the Indian Navy's Meteorological and Oceanological Symposium, was **held at Nausena Bhawan, Delhi**, to mark World Meteorological Day. The event was virtually inaugurated by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff.
- The symposium brought together premier institutions like IMD, IITM, INCOIS, NIOT, ISRO, and IIT-M, featuring two technical sessions, expert panels, and discussions focused on the WMO Day 2025 theme: "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together."

Mumbai's Panchavati Express gets India's first train ATM

- **The Bank of Maharashtra** has **installed an ATM on board the Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Express**, in collaboration with the Bhusawal division of Central Railway (CR), to enhance passenger convenience.
- The ATM installation is part of Indian Railways' Innovative and Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (INFRIS), aimed at increasing non-fare revenue and improving amenities for passengers.

Zepto renames parent entity Kiranakart Tech, ahead of possible IPO

- **The quick-commerce startup Zepto** has officially **changed the name of its parent company from Kiranakart Technologies Private Limited to Zepto Private Limited**, a move aimed at preparing for a potential stock market debut.
- The rebranding, approved by the Registrar of Companies (RoC) in Mumbai, adheres to the legal procedure for changing a company's name in India, which includes receiving shareholder approval, filing with the RoC, and obtaining clearance from the central government.

ADB's cumulative loan commitment to India reaches \$59.5 billion in 2024

- **Asian Development Bank's cumulative loan commitment to India** as of December 31, 2024, increased **to reach \$59.5 billion** as against \$55.3 billion in 2023.
- In support of the Government of India catalysing robust, climate-resilient, and inclusive growth, it committed financing worth \$4.25 billion for 21 projects in 2024.

Mansukh Mandaviya Inaugurates World's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit in New Delhi

- Union Minister Dr **Mansukh Mandaviya** has **inaugurated the world's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)** at the National Dope Testing Laboratory **in New Delhi**.
- The Athlete Passport Management Unit is a specialised unit dedicated to monitoring and managing athletes' biological passports, ensuring fair play and upholding the integrity of clean sport.

Ministry of Ayush Organises Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme

- The **Ministry of Ayush**, in **collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission under Mission Karmayogi**, organised a special session of the **Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at Ayush Bhawan** to enhance employees' service orientation and professional skills.
- The second phase of the programme, led by Dr. Subodh Kumar and facilitated by Shipra Singh, featured interactive, team-based learning modules focusing on self-awareness, motivation, leadership, and real-world case studies from Ayurveda, Yoga, and traditional medicine.

Govt issues guidelines for setting up Excellence centres under Critical Mineral Mission

- The **Ministry of Mines** has **released guidelines for establishing Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** to boost research and technology development in critical minerals vital for clean energy, mobility, defence, and strategic sectors.
- These CoEs will focus on R&D to develop, demonstrate, and deploy extraction and beneficiation technologies for critical minerals, aiming to reach Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 7/8 and facilitate pre-commercial demonstrations.

SECL to Become First Coal PSU to Use Paste Fill Technology for Mining

- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** is set to **become the first coal PSU in India** to adopt paste fill technology for coal mining, marking a major step toward sustainable and environmentally friendly mining practices.
- To implement this innovative underground mining technology, **SECL has signed a Rs. 7040 crore agreement with TMC Mineral Resources Private Limited.**

Centre notifies rules for Radar equipment for the measurement of the speed of vehicles

- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** has notified **new rules under the Legal Metrology (General) Rules, 2011**, mandating **verification and stamping of radar-based speed measurement devices to enhance road safety and enforcement accuracy.**
- These rules will come into effect from July 1, 2025, giving sufficient time for industries and enforcement agencies to align with the new regulatory requirements.

Impact on Stakeholders-

- **For citizens:** Ensures accurate speed readings and helps avoid unfair penalties.
- **For industries:** Provides a clear regulatory framework aligned with international standards.

- **For law enforcement:** Enhances credibility and operational efficiency with verified equipment.

India Showcases Digital Innovation and Skilling Leadership at GITEX Africa 2025

- **India participated in Africa's largest tech and startup show, GITEX Africa 2025, held in Marrakesh, Morocco.**
- The event provided a platform for policy leaders, changemakers, and visionaries to collectively discuss and deliberate on opportunities for collaboration and to advance the imperative of inclusive and equitable growth in the global economy.

Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

- **The Shrimad Bhagavad Gita** (a noted Hindu scripture) and **Natyashastra** (Indian treatise on performing arts) have been **officially included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**, recognising their exceptional universal value and global significance.
- The UNESCO Memory of the World Register honours documentary heritage that is deemed to hold exceptional universal value. It includes texts, manuscripts, and documents that have significantly shaped human history and continue to influence generations.

Govt procures 3,40,000 tonnes of tur under price support scheme

- The **government** has **procured 3,40,000 tonnes of tur (pigeon pea)** under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) to support farmers, with Karnataka contributing the largest share at 1,30,000 tonnes.
- The minimum support price (MSP) for tur is set at Rs 7,550 per quintal, and farmers in Karnataka are receiving an additional state bonus of Rs 450 per quintal above the MSP.

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves draft Ordinance on sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes

- The **Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet**, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, approved the draft Ordinance to implement the **sub-categorisation of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State.**
- Aimed at integrated and equitable development of the sub-castes, the Cabinet, following a proposal from the Social Welfare Department, approved the classification of the 59 SC communities in the State into three categories based on their population, backwardness, and social cohesion.
- 12 castes were brought under Group-I, and 1% reservation was earmarked for them. Similarly, 18 castes that form part of Group-II would get 6.5% reservation. The third group comprised of 29 castes with 7.5% reservation.

Chennai launches South India's first AC EMU train on suburban route

- **South India's first AC EMU (Electric Multiple Unit) train** was launched **on the Chennai Beach-Chengalpattu corridor**, offering Metro-like comfort, and marking a major advancement in the region's suburban rail network.

- The 12-car train, **manufactured by Integral Coach Factory**, features modern amenities such as automatic sliding doors, air conditioning, GPS-based displays, CCTV, stainless steel seating, and an energy-saving regenerative braking system.

PM Modi to inaugurate Vizhinjam International Seaport on May 2

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**, on May 2, 2025.
- This port will be India's first semi-automated deep-water international container transshipment port, marking a historic development in maritime infrastructure.
- Vizhinjam port is the first Greenfield port project in India, initiated by a state government with an investment exceeding ₹18,000 crore.
- The project was **allotted to APSEZ after the Government of Kerala and Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Ltd. (AVPPL)** agreed to a concession agreement in 2015.

IAF Surya Kiran team to begin aerobatic airshow in Patna

- In Bihar, **the Surya Kiran team of the Indian Air Force** begins its aerobatic air show at **Patna**.
- The two-day programme will comprise a splendid show and manoeuvre of IAF Surya Kiran aircraft between 10 am to 11 am over the Ganga River in Patna.

Centre imposes 12% safeguard duty to shield Indian steel sector

- The **Centre** has **imposed a 12 per cent safeguard duty on the import of certain non-alloy and alloy steel flat products** with a view to shielding the Indian steel sector.
- This measure is a timely and necessary step to protect domestic steel manufacturers from the adverse impact of import surges and to ensure fair competition in the market.

Union Health Ministry observes Pan-India 'Fire Safety Week' from 21st to 25th April

- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has launched the **Fire Safety Week in collaboration with all States/UTs** as well as relevant central Ministries/Departments from 21st to 25th April, 2025.
- Over 3,000 participants from public and private health facilities virtually joined the pledge ceremony and webinar on "Emergency evacuation and patient safety strategies" and "Fire prevention in high-risk areas of healthcare facilities".

