

# THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Monthly capsule**
- **Current Affairs**

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



# The Hindu Review (June 2025)

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## Chapter 1: Appointment (National, International)

### (National)

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Instamart, the quick commerce arm of Swiggy has appointed as Senior Vice President</b>	Ankit Jain (Updated 1 June)
<b>Axis Max Life Insurance announced that its Managing Director and CEO will step down</b>	Prashant Tripathy (Updated 1 June)
<b>Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS) appointed as the new Global CEO</b>	Venkatesh Korla (Updated 1 June)
<b>Assumed as President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the 2025-26 term</b>	Rajiv Memani (Updated 2 June)
<b>Took over as the 18th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman &amp; Nicobar Command (CINCAN)</b>	Lt Gen Dinesh Singh Rana (Updated 3 June)
<b>Appointed as Senior Air Staff Officer of Western Air Command</b>	Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann (Updated 3 June)
<b>Takes Charge as Director General of Defence Estates</b>	Shailendra Nath Gupta (Updated 4 June)
<b>State-run UCO Bank has appointed as its new chief financial officer (CFO)</b> <b>About United Commercial Bank (UCO) Bank</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Founded</b> - 1943</li> <li>• <b>Headquarters</b> - Kolkata</li> <li>• <b>MD &amp; CEO</b> - Ashwani Kumar</li> <li>• <b>Tagline</b> - Honours your Trust</li> </ul>	Sumit Khandelwal (Updated 5 June)



<b>Appointed as the new Chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI)</b>	Sailesh C Mehta (Updated 5 June)
<b>The Government has extended the tenure of MD &amp; CEO of Punjab &amp; Sind Bank, until February 28, 2027</b>	Swarup Kumar Saha (Updated 5 June)
<b>Appointed as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)</b>	S Mahendra Dev (Updated 6 June)
<b>TVS Motor Company has appointed its current Managing Director as the incoming Chairman</b>	Sudarshan Venu (Updated 6 June)
<b>Kerala-based Asirvad Microfinance, a subsidiary of Manappuram Finance, has appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b>	Roy Varghese (Updated 9 June)
<b>Kerala-based Asirvad Microfinance, a subsidiary of Manappuram Finance, has appointed as Chief Operating Officer (COO)</b>	Unnikrishnan Janardanan (Updated 9 June)
<b>PhonePe has appointed to its board ahead of its potential IPO</b>	Zarin Daruwala (Updated 9 June)
<b>Appointed as the Director of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML)</b>	Ashwani Lohani (Updated 9 June)
<b>Appointed as the brand ambassador for Dettol's new 'Icy Cool' product range</b>	Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Updated 9 June)
<b>The central government has entrusted Managing Director at LIC, with the financial and administrative powers of the MD &amp; CEO</b>	Sat Pal Bhanoo (Updated 9 June)

<b>Appointed as a part-time Member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVIFC)</b>	T Rabi Sankar (Updated 10 June)
<b>Appointed as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) while continuing to serve as the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)</b>	Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai (Updated 10 June)
<b>Max Financial Services Ltd has announced the appointment as the new Managing Director and CEO of Axis Max Life Insurance Ltd</b>	Sumit Madan (Updated 12 June)
<b>Appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Dy. CEO) of SBI General Insurance</b>	Mohd. Arif Khan (Updated 12 June)
<b>Sun Pharmaceutical appointed as its new Managing Director</b>	Kirti Ganorkar (Updated 16 June)
<b>Citi has appointed as the Managing Director and Head of Citi India Solutions</b>	Ganesh Baliga (Updated 16 June)
<b>The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a six-month extension as MD and CEO of YES Bank</b>	Prashant Kumar (Updated 16 June)
<b>Appointed as the global brand ambassador for Maldives tourism by the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC)</b>	Katrina Kaif (Updated 16 June)
<b>Appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to President Droupadi Murmu</b>	Yashasvi Solanki (Updated 16 June)
<b>Meta Platforms has appointed as the new Managing Director and Head for Meta in India</b>	Arun Srinivas (Updated 16 June)
<b>Stepped down as India's G20 Sherpa</b>	Amitabh Kant

	(Updated 16 June)
<b>Appointed as the Managing Director of Nippon Koei India (NKI)</b>	G. Sampath Kumar (Updated 19 June)
<b>Assumed charge as the new Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)</b>	Sivasubramanian Ramann (Updated 21 June)
<b>UGRO Capital Limited has appointed as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)</b>	Anuj Pandey (Updated 25 June)
<b>The central government has demoted, Executive Director (ED) of Union Bank of India, back to his earlier position as General Manager (GM) in Punjab &amp; Sind Bank</b>	Pankaj Dwivedi (Updated 26 June)
<b>Bajaj Consumer Care has appointed as its new Managing Director</b>	Mr. Naveen Pandey (Updated 26 June)
<b>Taken over as the 23rd Colonel of the Regiment of Garhwal Rifles, succeeding Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani</b>	Lt Gen Dinesh Singh Rana (Updated 30 June)
<b>Re-appointment as Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on a contract basis for one year</b>	Ravi Agrawal (Updated 30 June)

### (International)

<u>Organization / Country</u>	<u>Person</u>
<b>Deutsche Bank has appointed as the new CEO of its India Global Capability Centre (GCC)</b>	Stefan Schaffer (Updated 4 June)
<b>Elected as the President of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)</b>	Annalena Baerbock (Updated 4 June)

<b>Wins Polish Presidential Election</b>	Karol Nawrocki (Updated 4 June)
<b>Wins South Korea's Presidential election</b>	Liberal Lee Jae-myung (Updated 4 June)
<b>The UK's foreign intelligence agency, MI6, will be led by a woman for the first time</b>	Blaise Metreweli (Updated 17 June)
<b>Appointed as the first Indian-American Provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)</b>	Anantha Chandrakasan (Updated 20 June)
<b>Sona BLW Precision Forgings Ltd (Sona Comstar) has appointed as its new Chairman</b>	Jeffrey Mark Overly (Updated 25 June)
<b>Named the brand ambassador for the World Para Athletics Championships 2025</b>	Kangana Ranaut (Updated 25 June)
<b>Elected as the next President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</b>	Zou Jiayi (Updated 26 June)

## Chapter 2: Awards (National, International)

### (National)

<u><b>Award</b></u>	<u><b>Person/Organization</b></u>	<u><b>Purpose/ Field</b></u>
<b>The Digital Payments Award 2024–25 by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Ministry of Finance</b>	India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)	For its <b>exceptional efforts in promoting digital payments and financial inclusion nationwide</b>

