

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

OPERATION
SINDOOR

The Hindu Review (May 2025)

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Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

(National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
Took the oath as Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), administered by Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), the seniormost member of the Commission	Ms. Anuradha Prasad (Updated 1 May)
Took charge as the new Vice Chief of the Air Staff	Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari (Updated 2 May)
Named the brand ambassador for the Sobo Mumbai Falcons team for the 2025 T20 Mumbai League season	Kapil Dev (Updated 3 May)
Taken charge as Revenue Secretary in the Union Ministry of Finance	Arvind Shrivastava (Updated 4 May)
Taken additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), while continuing as Director (Refineries)	Sanjay Khanna (Updated 5 May)
Appointed as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)	Prakash Magdum (Updated 7 May)
Home-grown FMCG major Marico has extended the tenure of its Managing Director & CEO, for two more years, from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2028.	Saugata Gupta (Updated 7 May)
The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended for the position of Chairman-cum-Managing	Sanjay Joshi (Updated 7 May)

Director (CMD) at Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL)	
Taken charge as the Managing Director of the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)	Prakash Magdum (Updated 8 May)
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved a one-year extension as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	Praveen Sood (Updated 9 May)
Titan Company has appointed as its next Managing Director (MD)	Ajoy Chawla (Updated 10 May)
The Central government has terminated services as CMD of Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)	RP Gupta (Updated 13 May)
Takes oath as the 52nd Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan, succeeding Justice Sanjiv Khanna	Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai (Updated 14 May)
Appointed as the new chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), following the completion of Preeti Sudan's tenure on April 29, 2025	Former defence secretary Ajay Kumar (Updated 14 May)
<p>About UPSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment - 1 October 1926 • Headquarters - New Delhi • Chairman – Ajay Kumar • It is established as a constitutional body under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution. 	
Appointed as the acting CEO of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)	Vibhor Jain (Updated 15 May)
Tech-driven NBFC Kuhoo Finance has appointed as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to drive its mission of	Vineet Mahajan (Updated 15 May)

making quality education more accessible across India	
Bandhan Bank has appointed as Senior Executive Vice President and Head of the Digital Transformation and Excellence Unit, reinforcing its commitment to digital innovation and operational excellence	Dibyendu Kumar Das (DK Das) (Updated 15 May)
Assumed the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of PTC India Ltd	Dr Manoj Kumar Jhawar (Updated 15 May)
Appointed chairperson of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)	M.N. Srinivasu (Updated 15 May)
Appointed as the new Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Harvansh Chawla (Updated 16 May)
Neo Wealth Management has appointed as its new Co-Founder and CEO	Shajikumar Devakar (Updated 16 May)
Appointed as Managing Director and CEO of Syndicate Bank	Arun Shrivastava (Updated 17 May)
Intelligence Bureau chief, a 1988-batch IPS officer and counter-terrorism expert, has been granted a one-year extension till June 2026	Tapan Kumar Deka (Updated 21 May)
The President of India appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court	Justice Kempaiah Somashekar (Updated 21 May)
HCL Technologies has appointed as the Global GCC Practice Leader	Kiran Cherukuri (Updated 22 May)
Appointed as the new Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)	Ram Mohan M K (Updated 26 May)

Get one year extension as chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Dr. Samir V Kamat (Updated 28 May)
Appointed as the brand ambassador for the Karnataka Forest and Wildlife Department, highlighting his deep passion and commitment to wildlife conservation.	Anil Kumble (Updated 28 May)
Assumed charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), the apex body representing NBFCs in India	Raman Aggarwal (Updated 29 May)
Step down as Director and Chairman of Tata Chemicals effective May 29, 2025, citing current and future commitments	N Chandrasekaran (Updated 29 May)
IndiGo Airlines has appointed as the new chairman of its board	Vikram Singh Mehta (Updated 29 May)
Hitachi India appointed as Managing Director, while, the first Indian MD, was elevated to Executive Chairman	N Venu (MD) Bharat Kaushal (EC) (Updated 30 May)
Oakley has appointed as its brand ambassador and the face of its "Artifacts from the Future" campaign in India	Shubman Gill (Updated 30 May)

(International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
Inducted into the prestigious American Academy of Arts & Sciences	Prof Ajay K Sood (Updated 1 May)

Appointed to represent India on the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Parameswaran Iyer (Updated 8 May)
Appointed as the new Prime Minister of Yemen About Yemen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Sanaa • Currency- Yemeni Rial • Official language- Arabic • Continent- Asia 	Salem Saleh Bin Braik (Updated 8 May)
Elected as the 10th Chancellor of Germany About Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital- Berlin • Currency - Euro • Chancellor- Friedrich Merz • Official language- German • President- Frank-Walter Steinmeier 	Freidrich Merz (Updated 9 May)
Became the first American to be elected as the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church	Robert Francis Prevost (Updated 11 May)
The newly sworn-in government of Mark Carney in Canada has appointed Indian origin as the country's Minister for Foreign Affairs	Anita Anand (Updated 15 May)
Appointed as the next president of MCC	Ed Smith (Updated 16 May)
Appointed as India's next Ambassador to Sweden	Anurag Bhushan (Updated 17 May)
Appointed as the South Asia envoy for the upcoming UN Climate Conference (COP-30) to be held in Brazil in November 2025	Arunabha Ghosh (Updated 20 May)

Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

(National)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
All India Football Federation Awards 2025 Men's and Women's Players of the Year, respectively for the 2024-25	Subhasish Bose and Soumya Guguloth	-
Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival at HITEX Arena	Sonu Sood	For his extensive relief work during the Covid-19 pandemic through the Sood Charity Foundation
The honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army	Neeraj Chopra	The 27-year-old Olympic double medalist began his military career as a Naib Subedar in 2016 and has received prestigious awards including the Arjuna Award, Khel Ratna, Vishisht Seva Medal, and the highest peacetime honour, Param Vishisht Seva Medal.
The 58th Jnanpith Award	Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya	Jagadguru Rambhadracharya is a renowned Indian scholar, poet, author, and religious leader , best known for his profound contributions to Sanskrit literature, Hindu philosophy, and spiritual education

		<p>Gulzar (born Sampooran Singh Kalra) is one of India's most celebrated poets, lyricists, and filmmakers, known for his profound impact on Hindi and Urdu literature and Indian cinema.</p>
<p>The Miss World 2025 Sports Challenge</p>	<p>Miss Eliise Randmaa (Estonia)</p>	<p>The event featured 108 contestants in regional teams, competing in diverse athletic events like badminton, shot put, chess, football, sprints, and Zumba, emphasizing fitness, health, and resilience.</p>

(International)

<u>Award</u>	<u>Person/Organization</u>	<u>Purpose/ Field</u>
<p>The 'Medal of Honour' from the World Jurist Association (WJA)</p>	<p>Bhuwan Ribhu</p>	<p>Ribhu is known for his impactful legal work, including over 60 PILs that led to landmark rulings, especially his 2011 anti-trafficking case and 2013 campaign on missing children, which transformed India's legal approach to child protection.</p>
<p>The 2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize</p>	<p>La Prensa, a Nicaraguan newspaper</p>	<p>For its outstanding commitment to press freedom and journalistic integrity</p>
<p>The 2025 World Food Prize along with a \$500,000 award</p>	<p>Mariangela Hungria</p>	<p>She won for her 40 years of impactful research, who promoted</p>

		biological seed and soil treatments to reduce chemical fertiliser use.
The International Booker Prize 2025	Banu Mushtaq	For her short story collection Heart Lamp , translated into English by Deepa Bhashi
An American Music Award (AMA) at the 51st AMA	Rapper and singer-songwriter Raja Kumari	She won for the song " Renegade (We Never Run) " from Arcane League of Legends: Season 2, a collaboration with UK artist Stefflon Don and Dominican-Brazilian artist Jarina de Marco
The Dag Hammarskjöld Medal (Posthumous)	Indian peacekeepers Brigadier Amitabh Jha and Havildar Sanjay Singh	For their supreme sacrifice in UN peacekeeping missions

Awards 2025: Complete winners list

Subhasish Bose named Men's Player of the Year at All India Football Federation Awards 2025

- **Subhasish Bose and Soumya Guguloth** were honoured as the **Men's and Women's Players of the Year, respectively for the 2024–25 season during the AIFF Awards 2025 held in Bhubaneswar.**
- Khalid Jamil and Sujata Kar won Best Coaches in the men's and women's categories, while Vishal Kaith and Elangbam Panthoi Chanu were named Best Goalkeepers.
- Brison Fernandes and Toijam Thoibisana Chanu were recognised as the Most Promising Players of the Year, with AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey praising Odisha's role in promoting football.

Maharashtra Leads the Medal Count at 7th Khelo India Youth Games 2025

- **Maharashtra** continued its impressive performance **by topping the medal tally at the 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2025, which took place in Bihar.** The state secured a total of 158 medals, comprising 58 gold, 47 silver, and 53 bronze medals. Haryana finished in second place, followed by Rajasthan in third.
- The event was held from May 4 to May 15, 2025, and saw participation from nearly 5,000 young athletes representing all states and Union Territories across

India. Competitions were held in 26 sports disciplines, along with one demonstration sport—esports.

- The mascot for the games was Gajsimha. While most events took place in Bihar cities such as Patna, Rajgir, Begusarai, Gaya, and Bhagalpur, gymnastics, shooting, and cycling competitions were hosted in New Delhi.
- **Top 10 medal-winning States/Union Territories**

Position	State/Union Territory	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Maharashtra	58	47	53	158
2	Haryana	39	27	51	117
3	Rajasthan	24	12	24	60
4	Karnataka	17	26	15	58
5	Delhi	16	20	32	68
6	Tamil Nadu	15	21	29	65
7	Uttar Pradesh	14	20	18	52
8	Kerala	12	5	8	25
9	Manipur	11	8	11	30
10	Madhya Pradesh	10	9	13	32

President Murmu Confers Gallantry Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025; 6 Kirti Chakras and 33 Shaurya Chakras Awarded for Exceptional Bravery

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred **6 Kirti Chakras** (including 4 posthumous) and **33 Shaurya Chakras** (including 7 posthumous) to personnel from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/UT Police during the Phase-I of Defence Investiture Ceremony 2025 held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The gallantry awards were given for exceptional courage in counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations in Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East, where several terrorists were neutralized, apprehended, and large amounts of arms and ammunition were recovered.
- Awardees from the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force displayed bravery in high-risk situations — Navy officers during anti-piracy and fire-fighting missions, and Air Force officers during critical aircraft rescue operations where they avoided civilian casualties.

Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

SCHEME	PURPOSE
India's First Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (Tamil Nadu)	To attract Rs 30,000 crore in investments and generate 60,000 jobs
A ₹60,000 crore Centrally Sponsored Scheme	To upgrade 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and establish five National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) over five years.
The 'Jyothi' scheme (Kerala)	To ensure that children of migrant workers, aged 3 to 18, are enrolled in educational institutions
A new scheme titled "Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana" (Haryana)	The scheme aims to improve the financial and socio-economic conditions of senior artistes and art scholars who made significant contributions to the field of art.
The flagship scheme 'Indira Soura Giri Jala Vikasam' (Telangana)	To develop Achampet Assembly constituency as a national role model, with a 100-day target to provide solar pump sets to farmers, especially in Podu lands

Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
India's first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025	Mumbai	The four-day summit, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi . The summit witnessed participation from over 90 countries, with more than ten thousand delegates.