Amaravati to be world's first fully renewable-powered city

- **Amaravati**, Andhra Pradesh's planned capital city, aims to **become the world's first city powered entirely by renewable energy**, targeting a 2,700 MW capacity through sources like solar, wind, and hydropower.
- The foundation stone for the capital city is expected to be laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this month, with the project covering 217 square kilometers, a part of the larger 8,352 sq km Andhra Pradesh Capital Region.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar launches 'Mahila Samvad' campaign targeting women empowerment

- **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** has launched the **Mahila Samvad campaign**—an ambitious, statewide drive to connect women with welfare schemes and elevate their voices in governance.
- The campaign is a state-wide outreach programme that aims to engaging with over two crore women across 70,000 locations in Bihar.

MSDE and Microsoft Launch 'AI Careers for Women' Initiative to Empower Women in Emerging Tech

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Microsoft have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch AI Careers for Women—a pioneering skilling initiative aimed at empowering women in higher education institutions to pursue careers in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- This strategic collaboration seeks to bridge the gender gap in emerging tech by equipping women with industry-aligned AI skills, enabling them to participate meaningfully in the digital economy and become active contributors to India's innovation-led growth.

MeitY Launches 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book

- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, Government of India, hosted the **release of the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book, currected by the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE)**.
- The book is a vibrant celebration of India's innovative spirit in driving the circular economy forward.
- This Coffee Table Book features 30 of India's most promising innovations identified through the nationwide 'I Am Circular' Challenge, an initiative designed to discover and amplify breakthrough solutions rooted in the principles of the circular economy.
- The selected innovations are based on three key themes: Design to Last, Work with Nature, and Use Existing Resources.

CGHS launched modernised Health Management Information System

- The **Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has **launched a next-generation Health Management Information System (HMIS), developed by C-DAC**.
- The revamped HMIS will offer faster, transparent, and user-friendly services like PAN-based beneficiary identification, digital verification, contribution tracking, online card modification, and real-time tracking of applications.

CCI approves the proposed acquisition of the Target Business by Kandhari Global Beverages Private Limited

- The **Competition Commission of India** has approved the proposed **acquisition of the Target Business by Kandhari Global Beverages Private Limited**.
- Kandhari Global Beverages Private Limited (Acquirer) is an authorized bottler of The Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) and Schweppes Holdings Limited (SHL), and is engaged in the business of supplying and distributing non-alcoholic beverage (NAB) products in Rajasthan.

India's largest International Cruise Terminal launched in Mumbai

- **India's largest international cruise terminal in Mumbai** commenced its operation recently with the flagging of a cruise ship **by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbanand Sonowal**.
- Among all the international cruise terminals in India, the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT) is the largest.
- The MICT, developed as per Cruise Bharat Mission, was developed as per latest global standards and is expected to take a pioneering role in developing cruise tourism in India.
- Spread over a built-up area of over 4.15 lakh square feet, the MICT has been developed at Ballard Pier. The total investment in the MICT project is ₹556 crore.

PM Modi launches development works worth over Rs 13,480 crore in Madhubani

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated, **laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 13,480 crore in Madhubani, Bihar** on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.
- PM laid the foundation stone of an LPG bottling plant with a rail unloading facility at Hathua in Gopalganj District of Bihar worth around Rs 340 crore.
- This will help in streamlining the supply chain and improving the efficiency of bulk LPG transportation.
- Boosting power infrastructure in the region, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for projects worth over Rs 1,170 crore and also inaugurated multiple projects worth over Rs 5,030 crore in the power sector in Bihar under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.
- In line with his commitment to boost rail connectivity across the nation, Prime Minister flagged off Amrit Bharat express between Saharsa and Mumbai, Namu Bharat Rapid rail between Jaynagar and Patna and trains between Pipra and Saharsa and Saharsa and Samastipur.

Mansukh Mandaviya Launches Issuance of Sports Certificates via DigiLocker

- Union Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched **digital issuance of sports certificates through DigiLocker**, empowering athletes with easy and secure access to their achievements.
- The National Centre for Sports Science and Research (NCSSR) was inaugurated to become a hub for elite athlete performance research and innovation, supporting India's long-term sporting goals.
- The DigiLocker initiative will integrate with the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) to enable Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of rewards without delay or paperwork for medal-winning athletes.

J P Nadda launches National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign

- **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** has launched the **National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination Campaign 2025-26**, reaffirming India's goal to eliminate both diseases by 2026, with multilingual awareness materials released across States and UTs.
- India currently has 93.7% first-dose and 92.2% second-dose MR vaccine coverage; 332 districts reported zero measles cases, and 487 districts reported

zero rubella cases between Jan–Mar 2025, earning global recognition with the Measles and Rubella Champion Award in 2024.

AIIMS Raipur successfully performs first swap kidney transplant

- **AIIMS Raipur** has successfully performed its **first Swap Kidney Transplant, also known as a Kidney Paired Transplant.**
- With this achievement, AIIMS Raipur became the first among the newer AIIMS institutions and the first government hospital in Chhattisgarh to carry out this complex and life-saving procedure.

India decides to suspend visa services to Pak nationals with immediate effect and more

- **Immediate suspension of visa services for Pakistani nationals:** India has halted all visa services to Pakistanis and has asked those currently in India to leave within 48 hours.
- **SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme suspended:** The 1992 scheme that allowed special visas for 24 categories of dignitaries from SAARC countries, including Pakistan, has been suspended for Pakistani nationals.
- **Indus Water Treaty suspended:** India has suspended the 1960 Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan, demanding an end to Pakistan's support for cross-border terrorism.
- **Closure of Attari Integrated Check Post (ICP):** India has closed the Attari Land Port, the only land trade and movement route between India and Pakistan, halting bilateral trade and cross-border movement.
- **Reduction in Pakistan High Commission staff:** India will reduce the Pakistani diplomatic staff strength from 55 to 30 by May 1, 2025. No Indian High Commissioner has been posted in Pakistan since 2019.
- **Withdrawal of defence attachés:** Defence attachés from both sides will be recalled, ending direct bilateral military-diplomatic engagements between the two countries.

CSIR-IMMT Strengthens Indo-Russian Collaboration with Strategic JDIs on Critical Mineral Research

- **CSIR-IMMT** signed **two Joint Declarations of Intent (JDIs) with Russian institutions—JSC Giredmet (Rosatom) and NUST MISIS**—to boost collaboration in critical mineral research and sustainable resource development.
- The agreements were signed by Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director of CSIR-IMMT, with counterparts Dr. Andrei I. Golinei and Dr. Michael R. Filonov, with coordination from top scientists from both nations.

PM Modi inaugurates the India Steel 2025 being held in Mumbai

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually **inaugurated the 6th edition of India Steel 2025**, being held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The first India Steel exhibition cum conference was organised in 2013.
- The India Steel exhibition-cum-conference was organised by the Union Ministry of Steel in collaboration with the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

- The theme of India Steel 2025 was "Shaping the Future of Steel: Driving Capacity Augmentation, Sustainability, Digitalisation, and Downstream Applications."

Tripura Launches Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025 to Celebrate Indigenous Culture

- **Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha** inaugurated the **Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025**, a two-day cultural celebration held at Swami Vivekananda Maidan in Agartala.
- Organised by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with local bodies, the festival celebrates the rich cultural traditions of Tripura—particularly the Garia Puja observed by the Tripuri and Reang communities.

"A Doll Made Up of Clay" from SRFTI Selected for La Cinef at 78th Cannes Film Festival 2025

- **"A Doll Made Up of Clay,"** a student film from Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute (SRFTI), has been **officially selected for the prestigious La Cinef section at the 78th Festival de Cannes 2025**, marking a major milestone for Indian cinema education.
- The 23-minute experimental film narrates the emotional journey of a young Nigerian athlete facing displacement, injury, and cultural reconnection while stranded in India.