### (International)

<u><b>Award</b></u>	<u><b>Person/Organization</b></u>	<u><b>Purpose/ Field</b></u>
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<b>2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee</b>	Faizan Zaki	<b>Faizan Zaki, a 13-year-old Indian-American student from Texas</b> , won the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee by <b>correctly spelling the word "eclaircissement", meaning enlightenment or clarification</b>
<b>The Global Leadership Award by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)</b>	Kumar Mangalam Birla	<b>Aditya Birla Group</b> is the <b>largest Indian investor</b> in the U.S., having invested over <b>\$15 billion across 15 states</b> and creating more than <b>5,400 jobs.</b>
<b>The prestigious Dostoevsky Star Award</b>	Lyricist and writer Javed Akhtar	<b>In 'recognition of his remarkable influence on cultural heritage and literary dialogue'</b>
<b>The Srimanta Sankardeva Award</b>	Dr. Sonal Mansingh	For her immense contribution to <b>Indian classical dance, social reform and for cultural advocacy</b>
<b>The Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, the highest civilian honour of Cyprus</b>	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	PM Modi dedicated the award to the <b>1.4 billion people of India</b> and highlighted the strong and warm <b>bilateral relations between India and Cyprus.</b>
<b>Won the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the prestigious Annecy International Animation Festival 2025 in France</b>	'Desi Oon' an animated film by renowned <b>Indian filmmaker Suresh Eriyat</b>	The film emerged from the <b>Create in India Challenge, an initiative by the Ministry of Information &amp; Broadcasting under WAVES 2025</b>



### Awards 2025: Complete winners list

#### President Murmu Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to 15 Outstanding Nursing Professionals

- **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to 15 distinguished nursing professionals** during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognizing their outstanding contributions to public health and community welfare.
- The awards, instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, honor Registered Nurses, Midwives, ANMs, and Lady Health Visitors across government and voluntary sectors for their compassion, resilience, and service.
- Each awardee received a Certificate of Merit, a ₹1,00,000 cash prize, and a medal, symbolizing the nation's appreciation for their dedicated efforts in strengthening healthcare delivery.

Sr No.	Category	Name	State
1	ANM	Smt. Reba Rani Sarkar	Andaman and Nicobar
2	ANM	Smt. Valiveti Subhavathi	Andhra Pradesh
3	ANM	Smt. Saroj Fakirbhai Patel	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
4	ANM	Smt. Raziya Beegum P B	Lakshadweep
5	ANM	Smt. Sujata Ashok Bagul	Maharashtra
6	LHV	Smt. Bina Pani Deka	Assam
7	Nurse	Smt. Kijum Sora Karga	Arunachal Pradesh
8	Nurse	Miss Dimple Arora	Delhi
9	Nurse	Maj Gen Sheena P D	Delhi
10	Nurse	Dr. Banu M R	Karnataka
11	Nurse	Smt. Leimapokpam Ranjita Devi	Manipur
12	Nurse	Smt. V Lalhmangaihi	Mizoram
13	Nurse	Smt. L S Manimozhi	Puducherry
14	Nurse	Smt. Alamelu Mangayarkarasi K	Tamil Nadu
15	Nurse	Smt. Doli Biswas	West Bengal

#### The Kerala Sahitya Akademi announced the 2024 literary awards

- **The Kerala Sahitya Akademi** announced the **2024 literary awards**, honouring both new and established Malayalam writers across 14

**categories**, including novel, poetry, short story, drama, essay, biography, and more.

- G R Indugopan won best novel for Aano, Anitha Thampi was awarded best poetry for Muringa Vazha Kariveppu, and V Shinilal received the short story award for Garisappa Aruvi Athava Oru Jalayathra.
- Each award carries a cash prize of ₹25,000, a plaque, and a certificate, while Fellowship and Lifetime Contribution Awards include ₹50,000, a gold medal, a citation, a shawl, and a plaque.
- **Table of the main winners:**

Category	Winner	Work
Novel	G R Indugopan	<i>Aano</i>
Poetry	Anitha Thampi	<i>Muringa Vazha Kariveppu</i>
Short Story	V Shinilal	<i>Garisappa Aruvi Athava Oru Jalayathra</i>
Essay (Sibi Kumar Endowment)	M Swaraj	<i>Pookkalude Pusthakam</i>
Drama	Sashidharan Naduvil	—
Literary Criticism	G Dileep	—
Scientific Literature	Deepak V	—
Biography/Autobiography	Dr K Rajashekharan Nair	—
Travel Writing	K R Ajayan	—
Translation	Chinthu Prakash	—
Children's Literature	E N Sheeja	—
Humour	Niranjana	—
Fellowship	K V Ramakrishnan	—
Lifetime Contribution	Ezhacheri Ramachandran + 6 others	—

### Chapter 3: Government Scheme/ campaign

### Chapter 4: Summit/ Conference

Summit/Conference	Location	About
<b>The 6th Governing Council meeting of NIIF</b>	New Delhi	To discuss focused on <b>NIIF's current performance, strategic direction</b> , and future

		capital-raising plans, including the size and nature of next-generation funds.
<b>The 3rd meeting of the ITU-T Focus Group on AI-Native for Telecommunication Networks (FG-AINN)</b>	New Delhi	The event was organized by the <b>Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC)</b> , the technical arm of the <b>Department of Telecommunications (DoT)</b> , in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
<b>The 51st G7 Summit</b>	Kananaskis, Alberta	The summit underscored the <b>G7's global economic significance</b> : these nations collectively represented <b>44% of world GDP while comprising only 10%</b> of the global population, highlighting their significant influence on international affairs.
<b>The Department of Financial Services (DFS) and RBI co-chaired a high-level meeting</b>	New Delhi	To discuss scaling up <b>Unified Lending Interface (ULI) — a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) aimed at streamlining</b> and democratizing credit access across India.
<b>The National Conference of Estimates Committees of Parliament and State/UT Legislative Bodies Bhawan</b>	Mumbai	<b>The Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla</b> , inaugurated the conference, while the <b>Maharashtra Governor, C.P. Radhakrishnan</b> , delivered the valedictory address, highlighting the conference theme focused on <b>efficient monitoring and review of budget estimates</b> .
<b>The 15th meeting of the Empowered Task Force on Ganga conservation</b>	-	<b>Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil</b> chaired the 15th meeting of the Empowered Task Force on <b>Ganga conservation</b> , where he reviewed the progress made by NMCG and appreciated the accelerated pace of infrastructure implementation.
<b>The 25th Central Zonal Council meeting</b>	Varanasi	<b>The Central Zonal Council comprises Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Uttarakhand</b> , and is notable for being the only <b>regional council</b> with no disputes among member states.
<b>The 48th edition of PRAGATI, the Centre's ICT-enabled platform</b>	New Delhi	<b>For proactive governance</b> , where he reviewed <b>critical infrastructure projects in the Mines, Railways, and Water Resources sectors</b> , emphasising timely execution and better inter-agency coordination.

## Chapter 5: Partnership/ Agreement

Partnership/ Agreement	Aim
The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul) has partnered with Spanish dairy cooperative COVAP	To launch its <b>milk products in Spain</b> , marking its entry into the <b>European market</b> .
Bengaluru-based insurance-tech startup Covrzy has collaborated with Namma Yatri	To provide <b>affordable and accessible health insurance</b> to auto and cab drivers and their <b>families across India</b>
RateGain Travel Technologies has partnered with Razorpay	To revolutionize hotel payments in India by integrating Razorpay's secure and flexible payment gateway into <b>RateGain's hotel booking engine</b> , providing guests with a <b>seamless and intelligent digital payment experience</b>
The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in partnership with Shell India and Edunet Foundation	Launched a structured <b>green energy and electric vehicle (EV) training program</b> across select <b>NSTIs and ITIs in Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka</b> .
India and South Africa signed two agreements on submarine cooperation during the 9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting	The meeting, chaired on the <b>South African side by Acting Secretary for Defence Dr. Thobekile Gamede</b> , identified areas of mutual interest and mapped a path for <b>deeper cooperation in the defence sector</b> .