The 12th Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025)	New Delhi	Theme- " Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance. "
The 58th annual Board of Governors meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Milan, Italy	The 58th Board of Governors meeting theme was Sharing Experience, Building Tomorrow
The World Bank Land Conference 2025	Washington D.C.	India, led by Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj , served as a Country Champion at the World Bank Land Conference 2025 (Washington D.C.) , highlighting the SVAMITVA Scheme and Gram Manchitra platform as exemplary models of technology-driven rural governance.
The Indian delegation to LIMA 2025	Langkawi, Malaysia	Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, will lead in (May 20–24), where a dedicated Indian Pavilion will be inaugurated to showcase India's defence innovation and self-reliance.
The Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the 2025–26 term	India	India will support APO Vision 2030 and promote the Green Productivity 2.0 framework , while focusing on digital transformation, innovation, sustainability , and entrepreneurship across the Asia-Pacific region.
Second Blue Talks of UN Ocean Conference 2025	New Delhi	The event provided a platform to accelerate action and forge concrete commitments towards the sustainable use and protection of ocean resources, aligning closely with Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the broader objectives of the UN Ocean Decade
The 2025 World Hydrogen Summit	Rotterdam, the Netherlands	India has installed over 223 GW of renewable energy , including 108 GW solar and 51 GW wind . India has set a target to achieve energy independence by 2047 and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
The two-day Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025	New Delhi	The summit aims to showcase the eight northeastern states' trade and investment potential and encourage international and domestic investment in these states.

The 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Theme- "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047", attended by CMs and LGs from 24 States and 7 UTs.
India's agri-food export push as the International Buyer-Seller Meet (IBSM) 2025	Patna	Organized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) in collaboration with APEDA, TPCI, and the Government of Bihar , the two-day event aims to boost food exports, facilitate global trade linkages, and unlock the state's rich agricultural potential.
A two-day Literary Conference	The Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre	The event, organised in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi , will feature sessions like Poets' Meet, Feminist Literature of India, Change in Literature vs. Literature of Change, and New Directions of Indian Literature in Global Perspective.

Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
GAME and NITI Aayog have announced a strategic partnership	Aimed at fostering place-based entrepreneurship ecosystems in India , with pilot sites in Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, and Uttar Pradesh , and plans for nationwide expansion
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and ADNOC Trading have signed their first-ever Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) trading and supply agreement	The partnership aims to strengthen energy supply channels and enhance LNG trade between India and the UAE , contributing to global energy security.
Dream Sports, India's leading sports technology company, has partnered with Microsoft	To explore opportunities in India's rapidly growing gaming and sports tech market
IBM and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have partnered with the Andhra Pradesh government	To establish the Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati , featuring India's largest quantum computer with IBM's 156-qubit Heron processor
SBI Card has partnered with Apollo HealthCo	To launch a co-branded credit card focused on health and wellness , offering

	benefits on medical and pharmacy-related purchases
Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Indian Army Air Defence have signed a contract	For the Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS)
NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL) signed a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) with MAHAPREIT in Mumbai	To establish a new Joint Venture Company (JVC) for green energy development

Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
The 2025 Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands Report	20th edition of the Kantar BrandZ report	45th Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	Apple
World's Busiest airport 2024	Airports Council International (ACI) World	9th Indira Gandhi Intl. (DEL)	Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta (ATL) Atlanta, USA
Largest Economy in the World 2025	The IMF's April 2025 'World Economic Outlook' report	4th \$4.19 trillion	United States \$30.51 trillion

Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
Fair trade regulator CCI cleared Jubilant Beverages' proposal to acquire a 40 per cent stake in Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt Ltd (HCCH)	The proposed combination relates to inter alia, JBL (Jubilant Beverages Ltd) proposed acquisition of 40 per cent of the shareholding of HCCH from Hindustan Coca-Cola Overseas Holdings Pte Ltd, and Bharat Coca-Cola Overseas Pte Ltd.
The Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed	The proposed combination envisages the purchase of 24.9% equity share capital

acquisition of shareholding in EPL Limited by Indorama Netherlands B.V

of EPL Limited by Indorama Netherlands B.V.

Chapter 8: Loan

Organization/Bank	Loan Amount	To which country	Purpose
India	\$200 million	Angola	Angola will use the amount to buy defence equipment, transport vehicles, ammunition, and other assets from the Indian public and private sector defence companies .

Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

App/ Website/Portal	Company / Department	Purpose
"Depot Darpan" portal and mobile app	The Ministry of Consumer Affairs	Enable real-time monitoring of food storage depots , aiming to improve quality, safety, and transparency in warehousing.
A dedicated Non-Ferrous Metal Recycling Website and Stakeholders' Portal	Union Minister of Coal and Mines	To promote a structured, transparent, and sustainable recycling ecosystem in India, in the presence of senior officials from the Ministry of Mines and JNARDDC .
Three new apps — Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata	Union Minister Pralhad Joshi	The apps will enhance efficiency, service quality, transparency, and accountability by integrating technologies like smart warehousing, CCTV, IoT sensors, and providing real-time grievance redressal in local languages

Chapter 10: Important MoU

MoU	Between Which Countries
Renewed their MoU to strengthen cooperation in clean energy, supporting India's goal of net-zero emissions by 2070 through technology sharing and knowledge exchange	India and Denmark
Signed an MoU to jointly advance research and innovation in classical and quantum communication technologies, aligning with national goals of technological sovereignty and self-reliance	Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the CSIR–National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL)
Signed an MoU to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan	Adani Group and Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC)
Signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), marking a significant advancement in their bilateral trade relations	India and Chile
Signed an MoU in New Delhi to empower startups, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs, with a focus on boosting product innovation, local sourcing, and strengthening India's manufacturing ecosystem	The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Hafele India Pvt. Ltd
Signed an MoU to jointly develop drone-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) systems, advancing India's quantum-secure communication capabilities	The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) with Synergy Quantum India Pvt. Ltd.
Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project, aiming to address regional water needs in both States	Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) has signed an MoU with Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) to collaborate in the field of critical minerals, focusing on exploration, mining, extraction, and refining activities	NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) with Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL)

Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

India's economic growth to remain steady at 6.6% in FY2025-26: Deloitte

- **India's economic growth** is expected to remain **steady at 6.6 per cent in FY2025-26**, as per Deloitte's latest forecast.

UN cuts India's 2025 GDP growth forecast to 6.3%

- The **United Nations** has lowered **India's economic growth projection for 2025** by 30 basis points, revising it to **6.3%**, citing slower global growth due to heightened trade tensions and policy uncertainty.
- The growth forecast for 2026 was also cut by 30 basis points, now expected at 6.4%, but India continues to be one of the fastest-growing large economies supported by strong consumption and government spending.

ICRA Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.3% for FY2024- 25

- **ICRA projected India's GDP** growth at 6.9% for Q4 FY2025 and **6.3% for the full fiscal year 2024-25**, below the National Statistics Office's (NSO) earlier estimate of 6.5% for FY25.
- To meet the NSO's 6.5% growth target for FY25, Q4 GDP growth needed to reach 7.6%, but ICRA expects it to fall short at 6.9%, indicating a slowdown from earlier quarters.

Fitch Ratings Raises India's Medium-Term GDP Growth Forecast to 6.4% Till FY2026

- **Fitch Ratings** has revised India's medium-term **GDP growth potential upward to 6.4% till FY2026**, up from the previous estimate of 6.2%, citing higher labour force participation and **less pandemic impact** as key factors.
- While India's growth outlook improved, Fitch slightly lowered the medium-term GDP potential for 10 emerging markets overall to 3.9%, mainly due to a slowdown in China's growth prospects.

Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

Election Commission of India Introduces New Initiatives to Improve Electoral Rolls and Voter Convenience

- The **Election Commission of India** has introduced **new steps to improve voter rolls and make voting easier**. These changes align with plans discussed by Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar in a meeting with other Election Commissioners in March.
- The Commission will **now obtain death registration data electronically from the Registrar General of India** in line with Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 and Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (as amended in 2023).
- To make **Voter Information Slips (VIS) more voter friendly**, the **Commission has also decided to modify its design**. The serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently, with increased font size, making it easier for voters to identify their polling station and for polling officials to locate their names in the electoral roll efficiently.

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

- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with the Institute for Competitiveness (IFC), released a **comprehensive report proposing systemic reforms to unlock the potential of India’s Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across key areas like finance, skilling, innovation, and market access.**
- The report identifies sector-specific challenges in textiles, chemicals, automotive, and food processing, and emphasizes the need to integrate MSMEs into global value chains through improved policy implementation and data-driven strategies.

UIDAI successfully conducts Face Authentication pilot for NEET Exam.

- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** successfully conducted a **Proof of Concept (PoC) using Aadhaar-based face authentication** during National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) UG 2025 in New Delhi, in collaboration with NIC and NTA.
- The PoC aimed to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of real-time, contactless face authentication for verifying candidate identity during large-scale exams.

Indian Armed Forces launch ‘OPERATION SINDOOR’ on nine terror targets of Pakistan & PoK

- **Indian Armed Forces** launched ‘**OPERATION SINDOOR**’, post-midnight, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.
- The operation was focused, measured, and non-escalatory, with no Pakistani military facilities targeted, showcasing India’s restraint and strategic intent.

IIFT gets approval to set up off-campus centre at GIFT City

- The **Union Ministry of Education** has approved **setting up an off-campus centre of IIFT, New Delhi**, at GIFT City, Gujarat, under the UGC Regulations 2023, to offer the flagship MBA (International Business) programme and specialised courses.
- The approval was granted under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, after IIFT met all LoI requirements, aligning with NEP 2020’s vision for multidisciplinary and quality education.

Cabinet approves expansion of academic and infrastructure capacity of five IITs

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **Phase-B construction to expand academic and infrastructure capacity at five IITs—Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Dharwad—at a cost of ₹11,828.79 crore over four years (2025–26 to 2028–29).**
- The expansion will increase total student capacity from 7,111 to 13,687 (an addition of 6,576 students) and will also establish five new research parks to strengthen industry-academia collaboration.

Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom 2025

- Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, has inaugurated **the 22nd edition of Bharat Telecom in New Delhi.**

- Bharat Telecom is an annual event that aims to present India as a provider of world-class telecom solutions.

India Introduces Genome-Edited Rice Varieties: Kamla & Pusa DST Rice 1

- **India** has unveiled its first genome-edited rice varieties — **DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1** — marking a global first in this field. The announcement was made by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi.

Chhattisgarh CM lays foundation of India's first AI-based data park

- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai** has laid the **foundation of the country's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based data centre park in Sector-22 of Nava Raipur.**
- The project is expected to generate around 500 direct and 1,500 indirect employment opportunities, with priority given to locals.
- The data centre park spread across 5.5 hectares, to be operated by RackBank Datacenters Private Limited, will include a 2.7-hectare area developed as a Special Economic Zone and the project will be fully dedicated to AI-based services.