Hardeep Singh Puri & Delhi CM to launch Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards Delhiites

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, along with Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** has **launched the Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards for Delhiites in New Delhi.**
- The scheme provides 5 lakh rupees free health cover to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

India's Index of Industrial Production records growth of 3% in March 2025

- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 3% in March 2025**, compared to 2.9% growth in February 2025; the Quick Estimates for March place the IIP at 164.8 versus 160.0 in March 2024.
- Sector-wise growth for March 2025: Mining (0.4%), Manufacturing (3.0%), and Electricity (6.3%); within manufacturing, 13 out of 23 industry groups showed positive growth, led by basic metals, motor vehicles, and electrical equipment industries.

India Lifts 170 Million People Out of Poverty Between 2011 and 2021: World Bank

- **Around 17.1 crore people in India** were **lifted out of the extreme poverty level** in the last 10 years, **according to the World Bank.**
- The extreme poverty in the country fell from 16 per cent in 2011–12 to 2.3 per cent in 2022–23. The World Bank, in its Poverty and Equity Briefs report, highlights the poverty trend in 100 countries, including India.

- The report is released twice a year by the World Bank before the Spring and Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, D.C, the United States of America.

NMCG Approves Annual Master Plan to Promote River-Sensitive Urban Planning Under RCA

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved the **annual master plan under the River Cities Alliance (RCA)** to chart a roadmap of initiatives to be undertaken across the year.
- As per the Jal Shakti Ministry, the plan focuses on integrating river-sensitive urban planning within India's growing cities. It encompasses a series of capacity-building programs, knowledge exchange platforms, development of technical tools, expert guidance, and thematic case studies.

BEML Hands Over India's Largest Indigenous Electric Rope Shovel to Coal India

- **State-owned BEML** has officially handed over **India's largest indigenously developed electric rope shovel, BRS21**, to Northern Coalfields Ltd, a subsidiary of Coal India.
- The BRS21 shovel weighs 720 tonnes and features a 21 cubic metre bottom dump bucket, making it one of the most capable shovels globally for large-scale open cast mining.

Sarvam AI Selected to Build India's First Sovereign Large Language Model under IndiaAI Mission

- **Bengaluru-based AI startup Sarvam** has been selected by the **Government of India under the IndiaAI Mission to build India's first sovereign large language model (LLM)**.
- The model, which will be developed from scratch, will feature reasoning capabilities and be designed for voice fluency in multiple Indian languages.
- Sarvam aims to create multi-modal, multi-scale foundational models, with a goal of achieving secure, large-scale deployment for national AI infrastructure.

5th Marine Census launched at the 2025 Coastal States Fisheries Meet

- **The government of India** has launched the **5th Marine Census**, accompanied by the **introduction of a mobile application, Vyas-NAV**, for digital-based data collection. The last Marine census was conducted in 2016 in the country.
- The mobile application was launched during the Coastal States Fisheries Meet 2025 in Mumbai, which was chaired by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.

India Post Unveils 'Gyan Post' To Boost Education Access Across Country

- **The government** has announced '**Gyan Post**', a new service to make the delivery of educational, social, cultural and religious books more affordable through post offices across the country. The '**Gyan Post**' service will be operational at all departmental post offices across India from May 1.

- The service reflects India Post's continued commitment to supporting education and reaching learners in every part of the country, according to the Ministry of Communications.

MP first state to launch AI-based real-time forest alert system

- **Madhya Pradesh** has become the first state to implement an **AI-based real-time alert system** on a pilot basis for active forest management using satellite images, mobile feedback, and machine learning.
- The Artificial Intelligence system will enable the forest department to detect land encroachment, land use change, and forest degradation.

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

Indian Consulate General in Jaffna launches Hindi language course at University of Vavuniya

- The **Consulate General of India in Jaffna** has launched a **Hindi language course at the University of Vavuniya**, catering to growing interest in the language.
- The course was inaugurated jointly by Indian Consul General Sai Murali and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Atputharajah. The initiative aims to enhance linguistic and cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka, fostering better communication and deeper cultural exchanges.

Trump unveils 'discounted' reciprocal tariffs, India to be charged 26%

- **President Donald Trump** unveiled "**discounted**" **reciprocal tariffs** on multiple countries, including a **26% tariff on imports from India**, effective April 9, 2025. The move is aimed at countering what Trump called unfair trade practices.
- Trump highlighted that India levies a 52% tariff on US imports. The US, in turn, will impose roughly half that rate. Other affected countries include China (34%), the EU (20%), South Korea (25%), Japan (24%), and Taiwan (32%).

Hungary first European country to withdraw from the ICC

- The **Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban** has announced that his country is **withdrawing from the International Criminal Court (ICC)**. Hungary is the first European country to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, which was established in 2002.

Bangladesh assumes Chairmanship of BIMSTEC for next two years

- **Bangladesh** assumed the **chairmanship of the regional grouping – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) – for the next two years.**

Indian Institute of Management-Ahmedabad to open campus in Dubai

- The **Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Ahmedabad** and the **Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)** will open their **overseas campus in Dubai**, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The prestigious Indian Institute of Technology -Delhi already has a campus in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Mauritius becomes first African country to sign ISA's Country Partnership Framework

- **Mauritius** has become **the first African country to sign a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. It is also the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to sign the CPF.
- This partnership aims to provide a structured approach for collaboration between ISA and Mauritius on solar energy initiatives, aligning with the country's national priorities.
- The CPF is a strategic initiative developed by ISA to facilitate long- and medium-term cooperation with its member countries

New York City declares April 14 as Dr B.R. Ambedkar Day

- **New York City Mayor Eric Adams** declared **April 14, 2025, as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day**, honouring the 135th birth anniversary of the Indian Constitution's architect.
- Born in 1891, Dr. Ambedkar, known as Babasaheb, led the drafting of India's Constitution, served as Minister of Law and Justice, advocated for Dalit rights, and earned a PhD from Columbia University in 1927, followed by an honorary degree in 1952.

Hardeep Singh Puri & Delhi CM to launch Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards Delhiites

- Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, along with Delhi Chief Minister **Rekha Gupta** has **launched the Ayushman Vay Vandana Cards for Delhiites in New Delhi**.
- The scheme provides 5 lakh rupees free health cover to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

NPCI Brings New UPI Guidelines in Effect from April 1, 2025

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is set to implement **new guidelines for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions** from April 1, 2025, to enhance security, interoperability, and overall customer experience.
- These are requirements for all member banks of UPI, Payment Service Providers (PSPs), and third-party app providers (TPAPs), such as leading apps like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm.
- **Effective Key Changes From April 1**
 - Regular weekly updating of mobile number records through MNRL/DIP.
 - Deactivating UPI IDs associated with inactive or reused mobile numbers.
 - Mandatory opt-in for UPI number seeding; consent can't be captured at the time of transactions.
 - Limitation of "Collect Payments" facility to verified merchants; person-to-person collect payments limited to ₹2,000.
 - Obligatory monthly reporting by PSPs for locally settled UPI numbers because of system lag.

Government of India to Re-Issue Rs. 36,000 Crore in G-Secs

- **The Government of India** in collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has announced the re-issuance of two Government Securities (G-Secs) through a price-based auction scheduled for April 4, 2025.
- This move reflects the government's ongoing efforts to manage public debt efficiently while promoting transparency in the financial markets.
- The auction will include the "6.64% Government Security 2027" for a notified amount of Rs. 6,000 crore and the "6.79% Government Security 2034" for Rs. 30,000 crore. Additionally, the government can accept up to Rs. 2,000 crore in extra subscriptions for each security, underscoring its flexibility in meeting funding requirements.

Manappuram Finance Gets Board Approval to Raise Rs. 5,500 Crore

- **Manappuram Finance** has declared a major fundraising program. The board of the company has sanctioned a proposal to raise up to Rs. 5,500 crore by issuing redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs).
- This was decided in a board meeting conducted on March 29, 2025, which is a strategic initiative to increase its capital base and aid future growth.