## Chapter 6: Ranking Index

Index	Index released by	India's Rank	1st Rank
The Global Gender Gap Index 2025	The World Economic Forum (WEF) report	131st	Iceland
The highest wind power capacity	-	-	Karnataka

addition in India during FY 2024–25			(With 1,331.48 MW)
The Top 100 of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025	-	<b>41st</b> (Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham) and <b>48th</b> Lovely Professional University (LPU),	Western Sydney University
The World Economic Forum's Energy Transition Index 2025	World Economic Forum	<b>71st</b>	Sweden
Top 100 in Global SDG Rankings 2025	The 10th Sustainable Development Report	<b>99th</b>	Finland

## Chapter 7: Mergers and Acquisitions

Merger Company	About
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Currant Sea Investments B.V. to acquire up to 9.99% stake in IDFC First Bank Limited	<b>Currant Sea Investments B.V.</b> , based in the Netherlands, is an investment holding company with <b>no direct operations in India</b>
Central Bank of India acquired a 24.91% stake in Future Generali India for Rs 451 crore and a 25.18% stake in Future Generali India Life Insurance for Rs 57 crore, completing the acquisition, with approvals from CCI, RBI, and IRDAI	<b>Future Generali's insurance businesses</b> , established in <b>2006</b> as joint ventures between <b>Future Enterprises Ltd</b> and <b>Generali Group</b> , showed strong growth, with the general insurance arm posting a 21.06% YoY increase in gross direct premium income to <b>Rs 527.8 crore in FY25</b> .
The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a proposed combination involving the acquisition of equity shares in Aakash Educational Services Limited by Manipal Health Systems Pvt Ltd and	<b>Manipal Health Systems Pvt Ltd (Acquirer-1)</b> is an <b>Indian company</b> involved in operating hospitals and delivering <b>healthcare services across the country</b> .



<b>Manipal Education and Medical Group India Pvt Ltd.</b>	
<b>The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a proposed combination involving the acquisition of Manappuram Finance Ltd. and Manappuram Asset Finance Ltd. by Bain Capital through its investment entities BC Asia Investments XXV Ltd. and BC Asia Investments XIV Ltd.</b>	The <b>acquiring entities</b> are indirectly owned and controlled by <b>Bain Capital</b> , a <b>global private equity investment</b> firm engaged in investment activities across various sectors including <b>IT, healthcare, retail, and financial services</b>

## Chapter 8: Loan

<b>Organization/Bank</b>	<b>Loan Amount</b>	<b>To which country</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b>	A \$109.97 million (approx. ₹927 crore)	Gujarat's	To support <b>Gujarat's goal of becoming a global industrial hub by strengthening its workforce.</b>

## Chapter 9: App/Website/Portal

<b>App/ Website/Portal</b>	<b>Company / Department</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>The Ayush Suraksha Portal</b>	AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav	To address issues related to <b>misleading advertisements and adverse drug reactions</b>
<b>The mobile app 'Code Emergency',</b>	AIIMS Bhopal	On World Emergency Day, AIIMS Bhopal launched the mobile app 'Code Emergency', a life-saving tool aligned with <b>the 'One State One Health One Emergency' policy</b> inaugurated in 2024 by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav.
<b>ISight- a new app</b>	Hindustan Unilever (HUL)	A new app that enables employees to <b>report real-time</b>

		<b>market trends and competitor strategies across India.</b>
<b>'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' Portal</b>	The Ministry of Ayush	The portal serves as an <b>investor-centric digital platform integrating policies, incentives, real-time facilitation</b> , and investment-ready projects to promote the <b>Ayush sector as a modern economic driver</b>
<b>UMEED Central Portal</b>	Union Minister Kiren Rijju	The portal—named after <b>Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development (UMEED) Act, 1995</b> —enables <b>geo-tagging, digital inventory, online grievance redressal, and GIS-based mapping</b> to ensure efficient and transparent Waqf governance.
<b>The FastTrack Punjab Portal</b>	Punjab Government	To streamline <b>industrial approvals and reduce bureaucratic delays</b> , ensuring investors get time-bound clearances with a guaranteed approval timeline of <b>45 days</b> . If missed, deemed approval is automatically granted.
<b>Mobile app 'ECoR Yatra'</b>	East Coast Railway (ECoR)	To provide <b>real-time, reliable, and user-friendly railway services</b> for <b>pilgrims</b> traveling to Puri during the <b>Rath Yatra festival</b> .

## Chapter 10: Important MoU

<b>MoU</b>	<b>Between Which Countries</b>
<b>The MoU establishes a framework for joint research and human capital development in cutting-edge semiconductor fields including post-CMOS technologies, AI hardware</b>	IIT Kharagpur and Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME) under A*STAR

accelerators, quantum devices, photonics, and thermal management	
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop the bioenergy and bio-hydrogen sectors in India</b>	The Indian Biogas Association ( <b>IBA</b> ) has with <b>Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL)</b>
<b>Signed a 5-year MoU to enhance its Real-Time Governance System (RTGS) by integrating satellite imagery and scientific data for citizen-centric services</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh government</b> with <b>ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR)</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for developing AI-based solutions in healthcare, supported by a ₹330 crore grant under the Ministry of Education's "Make AI in India, Make AI Work for India" initiative</b>	<b>IIT Delhi</b> and <b>AIIMS</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to integrate AI-driven multilingual technologies—such as ASR, OCR, TTS, and translation—into major railway platforms like NTES and RailMadad, enabling access in 22 Indian languages</b>	<b>Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD)</b> and the Centre for Railway Information Systems ( <b>CRIS</b> )
<b>Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to tackle dust pollution through urban road redevelopment</b>	<b>The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)</b> with CSIR-Central Road Research Institute ( <b>CSIR-CRRI</b> ) and <b>School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to explore and produce critical minerals found in Singareni mines using advanced and eco-friendly technologies.</b>	<b>Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)</b> with the <b>Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar</b>
<b>Signed an MoU to establish a strategic vehicle financing partnership aimed at providing retail financing solutions for new cars, used cars, and commercial vehicles</b>	<b>Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL)</b> with <b>Equitas Small Finance Bank</b>
<b>signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable the introduction of UPI services in Cyprus, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)</b>	India and <b>Cyprus</b>

<b>Signed an MoU to promote multilingual governance and empower the Mizo community through native language technology</b>	The Digital India <b>BHASHINI</b> Division (DIBD) and <b>the Government of Mizoram</b>
<b>To establish a Data Intelligence and Technical Support Unit aimed at combating the drug menace in the state.</b>	<b>The Punjab Government with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences, Mohali, and Vidyasagar Institute of Mental Health, Amritsar</b>

## Chapter 11: GDP Forecasting

### India's FY25 economic growth hits four-year low of 6.5%, Q4 GDP beats estimates

- **India's Q4 economic growth accelerated to 7.4%**, outperforming estimates, but the full fiscal year 2024-25 recorded its slowest growth since the Covid era at 6.5%, down sharply from 9.2% in FY24.
- The IMF expects India's economy to surpass Japan's size by the end of 2025, reaching approximately \$4.18 trillion, while GVA growth stood at 6.4%, slightly below GDP figures.

### Crisil Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.5% for FY26

- **Crisil has projected India's GDP growth at 6.5% for FY 2026**, citing improving domestic consumption as a key driver, supported by factors like easing inflation, RBI's expected rate cuts, income tax relief, and robust agricultural growth.