CCRAS Revives Two Key Ayurvedic Manuscripts to Preserve India's Traditional Medical Heritage

- **The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS),** under the Ministry of Ayush, has **successfully revived two important Ayurvedic manuscripts—Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu and Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu,** crucial for the preservation and advancement of India's traditional medical heritage.

About Dravyaratnākara Nighaṇṭu -

- Authored by Mudgala Paṇḍita in 1480 AD, this previously unpublished lexicon offers in-depth knowledge of drug synonyms, therapeutic actions, and medicinal properties. It was widely referenced in Maharashtra until the 19th century.

About Dravyanamākara Nighaṇṭu -

- Attributed to Bhisma Vaidya, this work serves as an appendix to the Dhanvantari Nighaṇṭu and focuses on homonyms of drug and plant names, a key area of study in Ayurveda.

SECL Organises First 'Sneh Milan Mela to Build Stronger Community Relations

- **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)** organized its first-ever '**Sneh Milan Mela**' in SAFF U-19 फुटबॉल चैम्पियनशिप 2025 कहाँ शुरू हुई?, uniting over 600 SECL employees, families, and villagers through cultural programs and traditional cuisine to foster goodwill and trust with local communities.

India Embarks on Nationwide Rollout of Secure Chip-Enabled e-Passports

- **India** has launched e-passports nationwide, **incorporating RFID chips and antennas for enhanced security and data protection.** This move aligns India with technologically advanced nations and modernises travel documentation.
- The trial phase began on April 1, 2024, under the Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0. The e-passports store encrypted personal details, including

biometrics, making them more secure and tamper-resistant. They also feature a Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ) for faster border checks, improving travel efficiency.

India's First Geothermal Production Well Drilled in Arunachal Pradesh

- The **Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS)** has successfully drilled **Northeast India's first geothermal production well at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh**, marking a significant milestone in sustainable energy for the region.

Maharashtra Launches 'Adishakti Abhiyan' for Women Empowerment

- **Maharashtra government** has launched the '**Adishakti Abhiyan**' to promote women's empowerment and raise awareness about welfare schemes for women and children, announced on Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th birth anniversary.
- The campaign will tackle issues like malnutrition, maternal and infant mortality, domestic violence, and child marriage, while encouraging women's participation in local governance through Panchayati Raj.

Govt Doubles Credit Guarantee Cover to ₹20 Crore to Boost Startups

- The **government** has doubled the **maximum guarantee cover under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) from ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore per borrower** to improve access to capital for startups.
- For loans up to ₹10 crore, the guarantee now covers 85% of the default amount, while for loans above ₹10 crore, the coverage is 75%, aimed at boosting credit availability.

Government set 354.64 MT target of foodgrain Production for 2025-26

- **India sets foodgrain production target at 354.64 million tonnes for the 2025-26 crop year**, up from 341.55 million tonnes in 2024-25, buoyed by expectations of a better monsoon.
- Current production has reached 330.92 million tonnes from the Kharif and Rabi seasons in 2024-25; estimates for the summer (zaid) season are still awaited.

Three Jan Suraksha Schemes - PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY complete 10 years of providing social security cover

- The three Jan Suraksha schemes — **PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY** — were launched **on 9th May 2015** to provide affordable life insurance, accident insurance, and pension to the underprivileged sections of society.
- As of April 2025, over 23.6 crore people enrolled in PMJJBY, 51 crore in PMSBY, and 7.6 crore in APY; with claims worth ₹18,398 crore and ₹3,121 crore settled under PMJJBY and PMSBY respectively.

Rajnath Singh Inaugurates BrahMos Missile Production Unit in Lucknow

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** virtually inaugurated the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile production unit at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor in Lucknow**. The facility, built at a cost of Rs 300 crore, is designed to manufacture 80 to 100 BrahMos missiles annually, amid rising military tensions with Pakistan.

Sanjay Seth represents India at 80th Victory Day celebration in Moscow

- **Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth** participated in the **80th Victory Day celebrations in Moscow** on May 9, 2025, commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. He laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and attended the Victory Day Parade alongside other international dignitaries.

Delhi Cabinet Approves Rs 3.21 Crore for Cloud Seeding Trials to Tackle Air Pollution

- The **Delhi Cabinet** has approved a **Rs 3.21 crore outlay for conducting five cloud seeding trials** across the Delhi-NCR region to combat air pollution, with the first trial set to take place by the end of this month over an area of 100 sq km.
- **IIT Kanpur will manage the logistics, planning, and implementation of the cloud seeding trials**, which are part of the Delhi government's air pollution action plan.
- Despite concerns over its effectiveness, cloud seeding was proposed as a solution to Delhi's smog problem and is now part of the BJP government's strategy to improve air quality, a major election promise.

Ayush Ministry Launches Weekly Yoga Podcast to Bring Timeless Wisdom to Every Home

- The **Ministry of Ayush** has launched its **Weekly Yoga Podcast**, a new digital initiative produced by the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, launched the weekly podcast through his social media platforms. The podcast aims to bring the timeless wisdom of yoga to every household, blending ancient practices with modern lifestyles.

Hyderabad Hosts 72nd Miss World Pageant, Marking Historic Back-to-Back Staging in India

- **Hyderabad** is hosting the **72nd edition of the Miss World pageant at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium**, marking the first time in the pageant's 73-year history that one country (India) hosts it in two consecutive years.
- The three-week event will showcase Telangana's cultural richness, with contestants visiting historical and cultural sites like Warangal, Pochampally, Buddhavanam, Yadagirigutta, and Mahabubnagar, along with a heritage walk through Charminar and Laad Bazaar.

Delhi Legislative Assembly to Be Fully Solar-Powered

- **The Delhi Legislative Assembly** will be the **first in India to be fully powered by solar energy**, with the foundation stone of a 500-kilowatt solar power plant.
- A new 500-kilowatt rooftop solar plant will replace the existing 200-kilowatt system and is expected to be completed in 45 days, providing enough energy for the assembly's annual electricity requirements.

India's Long-Term Credit Rating Upgraded to 'BBB' by Morningstar DBRS

- **Morningstar DBRS** upgraded **India's long-term credit rating from 'BBB (low)' to 'BBB' with a Stable outlook**, citing strong reforms, improved fiscal management, and a healthier banking sector.

- India's short-term rating was raised from R-2 (middle) to R-2 (high), indicating stronger short-term debt repayment capacity and greater investor confidence.
- The agency highlighted India's resilient economy, with projected GDP growth of 6.2% in 2025 and 6.3% in 2026 (IMF estimates), supported by domestic demand, digitalisation, and improved public spending.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath Launches 'UP AGREES' and 'AI Pragma' with World Bank Support

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** met World Bank President Ajay Banga, in Lucknow and **launched two major initiatives — 'UP AGREES' and 'AI Pragma'**.
- The 'UP AGREES (Uttar Pradesh Accelerated Growth through Resilient, Equitable and Sustainable Agriculture) program aims to revolutionise agriculture in 28 districts of Bundelkhand and Purvanchal by promoting advanced, technology-driven farming to boost productivity.

Andhra Pradesh Grants Property Tax Exemption to Defence Personnel

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has announced **property tax exemption for houses owned by Indian Defence personnel within Gram Panchayat limits**, honoring their service and sacrifice.
- The benefit will now apply not only to retired or border-posted soldiers, but to all active defence personnel, including those from the Army, Navy, Air Force, CRPF, and Paramilitary forces, for one residential house owned or co-owned by them or their spouse.

September 23 Declared as New Ayurveda Day to Align with Global Consistency and Ayurvedic Philosophy

- The **Government of India** has officially **designated 23rd September as Ayurveda Day from 2025 onwards**, replacing the previously variable date of Dhanteras to ensure consistency and enhance global visibility.
- This change was announced through a Gazette Notification dated 23rd March 2025, following the recommendation of an expert committee formed by the Ministry of AYUSH.

Ashwini Vaishnaw Inaugurates First 3nm Chip Design Centres

- **Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** has inaugurated **India's first 3nm chip design centres in Noida and Bengaluru**, established by Renesas Electronics India, signaling India's entry into the elite group of nations at the forefront of advanced chip technology.
- The centres are part of the government's strategy to build a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem, covering design, fabrication, ATMP, and supply chain components, alongside nurturing a skilled talent pool for the industry.

Delhi Police Launches 'Nayi Disha' Initiative to Help School Dropouts Rejoin Education

- **Delhi Police** has launched "**Nayi Disha**", a community outreach program to help school dropouts—especially children and teenagers—return to formal education or join skill-based training programs.
- Local police stations, in collaboration with NGOs and education departments, will identify out-of-school youth and connect them with nearby schools, open schooling options like NIOS, or suitable vocational courses.

MP approves Rs. 47 crore plans to tackle human-elephant conflict

- **Madhya Pradesh state cabinet** approved a **Rs.47 crore initiative to address human-elephant conflict in southern regions**, focusing on protecting rural communities and wildlife in areas like **Bandhavgarh and Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserves**.
- Local farmers and rural populations will receive training to safely manage elephant encounters, using chili-based barriers, citrus plantations, bee-hive fences, and trip alarms to deter elephants from farmlands and settlements.

India's First Hydrogen-Powered Mining Truck Launched by Adani in Chhattisgarh

- **Adani Enterprises** deployed **India's first hydrogen-powered truck for mining logistics in Chhattisgarh**, capable of carrying 40 tonnes over 200 km, equipped with smart technology and triple hydrogen tanks.
- Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the truck in Raipur; it will transport coal from the Gare Pelma III Block to the state power plant.
- This marks a major step towards sustainable transport, with Adani planning to replace diesel trucks in logistics operations, aiming to reduce carbon emissions.

Govt Approves ₹3,700 Crore Semiconductor Unit Near Jewar Airport

- The **government** has approved the **establishment of a semiconductor unit near Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh**, under the **India Semiconductor Mission**, as a joint venture between HCL and Foxconn, **with an investment of ₹3,700 crore**.
- The plant will have a production capacity of 20,000 wafers per month and an output capacity of 36 million units per month, significantly boosting India's semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.

Maharashtra Makes Use of Artificial Sand Mandatory in Government Construction Projects

- The **Maharashtra government** has approved a **new policy mandating the use of artificial sand (m-sand) in all government and semi-government construction projects** to reduce dependency on river sand and promote environmental sustainability.
- To encourage production, the state will lease government land for crusher installation, allow up to 1,500 crushers across districts, and offer MSME status with subsidies and concessions to involved companies.

Indore claims to have become India's first beggar-free city

- **Indore** has become **India's first beggar-free city through a campaign launched** in February 2024, reducing approximately 5,000 beggars, including 500 children, from its streets.

- The campaign involved rehabilitating beggars by providing employment opportunities and enrolling children involved in begging into schools.
- The initiative has been recognized by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and a World Bank team, serving as a model for a pilot project to eliminate begging in 10 Indian cities.