Federal Bank in collaboration with NPCI and Visa Launches Fed StarBiz –Credit Card Linked to ODCC Accounts

- **Federal Bank** has launched its latest credit card product, **Fed StarBiz**, specifically for business customers.
- Designed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Visa, this new credit card is designed to meet the distinct financial requirements of India's dynamic small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

IDFC FIRST Bank authorised by CPAO for pension disbursement

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has received authorisation from the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), Government of India, to disburse pensions to central government pensioners.

Federal Bank launches Fed StarBiz credit card for business customers

- **Federal Bank** has launched **Fed StarBiz**, a credit card designed for business customers.
- This has been launched by Federal Bank in collaboration with NPCI, an umbrella organization for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India and Visa, a global payments technology company.

RBI to issue ₹10, ₹500 notes in new series bearing Gov. Malhotra's signature

- The Reserve Bank of India will issue ₹10 and ₹500 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series bearing the signature of the new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The design of these notes is similar in all respects to ₹10 and ₹500 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.

Axis Bank Becomes First to Launch B2B Collections via Bharat Connect

- **Axis Bank** has partnered with a Fortune 500 company to launch India's first B2B collections solution using NBBL's Bharat Connect (formerly BBPS), marking a major milestone in digital payment innovation.

IDFC FIRST Bank Authorized for Central Government Pension Disbursement

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has been **authorized by the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)**, Government of India, **to disburse pensions to Central Government pensioners, including All India Service Officers, former Members of Parliament, and retired Judges of High Courts and the Supreme Court.**
- Pensioners can receive their pensions directly into their IDFC FIRST Bank Savings Account, which offers benefits such as zero fees on various banking services, higher interest rates with monthly credits, and exclusive senior citizen advantages.

SBI Withdraws Amrit Kalash FD Scheme from April 1, 2025

- **SBI** has discontinued its limited-period **Amrit Kalash Fixed Deposit scheme, which offered a 400-day deposit with interest rates of 7.10% for regular investors and 7.60% for senior citizens.**
- The scheme was withdrawn effective April 1, 2025, as per an official update on the SBI website; it had been offering attractive returns since April 12, 2023.

KVG Bank launches e-Bank Guarantee service

- **Regional rural bank (RRB) Karnataka Vikas Gramin Bank (KVGB)** has launched **its e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) services** in collaboration with the government's information utility provider National E-Governance Services Limited (NESL) in Dharwad.
- Launching the services in Dharwad, bank Chairman Shrikant M. Bhandiwad said that KVG Bank is the first among the 43 regional rural banks in India to introduce the facility.

Citi and SBI Announce \$295 Million Social Loan Facility

- **Citi and State Bank of India (SBI)** have jointly announced a **\$295 million social loan facility** aimed at financing microfinance institutions and non-banking financial companies that provide loans to women entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers.
- The loan facility is specifically designed to support women entrepreneurs and smallholder farmers, promoting financial inclusion and economic empowerment within these groups.

RBI cut repo rate for the second time by 0.25% bps to 6%

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cut its **policy repo rate by 25 basis points (0.25%) to 6%**. The RBI MPC reduces the SDF rate to 5.75% and the MSF rate to 6.25%.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held its 54th meeting from April 7 to 9, 2025, under the chairmanship of Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- RBI also reduced the growth rate forecast for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) for the 2025-26 financial year to 6.5 percent from the earlier forecast of 6.7 %.

BOB launches Square Drive FD with 7.75% interest

- **Bank of Baroda** has introduced a **new fixed deposit option called the 'bob Square Drive Deposit Scheme'**.
- The updated FD interest rates, including the new scheme, came into effect on April 7 and apply to deposits of less than Rs 3 crore. Meanwhile, the bank has also withdrawn its special Utsav Deposit Scheme.

Govt Merges 26 RRBs Under 'One State, One RRB' Plan to Boost Efficiency

- The **Department of Financial Services (DFS)** has notified the **amalgamation of 26 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under the "One State, One RRB" principle**.
- This is the fourth phase of the RRB consolidation process. The Ministry of Finance rolled out the amalgamation plan in November last year, building on improvements in efficiency from previous phases.

RBI launches verified WhatsApp channel to spread financial awareness

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched a **WhatsApp channel** that will provide financial information and updates to people, especially those in remote and underserved regions of the country.
- The channel marks an expansion of the regulator's public awareness campaign titled 'RBI Kehta Hai' (RBI Says), which has been actively disseminating key messages about safe banking practices, consumer rights, and responsible financial behavior through multiple channels, including SMS, TV ads, digital media, and print.

BharatPe Gets RBI Approval for Payment Aggregator Business

- **BharatPe**, a prominent Indian fintech company, has achieved a significant milestone by **receiving final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator**.
- This authorisation, granted to its subsidiary Resilient Payments Private Limited, paves the way for BharatPe to expand its digital payment services under the brand name "BharatPe X."

IRDAI imposes ₹1.06 cr. penalty on Flipkart for violations of insurance e-com, corporate agent norms

- **Insurance watchdog IRDAI** (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) has **imposed a ₹1.06 crore penalty on Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL) for violating e-commerce and corporate agent norms related to online insurance distribution**.
- FIPL, acting as a corporate agent and ISNP platform, was found redirecting users to an insurance intermediary, which is against IRDAI guidelines that permit integration only with insurers.

PNB launches 34 new products on its 131st foundation day

- **State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched **34 new products, including 12 customer-centric deposit schemes and 10 digital transformation products**.
- These innovative products were launched on the occasion of its 131st foundation day in the presence of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju.

- Among the deposit products rolled out are schemes for salaried professionals, women, defence personnel, farmers, NRIs, senior citizens, pensioners, students and youth.

India's retail inflation eases to 3.34% in March

- **India's retail inflation** further eased to **3.34 per cent in March** from a seven-month low of 3.61 per cent in February.
- This is the lowest year-on-year inflation reading since August 2019, according to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said.

India's wholesale inflation eases to 2.05% in March on food, fuel prices

- **India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation in March eased to 2.05 per cent** from 2.38 per cent in February, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The marginal decline in inflation was driven by falling prices in food and fuel & power segments, even as prices of manufactured products continued to edge up.

IDFC FIRST Bank to Get ₹7,500 Crore Investment Boost from Warburg Pincus & ADIA

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** will receive a major **capital infusion of around ₹7,500 crore from Warburg Pincus and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** to support its growth plans.
- The bank's board has approved a preferential equity issue of ₹4,876 crore to Warburg Pincus affiliate Currant Sea Investments B.V. and ₹2,624 crore to Platinum Invictus B 2025 RSC Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of ADIA.

Revolut Gets RBI Nod to Launch UPI-Enabled Digital Wallets in India

- **UK fintech giant Revolut** has received **full approval from the RBI (April 2025) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs)** like digital wallets and prepaid cards, enabling UPI-based transactions across India.
- With this license, Revolut can now operate as a domestic payment provider, competing with major players like PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm, offering instant bank transfers and peer-to-peer payments via its mobile wallet.

Zaggle Secures NPCI Approval to Offer UPI Payment Solutions

- **Listed fintech company Zaggle** has received **Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- This significant development enables Zaggle to offer Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-based payment solutions directly through its platform, empowering over 3 million users across its digital ecosystem.

RBI and FIU-IND Join Forces to Tackle Money Laundering

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **to strengthen collaboration for implementing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)** and its rules more effectively.
- The MoU facilitates cooperation through sharing of relevant intelligence from their databases and enhancing Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) skills among regulated entities.