### OECD Lowers India's FY26 Growth Forecast to 6.3%

- **The OECD has lowered India's FY26 GDP growth projection to 6.3%**, citing risks from rising global trade tensions—especially potential US tariff hikes on Indian exports like textiles, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
- In contrast, UBS Securities has upgraded its forecast to 6.4%, up from 6%, driven by stronger domestic demand, hopes of a US-India trade deal, and stable global crude oil prices.

### ICRA Projects Slight Dip in India's GDP Growth to 6.2% for 2025-26

- **ICRA has forecast India's GDP growth to dip slightly to 6.2% in 2025-26**, down from 6.5% in the previous year, with real GVA growth also expected to ease to 6%.
- Inflation projections remain moderate, with CPI expected to stay above 3.5% and WPI over 1.8%, while the fiscal deficit is projected at 4.4% of GDP.

### S&P Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5% Citing Strong Domestic Demand and Policy Support

- **S&P Global Ratings has revised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast upward to 6.5% (from 6.3%)**, attributing the boost to resilient domestic demand, expectations of a normal monsoon, income-tax relief, declining crude oil prices, and potential monetary easing.

- In its Asia-Pacific Economic Outlook, S&P noted that India's low reliance on goods exports will cushion it from global economic slowdowns, making it relatively insulated from external shocks.

## Chapter 12: Current Affairs (National)

### Rajnath Singh Grants Miniratna Status to MIL, AVNL & IOL to Boost Indigenous Defence Manufacturing

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has approved the grant of “**Miniratna Category-I**” status to **Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL)**, marking a significant step in empowering state-run defence firms.
- These three companies were carved out of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in October 2021 as part of the structural overhaul aimed at making defence manufacturing more autonomous and competitive.

### Odisha Launches ANKUR Initiative to Drive Smart, Citizen-Centric Urban Growth and Prepare for Future Challenges

- **Odisha government** launched **ANKUR (Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms)**, a strategic initiative to drive smart, efficient, and citizen-centric urban growth across the state, marked by MoUs signed with six leading urban development organizations.
- The initiative focuses on strengthening four key pillars—capacity building, knowledge and research, implementation support, and innovation—aligning Odisha's urban growth vision with the national goal of 'Viksit Bharat @2047' and preparing for the projected tripling of the state's urban population by 2036.

### Gujarat Launches 'Karmayogi Swasthya Suraksha Yojana' Providing ₹10 Lakh Cashless Health Cover

- **Gujarat** launched the '**Gujarat Karmayogi Swasthya Suraksha Yojana**' to provide **cashless medical treatment up to ₹10 lakh per family for AIS officers**, state government employees, and pensioners under the PMJAY “G” category card system.
- Enrollment requires eligible beneficiaries to possess the PMJAY “G” category card, issued by the State Health Agency (SHA), which is also responsible for card distribution and scheme implementation.

### PM Modi Dedicates 660 MW Unit of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project to Nation

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** dedicated **Unit-1 (660 MW) of the Ghatampur Thermal Power Project** to the nation, marking a significant milestone in India's energy infrastructure.
- The project is a joint venture between NLC India Limited (51%) and UPRVUNL (49%) under the name Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Ltd (NUPPL). With a total cost of ₹21,780.94 crore, the remaining two units are scheduled for commissioning by FY 2025–26, significantly boosting regional power supply.

### Goa Achieves Full Functional Literacy



- **On Goa's 39th Statehood Day**, the Union Government **declared Goa as a fully literate state under the Ullas-New India Literacy Programme**, making it one of four states to achieve this status.
- Goa attained an impressive literacy rate of 99.7%, surpassing the 95% benchmark set by the government for declaring a state fully literate.

### 16-Year-Old Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti Becomes Youngest Indian to Complete 7 Summits Challenge by Conquering Everest

- **Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti** from Hyderabad became the **youngest Indian and second youngest in the world to complete the 7 Summits challenge by climbing the highest peak** on each of the seven continents at just 16 years old.
- He completed his final and most difficult climb by summiting Mount Everest (8,848 metres), fulfilling a long-held dream.

### Centre to Launch Jan Aushadhi Kendra Experiential Learning Program for Youth

- **The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**, in collaboration with the Department of Pharmaceuticals, is launching a **15-day Jan Aushadhi Kendra Experiential Learning Program**, starting from 1 June, to engage youth in public health outreach.
- **Five youth volunteers per district** will be **deployed to Jan Aushadhi Kendras nationwide**, where they will assist in daily operations, inventory management, and spreading awareness about generic medicines and public health literacy.

### India to Launch Its First Artificial Intelligence Special Economic Zone in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh

- **India** is launching its **first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh**, developed by RackBank Datacenters Pvt. Ltd. with an investment of ₹1,000 crore to boost AI research and technology.
- The AI SEZ will span six acres and include a 1.5 lakh sq. ft. data centre housing four high-density data centres with a combined capacity of 80 megawatts, equipped with advanced AI servers and systems.

### Karnataka Raises Tobacco Buying Age to 21, Bans Hookah Bars and Public Smoking

- **The Karnataka government** has raised the **legal age for purchasing tobacco products from 18 to 21** and increased penalties for violations, with fines going up from ₹200 to ₹1,000.
- Hookah bars have been completely banned, and public smoking is prohibited except in designated smoking areas in hotels (with at least 30 rooms), large restaurants, and airports.

### DoLR Launches Second Phase of NAKSHA Training Programme to Boost Urban Land Survey Capacity

- **The Department of Land Resources (DoLR)** has launched the second phase of **capacity-building under the NAKSHA programme** across five Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to enhance urban land survey capabilities using geospatial technologies.

- This phase inaugurated virtually by Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, DoLR, and involved training for 304 officers from 157 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), focusing on practical skills for high-accuracy land surveys.

### ADB Unveils \$10 Billion Five-Year Plan to Boost India's Urban Infrastructure and Sustainable Development

- **ADB President Masato Kanda** announced a **five-year plan to mobilise up to \$10 billion**, including third-party capital, to enhance India's urban infrastructure, focusing on metro expansions, new Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridors, and sustainable urban development.
- The initiative supports India's Urban Challenge Fund (UCF), aiming to attract private investments in city infrastructure through sovereign loans, private sector financing, and technical assistance, with \$3 million allocated for developing bankable projects and capacity building.

### Jitendra Singh Launches 'Bharat Gen' — India's First Indigenous AI Multimodal Language Model for Indian Languages

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched **Bharat Gen, India's first indigenously developed**, government-funded AI-based Multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) for Indian languages, at the BharatGen Summit in New Delhi.
- Supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), BharatGen is a national mission aimed at creating ethical, inclusive, and multilingual AI rooted in Indian values, integrating text, speech, and image modalities across 22 Indian languages.

### Centre notifies guidelines for electric passenger vehicle manufacturing scheme

- **The Centre** has released **detailed guidelines for the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India (SPMEPCI)** to attract global EV investments and boost India's status as a green mobility and automotive manufacturing hub; companies must invest at least ₹4,150 crore within 3 years and meet domestic value addition (DVA) targets of 25% in 3 years and 50% in 5 years.
- The scheme allows import of up to 8,000 electric four-wheelers per year at a reduced 15% customs duty for 5 years, provided each vehicle has a minimum CIF value of \$35,000; the total duty foregone is capped at ₹6,484 crore or the actual investment, whichever is lower.

### Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2025 Celebrated at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun

- **CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun**, celebrated **Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2025, under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative** to promote intellectual property (IP) awareness in India.
- The event included a traditional lamp lighting and Saraswati Vandana, opening remarks by Dr. Deepti Agrawal, and a keynote speech by Dr. Kapil Arya on Intellectual Property Rights and patent fundamentals, followed by an interactive session.

### Amit Shah inaugurates new central forensic science laboratory building in Kolkata

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** inaugurated the newly constructed **Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) building in Kolkata**.
- The facility, built at a cost of ₹88 crore, is expected to bolster forensic capabilities across eastern and northeastern states including West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, Assam, and Sikkim.

### India to build first-ever indigenous Polar Research Vessel with Norwegian firm

- **India's Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and Norway's Kongsberg Oslo** signed an MoU which paves the way for **India to build its first ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV) indigenously**.
- This MoU is a beacon of hope and progress, signalling India's unwavering commitment to scientific advancement and sustainable development.

### FM Sitharaman inaugurates New DRI Headquarters

- **Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** inaugurated the new **headquarters building of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in New Delhi, reinforcing** the government's commitment to strengthening economic security infrastructure.
- The Minister described DRI as the **key guardian** of India's economic frontier, emphasizing its critical role in safeguarding the nation from threats such as smuggling, drug trafficking, and illicit trade.

### India's First Vande Bharat Maintenance Depot Under Construction at Bhagat Ki Kothi, Jodhpur

- A first-of-its-kind **Vande Bharat maintenance depot** is being constructed at **Bhagat Ki Kothi in the Jodhpur Railway Division**, with plans to service trains from across India using three pit lines over a 600-meter area.
- This is the first of four such proposed depots in the country and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, according to Jodhpur Divisional Railway Manager Anurag Tripathi.

### Uttar Pradesh Government Approves 20% Reservation for Agniveers in Police and PAC Recruitment

- The Uttar Pradesh government has approved a 20% reservation for Agniveers in recruitment for various posts in the state police force and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) to support those completing their short-term military service under the Agnipath scheme.

### Indian Railways to Introduce Mandatory e-Aadhaar Verification for Tatkal Ticket Bookings to Curb Misuse

- Indian Railways will introduce mandatory e-Aadhaar authentication for Tatkal ticket bookings later this month to curb misuse, ticket scalping, and improve access for genuine passengers.

- Passengers must verify their identity digitally using e-Aadhaar at the time of booking, making the process more transparent and reducing fraudulent transactions.

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

- The **Government of India** will **conduct the Population Census 2027 in two phases**, which will also include caste enumeration for the first time.
- Phase I will begin on 1st October 2026 in hilly and snow-bound regions like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh, while Phase II will start on 1st March 2027 in the rest of the country.

### Two more wetlands from India added to Ramsar list

- **India's list of wetlands of international importance has increased to 91 sites** with the **addition of Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur, both located in Rajasthan.**
- The Ramsar Convention, signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, is an international treaty dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands to protect global biodiversity and support human life.

### PM Modi plants Sindoor sapling on World Environment Day

- On World Environment Day, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi planted a Sindoor sapling at his residence**, emphasizing his commitment to environmental conservation.
- The act symbolizes the importance of planting trees and promoting greenery to protect the environment and combat climate change.

### Dharmendra Pradhan Launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' Campaign

- **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** planted a sapling and **launched the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 campaign** in New Delhi, along with a special module and website to monitor eco clubs under Mission Life.
- The Minister emphasized that India's carbon emissions are currently below the desirable limit and highlighted the critical importance of trees for the survival of all living beings.

### India, Kyrgyzstan Sign New Bilateral Investment Treaty to Boost Economic Ties and Investor Protection

- **India and Kyrgyzstan** signed and exchanged the **Instrument of Ratification for the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) in New Delhi**, in the presence of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Zheenbek Kulubaev Moldokanovich.
- The new treaty replaces the earlier BIT signed on 12th May 2000 and aims to provide a secure and predictable investment environment for investors from both countries.

### PM Modi Inaugurates World's Highest Chenab Railway Arch Bridge

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **world's highest railway arch bridge over the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir**, marking a major achievement in India's infrastructure development.
- During his visit, PM Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various rail and development projects worth over ₹46,000 crore in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Himachal Pradesh Distributes Steel Bottles to Students to Combat Plastic Pollution

- **The Himachal Pradesh government** has launched an **eco-friendly initiative to distribute steel water bottles to school students** as a step toward reducing single-use plastic in the state.
- This move aims to promote sustainable habits among children and raise awareness about plastic pollution and its harmful effects on the environment.

### Puducherry Assembly Goes Paperless with Launch of NeVA by Union Minister L. Murugan

- **Union Minister L. Murugan** has inaugurated the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Puducherry Legislative Assembly**, aiming to digitize legislative proceedings.
- With the implementation of NeVA, the Puducherry Assembly will function paperlessly, promoting efficiency and environmental sustainability.
- The platform is part of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs' (MoPA) initiative to introduce 'One Nation – One Application' across all 37 State and UT legislatures in India.

### Amit Shah Launches Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag to Empower Local Languages

- **Home Minister Amit Shah** has launched **Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag in New Delhi**, emphasizing its role as a milestone to free administration from the dominance of foreign languages.
- The initiative aims to provide a strong, organized platform for all Indian languages, promoting linguistic diversity while encouraging the use of technology that preserves the spirit and richness of these languages.

### Tamil Nadu, Tripura & Delhi Lead in Adult Literacy Certification: FLNAT 2025 Report

- According to the **Foundational Literacy Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) data**, **Tamil Nadu, Tripura, and Delhi rank among the top performers in adult literacy certification**, while Uttarakhand, Gujarat, and Himachal Pradesh lag behind.
- The assessment was conducted in phases from July 2024 to March 2025, testing over 1.77 crore adult learners across India; however, only about 34.31 lakh learners (approximately 19.4%) were officially certified by May 2025.

### AIIA Launches Three-Day Iyengar Yoga Workshop 'Yoga Samavesh'

- **The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** is hosting a **three-day Iyengar Yoga Workshop titled Yoga Samavesh** from 9 to 11 June, as part of International Day of Yoga celebrations, with sessions held daily from 2 PM to 3 PM IST.
- The workshop is led by renowned Iyengar Yoga teacher Amit Sharma from Lifeyoga Centre, focusing on precise body alignment techniques and mental wellness in line with Iyengar tradition.

### Tamil Nadu Boosts Conservation with New Flamingo Sanctuary and Green Initiatives



- **Tamil Nadu** has established a **524.7-hectare sanctuary at Dhanushkodi** to protect migratory bird habitats and enhance biodiversity as part of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve.
- Dhanushkodi lies along the Central Asian Flyway and supports 128 species of wetland birds, including flamingos, herons, and sandpipers; its mangroves help prevent coastal erosion and serve as breeding grounds.

### **NHAI Launches First Asset Monetisation Strategy to Boost Road Sector Financing and Private Investment**

- The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** released its **first-ever Asset Monetisation Strategy** for the road sector, offering a structured framework to raise capital through Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and securitisation models.
- Under the National Monetisation Pipeline, NHAI has already raised over ₹1.4 lakh crore by monetising more than 6,100 km of national highways using these innovative financing methods.