Government releases the first ever Monthly PLFS Report for April 2025

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the **first Monthly Bulletin of the revamped Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for April 2025**, reporting key employment indicators like **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and Unemployment Rate (UR)** across rural and urban India for individuals aged 15 and above.
- In April 2025, the overall LFPR was 55.6%, with rural areas at 58.0% and urban areas at 50.7%; male participation was higher (79.0% rural, 75.3% urban), while female rural LFPR stood at 38.2%.
- The national Worker Population Ratio (WPR) was 52.8%, with rural WPR at 55.4% and urban WPR at 47.4%; female WPR was 36.8% in rural and 23.5% in urban areas, totaling 32.5% overall.
- The unemployment rate for April 2025 was 5.1% nationally (5.2% for males and 5.0% for females), marking the start of a new survey phase with enhanced methodology, including a rotational panel design covering 89,434 households and 380,838 individuals nationwide.

India Emerges as Global 6G Leader with ₹300 Crore Investment and Top Patent Rankings

- **Over 111 research projects** have been funded in India with a total **sanction amount of ₹300 crore**, contributing significantly to the nation's progress in 6G technology.
- India now ranks among the top six countries globally in terms of 6G patent filings, showcasing its growing innovation and R&D strength.

EU and India Launch €41 Million Joint R&D Initiatives to Combat Marine Pollution and Advance Green Hydrogen Technologies

- **European Union (EU) and India** launched two major research initiatives under the **Trade and Technology Council (TTC) with a joint investment of €41 million (₹394 crore)** to tackle marine pollution and develop waste-to-renewable hydrogen technologies, co-funded by EU's Horizon Europe programme, MoES, and MNRE.
- The first initiative targets marine pollution, especially plastic litter, microplastics, and heavy metals, supporting UN Ocean Science Decade goals, India's National Marine Litter Policy, and the EU's Zero Pollution Action Plan.

DST Launches India's First-Ever Carbon Capture Testbeds in Cement Sector to Accelerate Net Zero Goals

- **DST** has launched **five Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU) testbeds in India's cement sector**, aiming to support decarbonisation in one of the

country's most carbon-intensive industries through an innovative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model involving academia and top cement companies.

- The initiative supports India's 2070 Net Zero goal by developing technology that captures CO₂ from cement plants and converts it into useful products like concrete blocks, olefins, and construction materials, using cutting-edge methods such as catalysis, mineralization, and vacuum swing adsorption.

ReNew Power Commits ₹22,000 Crore for India's Largest Renewable Energy Complex in Andhra Pradesh

- **ReNew Power** is investing approximately **₹22,000 crore in India's largest single-site renewable energy (RE) complex** at Bethapalle village, Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh, with a ground-breaking ceremony scheduled for May 16, attended by IT & HRD Minister Nara Lokesh.
- The project, located in Guntakal Assembly constituency, will have Phase-I capacities of 587 MW solar, 250 MW wind, and a 415 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), costing around ₹7,000 crore; the total capacity across all phases will reach 1,800 MW solar, 1,000 MW wind, and 2,000 MWh BESS.

Nirmala Sitharaman Inaugurates 'Corporate Bhavan' in Kolkata

- **Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the **Corporate Bhavan in New Town, Kolkata**, which brings together key offices of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs like RD (East), RoC, NCLT, IBBI, SFIO, and the Official Liquidator under one roof.
- The facility aims to serve as a single-window interface for companies, startups, auditors, and investors, enhancing regulatory services and boosting the ease of doing business by cutting costs and improving operational efficiency.

ASI Completes Restoration of 16th-Century Rajon ki Baoli Stepwell in Delhi

- The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, in collaboration with the World Monuments Fund India (WMFI) and the TCS Foundation, **completed the conservation of Rajon ki Baoli** (a 16th-century Lodi-era stepwell in Mehrauli Archaeological Park, New Delhi), preserving its historical and architectural integrity using traditional materials and techniques.
- The restoration project focused on cleaning, desilting, structural repairs, and water quality improvement, including introducing fish for ecological balance, and was part of WMFI's Historic Water Systems of India initiative, aligned with climate heritage conservation.

Arti Sarin and Sadhna S Nair Inaugurate Advanced Femto-LASIK Suite at Army Hospital Delhi Cantt

- DG, Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) Surgeon Vice Admiral **Arti Sarin** and DG, Medical Services (Army) **Lt Gen Sadhna S Nair** have inaugurated the **state-of-the-art Femto-LASIK Suite at Army Hospital (Research and Referral), Delhi Cantt.**

- This advanced laser technology provides a customised range of treatment for spectacle removal for young and middle-aged adult patients. It also underscores the Armed Forces' dedication to cutting-edge medical care and patient welfare.

India Launches 'Sagar Mein Samman' to Boost Women's Participation in Maritime Sector

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the **'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS)** policy in Mumbai to promote a **gender-equitable maritime workforce**, aiming to enhance women's participation in all maritime roles—from seafaring to leadership positions.
- The SMS initiative aligns with the Government's DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) objectives and covers areas like training, governance, safety, skill development, and leadership to create a more inclusive maritime environment.

Rajiv Ranjan Lays Foundation Stone for ₹100-Crore Integrated Aqua Park in Tripura

- Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh laid the foundation stone for an **Integrated Aqua Park in Unakoti district**, Tripura, with an estimated cost of ₹100 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- The Aqua Park aims to enhance fish production in Tripura, which currently faces a deficit, and is expected to add approximately 2,500 metric tonnes of fish annually.
- The project supports the government's vision of making states self-reliant in fisheries and aligns with the broader goal of strengthening the Blue Economy.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Digital Civil List 2025 with Enhanced AI Features

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **70th edition of the Civil List, 2025** as an e-book, marking the fifth fully digital version; the list is a comprehensive directory of serving IAS officers across India, **published by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**.
- The e-Civil List features enhanced digital tools, including embedded hyperlinks and searchable options, with proposed AI-based domain-specific search functionalities for better officer identification in mission-mode governance.

GeM Celebrates 8th Incorporation Day with Launch of GeMAI

- On its **8th Incorporation Day**, GeM unveiled **GeMAI, India's first generative AI-powered chatbot** in the public sector. It supports both voice and text interactions in 10 Indian languages, enhancing user experience and accessibility.
- GeM's inclusive approach has led to the onboarding of over 10 lakh MSEs, 1.84 lakh women entrepreneurs, 1.3 lakh artisans/weavers, and 31,000+ startups, strengthening its role as a bridge between government buyers and grassroots-level sellers.

Kerala Becomes First State to Mandate Robotics Education for All Class 10 Students

- **Kerala** becomes the **first state in India to make robotics education mandatory** for all 4.3 lakh **Class 10 students**, starting June 2, 2025, through the ICT textbook chapter “The World of Robots.”
- The curriculum includes hands-on activities like circuit building, sensor integration, and coding using robotic kits (29,000 already distributed) with components like Arduino, IR sensors, and servo motors.

Honduras Opens Embassy in New Delhi

- **The Republic of Honduras** officially **inaugurated its embassy in New Delhi**, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Honduran Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina García leading the ceremony.
- The opening of the embassy marks a significant milestone in India-Honduras bilateral relations, aimed at boosting trade, development cooperation, and strategic collaboration.

Operation Olivia' Helps Protect 6.98 Lakh Olive Ridley Turtles In Odisha

- **Operation Olivia 2025** led by the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** **successfully protected a record 6.98 lakh Olive Ridley turtles** nesting at the Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha in February 2025.
- Conducted annually from **November to May**, Operation Olivia focuses on safe nesting for Olive Ridley turtles, especially along Gahirmatha Beach and nearby coastal areas in Odisha.

NCC Cadet successfully climbs Mount Everest for the third time

- A ten-member **mountaineering team of the National Cadet Corps (NCC)** has successfully **scaled Mount Everest (8,848.86 metres), the world's highest peak**.
- This marks NCC's third successful expedition to Mount Everest, following previous feats in 2013 and 2016.

Mizoram becomes the first state to achieve full functional literacy

- **Mizoram** has been **officially declared the first fully literate state in India**, with a literacy rate of 98.20%, announced by Chief Minister Lalduhoma in Aizawl.
- The achievement was supported by a comprehensive door-to-door survey in 2023 identifying non-literate individuals and their participation in literacy activities, driven by 292 volunteer teachers including educators, students, and local officials.

WHO Certifies India as free from Trachoma as a Public Health Problem

- **India** has been **awarded the Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem** by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- This recognition is a testament to India's sustained efforts in disease elimination, preventive healthcare, and commitment to ensuring health for all.

Tripura Launches Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan to Empower Farmers

- **Tripura government** to launch **Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan** from May 29, as part of a central initiative to boost agricultural production, enhance farmer incomes, and reduce farming costs; the campaign will run till June 12.
- The nationwide campaign will cover 723 districts and aims to spread awareness at the village and gram panchayat levels about various central and state-sponsored schemes for farmers.

MHA Launches e-Zero FIR System to Fast-Track Action on High-Value Cyber Frauds

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has launched the **e-Zero FIR system** as a pilot project in Delhi to speed up action in cyber financial fraud cases involving ₹10 lakh or more.
- Complaints made via the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) or helpline 1930 will be automatically converted into Zero FIRs by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
- The Zero FIR will be initially registered with Delhi's e-Crime Police Station and later transferred to the appropriate jurisdictional police station.

Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurates "Sagar Bhavan" and "Polar Bhavan"

- **Union Earth Sciences Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated "**Sagar Bhavan**" and "**Polar Bhavan**", India's first-of-their-kind facilities dedicated to ocean and polar research, respectively.
- "Sagar Bhavan" will serve as the headquarters of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), supporting advanced marine research and services.
- "Polar Bhavan" will cater to India's polar and cryospheric research initiatives, enhancing the country's scientific presence in the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Ambani couple, Premji, Kamath among Time's most influential philanthropists

- Billionaire industrialist **Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani**, former Wipro chairman **Azim Premji** and Zerodha co-founder **Nikhil Kamath** have been named by **Time magazine in its inaugural list of the 100 most influential people in philanthropy**.
- The list includes Mukesh and Nita Ambani who, Time said, gifted Rs 407 crore (about USD 48 million) in 2024, placing them among the country's biggest donors.

PM Modi inaugurates 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations in 18 States in Bikaner

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually inaugurated the **103 railway stations in 18 states/Union Territories**, developed under the Indian Railways's Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, at a function in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- The Indian Railway's 103 railway stations, inaugurated by the Prime Minister, are in 86 districts across 18 states and Union Territories.

Here is the list

- Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry- one each
- Bihar and Kerala -2 each,
- Jharkhand, Telangana and West Bengal - 3 each,

- Karnataka and Chhattisgarh -5 each,
- Madhya Pradesh -6
- Rajasthan -8,
- Tamil Nadu - 9,
- Maharashtra - 15
- Gujarat -18,
- Uttar Pradesh -19

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla inaugurated the Shirui Lily Festival

- **Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla** inaugurated the **Shirui Lily Festival**, held in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district after a two-year gap due to the ethnic clashes between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people.