RBI imposes penalty on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, PNB

- **RBI** has imposed **monetary penalties on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Punjab National Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank was fined ₹61.4 lakh for non-compliance with RBI guidelines related to loan system delivery and statutory restrictions on loans and advances.
- IDFC First Bank received a penalty of ₹38.6 lakh for violating RBI's Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

SBI Card unveils co-branded Tata Neu credit card with exclusive rewards

- **SBI Card** has **collaborated with Tata Digital to introduce the Tata Neu SBI Card**, a co-branded credit card designed to provide customers with a rewarding shopping experience. The card comes in two variants: Tata Neu Infinity SBI Card and Tata Neu Plus SBI Card.
- Cardholders can earn NeuCoins on all purchases, whether online or in-store, both domestically and internationally. These rewards are credited monthly to the NeuPass account within the Tata Neu app. They can be redeemed for a variety of products and services, including groceries, travel, fashion, and electronics.

SBI to Deploy 'Grahak Mitras' at 4,500 Branches to Promote Alternate Banking Channels

- **State Bank of India** will **deploy personnel from its subsidiary SBOSS as 'Grahak Mitras'** to guide customers towards alternate banking channels.
- These Grahak Mitras will offer first-level assistance and promote the use of self-service options like ATMs, kiosks, YONO app, and WhatsApp banking.
- They will be stationed at around 4,500 SBI branches, covering roughly 20% of the bank's total 22,740 branches across India.

LIC hikes its stake in Bank of Baroda to 7.05%

- **Insurance behemoth LIC** has increased its stake in **state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) by nearly 2 per cent to 7.05 per cent.**
- The life insurance company has acquired additional 10.45 crore shares from open market over a period of one-and-a-half year.

Mirae Asset launches \$200M global investment fund targeting AI & semicon

- **Mirae Asset** has launched a **new fund, Mirae Asset Global Allocation Fund IFSC**, to help Indian investors gain exposure to international markets and high-growth sectors like artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductors.
- The fund, launched through the company's IFSC branch at GIFT City, aims to provide long-term capital appreciation by investing in a portfolio of global equity exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

RBI permits minors above 10 years to operate bank accounts independently

- The **Reserve Bank of India** permitted banks **to allow minors above the age of 10 years to open and operate savings/term deposit accounts independently.**
- Minors of any age may be allowed to open and operate savings and term deposit accounts through his/her natural or legal guardian, the RBI said in a circular

addressed to commercial banks and cooperative banks. They may also be allowed to open such accounts with their mother as guardian.

- Minors above such an age limit not less than 10 years and up to such amount and such terms as may be fixed by the banks keeping in view their risk management policy, may be allowed to open and operate savings/term deposit accounts independently, if they so desire, and such terms shall be duly conveyed to the account holder.

Financial Intelligence Unit imposes ₹37 lakh penalty on Union Bank of India

- **The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has slapped a ₹37 lakh penalty on Union Bank of India** for discrepancies in reporting suspicious transactions for 2011-2014.
- Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) in its order dated April 15 imposed a penalty of ₹37 lakh for "discrepancies observed in a matter for the year 2011 to 2014 in reporting of suspicious transaction".

SIDBI plans to infuse \$800 million in Climate Fund for small businesses

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will sign an agreement with the Green Climate Fund in mid-May to support small businesses in adopting low-emission and climate-resilient technologies.**
- The bank would infuse \$800 million, a major portion of which will be raised to build a \$1 billion fund, including the existing Global Climate Fund (GCF) for the project.

RBI asks banks to complete migration to bank.in domain by October 31, 2025

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a circular directing all banks to migrate their existing domains to the exclusive 'bank.in' domain by October 31, 2025.**
- The migration process will be **facilitated through the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, which has been authorised by the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI).
- Banks can initiate the registration process by contacting IDRBT at sahyog@idrbt.ac.in, where they will receive support for the application and migration to the new domain.

Bank of Baroda aims to achieve net-zero target by 2057

- **Bank of Baroda** unveiled its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) policy on Earth Day 2025, **setting a goal to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2057.**
- The bank has planted over 30,000 trees in 2025 under its 'Plant a Tree' program, linked to auto and home loan disbursements, emphasizing its commitment to a greener planet.
- In line with the Earth Day 2025 theme "Our Power, Our Planet," the bank will prioritize renewable energy financing and offer products like green deposits, residential rooftop solar loans, and a green hydrogen financing scheme.

RBI provides export relaxations through warehouses in Bharat Mart in UAE

- **The RBI** has relaxed regulations to enable Indian exporters to use **warehouses in Bharat Mart**, a UAE-based multimodal logistics hub, to access global markets more efficiently.
- Banks are now allowed to permit exporters to realize and repatriate full export proceeds within nine months from the date of sale of goods from Bharat Mart warehouses.

NABARD buys 10% stake in 24x7 Moneyworks to boost rural credit digitisation

- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has acquired a **10 per cent stake in agri fintech startup 24x7 Moneyworks Consulting Pvt Ltd.**
- This marks Nabard's first-ever investment in a bootstrapped startup, reinforcing its commitment to digital transformation in rural India.
- 24x7 Moneyworks Consulting Pvt. Ltd's flagship platform, eKisanCredit (eKCC), is a fully digital loan origination system designed for Cooperative Banks, PACS and RRBs.

Capital India Finance Limited Lists on National Stock Exchange (NSE)

- **Capital India Finance Limited**, a leading non-banking financial company, has marked a **significant milestone by listing its equity shares on the National Stock Exchange of India.**
- This strategic development reflects the company's commitment to enhancing long-term shareholder value and increasing accessibility for a wider investor base.
- Capital India Corp Private Limited holds 72.95 per cent of CIFL's equity.

RBI Imposes Penalties on Indian Bank and Mahindra Finance for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- **RBI imposed a penalty of ₹1.61 crore on Indian Bank for violating provisions of the Banking Regulation Act and non-compliance related to interest rates on advances, the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, and MSME lending guidelines.**
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd was fined ₹71.30 lakh by RBI for failing to comply with NBFC regulatory directions and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms under the 2016 framework.

Sunil Mittal included in World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab

- **Chairperson of Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal**, has been included in **the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab initiative.**
- The inclusion of Sunil Bharti Mittal and three other private sector chief executive officers (CEO) was announced by the World Bank at its meeting of the Private Sector Investment Lab in Washington, D.C.

RBI extends the deadline for Bureau of Indian Standards-compliant note sorting machines to November

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the **deadline for banks to comply with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** regulations for Note Sorting Machines.

- The revised implementation timeline is now set for November 1, 2025, due to challenges raised by banks.
- These standards specify the performance and safety requirements of NSMs to ascertain the authenticity and fitness of banknotes processed.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) a high-level committee	Pratyush Sinha, a retired IAS officer and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)	To review rules on conflict of interest and disclosures by its board members and officials .
AICTE has constituted an expert committee	Anand Deshpande of Persistent Systems	To integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Applied AI across diverse academic programs, including non-technical streams like BBA, BCA, and electrical engineering , aiming to provide foundational AI knowledge to all students regardless of discipline.
The government has formed an inter-ministerial committee	Niti Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam	To design the main plan for new national manufacturing mission, an official said . The mission was first announced in the Budget on February 1 to boost the Make in India initiative .

Chapter 16: Defence News

All Women's Tri Service Samudra Pradakshina flagged off from Mumbai

- **The first tri-service all-women global** circumnavigation expedition "**Samudra Pradakshina**" on board the **IASV (Indian Army Sailing Vessel) Triveni** was flagged off from Mumbai.
- The expedition was flagged off by Lieutenant General AK Ramesh, Commandant, College of Military Engineering, from the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Colaba, Mumbai.

DRDO conducts release trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb 'Gaurav' from Su-30 MKI

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted release trials of the **Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.**
- During the trials, the weapon was integrated to multiple stations in different warhead configurations, with land target on Island. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 kms with pin-point accuracy.

India becomes 4th nation having capabilities to shoot down fixed wing drone by laser beam

- **India** successfully **demonstrated a 30-kilowatt laser-based weapon system**, capable of shooting down fixed-wing aircraft, missiles, and swarm drones **at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.**
- The Vehicle-mounted Laser Directed Energy Weapon (DEW) MK-II(A), developed by DRDO's CHES in Hyderabad, damaged a fixed-wing UAV and disabled swarm drone sensors.
- India joins the US, China, and Russia as one of the few nations with proven high-power laser DEW capabilities.