### **DRDO transfers technologies of nine systems to 10 industries**

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation's** Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra, has **transferred technologies of nine defence systems to 10 Indian industries.**
- The systems include the **Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Recce Vehicle, Mounted Gun System, Anti-Terrorist Vehicle, and Vajra-Riot Control Vehicle**, among others.

### **India's First E-Waste Eco Park to Be Built in Delhi's Holambi Kalan under PPP-DBFOT Model**

- **Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa** announced the **development of India's first electronic waste (e-waste) eco park in Holambi Kalan, North Delhi**, to be built on 11.4 acres under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and the Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) approach for a concession period of 15 years.
- The facility will process up to 51,000 tonnes of e-waste annually, covering all 106 categories listed under the E-Waste Management Rules, 2022, and is expected to generate over ₹350 crore in revenue.

### **Andhra Pradesh Govt to Disburse ₹8,745 Crore Under 'Talliki Vandanam' Scheme as TDP Marks One Year in Power**

- **The Andhra Pradesh government** will **disburse ₹8,745 crore under the 'Talliki Vandanam' scheme**, providing ₹15,000 annually to mothers of school-going children, benefiting around 67 lakh students.
- The scheme, approved by CM N. Chandrababu Naidu coincides with the TDP-led coalition government's first anniversary, and is considered a key component of Naidu's "Super Six" welfare agenda.

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

- **India's first underwater museum and artificial coral reef will be developed around the decommissioned warship INS Guldar near Nivati Rocks at Vengurla in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.**
- The initiative, supported by the central government, aims to boost marine conservation and tourism, offering scuba diving and future submarine tours. The Union Tourism Ministry has approved 46.91 crore rupees for the project.

### **Goan Feni Secures GI Tag: First-of-its-Kind Recognition for India's Iconic Local Spirit**

- **Ozzo Feni, produced by Cazcar Distillery** in Nanora village, has **become the first-ever feni to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, officially recognizing it as a unique product of Goa, thereby protecting it from imitation and boosting its market value.
- Feni is a centuries-old Goan spirit made from cashew apples or coconut sap, introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the 1600s. Traditional distillation methods used by bhatikars have now evolved into modern copper pot techniques.

### **Dept of Posts introduces 'Gyan Post' to deliver educational books at affordable rates**

- The **Department of Posts** has **launched 'Gyan Post'**, a dedicated postal service aimed at delivering educational, cultural, social, and religious books at affordable rates, supporting the objectives of the New Education Policy (NEP).
- Gyan Post ensures nationwide accessibility, including rural and remote areas, with charges starting from ₹20 for up to 300 grams and going up to ₹100 for up to 5 kilograms, excluding taxes.

### **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga hosts 'Yoga Bandhan'**

- The **Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY)**, under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, **hosts 'Yoga Bandhan'** as a highlight of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 celebrations.
- This initiative reflects India's dedication to fostering global cooperation through institution-to-institution connections in Yoga, advancing collective well-being and cultural exchange.

### **MoTA Launches Largest Tribal Empowerment Campaign – DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan**

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan (June 15–30)**, India's biggest benefit saturation campaign covering over 1 lakh villages across 549 tribal-dominated and 207 PVTG districts, aimed at inclusive development and empowerment of tribal communities.
- As part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, the initiative ensures doorstep access to services like Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan, PM-Kisan, pensions, scholarships, and skill training through benefit saturation camps under a synchronized multi-ministerial effort.

### **Bhupendra Yadav elected President of International Big Cat Alliance**

- **Bhupendra Yadav**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was **unanimously elected President of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** during its first Assembly held in New Delhi.
- The IBCA, launched by PM Narendra Modi on 9 April 2023 in Mysuru, is a multinational alliance comprising 95 countries and partners focused on the conservation of big cats.

### Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's largest Gatishakti Cargo Terminal in Manesar

- India's largest automobile Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal was **inaugurated by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw** at **Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant**, **connected via a ₹800 crore**, 10-km dedicated rail link forming part of the 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor.
- The terminal can handle up to 4.5 lakh vehicles annually, significantly boosting automobile logistics efficiency; HRIDC invested ₹684 crore in the project, with the rest by Maruti Suzuki.

### UIDAI Extends Free Online Aadhaar Document Update Service Till June 14, 2026 via myAadhaar Portal

- **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has **extended the free online document update service for Aadhaar holders till June 14, 2026**, **allowing users to update their Proof of Identity (PoI)** and Proof of Address (PoA) on the myAadhaar portal at no cost; this extension aims to improve document hygiene and support users with changes due to events like marriage or relocation.

### Bihar to Get Six New Airports Under UDAN Scheme

- **Six more cities in Bihar — Madhubani, Birpur (Supaul), Munger, Valmiki Nagar (Bettiah), Muzaffarpur, and Saharsa** — will soon get air connectivity under the Centre's UDAN scheme, following state cabinet approval for an MoU with the Airports Authority of India (AAI).
- The Bihar cabinet, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, has authorised the state's Directorate of Aviation to sign the agreement with AAI to develop these regional airports and improve intra-state and inter-state connectivity.

### Ola-Backed Krutrim Launches AI Assistant 'Kruti' with Voice, Multilingual, and Task Execution Capabilities

- **Krutrim**, the AI unicorn backed by the Ola group, has **launched an advanced agentic AI assistant named Kruti**, capable of executing real-world tasks like cab booking, food ordering, bill payments, and image creation. It is available in 11+ Indian languages, supports both voice and text inputs, and remembers previous user interactions.
- Kruti is powered by Krutrim V2 LLM and other open-source models, offering multimodal capabilities, scalable performance, and personalization features like understanding intent, providing relevant recommendations, and adapting over time to user preferences.

## Delhi Gets Green Light for First-Ever Artificial Rain Pilot Project to Combat Air Pollution

- **Delhi** has received **official approval for its first-ever artificial rain (cloud seeding) pilot project**, aimed at combating severe air pollution and managing weather conditions in the national capital.
- The project is being spearheaded by the Delhi government in collaboration with IIT Kanpur, leveraging scientific techniques to artificially induce rainfall using cloud seeding methods.

## 2.35 lakh houses approved under PMAY-Urban 2.0 in third CSMC meeting

- The **Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC)** has **approved the construction of 2,34,864 houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)**. The meeting was chaired by Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- These houses have been sanctioned across 9 states—Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh—under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) and Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) components.

## BSNL soft launches Quantum 5G FWA

- **BSNL soft-launched Quantum 5G FWA**, in **Hyderabad**, offering **India's first SIM-less, fixed-wireless 5G solution with fibre-like speeds using 5G radio technology**.
- The entire solution is 100% indigenous, developed under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, with all components—core, RAN, and CPE—built by Indian vendors.

## President Murmu Inaugurates Rashtrapati Tapovan & Niketan in Dehradun

- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the **opening of the Rashtrapati Tapovan and Rashtrapati Niketan in Dehradun** to the public on the occasion of her 67th birthday on 20 June 2025. She also laid the foundation stone of the Rashtrapati Udyan, which will be built as a net-zero public park in Dehradun.