Assam Introduces 'Ankita': India's First AI News Anchor in Regional Language

- **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma** has launched **Ankita, the country's first AI-powered virtual news anchor** delivering Cabinet updates in Assamese.
- 'Ankita' aims to enhance e-governance, ensure consistent communication in the regional language, and boost transparency by presenting Cabinet meeting highlights via the CM's official social media platforms.

Govt Plans to Integrate Mission LiFE into National Climate Action Plan to Boost Sustainable Lifestyles

- **The government** is considering integrating **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** into the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** to promote sustainable individual and corporate behavior.
- Proposed by PM Modi at COP26 and officially launched in October 2022, Mission LiFE emphasizes "pro-planet" actions at the individual level to combat climate change globally.

Shirui Lily Festival 2025 Concludes in Manipur with Emphasis on Sustainability and Cultural Unity

- **The five-day Shirui Lily Festival 2025** concluded successfully in **Ukhrul district of Manipur**, featuring cultural events and outdoor activities organised by Manipur Tourism.
- Trekking to Shirui Kashong Peak was a key attraction, with around 6,000 people registered by the third day and more joining later, highlighting the festival's popularity.
- The festival emphasized environmental concerns, particularly the endangered Shirui Lily's decline due to deforestation and climate change, and called for sustainable tourism to protect the region's unique ecosystem.

PM Modi dedicates the Railways Dahod Locomotive Plant to the Nation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated **India's first 9000 HP (horsepower) electric locomotive plant** of Indian Railways at **Dahod, Gujarat**, to nation built at a cost of ₹21,405 crore.
- The plant's foundation was laid in 2022 and is operated in collaboration with Siemens India, a subsidiary of the German engineering firm Siemens AG.

Jitendra Singh launches indigenous Bharat Forecast System with 6-km resolution

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **Bharat Forecast System**, an indigenously **developed high-resolution weather forecast model with 6-km resolution**, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, this system improves India's weather forecast detail from 12 km to 6 km, enabling more accurate village-level forecasts.

Scindia unveils 'Innovate to Transform' as theme for 9th edition of India Mobile Congress

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled "**Innovate to Transform**" as the **theme for IMC 2025**, to be held from October 8–11 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Delhi. The event will showcase India's technological growth and serve as a global platform for industries, investors, and innovators.
- Scindia launched the expanded 'Sanchar Mitra Scheme', turning it into a national movement that engages student volunteers to promote telecom awareness, cybersecurity, and digital empowerment, embodying India's leadership in Democracy, Demography, Digitization, and Delivery.

PM Modi Unveils ₹53,400 Crore Projects in Bhuj

- **PM Modi laid the foundation stone and** inaugurated development projects **worth ₹53,400 crore in Bhuj, Gujarat**, highlighting Kutch's transformation into a hub for trade, tourism, and green energy.
- He announced a new green hydrogen plant at Kandla and praised solar advancements at Khavda, emphasizing Kutch's role in India's green energy and blue economy vision.

SKUAST Researchers Led by Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Shah Create India's First Gene-Edited Sheep

- A group of specialists led by **Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Shah**, Professor of Animal Biotechnology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Kashmir, has made a remarkable achievement by **developing India's first gene-edited sheep**.
- Dr. Riyaz also led the team behind India's first cloned Pashmina goat, named Noori, in 2012. Sadly, Noori passed away in 2023.

Amit Shah Lays Foundation Stones for Swasti Niwas and Maharashtra's First NFSU Campus in Nagpur

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone for '**Swasti Niwas**' at the **National Cancer Institute in Jamtha**, Nagpur, and for the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) campus at Chicholi, Kamptee.
- The upcoming Nagpur campus will be the 11th campus of NFSU and the first in Maharashtra, aimed at developing a skilled pool of forensic experts, according to NFSU's Founder Vice Chancellor Dr. JM Vyas.

University of Liverpool to open Bengaluru campus

- **The University of Liverpool** has received a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from the **UGC to establish a foreign campus in Bengaluru**, with plans to begin operations by summer 2026.

- This makes it the second UK-based university to set up a campus in India, following the University of Southampton, which is launching its Gurugram campus with classes starting in August 2025.

Cabinet Approves ₹69 Hike in Paddy MSP for Kharif 2025-26

- The **Union Cabinet** approved a **₹69 per quintal increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy** (common variety) for the Kharif 2025-26 marketing season, raising it to ₹2,369 per quintal; the MSP for Grade A paddy was also increased to ₹2,389 per quintal.
- Revised MSPs were approved for 13 other Kharif crops, with nigerseed seeing the highest hike of ₹820 per quintal, followed by ragi (₹596), cotton (₹589), and sesamum (₹579), reflecting a push for higher farm incomes and crop diversification.

Cabinet Approves Continuation of MISS for FY 2025-26

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved the **continuation of the Interest Subvention (IS) component under MISS and sanctioned the necessary fund allocations to support the scheme.**
- Under MISS, farmers can avail short-term loans of up to ₹3 lakh through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) at a subsidized 7% interest rate. Eligible institutions receive 1.5% subvention, and farmers repaying on time get an additional 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI), effectively reducing their rate to 4%.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for ₹1010 Cr City Gas Project in Alipurduar

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of a **City Gas Distribution (CGD) project worth over ₹1010 crore** in Alipurduar, West Bengal.
- The project aims to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to over 2.5 lakh households, 100+ commercial establishments and industries, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) through 19 proposed CNG stations.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' and Fish Vaccine at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar

- **Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the **'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA-2025)'** at ICAR-CIFA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, to promote advanced agricultural and fisheries technologies nationwide.
- A major highlight was the launch of "CIFA Argu VAX-I", an innovative fish vaccine developed by ICAR-CIFA to combat parasitic infections and reduce economic losses in aquaculture.

PM Modi releases commemorative coin on 50 years of Sikkim Statehood

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** virtually addressed the **"Sikkim@50: Where Progress meets purpose and nature nurtures growth"** event in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- He also **released a commemorative coin and stamp on the 50th anniversary of Sikkim's statehood.**

Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

Taliban Bans Chess in Afghanistan, Citing Religious Concerns and Links to Gambling

- **The Taliban government in Afghanistan** has **banned chess** and also suspended the Afghanistan National Chess Federation (ANCF), citing concerns that the game promotes gambling, which is prohibited under Islamic law.
- The Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice stated that chess will remain banned until its compliance with Sharia law can be fully assessed; similar bans have been imposed in the past, including during the Taliban's earlier rule in 1996.

Pakistan Launches Operation Bunyan Marsoos

- **Pakistan** launched "**Operation Bunyan Marsoos**," targeting at least six Indian military bases in response to India's missile strikes on Pakistani air bases.
- The operation is named after an Arabic phrase meaning "a structure made of lead," symbolizing Pakistan's strategic military response to India's ongoing missile attacks.

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

- **The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant** has started operations in **Kasso, Denmark**, producing 42,000 metric tons annually using renewable energy and captured CO₂.
- Shipping giant Maersk, which operates 13 dual-fuel container vessels and has ordered 13 more, will use the plant's low-emission e-methanol to power its ships, reducing carbon output.

China Revamps Military Education with New Academies to Boost Defence Modernisation

- **China** is **restructuring its military education** by establishing **three new academies** — **PLA Ground Force Service Academy, PLA Information Support Force Engineering University, and PLA Joint Logistics Support Force Engineering University** — to train specialised talent for its newest branches, the Information Support Force (ISF) and Joint Logistics Support Force (JLSF).
- These academies will be located in Hefei, Wuhan, and Chongqing, and will begin enrolling high school graduates, aligning military training with the evolving structure of China's armed forces.

UK signs deal to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius, India welcomes the treaty

- The **United Kingdom** signed an agreement to **transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius**, while securing a lease agreement to maintain a crucial US-UK military base on Diego Garcia for at least 99 years, paying Mauritius \$136 million annually for the lease.
- The Chagos Islands, officially known as the British Indian Ocean Territory, are located in the Indian Ocean about 9,332 km south-east of the UK. The Chagos Archipelago – a group of seven atolls with a population of just over four thousand, was separated from Mauritius in 1965, when Mauritius was still a British colony.

UAE elected to executive board of IAACA

- **The UAE Accountability Authority** has been elected to the **Executive Board of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA)** during the body's first council meeting of 2025.
- In September 2024, it was elected to the Steering Committee of the Globe Network, under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, affirming international trust in the UAE's cross-border cooperation in anti-corruption efforts.

Saudi Arabia Launches TOURISE Platform to Forge Global Public-Private Partnership and Shape Future of Tourism

- **Saudi Arabia** launched **TOURISE**, a global platform aimed at creating a strong partnership between public and private sectors to shape the future of tourism over the next 50 years, announced by Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al-Khateeb.
- The platform, designed for year-round collaboration and anchored by a high-profile global advisory board, will hold its inaugural TOURISE Summit in Riyadh from November 11 to 13, featuring the TOURISE Awards.
- TOURISE seeks to combine innovation and experience, capital and creativity, to deliver practical and lasting solutions, with support from global tourism leaders including the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

India's Parliamentary Delegations Engage Multiple Countries to Highlight Firm Stance Against Terrorism

- **The all-party delegation led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor** in the **US emphasized India's precise response** to terrorist bases in Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack and condemned Pakistan's revisionist ambitions, while calling for India's peaceful growth and development.
- Another multi-party delegation led by NCP MP Supriya Sule arrived in Qatar, where they were welcomed by India's Ambassador Vipul; members include Anand Sharma, Rajeev Pratap Rudy, and Anurag Thakur, continuing India's global anti-terrorism outreach.

Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

India's Total Exports Grow by 6.01% to Reach Record \$824.9 Billion in 2024-25, Up from \$778.1 Billion in 2023-24: RBI Report

- **India's total exports** hit an **all-time high of US\$824.9 billion in FY 2024-25**, marking a **6.01% growth over the previous year's US\$778.1 billion**, according to RBI data.
- Services exports were the main growth driver, reaching a record US\$387.5 billion in 2024-25 — a 13.6% increase from the previous year, with March 2025 alone seeing 18.6% year-on-year growth.

RBI Fines ICICI Bank, Bank of Baroda, IDBI Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra for Regulatory Non-Compliance

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has fined **four banks, including ICICI Bank and Bank of Baroda**, for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines.

- **ICICI Bank** was fined **Rs 97.80 lakh** for failing to comply with RBI's directions on Cyber Security Framework, KYC, and credit card and debit card issuance protocols.
- **Bank of Baroda** was penalized **Rs 61.40 lakh** for not adhering to RBI's guidelines on financial services and customer service practices.
- Both **IDBI Bank** and **Bank of Maharashtra** were penalized **Rs 31.8 lakh** each for non-compliance with directions related to Kisan Credit Card schemes and KYC procedures.

S&P Global Ratings Cuts India's Growth Projections for FY26 and FY27

- S&P Global Ratings reduced India's growth forecast for FY26 by 20 basis points to 6.3%, citing a "seismic and uncertain shift" in US trade policy contributing to market turbulence and a potential global economic slowdown.
- The agency further revised India's growth estimate for FY27 down by 30 basis points to 6.5%, marking the second consecutive cut for FY26 after a previous reduction in March.