India Signs First Defence MoU with Slovakia Through JCBL Group

- **India and Slovakia** signed their **first defence Memorandum of Understanding, with JCBL Group's Airbornics Defence & Space Pvt. Ltd.** (ADSL) tasked with co-developing next-generation combat vehicle technologies, aligning with India's Make-in-India initiative.
- The agreement emphasises indigenous manufacturing of light tank systems, including turrets, active protection systems, remote-controlled weapon systems, and human-machine interface modules.

Operation Tikka: Indian Army Foils Infiltration Attempt

- The **Indian Army successfully foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Baramulla district**, killing two terrorists during "Operation Tikka" on April 23, 2025. The terrorists were attempting to cross into India from the Sarjeevan area of Uri Nala.
- During the operation, heavy exchange of fire took place between the security forces and terrorists. A large quantity of weapons, ammunition, and war-like stores were recovered from the terrorists, who were neutralized during the firefight.

Inter-Governmental Agreement inked with France for 26 Rafale-Marine aircraft for Indian Navy

- **India and France** inked an **Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M aircraft – 22 single-seater and four twin-seater – for the Indian Navy.**
- The procurement includes training, simulator, associated equipment, weapons and performance-based logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The deal for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets, estimated at over Rs 63,000 crore, includes four trainer aircraft. The agreement includes Transfer of Technology for integration of indigenous weapons in India.

- It also includes setting up of a production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The multinational air exercise INIOCHOS-25	India and Greece with Fifteen countries	The 12-day exercise, hosted by Greece's Hellenic Air Force , will take place at Andravidia Air Base in a historic region of Elis. It will continue till the 11th of April .
The fourth edition of "Tiger Triumph," a bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise	India and the United States	The exercise reflects the deepening convergence of US-India strategic maritime interests and the countries' defense partnership. This edition aims to further enhance interoperability and combined joint all-domain operations during large-scale .
The India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK-VI'	India-Uzbekistan	Focusing on developing interoperability and counter-terrorism capabilities
'Desert Flag-10' Exercise	Hosted by UAE Air Force	The exercise is being hosted by the UAE Air Force, with participating contingents from the air forces of Australia, Bahrain, France, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, the UAE, the United Kingdom , and the United States of

		America in addition to the Indian Air Force.
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Chapter 17: Sports News

Nihal Sarin clinches 2025 Tashkent Open Agzamov Memorial title

- **India's Nihal Sarin** has clinched the **2025 Tashkent Open Agzamov Memorial title in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.**
- The 20-year-old Indian Grandmaster secured the title with an unbeaten score of 8 out of 10, outperforming a strong field that included eight players rated above 2600.
- With this victory, Nihal gained 7.1 Elo rating points, bringing his live rating to 2694, just a step away from the coveted 2700 mark.

Deepak Punia & Udit settle for Silver medals at Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman

- In wrestling, **Olympian Deepak Punia and Udit** settles for **silver medals at Asian Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jorda.**
- While Deepak Punia won Silver in the Men's freestyle 92kg weight category, Udit bagged Silver in 61kg weight division.

Bihar to host Men's Hockey Hero Asia Cup 2025

- **Rajgir in Bihar** will host **the Hero Asia Cup Hockey 2025 in August of this year.**
- Hockey India and the Bihar State Sports Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna.

Miami Open Champion: Teenager Jakub Mensik defeats Novak Djokovic in finals

- In Miami Open tennis, **Jakub Mensik** has crushed **Novak Djokovic's dream to win 100th tour level title.** The 19-year-old Czech beat the six-time Miami open champion in the final of the Men's Singles in Florida, 7-6, 7-6.
- With this win, Mensik also became the second-youngest champion of the tournament behind Carlos Alcaraz, who lifted the trophy in 2022 as an 18-year-old.

Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania clinches gold at Azelhof CSI Lier in Belgium

- In a remarkable display of skill and dedication, young Indian equestrian player **Niharika Singhania** has **clinched first position in the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier equestrian competition held in Belgium.**
- Competing against international participants, Niharika demonstrated exceptional talent and composure to bring home gold. Niharika participated in the Two Phases special event, riding on Hotese Charboniere. She finished the event with 40.72 and 40.34 penalty points.

Virat Kohli Becomes First Indian To Score 13,000 Runs In T20 Cricket

- **Virat Kohli** became the **first Indian to complete 13,000 runs in T20 cricket history.** He achieved the historic milestone during the clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Mumbai Indians (MI) at the iconic Wankhede Stadium.

- Virat Kohli became the first Indian and only fifth overall cricketer to score 13,000 runs in T20 cricket.

India finishes 2nd after China at the ISSF World Cup Buenos Aires 2025

- **Indian shooters finished** their campaign at the **ISSF World Cup Buenos Aires 2025 with 8 medals** - four gold, two silver, and two bronze - to finish second behind China on the medal tally.
- The ISSF World Cup/Rifle/Shotgun was held at the Argentinian capital, Buenos Aires. The World Cup was organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), the world governing body of the sport.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant clinches Indian Super League 2024-25 title

- **In Football, Mohun Bagan Super Giant** clinched the **Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 title following a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC** at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata.
- This was Mohun Bagan's second ISL title, following their maiden triumph in the 2022-23 season. They also became only the second team, after Mumbai City.

Mascot and logo of Khelo India Youth Games 2025 to be held in Bihar

- **Bihar will host the seventh edition of Khelo India Youth Games 2025 from 4th to 15th May.** The games will be organised at various cities, including Patna, Gaya, Rajgir, Begusarai and Bhagalpur.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya unveiled the mascot and logo of Khelo India Youth Games 2025.
- The **mascot Khelo India will be "Gajsimha"** which symbolizes the power of elephant and heart of lion. The mascot has been derived from the archival heritage of Pala dynasty from Nalanda and Bodhgaya engraved on temples and their pillars.

Magnus Carlsen clinches Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025

- In Chess, world number one **Magnus Carlsen of Norway clinched the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025** in Paris, France. He defeated American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura with a 1.5-0.5 match victory.
- With this, Carlsen won the 2 lakh US Dollars, followed by Nakamura, who won 1 lakh 40 thousand US Dollars. Moreover, Italian-American Fabiano Caruana crushed German Grandmaster Vincent Keymer in the battle of third place and took 1 lakh US Dollars, along with a spot in the Las Vegas Grand Slam.

Shreyas Iyer bags the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for March 2025

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** declared India batter **Shreyas Iyer** and young Australian batter **Georgia Voll** as **ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for March 2025, respectively.**
- Both wins extend Player of the Month winning streaks for their respective countries. Iyer makes it successive honours for India following Shubman Gill's win in February, and Voll becomes the fourth consecutive Australian female to be named the Women's Player of the Month.

Dubai named host city for 2025 Asian Youth Para Games

- **Dubai** has been named the **host city for the 5th Asian Youth Para Games**, to be held from December 7-14, 2025, after Tashkent withdrew as the original host.
- This is Dubai's second time hosting the event, having first organized it in 2017.

- An estimated 1350 athletes from 30–40 countries will participate across 10 para-sports, making it the largest edition of the Games in terms of athlete and country participation.

Dhoni becomes first keeper to complete 200 dismissals in IPL history

- **Chennai Super Kings captain M.S. Dhoni** added another feather to his cap in his illustrious career by **becoming the first player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to complete 200 fielding dismissals.**
- Dhoni achieved the feat during the Chennai Super Kings encounter against Lucknow Super Giants at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium.

South California city of Pomona to host cricket in LA 2028 Olympics

- **South California city of Pomona will host the cricket competition during the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.**
- The cricket event, which will feature **six teams each in men's and women's categories**, will be held at the Fairgrounds in Pomona with the sport set to be a part of the Olympics after 128 years.
- Cricket joined five new sports at LA28, including baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash.