## Bhupendra Yadav Launches Gharial Conservation Programme at Katarniaghat

- Union Environment Minister **Bhupendra Yadav** launched the **Gharial Species Conservation Programme** by releasing seven one-year-old gharial hatchlings into the **Gerua River at Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, is endemic to India and found primarily in the Chambal, Gerua (Girwa), and Rapti-Narayani river systems.

## Google Launches First Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre in Hyderabad to Boost Cybersecurity and AI Safety

- Google has **established its first Asia-Pacific Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad**, Telangana, making it the fourth such centre globally after

Munich (Germany), Malaga (Spain), and Dublin (Ireland); it was inaugurated by Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy.

- The Hyderabad GSEC will serve as a strategic hub for cybersecurity and end-user safety, focusing on preventing online fraud, securing enterprise and government infrastructure, and promoting responsible AI across the Asia-Pacific region.

#### PM Modi Flags Off First Made-in-Bihar Locomotive for Export to Guinea

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** flagged off the **export of the first made-in-Bihar diesel locomotive to Guinea, from the Marhowrah Diesel Locomotive Plant in Saran district**, marking India's entry into the global locomotive export market from Bihar.
- The Wabtec Diesel Locomotive Plant, a joint venture between Wabtec (75%) and Indian Railways (25%), signed a deal to export 150 locomotives to Guinea over three years for the Simandou iron ore project, one of the world's largest; the exported engines include modern features like AC cabins, refrigerators, microwaves, and waterless toilets.

#### Adani Commissions India's First Off-Grid 5 MW Green Hydrogen Plant in Gujarat, Advancing Clean Energy Goals

- **Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL)** has commissioned **India's first off-grid 5 MW green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat, powered entirely by solar energy** and integrated with a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), marking a significant step toward the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- The plant uses a fully automated, closed-loop electrolyser system that dynamically adjusts to renewable energy inputs, showcasing technological feasibility, operational flexibility, and efficiency in managing solar power variability.

#### NITI Aayog Unveils 'India's Data Imperative' Report to Strengthen Digital Governance Through Quality Data

- **NITI Aayog** released the **third edition of its quarterly insights series, Future Front, titled "India's Data Imperative: The Pivot Towards Quality,"** emphasizing the need to improve data quality for better digital governance and public trust.
- The report introduces two key tools — a Data-Quality Scorecard to evaluate data attributes and a Data-Quality Maturity Framework for self-assessment and roadmap development — to enhance data practices across public systems.

#### Govt to launch 'NAVYA' to empower adolescent girls through vocational training

- The **Central Government** has launched **NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls) in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh**, under the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. It is a joint pilot initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to empower girls aged 16–18 through vocational training in non-traditional job roles.



- NAVYA will initially be implemented in 27 districts across 19 states, with a focus on aspirational and North-Eastern districts. The program seeks to enhance employability, boost confidence, and create pathways for young girls to participate in emerging sectors of the Indian economy.

### Tripura Becomes India's Third Fully Literate State with 95.6% Literacy Rate

- Tripura has become the **third Indian state to achieve full literacy, surpassing the 95% benchmark set by the Ministry of Education, following Mizoram and Goa. The state now has a literacy rate of 95.6%.**
- This achievement was made possible through the successful implementation of the 'ULLAS – New India Literacy Programme', which helped reduce the number of non-literate individuals significantly from earlier surveys.

### Hardeep Singh Puri Attends 40th Anniversary of Kanishka Bombing in Ireland

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri attended the **40th anniversary memorial service of the Air India Flight 182 (Kanishka) bombing at Ahakista Memorial in Cork, Ireland**, joined by representatives from India, Ireland, and Canada.
- The tragic bombing in 1985 was carried out by Canada-based Khalistani terrorists, killing all 329 passengers on board when the plane exploded mid-air near the Irish coast.

### Centre approves ₹417-cr electronics manufacturing cluster under Yamuna Expressway

- The **Central Government** has approved a **₹417-crore Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) at Sector 10, Yamuna Expressway, Gautam Budh Nagar**, aimed at boosting local electronics production and innovation; the project will be developed by YEIDA on 206.4 acres.
- Expected to attract ₹2,500 crore in investments and generate around 15,000 jobs, the EMC 2.0 project aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' and focuses on Make in India, employment, and infrastructure development.

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

- Bihar becomes the **first Indian state to introduce e-voting for urban local body elections**, allowing citizens to cast their votes through an Android-based mobile app developed by C-DAC and the Bihar State Election Commission (SEC).
- Advanced security measures like blockchain, live face detection, face matching, and audit trails have been integrated into the e-voting system to ensure tamper-proof and transparent voting.

### Bihar to Get its First Nuclear Power Plan

- The **central government** has approved the **establishment of Bihar's first nuclear power plant**, which will use **Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology** as part of India's new Nuclear Energy Mission announced in the Union Budget 2025-26, aiming to strengthen regional energy security.
- Bihar will be among the first six states in India to receive its first atomic power plant under this mission.

### India Wins Bid to Host 2029 World Police & Fire Games Across Gujarat Cities

- **India** has won the bid to **host the 2029 World Police & Fire Games (WPFG)**, with the event set to be **held across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Ekta Nagar in Gujarat**, marking a major milestone for the country as a global sporting destination.
- Hosting the WPFG will bring thousands of police officers, firefighters, and first responders from over 70 countries to India, significantly boosting Gujarat's profile as a premier venue for international sporting events and reflecting India's rising status in sports diplomacy.

### UPSC Unveils 'Pratibha Setu' to Connect Top Exam Qualifiers with Job Opportunities

- **UPSC** has launched the '**Pratibha Setu**' platform with the aim of helping top performers in its exams who missed the final selection find suitable job opportunities.
- This initiative will enable government departments, public sector undertakings, and private companies to access a pool of talented candidates, maximizing the use of their skills and qualifications.

### Govt approves Rs. 3,626 crore for Pune Metro Phase-2 to connect key IT hubs

- The **Union Cabinet** has approved **Pune Metro Phase-2 with a budget of ₹3,626 crore**, adding **two elevated corridors** (Vanaz–Chandani Chowk and Ramwadi–Wagholi/Vitthalwadi) spanning 12.75 km with 13 new stations to strengthen East–West connectivity in Pune.
- These corridors will **link key IT hubs, commercial zones, educational institutions, and residential areas**, significantly boosting public transport ridership and supporting Pune's Comprehensive Mobility Plan for seamless mass transit.
- The extensions are expected to **decongest major roads like Paud Road and Nagar Road**, and projected daily ridership on Line 2 is set to rise from 0.96 lakh in 2027 to 3.49 lakh by 2057, offering safe, rapid, and eco-friendly travel for Pune's growing population.

### Cabinet Approves Revised ₹5,940-Crore Jharia Master Plan for Fire Control, Land Subsidence, and Family Rehabilitation

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved the **Revised Jharia Master Plan (JMP) with a financial outlay of ₹5,940.47 crore** to address the critical issues of underground fire, land subsidence, and rehabilitation of affected families in the Jharia Coalfield area.
- The plan prioritizes sustainable livelihood generation for resettled families, including targeted skill development programs, income-generating opportunities, a Livelihood Grant of ₹1 lakh, and access to institutional credit support of up to ₹3 lakh for both legal and non-legal title holder families.