GST collections in April hit all-time high of ₹2.36 lakh crore

- **GST collections in April 2025** hit an all-time high of **₹2.36 lakh crore**, marking a 12.6% year-on-year increase, driven by strong economic activity and year-end book reconciliation by businesses.
- This surpasses the previous record of ₹2.10 lakh crore collected in April 2024 and ₹1.96 lakh crore in March 2025, showing sustained revenue growth.

Goldsikka Unveils AI-Powered Gold-Melting ATM

- **Goldsikka** launched an **AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM**, allowing users to **buy, sell, exchange, digitise, and monetise gold and gold jewellery without human interference**.
- The machine includes an **Augmented Reality (AR)** feature, enabling customers to virtually try on jewellery before purchasing.
- Gold deposited in the ATM is melted, its purity tested, and the value displayed, with the customer receiving the amount transferred directly to their bank account in about 30 minutes.

RBI Imposes Penalties on SBI and Jana SFB for Non-Compliance with Regulatory Norms

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **penalty of Rs 1.72 crore on State Bank of India (SBI)** for non-compliance with regulations related to "Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other Restrictions," "Customer Protection in Unauthorised Electronic Transactions," and "Opening of Current Accounts by Banks."
- A penalty of **Rs 1 crore has been levied on Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.** for violating certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Launches Solitaire Credit Card for Premium Travellers

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has introduced the **Kotak Solitaire Credit Card**, an exclusive, invite-only metal card aimed at catering to affluent travellers.

- This premium card offers a range of luxury benefits, including zero foreign transaction fees, unlimited airport lounge access, and the ability to transfer airmiles to top-tier airline and hotel partners.

Retail inflation drops to 3.16% in April 2025

- According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation stood at 3.16% in April**, down from 3.34% in March 2025 and significantly lower than 4.83% recorded in April 2024.
- This decline of 18 basis points from March makes April's inflation the lowest year-on-year reading since July 2019.

Public Sector Banks' Profit Hits Record ₹1.78 Lakh Crore in FY25

- The combined **net profit of all 12 public sector banks (PSBs)** rose to a record **₹1.78 lakh crore in FY25**, marking a **26% increase from ₹1.41 lakh crore in FY24** — an absolute jump of ₹37,100 crore.
- State Bank of India (SBI) contributed over 40% of the total PSB profits, clocking a net profit of ₹70,901 crore, up 16% from the previous fiscal year.
- **Punjab National Bank** posted the **highest net profit growth of 102%**, reaching ₹16,630 crore, followed by Punjab & Sind Bank with a 71% jump to ₹1,016 crore.

PayU Receives Final RBI Authorization as Online Payment Aggregator Ahead of IPO in 2025

- **PayU** has received **final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to **operate as an online Payment Aggregator**, allowing the company to resume onboarding new merchants after a 15-month embargo and marking a key milestone as it prepares for its initial public offering (IPO) in the second half of 2025.

LIC Launches Premium Payment via WhatsApp Bot for Enhanced Customer Convenience

- **LIC** introduced **premium payment via WhatsApp bot** providing a convenient new option for customers to pay their policy premiums online.
- Registered users of LIC's customer portal can send 'HI' to 8976862090 on WhatsApp to access services like viewing due policies and making payments through UPI, Net Banking, or Cards—all within the chat.

Bhutan Becomes First Country to Launch Nationwide Crypto-Powered Tourism Payment System

- **Bhutan** has launched **the world's first nationwide tourism payment infrastructure** using cryptocurrency, in partnership with Binance Pay and the state-owned DK Bank, marking a major milestone in blockchain adoption at the national level.

India's Wholesale Inflation Hits 13-Month Low at 0.85% in April

- **India's wholesale inflation** dropped to a **13-month low of 0.85% in April** from 2.05% in March, driven by falling food and fuel prices, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) declining 0.19% month-over-month.

- Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation fell to 3.16% in April, the lowest since July 2019, primarily due to food inflation slowing to 1.78% from 2.69% in March.

SBI joins global top 100 in net profit, becomes third Indian firm to achieve the milestone

- **State Bank of India (SBI)** achieved a **net profit of \$9.2 billion (₹77,561 crore) in FY25**, entering the list of the world's most profitable companies alongside giants like Alphabet, Apple, and JPMorgan Chase.
- **SBI ranks 98th globally in profitability, just behind Netflix and Cisco Systems**, reflecting a strong growth trajectory following its merger with five associate banks nearly a decade ago.

Canara Bank Launches "CANARA TruEdge" Suite for Institutional Banking with Tailored Benefits

- **Canara Bank** has launched "**CANARA TruEdge**," a specialized and feature-rich suite of Current and Savings Accounts designed to meet the banking needs of institutional clients across sectors like healthcare, education, religious organizations, and other non-individual entities.
- The suite carries the tagline "Grow with trust, lead with edge" and aims to enhance customer segmentation by providing tailored solutions aligned with specific operational and financial workflows.

HDFC Bank Launches 'Biz+ Current Accounts' for Growing Indian MSMEs

- **HDFC Bank** has introduced '**Biz+ Current Accounts**,' a tailored banking solution designed specifically to meet the evolving financial needs of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across India.
- The Biz+ accounts offer a comprehensive range of bundled services, including cash handling, digital banking platforms, and personalized support from dedicated relationship managers to aid businesses throughout their lifecycle.

RBI Fines Deutsche Bank ₹50 Lakh, Yes Bank ₹29.6 Lakh for Regulatory Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India** imposed a monetary penalty of **₹50 lakh on Deutsche Bank AG, India**, for failing to report certain borrower credit details to the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC), violating RBI reporting norms.
- **Yes Bank Limited** was also fined **₹29.60 lakh by the RBI** for not presenting complete and correct information regarding customer complaints in its Annual Financial Statements for the financial year 2023-24.

SEBI mandates e-book mechanism for pvt debt securities above ₹20 cr

- **SEBI mandates the Electronic Book Provider (EBP) platform** for private placement **debt issues of ₹20 crore or more**, including debt securities, non-convertible redeemable preference shares, and municipal bonds, reducing the earlier threshold of ₹50 crore.
- The EBP platform now covers Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs), and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) for

private placement of units, as well as securitised debt instruments, security receipts, commercial papers, and certificates of deposit.

SBM Bank India Partners with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to Expand Retail Banking and Insurance Offerings

- **SBM Bank India** has formed a strategic **partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** to **enhance retail banking by offering a wide range of insurance, savings, and wealth creation products.**
- The collaboration follows a bancassurance model, enabling customers to buy insurance easily via SBM Bank's 22 branches and digital platforms, simplifying access to life insurance and financial solutions.

RBI Imposes ₹1.66 Lakh Penalty on Union Bank of India

- **RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.66 lakh on Union Bank of India** due to discrepancies in soiled note remittance and ATM cash-outs.
- The bank stated that the penalty has no significant impact on its financial or operational activities and that preventive measures have been taken to avoid future issues.

RBI Grants In-Principle Approval to Emirates NBD Bank to Set Up Wholly Owned Subsidiary in India

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted **"in-principle" approval to Emirates NBD Bank PJSC to establish a Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) in India**, making it the third foreign bank to enter India via the WOS route.
- Earlier, SBM Bank (India) Limited (a subsidiary of SBM Group) and DBS Bank India Limited (a Subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd.) were issued licences on December 6, 2017, and October 4, 2018, respectively, to carry on banking business in India through Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) mode.

RBI pay Rs 2,68,590.07 crore to the Government as dividend for FY 25

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** approved a **record ₹2,68,590.07 crore surplus transfer to the Central Government** for the accounting year 2024-25, as decided in the 616th meeting of the Central Board of Directors chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- The Contingent Risk Buffer (CRB) has been increased from 6.50% to 7.50% under the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF), considering the macroeconomic conditions and risk assessment.

RBI Fines Union Bank ₹63.6 Lakh, Lendbox ₹40 Lakh for Regulatory Violations

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed **finances on Union Bank of India and Transactree Technologies Pvt Ltd** for violating regulatory norms.
- **Union Bank was fined ₹63.60 lakh** for not transferring eligible funds to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund and for collecting collateral on small agricultural loans, against RBI guidelines.
- **Transactree Technologies Pvt Ltd was fined ₹40 lakh** for non-compliance with P2P lending rules, including improper fund routing and lack of transparency with borrowers; RBI clarified these penalties relate only to regulatory lapses, not the validity of customer agreements.

RBI Forms New Payments Regulatory Board with Government Nominees, Replaces BPSS

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has notified the formation of a **six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)**, replacing the earlier five-member Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS); the new board includes three central government nominees for the first time.
- The PRB will be **headed by the RBI Governor** and will also include the Deputy Governor in charge of payment systems, one RBI-nominated official, and the three government-nominated members, all functioning as ex officio members.
- As per the 'Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025', the PRB will meet at least twice a year and may also invite experts from fields like IT, law, and payment systems, with the Principal Legal Adviser of RBI as a permanent invitee.

ZikZuk Gets RBI Nod to Launch Prepaid Wallets and Cards

- **ZikZuk Receives In-Principle Approval from RBI for Issuance of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs).**
- ZikZuk, a Hyderabad-based fintech startup, has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI), marking its entry into India's competitive digital payments ecosystem.

EnKash Launches India's First Payment Gateway Tailored for 63 Million+ SMBs and Startups

- **EnKash**, India's leading spend management platform, has **launched the EnKash Payment Gateway**, a first-of-its-kind solution tailored specifically for India's 63 million+ small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and startups, aiming to bridge the gap left by traditional enterprise-focused payment systems.

Getepay Secures RBI Approval as Online Payment Aggregator

- **Getepay** has become the **first fintech company from Rajasthan** to receive final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator, marking a major milestone for the firm and the fintech ecosystem.
- With this RBI approval, Getepay aims to expand its digital payment and commerce tools to millions of merchants, especially in Tier 2, Tier 3, and rural India, supporting over 1.5 million MSMEs and accelerating their formalisation.

Jio BlackRock AMC Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Mutual Fund Business

- **Jio BlackRock Asset Management (AMC)** has received final **approval from SEBI to launch its mutual fund business**, marking a major step for the 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services and BlackRock.
- The approval raises the total number of players in India's ₹70-trillion mutual fund industry to 48, as Jio BlackRock aims to introduce innovative and competitively priced products.

PayPal Gets RBI Nod to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator in India

- **PayPal Payments Pvt Ltd**, the Indian subsidiary of PayPal Holdings Inc, has **received in-principle approval from the RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator for Cross-Border Exports (PA-CB-E).**

- This approval enables PayPal to support Indian small businesses by facilitating secure cross-border payments to around 200 international markets, enhancing global selling capabilities.

India's Industrial Production Growth Slows to 2.7% in April 2025

- **India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth slowed to 2.7% in April 2025**, down from 3% in March, as per data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Among major sectors, manufacturing grew 3.4%, electricity generation rose 1.1%, while mining output declined by 0.2% in April.