Inder Singh Suruchi and Saurabh Chaudhary win mixed Team Gold

- In Shooting, the Indian pair of **Inder Singh Suruchi and Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched a **gold medal beating Chinese duo of Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu by 17-9** in the finals of 10 metre Air Pistol Mixed Team event at ISSF World Cup 2025 in Lima, Peru.

India finished 6th Asian U-18 Athletics Championship 2025 with 11 medals

- The **Indian athletes** concluded their campaign at the **6th Asian U18 Athletics Championship 2025 with 11 medals: one gold, five silver, and five bronze.**
- The 6th Asian U18 Athletics Championship was organised by the Asian Athletics Association at the Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz Sports City, Saudi Arabia.
- In the 5th edition of the Asian U18 Athletics Championships held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2023, India won 24 medals.
- Athletes below the age of 18 years from 31 Asian countries participated in the event.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates 4-day Sansad Khel Mahakumbh in Lucknow

- The **union Defence minister, Rajnath Singh**, has inaugurated the **4-day Sansad Khel Mahakumbh at the K.D. Singh Babu Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.**
- A demonstration of indigenous sports, Kalaripayattu, Yoga, and Mallakhamba, were also performed during the inaugural ceremony.

Simranpreet Kaur wins maiden senior international medal with silver in 25m pistol

- In Shooting, **India's Simranpreet Kaur Brar** has clinched her **maiden senior international medal with a silver in the women's 25m pistol event** at the International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru.

- The Indian shooter shot a total of 33 hits in the 10-series of five rapid-fire shots final, finishing one hit behind China's Sun Yujie, who won back-to-back World Cup golds in the event.

Rohit, Kohli retain top BCCI annual contract as Iyer, Kishan return

- **Indian team stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli** have retained their **A+ category contracts despite retiring from the T20I format**, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the annual player retainership for the men's team for the 2024–25 season.
- A total of 34 players have been awarded annual retainerships for the 2024–25 season, covering the period from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.
- **Grade A+:** Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja
- **Grade A:** Mohammed Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya, Mohammed Shami, Rishabh Pant
- **Grade B:** Suryakumar Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shreyas Iyer
- **Grade C:** Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, Prasad Krishna, Rajat Patidar, Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, Akash Deep, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana.

India finishes 2025 ISSF World Cup Lima Campaign with 7 medals

- **Indian shooters concluded** their campaign at the **ISSF World Cup Lima 2025 with seven medals** - two gold, four silver, and one bronze - to finish third behind China and the USA on the medal tally.
- The ISSF World Cup/Rifle/Shotgun was held at the Peruvian capital city of Lima from 13-22 April 2022. It was the second World Cup of the 2025 ISSF calendar, with the first World Cup being held at Buenos Aires, Argentina from 1-10 April 2025.

Gold medal winners

- Suruchi Singh in the women's 10m air pistol event. She had also won the gold at the Buenos Aires event.
- Saurabh Chaudhary & Suruchi Singh in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Silver Medal winners

- Manu Bhaker in the women's 10m air pistol event. She failed to win a medal at the Buenos Aires event.
- Arjun Babuta in the men's 10m air rifle event
- Simranpreet Kaur Brar in the women's 25m pistol event. It was Simranpreet's first-ever medal at the World Cup.
- Rudrannksh Patil & Arya Borse in the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

Bronze medal winner

- Saurabh Chaudhary in the men's 10m air pistol event.

Neeraj Chopra Clinches Gold with 84.52 m at NWU Potch Invitational

- **Neeraj Chopra**, the two-time Olympic medallist, started his 2025 season by **winning the gold medal at the NWU Potch Invitational in South Africa with an impressive throw of 84.52m.**

- His throw of 84.52m secured the top spot, placing him ahead of South Africa's Douw Smit (82.44m) and Duncan Robertson (71.22m).

Jasprit Bumrah & Smriti Mandhana named Wisden's Leading Cricketers

- India's pace spearhead **Jasprit Bumrah** and star batter **Smriti Mandhana** have been honoured as the **Leading Men's and Women's Cricketers in the World, respectively, in the prestigious Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2025 edition**, celebrating their exceptional performances in 2024.
- Bumrah, 31, had a phenomenal year across formats, particularly in Test cricket. He claimed a staggering 71 wickets in Tests in 2024, averaging just 14.92, the best for any bowler in a single calendar year with that volume of wickets.

Vithya, Yashas win 400 m hurdles titles in National Federation Senior Athletics Competition 2025

- **Olympian Vithya Ramraj** won gold in the **women's 400-meter hurdles at the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition in Kochi**, clocking 56.04 seconds to qualify for the Asian Championships 2025. Her time also set a new meet record, surpassing Saritaben Gayakwad's 2019 mark of 57.21 seconds.
- Anu R finished second with 58.26 seconds, while Ashwini R took third with 1 minute 2.41 seconds.

2nd Asian Yogasana Championships to begin in New Delhi

- The **2nd Asian Yogasana Championships** began at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**.
- The 3-day event by Yogasana Bharat, over 170 athletes from 21 Asian countries will participate, along with several technical officials and team managers and coaches.

Indian Chess Grandmaster Koneru Humpy wins Pune FIDE Women's Grand Prix

- **Indian Chess Grandmaster Koneru Humpy** won the **Pune FIDE Women's Grand Prix** with 7/9 points, defeating Nurgyl Salimova in the final round.
- Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner also scored 7/9 points but finished 2nd due to tiebreaks, sharing Grand Prix points and prize money with Humpy.
- India's International Master Divya Deshmukh drew with Alina Kashlinskaya, securing 3rd place with 5.5/9 points.

Golf: Inaugural India Championship joins 2025 race to Dubai

- **The DP World India Championship** will **debut at the historic Delhi Golf Club from October 16 to 19, 2025**, co-sanctioned with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), and will be part of the 'Back 9' series in the 2025 Race to Dubai.
- With a USD 4 million prize purse, the India Championship becomes the richest golf tournament ever held in India, highlighting the country's rising prominence in global golf.

Brazil to host the 10th edition of FIFA Women's World Cup 2027

- **Brazil** will host the **10th edition of Women's World Cup in 2027**, marking the first time the tournament takes place in South America.
- Australia and New Zealand jointly hosted the 9th edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023. It was won by Spain, defeating England in the final.

India dominates Asian Yogasana Sport Championship with record 83 gold medals

- **India** delivered a dominant performance at the **Asian Yogasana Sport Championship**, securing a **record 83 gold medals to top the medal tally at the event in Delhi**.
- The hosts also won three silver and one bronze medal to end with 87 medals, finishing well ahead of Japan, which claimed three gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Manush & Diya win mixed doubles title at WTT Contender Tunis 2025

- The Indian **table tennis mixed pair of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale** won the **mixed doubles title of the WTT Contender Tunis 2025**.
- They are the second Indian pair to win the mixed title at any WTT Contender event since 2021, following Manika Batra and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran's victory at the 2021 WTT Contender Budapest mixed title.
- The USD 1 lakh prize money WTT Contender Tunis was held at Salle Omnisport de Rades, Tunis, Tunisia.

Joshua Cheptegei and Sarah Chelangat Triumph at TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025

- **Joshua Cheptegei** from Uganda **clinched the men's title**, while **Sarah Chelangat**, also from Uganda, won **the women's race at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025**.
- Cheptegei, the world record holder in 5,000m and 10,000m, showcased a dominant performance to secure victory in Bengaluru.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi becomes youngest centurion in IPL history

- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** became the **youngest centurion in IPL history** at just 14 years and 32 days, scoring a **blistering 101 runs off 38 balls for Rajasthan Royals against Gujarat Titans**.
- His knock helped Rajasthan Royals chase down 210 runs in just 15.5 overs, registering a dominant eight-wicket win; he was awarded Player of the Match.