IEPFA and SEBI Launch 'Niveshak Shivir' Pilot to Resolve Unclaimed Dividend Issues

- **The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)**, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, in **collaboration with SEBI**, is launching a pilot initiative called '**Niveshak Shivir**', with the first camp scheduled for June 1, 2025, in Pune.
- The initiative aims to provide a one-stop solution for investors by addressing issues like unclaimed dividends and shares, KYC updates, nomination, and resolving pending IEPFA claims directly at the event.

Jio BlackRock AMC Gets SEBI Nod to Launch Mutual Fund Business

- **Jio BlackRock Asset Management**, a 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services and BlackRock, has **received final SEBI approval** to launch its mutual fund business in India, with Sid Swaminatha appointed as MD & CEO.
- The fund house, set to become the 48th AMC in India, will focus on innovative, data-driven investment products, competitive and transparent pricing, and aims to democratize mutual fund investing for retail investors across the country.

Chapter 15: Committee

Committee	Headed by	Purpose
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Prime Minister Narendra Modi , has approved fresh coal linkages under the revised SHAKTI policy to enhance coal availability and flexibility for thermal power generation across India.

Chapter 16: Defence News

Rajnath Singh approves AMCA to build India's 5th Gen. Fighter Aircraft

- The Defence Minister, **Rajanath Singh**, has approved the **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) Programme Execution Model**, which aims to build India's fifth-generation fighter aircraft.
- In March 2024, the Union Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by PM Modi, had approved the design and development of the AMCA.
- The Indian Air Force's most advanced fighter plane is currently the Rafale, a 4.5-generation fighter plane from Dassault Aviation of France.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
The multilateral Talisman Sabre 2025 military exercise	India with Australia, Japan, and the United States	The 2025 edition will be the 11th iteration of this joint military exercise , which involves complex operations across land, air, sea, cyber, and space domains
IMDEX Asia 2025	India-Singapore	The ship's crew will participate in bilateral and multilateral activities , including professional exchanges with the Republic of Singapore Navy and other participating navies , aiming to enhance naval cooperation and interoperability
Teesta Prahar Exercise	The Indian Army	The exercise involved Infantry, Artillery, Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, Para SF, Army Aviation, Engineers , and Signals, showcasing synergy and jointness among forces.
Exercise Raahat, a joint disaster relief initiative	The Indian Army's Spear Corps and the NDRF	Focusing on inter-agency coordination and preparedness.

Chapter 17: Sports News

Cricket retained, MMA to debut at Asian Games 2026

- **Cricket** has been retained **for the Asian Games 2026**, which will be held in Aichi and Nagoya, Japan from September 19 to October 4.
- Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) will make its debut at the 2026 Asian Games, marking its first appearance in the event.

China wins the 19th Sudirman Cup 2025

- **Badminton powerhouse China** has won the **BWF Sudirman Cup for the fourth consecutive time**, beating South Korea 3-1 in the final of the 19th edition of the Sudirman Cup 2025.
- It was the 14th title win for the Chinese in the Sudirman Cup's history. Only three countries, China, Indonesia, and South Korea, have won the Sudirman Cup.
- The Chinese team defeated Japan, while South Korea defeated Indonesia to reach the final. This was the Chinese team's 16th consecutive final.

PM Modi Virtually Opens 7th Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Hosted by Bihar

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games 2025** through a virtual address.
- For the first time, the state of Bihar is hosting this national-level sports event, scheduled from May 4 to May 15, 2025. While the majority of competitions will be held across different cities in Bihar, **three events—gymnastics, shooting, and cycling—will take place in New Delhi.**

Goa wins 2025 Kalinga Super Cup

- **FC Goa** defeated Jamshedpur FC 3-0 in the final, **winning the 5th edition of the Kalinga Super Cup football tournament 2025.**
- The Kalinga Super Cup 2025 final was played at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Rohit Sharma retires from Test Cricket

- **Rohit Sharma** has announced his **retirement from Test Cricket with immediate effect.**
- Rohit has scored 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57.

SAFF U-19 Championship 2025 Begins in Arunachal Pradesh

- The **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Football Championship 2025** began **at Yupia in the Papum Pare district of Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Six countries are participating in the tournament. Group A includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives, while Group B consists of India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.
- The opening match will be played between India and Sri Lanka at the Golden Jubilee Stadium, Yupia.

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Aryna Sabalenka Clinches Third Madrid Open Title with Win Over Coco Gauff

- **World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka** defeated **Coco Gauff** 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) to win her **third Madrid Open title**, marking her 31st career victory on Madrid clay.
- This was Sabalenka's sixth final of the year and her 37th overall, and she has now won WTA titles in Brisbane, Miami, and Madrid in 2024.

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FIFA Expands Women's World Cup to 48 Teams from 2031; USA Likely to Host

- **FIFA** has approved expanding the **Women's World Cup from 32 to 48 teams starting with the 2031 edition**, adopting a 12-group format with 104 matches, mirroring the men's 2026 World Cup structure.

India Wins Seven Medals, Including Two Golds, at Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai

- **India finished the Archery World Cup Stage 2** with a **total of seven medals, including two gold**, one silver, and four bronze in Shanghai, China.
- Parth Sushant Salunkhe won a bronze in the Men's Individual Recurve, and Deepika Kumari secured a bronze in the Women's Individual Recurve, defeating top archers in their respective playoffs.

Virat Kohli Announces Retirement from Test Cricket, Ending a Glorious 14-Year Journey

- **Virat Kohli** has announced his **retirement from Test cricket**, concluding a remarkable 14-year career in the longest format of the game.
- Kohli accumulated 9,230 runs in 123 Test matches at an average of 46.85, becoming India's fourth-highest run-scorer in Test cricket, following Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, and Sunil Gavaskar.

Srihari becomes India's 86th Grandmaster

- **Tamil Nadu's L.R. Srihari**, a 19-year-old B.Com student from SRM (Vadapalani), has become **India's 86th Grandmaster**, securing his final GM norm at the Asian Individual Championships in Al-Ain after nearly a year of close attempts across nine tournaments.
- Srihari had already crossed the 2500 Elo rating during the Dubai Open 2023 and achieved his first two GM norms at the Sixdays Budapest GM Round-Robin and the 2023 Qatar Masters.

Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Kathryn Bryce Win ICC Players of the Month for April 2025

- **Bangladesh's top all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz** was awarded the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2025**, recognizing his outstanding performance in the two-Test series against Zimbabwe.
- **Scotland captain Kathryn Bryce** was named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for April 2025**, recognizing her exceptional performances during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier held in Pakistan.

Bologna Clinches First Italian Cup Title in 51 Years with 1-0 Win Over AC Milan

- **Bologna** ended a 51-year wait for a major trophy by beating AC Milan 1-0 to win the Italian Cup (Coppa Italia). The only goal was scored by Dan Ndoye, who had just returned from injury.
- This is Bologna's first Italian Cup win since 1974. The club is owned by Canadian Joey Saputo.

Sunil Gavaskar Inaugurates '10000 Gavaskar' Board Room at BCCI Headquarters in Mumbai

- **India cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar** inaugurated a board room named "10000 Gavaskar" at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai, honoring his iconic achievement.
- The event was attended by BCCI President Roger Binny, Vice-President Rajeev Shukla, and Secretary Devajit Saikia, celebrating Gavaskar's milestone as the first batter to reach 10,000 Test runs.
- Gavaskar finished his career with 10,122 Test runs, 34 centuries, and an average above 51, while his record for most Test hundreds was later surpassed by Sachin Tendulkar, who also has a dedicated room at BCCI HQ.
- Sunil Gavaskar played for India from 1971 to 1987 and is regarded as one of the best batsmen in cricket history.

India Beat Bangladesh 4-3 to Lift 2025 SAFF U-19 Football Title

- **India** clinched the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship 2025**, beating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final at the Yupia Outdoor Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh.
- The home team defeated the reigning champions after a 1-1 equaliser, which led to the penalty shootout. India's Shami Singamayum successfully netted the decisive penalty, helping the home side to lift the title.
- India emerged as the favourites in the tournament with dominant wins over Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives in the semifinals before making it to the finals.

R Praggnanandhaa Wins Superbet Chess Classic After Thrilling Three-Way Tiebreak

- **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa** won the **Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, Romania**, by prevailing in a tense three-way tiebreak against Alireza Firouzja and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, after all three tied at 5.5 points in nine rounds.
- The first two tiebreak games between Praggnanandhaa, Firouzja, and Vachier-Lagrave ended in draws, but Praggnanandhaa secured victory by winning the decisive third game against Vachier-Lagrave.

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Max Verstappen wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2025

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** took a dominant victory in the **Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix**.
- Verstappen took his second win of the season, and first since last month's Japanese Grand Prix.

- He competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One for Red Bull Racing.

Max Verstappen wins Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2025

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen** took a dominant victory in the **Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix**.
- Verstappen took his second win of the season, and first since last month's Japanese Grand Prix.
- He competes under the Dutch flag in Formula One for Red Bull Racing.

India's First Khelo India Beach Games Inaugurated by Mansukh Mandaviya at Diu's Ghoghla Beach

- **Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** inaugurated the **first-ever Khelo India Beach Games at Ghoghla Beach in the Union territory of Diu**.
- More than 1000 athletes from across the country will compete in six medal events and two demonstration sports over the next six days.

Shooter Kanak wins India's first gold medal at Junior World Cup in Germany

- **Shooter Kanak** has bagged **India's first gold medal** at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.
- Kanak, the silver medalist at the junior world championship in Lima last year, scored 239 in the **Women's 10 metre Air Pistol** final to claim the yellow metal.

Neeraj Chopra clinches silver medal at Janusz Kusociński Memorial meet

- **Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra** has clinched the **silver medal at the 2025 Janusz Kusociński Memorial** meet in Chorzów, Poland.
- The two-time Olympic medallist recorded a throw of 84.14 metres in challenging conditions on his sixth and final attempt. This marked his 22nd consecutive top-two finish since 2021.

Novak Djokovic Clinches Historic 100th ATP Singles Title at Geneva Open

- **Star tennis player, Novak Djokovic** made history as he **clinched his 100th ATP singles title**.
- The 38-year-old Serb bagged the 100th title of his stellar career after beating Poland's Hubert Hurkacz to win the Geneva Open Men's Singles.

Manipur Tops Medal Tally at Inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025

- **Manipur topped the medal tally at the inaugural Khelo India Beach Games 2025** with a total of 14 medals, including 5 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals.
- The event featured six competitive sports — Pencak Silat, Beach Soccer, Sepaktakraw, Beach Kabaddi, Beach Volleyball, and Open Water Swimming — along with two demonstration sports: Tug of War and Mallakhamb.
- Top 10 medal-winning States/Union Territories

Position	State/UT	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Manipur	5	6	3	14
2	Maharashtra	5	5	10	20
3	Nagaland	5	3	5	13
4	Haryana	5	1	3	9

4	Jammu and Kashmir	5	1	3	9
6	Delhi	4	2	4	10
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	4	0	5	9
8	Tamil Nadu	2	2	3	7
9	Madhya Pradesh	2	2	2	6
10	Kerala	2	0	3	5

Mahendra Gurjar Sets New World Record in F42 Javelin at Nottwil Para Athletics Grand Prix

- **Indian para-athlete Mahendra Gurjar** set a new **world record in the men's F42 javelin category with a throw of 61.17 meters** at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland, breaking the previous record of 59.19 meters set in 2022.

Tejaswani Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol

- **Indian shooter Tejaswani** won the **gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025** held in Suhl, Germany.
- She scored a total of 31 points after firing five shots in the eight-women final, securing India's top position in the event.

Arsenal Shocks Barcelona to Clinch Second Women's Champions League Title After 18 Years

- **Arsenal** defeated **defending champion Barcelona** 1-0 to win their second Women's Champions League title, with Stina Blackstenius scoring the decisive goal in the 75th minute.
- **Beth Mead and Stina Blackstenius** came off the bench to combine for the winning goal, while Arsenal's tough defense held off Barcelona's attacks throughout the match.

India Tops Medal Table at ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Germany, Outshines China

- **India** concluded its **participation in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025** held in Suhl, Germany, by leading the medal standings ahead of China.
- The Indian junior shooting team secured a total of 11 medals, which included three golds, four silvers, and four bronze medals, significantly outpacing China's tally of four medals.
- A total of 638 shooters representing 59 countries competed in the tournament, with India fielding the largest team of 57 shooters for the competition.

Medal Winner for India at Suhl, Germany

Medal	Shooter(s)	Event
Gold	Kanak	Women's 10m Air Pistol

	Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar	Women's 10m Air Rifle
	Tejaswini	Women's 25m Pistol
Silver	Ojasvi Thakur	Women's 10m Air Rifle
	Adriyan Karmakar	Men's 50m Rifle Prone
	Khyaty Chaudhary / Naraen Pranav Vanitha Suresh	10m Air Rifle Mixed Team
	Raiza Dhillon	Women's Skeet
Bronze	Adriyan Karmakar	Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
	Naraen Pranav Vanitha Suresh	Men's 10m Air Rifle
	Mukesh Nelavalli	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol
	Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar / Himanshu	10m Air Rifle Mixed Team

Ahmedabad to Host 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championship

- **Ahmedabad, Gujarat's largest city**, will host the **2026 Asian Weightlifting Championship** from April 1 to April 10, 2026, as announced by the Asian Weightlifting Federation.
- The original venue for the 2026 championship was Gujarat's capital, Gandhinagar, but the event was later shifted to Ahmedabad.
- The 2025 Asian Weightlifting Championship was held in Jiangshan, China, where Indian athletes Dilbag Singh (96 kg) and Seram Nirupama Devi (women's 64 kg) participated but did not win any medals.

India wins gold in 4x400m mixed relay at Asian Athletics Championships

- **India** successfully defended its **4x400m mixed relay title at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea**, with the team clocking 3:18.12 to win gold.
- The Indian relay team comprised Rupal Choudhary, Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Vishal TK, and Subha Venkatesan, finishing ahead of China and Sri Lanka.

Cristiano Ronaldo Becomes First Player to Score 800 Club Goals

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** became the **first footballer to score 800 goals in club football**, achieving this milestone at the age of 40 during Al-Nassr's recent Saudi Pro League match.
- Ronaldo won the Saudi League top scorer award again this season, scoring 25 goals after a remarkable 35 goals last season.

Chapter 18: Book and Author

Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
1 May	International Labour Day	Theme 2025 - Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations
1 May	Maharashtra and Gujarat Day	This year marks the 65th foundation day of the state. The day is also known as Maharashtra Diwas and Gujarat Sthapana Diwas
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	Theme 2025 - Reporting In The Brave New World – The Impact Of Artificial Intelligence On Press Freedom And The Media
4 May	World Laughter Day	Theme 2025 - Always laugh when you can
4 May	International Firefighters' Day	International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed every year on 4th May to honor the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters who risk their lives to save others
5 May	World Portuguese Language Day	The day celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity and highlights the role of Portuguese in fostering cooperation, literature, education, science, and international dialogue among Lusophone countries.
6 May	International No Diet Day	International No Diet Day was launched in 1992 by British feminist Mary Evans Young , who founded the Diet Breakers organization after her personal struggle with anorexia
6 May	World Asthma Day	Theme 2025 - Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL
7 May	World Athletics Day	It is a yearly occasion to recognise athletes and impart virtues like

		perseverance and drive that we can all learn from sports
8 May	World Thalassaemia Day	Theme 2025 - Together for Thalassaemia: Uniting Communities, Prioritizing Patients
8 May	World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day	Theme 2025 - Keeping Humanity Alive
10 May	World Lupus Day	Theme 2025 - Belonging. Belief. Breakthroughs
10 May	International Day of Argania	This day emphasizes the contribution of rural Moroccan women, who are at the heart of the argan oil production industry.
11 May	National Technology Day	Theme 2025 - YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration.
12 May	International Nurses Day	Theme 2025 - Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies
12 May	International Day of Plant Health	Theme 2025 - The importance of plant health in One Health
12 -18 May	UN Global Road Safety Week 2025	Theme 2025 - Rethink Mobility: Make Walking and Cycling Safe
15 May	International Day of Families	Theme - Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development
16 May	National Dengue Day	The day aims to educate people about the symptoms, spread, and preventive actions against dengue , especially in the pre-monsoon season when mosquito breeding increases.
16 May	International Day of Light	The day promotes awareness about how light science can contribute to global challenges such as climate

		change, health, and energy efficiency.
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	The day highlights how digital technologies and communication tools can bridge the digital divide, promote social and economic development, and foster innovation globally.
18 May	World AIDS Vaccine Day	Theme 2025 - Immunize. Inspire
17 May	World Hypertension Day	Theme 2025 - Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
19 May	World Fair Play Day	The day highlights the significance of honesty, respect, and integrity among athletes, coaches, and sports officials worldwide.
20 May	World Bee Day	Theme 2025 - Bee inspired by nature to nourish us all
20 May	World Metrology Day	Theme 2025- Measurements for all times, for all people
21 May	National Anti-Terrorism Day	To commemorate the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 and to raise awareness about the dangers of terrorism.
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Theme 2025 - Harmony with nature and sustainable development
23 May	World Turtle Day	It was founded in 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) to promote 2 to protect turtle species.
23 May	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	Theme 2025 - Her health, her right: Shaping a future without fistula
24 May	World Schizophrenia Awareness Day	Theme 2025- Rethink the Label: Reclaim the Story
25 May	World Football Day	The day aims to promote peace, unity, and global cooperation through the

		universal love of football , recognizing its role in development and diplomacy.
26 May	International Day of the Markhor	The Markhor is found in the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, and Tajikistan , and is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List.
26 May	National Memorial Day	It is a solemn day marked by ceremonies, parades, and moments of silence , reflecting on the sacrifices made by soldiers for national freedom and peace.
25 - 31 May	International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories	It reaffirms the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples , supporting the right of these territories to self-government and political independence.
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day	Theme 2025 - Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld
28 May	World Hunger Day	World Hunger Day is observed annually on May 28 to raise awareness about the global hunger crisis and to inspire collective action toward sustainable solutions .
29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Theme 2025 - The Future of Peacekeeping
29 May	International Everest Day	The day honors the spirit of human endurance, courage, and adventure, celebrating the achievement of reaching the world's highest peak at 8,848.86 meters.
30 May	International Day of the Potato	Theme 2025 - Shaping history, feeding the future

30 May	Goa Statehood Day	The day commemorates Goa's transition from a Union Territory to full statehood, recognising its cultural identity, political significance , and economic growth.
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Chapter 20: Science & Technology

DRDO conducts maiden flight-trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform

- DRDO conducted the **first flight-trial of its Stratospheric Airship Platform at Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh**, reaching an altitude of 17 km and flying for 62 minutes with a scientific payload.
- Developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, the test validated envelope pressure control and emergency deflation systems, with onboard sensors collecting critical data for future simulation models.
- The total duration of the flight was about 62 minutes.

'Samudrayaan': India's first manned deep ocean mission to be launched by 2026 end

- India's first manned deep ocean mission, '**Samudrayaan**', aims to explore **depths of up to 6,000 meters** using the indigenous submersible vehicle 'Matsya', carrying three scientists, with launch **planned by the end of 2026**.
- The advanced 25-tonne, titanium-hulled submersible is designed to withstand extreme oceanic pressure and temperature, marking a breakthrough in India's deep-sea research, opening new possibilities in ocean resource assessment and tourism.

SpaceX successfully launches Starship Super Heavy on ninth test flight

- **SpaceX** has successfully launched its **Starship Super Heavy rocket** on its ninth test flight from its facility near Boca Chica Beach in South Texas.
- The ninth uncrewed test launch flew farther than the last two attempts that ended in explosive failure.
- It marks a critical milestone in SpaceX's mission to develop a fully reusable heavy-lift rocket system with the capacity to carry humans to the Moon and Mars.

Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
Padma Shri Awardee K V Rabiya	K V Rabiya , a physically challenged social worker from this district who rose to prominence through her active role in

	the Kerala state literacy campaign, died at the age of 59.
Argentina 1978 World Cup winner, Luis Galván	Galván is cherished as a club legend at Córdoba's Talleres , where he made a remarkable 503 appearances over the span of his career.
Former Australian Cricketer Bob Cowper	Bob Cowper, former Australian cricketer and elegant left-hand batter , passed away at the age of 84; he played 27 Tests in the 1960s and is remembered for his remarkable 307-run innings against England at the MCG in 1966 .
Subbanna Ayyappan, former Director General of ICAR and Padma Shri awardee	Ayyappan , a renowned agriculture and fisheries scientist , is credited for contributing to India's 'Blue Revolution'
Saroj Ghose, father of India's science museum movement	Dr Ghose, a Padma Bhushan (2007) and the Padma Shri (1989) recipient also served as president of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) in Paris and played a crucial role in designing landmark institutions such as the Science City in Kolkata, the National Science Centre in New Delhi, and the Nehru Science Centre in Mumbai .
Legendary Nuclear Scientist Dr. M.R. Srinivasan	He contributed significantly to India's nuclear infrastructure , including leading projects like the Apsara reactor, Madras Atomic Power Station , and founding the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) .
Eminent Astrophysicist Dr Jayant Narlikar	Dr. Jayant Narlikar passed away at the age of 86 in Pune , leaving behind a legacy as a pioneer in Indian astronomy

	and a tireless promoter of scientific temper among the youth
Jayant Narlikar, astrophysicist who challenged Big Bang theory	He was known for his pioneering work in cosmology, advocating alternative models to the Big Bang theory , and significantly advancing science education and communication in India .
Actor Mukul Dev	Born in New Delhi to a Punjabi family with roots near Jalandhar , Mukul was fluent in Pashto and Persian , influenced by his father, Hari Dev, an ACP who introduced him to Afghan culture .
Senior Akali Dal Leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	He served as Lok Sabha MP from Sangrur and held the portfolios of Sports, Chemicals, and Fertilisers in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government.

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