Barcelona Beats Real Madrid 3-2 to Win Record 32nd Copa del Rey Title

- **Barcelona defeated Real Madrid 3-2** in a thrilling **Copa del Rey final at Estadio de La Cartuja**, winning a record-extending **32nd Spanish Cup title**.
- Jules Kounde's late extra-time strike secured Barcelona's second trophy of the season, after their Spanish Super Cup victory over Real Madrid.
- In a dramatic match, Pedri's first-half goal and Ferran Torres' equalizer forced extra time, where Barcelona clinched the win after a tense 3-2 scoreline.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay	Delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme 2025 - Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2 April	National Walking Day	Theme 2025- Save yourself from diabetes, heart diseases and cancers
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme 2025 - Safe Futures Start Here.
5 April	National Maritime Day	The objective of National Maritime Day is to promote awareness about the importance of the maritime industry, recognize the achievements of Indian seafarers , and highlight the role of shipping in international trade and commerce
6 April	The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP)	Theme 2025 - Levelling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion
7 April	World Health Day	Theme 2025 - Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures
7 April	The International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda	This day marks the beginning of one of the darkest chapters in recent history, when in 1994, over 800,000 Tutsi , along with moderate Hutu and others who opposed the genocide, were systematically killed in just 100 days.
10 April	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme 2025 - Adhyayan, Adhyaapan, Anusandhaan” (Education, Practice, and Research)
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	Theme 2025 - Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed every year on 12 April to commemorate the historic

		achievement of Yuri Gagarin, the first human to journey into outer space.
14 April	Ambedkar Jayanti	Ambedkar Jayanti is celebrated on 14th April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar , the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a prominent social reformer
14 April	World Quantum Day	Theme 2025 - Every Day in 2025
14 April	World Chagas Disease Day	Theme 2025 - Prevent, Control, Care: Everyone's role in Chagas disease
15 April	World Art Day	Theme 2025 - Art for Unity and Transformation
17 April	World Haemophilia Day	Theme 2025 - Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too
18 April	World Heritage Day	Theme 2025 - Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 Years of ICOMOS Actions
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme 2025 - Food is Medicine
21 April	Civil Services Day	The day holds great significance as it honors the role of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers and other civil services officers who play a crucial part in public administration and governance.
21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme 2025 - Step out and innovate
22 April	Earth Day	Theme 2025 - Our Power, Our Planet
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day	This global event, organised by UNESCO , aims to promote the importance of reading, encourage lifelong learning, and highlight the value of literature.

24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	It celebrates the importance of grassroots democracy, strengthens local governance and helps empower rural communities.
24-30 April	World Immunization Week	Theme 2025 - Immunization for All is Humanly Possible
24 April	International Girls in ICT Day 2025	Theme 2025 - Girls in ICT for inclusive digital transformation
24 April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	The day was designated by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/73/127 in 2018 , with the first observance on April 24, 2019
25 April	World Malaria Day	Theme for 2025: Malaria ends with us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite
25 April	World Penguin Day	This special day is dedicated to raising awareness about penguins, the adorable flightless birds that live mostly in the Southern Hemisphere, especially in Antarctica
26 April	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	The day honors the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and raises awareness about the devastating consequences of nuclear accidents
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme 2025 - IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP
26 April	World Veterinary Day	Theme 2025 - Animal Health Takes a Team
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme 2025 - Revolutionising Health and Safety: The Role of AI and Digitalisation at Work
29 April	International Dance Day	The date commemorates the birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810) , a French dancer and ballet master considered the creator of modern ballet

28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme 2025 - Revolutionising health and safety: The role of AI and digitalisation at work.
30 April	International Jazz Day	Theme 2025 - Learning for Lasting Peace – SDG Goal 4: Quality Education
30 April	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	The aim of this special day is to remind people about the importance of good health and to make them aware of the benefits they can get through the government's free healthcare services.

Chapter 20: Science & Technology

SpaceX Launches Historic "Fram2" Mission – First Human Spaceflight Over Polar Regions

- **SpaceX** launched "**Fram2**," the first human spaceflight to travel directly over **Earth's North and South Poles**, on a privately funded mission.
- The mission includes groundbreaking experiments, such as taking the first X-ray in space and studying mushroom growth in microgravity.
- The crew consists of mission commander Chun Wang (China/Malta), vehicle commander Jannicke Mikkelsen (Norway), mission pilot Rabea Rogge (Germany), and mission specialist Eric Philips (Australia).

Google launches new Ironwood chip to speed AI applications

- **Google** has unveiled its **seventh-generation AI chip named "Ironwood"**, designed to accelerate the performance of AI applications, especially in inference computing like generating chatbot responses.
- The Ironwood chip supports Google's ongoing push to create alternatives to Nvidia's dominant AI chips, marking a significant milestone in the company's decade-long, multi-billion-dollar investment in AI hardware.

Bangladesh becomes the 54th country to join NASA's Artemis Accord

- **Bangladesh** has become the **second South Asian country, after India**, and the 54th in the world to join the Artemis Accord of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States.
- India joined the Artemis Accords as the 27th country on 21st June 2023.

India's first satellite, Aryabhata, completes 50 years

- **India's first satellite, Aryabhata**, completed **50 years 19 April 2025**. Launched on this day in 1975, the satellite was named after the ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer, Aryabhata.
- The satellite, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation, was launched from Kapustin Yar with the assistance of the USSR. The purpose of the satellite was defined to explore areas including Solar Physics, Aeronomy, and X-ray Astronomy.

ISRO Develops Indigenous Stellite Nozzle Divergent for PSLV

- **ISRO** has indigenously **developed a Stellite-based nozzle divergent** as an alternative to the imported Columbiem for the fourth stage of the PSLV, promoting self-reliance in space technology.
- Stellite, a cobalt-based alloy with elements like Chromium, Nickel, Tungsten, and Iron, can withstand high temperatures up to 1150°C, proven through a successful hot test lasting 665 seconds on April 8 at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu).

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Veteran actor and director Manoj Kumar	The legendary Bollywood actor was well-known by his nickname ' Bharat Kumar ' for his patriotic films. He was a recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri in 1992 and Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015 for his immense contribution to Indian cinema for decades.
Padma Shri Ram Sahay Pandey	He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his work in preserving and promoting Rai dance. He also received the title ' Nritya Shiromani ' and was appointed to the Tribal Folk Art Council by the Madhya Pradesh government.
Bajaj Auto non-executive director Madhur Bajaj	Madhur Bajaj was the grandson of Jannalal Bajaj, founder of the Bajaj Group, and cousin of the late Rahul Bajaj.
Padma Vibhushan Kathak pioneer Kumudini Lakhia	Lakhia was conferred with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award , on the Republic Day this year in recognition of her lifelong dedication to Kathak.
Former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi	Abdullah, Malaysia's fifth leader , served from 2003 to 2009 , when he was pressured to resign to take responsibility for the governing coalition's dismal results in national elections .

<p>Pope Francis Head of Roman Catholic Church</p>	<p>Pope Francis passed away at the age of 88, following a serious illness caused by pneumonia. He died at his residence in Casa Santa Marta, near St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.</p>
<p>Dr. K Kasturirangan, former ISRO chief and the visionary behind India's first moon mission, Chandrayaan-1</p>	<p>Born on October 24, 1940, in Ernakulam, Dr. Kasturirangan was a distinguished astrophysicist, Padma Shri (1982), Padma Bhushan (1992), and Padma Vibhushan (2000) awardee, and a former Member of Parliament (2003)</p>

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A large, semi-transparent version of the ambitiousbaba.com logo is centered on the page. It features the same infinity symbol, graduation cap, and pen nib as the smaller logo at the top, with the text 'ambitious baba.com' in red and black.