### Staff Selection Commission adopts electronic dossiers to speed up recruitment

- The **Staff Selection Commission (SSC)** has **fully digitised its dossier submission process**, replacing physical dossiers with electronic dossiers (e-dossiers) to expedite recruitment and improve data security for selected candidates.
- Qualified candidates' dossiers are now compiled electronically and uploaded to the e-dossier portal, where nodal officers from Ministries, Departments, and Government organisations can securely download them to start pre-appointment formalities.

### **Cabinet Approves International Potato Centre's South Asia Regional Centre in Agra to Boost Potato, Sweetpotato Sectors**

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **establishment of the International Potato Centre's (CIP) South Asia Regional Centre (CSARC) at Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh**, aiming to boost potato and sweetpotato research and development in India and the region.
- The initiative seeks to improve food and nutrition security, increase farmers' incomes, and create employment opportunities, by enhancing productivity, post-harvest management, and value addition in potato and sweetpotato cultivation.

### **India Launches First AI-Powered Advanced Traffic Management System on Dwarka Expressway for Smart, Safe Highways**

- **India** has launched its **first AI-powered Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)** on the Dwarka Expressway in Delhi, covering a 56.46-kilometre stretch and marking a major step towards smart, secure, and sustainable highways.
- The ATMS integrates real-time AI-based technologies, including 110 high-definition cameras, the Video Incident Detection and Enforcement System (VIDES), Vehicle Actuated Speed Displays (VASD), and Variable Message Signboards (VMS) to monitor traffic, detect violations, and provide dynamic updates to motorists.

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

- **India's first Quantum Computing Valley** will be **launched in Amaravati by January 2026**, marking a significant milestone in the nation's quantum technology journey and opening opportunities for research, innovation, and industrial growth across sectors.
- The Amaravati Quantum Valley Tech Park will offer infrastructure and services to educational institutions, healthcare providers, pharma companies, agri-tech, and med-tech industries nationwide, enabling lakhs of professionals to contribute to quantum research and applications.

### **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Launches WhatsApp Chatbot Integration with MY Bharat Portal**

- The **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has integrated a **WhatsApp chatbot with the MY Bharat portal** to simplify youth access to services like experiential learning, volunteering, CV creation, mentorship, organisation creation/joining,

issue reporting, and platform support; **users can start by sending 'Hi' to 7289001515.**

- Upcoming updates will enable in-app registrations, media uploads for events, certificate and document delivery, task completion tracking, downloadable notifications, and reminders, along with real-time updates on government schemes, events, and volunteering opportunities.

### India Flags Off First Consignment of Rose-Scented Litchi from Pathankot to Qatar

- **India flagged off its first consignment of 1 metric tonne of rose-scented litchi from Pathankot, Punjab to Doha, Qatar**, with an additional 0.5 metric tonne exported to Dubai, UAE, marking a twin export milestone that reinforces India's position in global fresh fruit markets.
- Punjab produced 71,490 metric tonnes of litchi in FY 2023–24, contributing 12.39% to India's total litchi output; during FY 2024–25, India's fruits and vegetables exports reached USD 3.87 billion, growing 5.67% year-on-year, with rising international demand for litchis, cherries, and jamun alongside traditional exports like mangoes and bananas.

### CM Yogi Adityanath Lays Foundation for ₹1,000-Crore Green Data Centre in Ghaziabad

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** and Union Science & Technology Minister Dr. **Jitendra Singh laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Green Data Centre at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad**, a collaboration between Central Electronics Limited (CEL) and ESDS.
- The ₹1,000-crore project will have a capacity of 30 MW and is designed to minimize environmental impact and maximize energy efficiency through the use of renewable energy sources, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable practices.

### India Dispatches Two Locomotives to Mozambique Under \$37.7 Million Export Deal

- **Indian Railways** has dispatched **two modern locomotives to Mozambique, manufactured at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi**, as part of a \$37.7 million contract for 10 locomotives secured by RITES through international competitive bidding in November 2023.
- The locomotives, built to Mozambique's specifications with modern amenities, are financed by loans from the African Development Bank, based in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, to strengthen Mozambique's rail infrastructure.

### Aralam Renamed as India's First Butterfly Sanctuary

- **The Kerala State Wildlife Board** has renamed **the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur** as the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it India's first protected forest dedicated entirely to butterflies after 25 years of dedicated efforts by wildlife enthusiasts and forest officials.
- Spread across 55 square kilometers of lush tropical and semi-evergreen forests in the Western Ghats, the sanctuary hosts over 266 butterfly species — more

than 80% of Kerala's total — including rare and endangered species that migrate here between October and February, turning the sanctuary into a vibrant spectacle.

### CBSE to Conduct Class 10 Board Exams Twice a Year from 2026 Session

- **CBSE will conduct Class 10 board exams twice a year starting from the 2026 session**, with the first phase in mid-February (results in April) and the second phase in May (results in June).
- The first phase of exams will be mandatory for all students, while the second phase will be optional, **allowing students to improve performance in any three subjects out of science, mathematics, social science, and languages.**

### Kerala tops the Management Effectiveness Evaluation of national parks and protected areas

- **Eravikulam National Park (ENP) in Kerala** emerged as the **highest-scoring protected area in India's Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) 2020-2025**, with a top score of 92.97%, sharing the spot with Dachigam National Park in Jammu & Kashmir.
- Kerala secured the **highest "Very Good" state rating** with an overall MEE score of 76.22% for effective management of its 21 protected areas, outperforming Karnataka, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh, which received "Good" ratings.

### Adani Group Emerges as Fastest-Growing Indian Brand in 2025

- **Adani Group** was named the **fastest-growing Indian brand in the Brand Finance India 100 2025 report**, with its brand value surging by 82% to USD 6.5 billion, climbing from 16th to 13th place due to aggressive infrastructure expansion and green energy focus.
- **Tata Group retained its position as India's most valuable brand for 2025**, with brand value rising 10% to USD 31.6 billion, making it the first Indian brand to cross the USD 30 billion mark.
- Infosys secured the second spot with a 15% increase in brand value to USD 16.3 billion, maintaining leadership in the IT services sector, while HDFC Group ranked third with 37% growth post-merger, reaching USD 14.2 billion.

### Amit Shah Inaugurated the National Turmeric Board in Telangana

- **Amit Shah** has inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, Telangana**, and unveiled its official logo to mark a new chapter in farmer innovation and boosting the global competitiveness of Indian turmeric.
- Shah also unveiled the statue of veteran leader D Srinivas, recognising his decades of service to the people of the region.

## Chapter 13: Current Affairs (International)

### Mount Etna Erupts with Strombolian Explosions

- **Mount Etna, Europe's most active volcano, erupted in Italy**, sending ash and smoke into the Sicilian sky and causing panic among tourists.



- The eruption involved strombolian explosions, a type of volcanic activity characterized by frequent, moderate bursts of lava, as per Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology.

#### India Elected to UN Economic and Social Council for 2026-28 Term

- **India** has been **elected as a member of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations** for the two-year term from 2026 to 2028, reflecting its growing role in global sustainable development.
- ECOSOC is a key UN organ that advances the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental, serving as the central platform for debate, consensus-building, and coordination of international efforts.

#### President Trump signs proclamation banning travel from 12 nations

- **US President Donald Trump** signed a **proclamation banning travel from 12 countries citing national security and public safety concerns**. These countries are **Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen**.
- The proclamation fully restricts entry from these 12 countries, and also imposes partial restrictions on nationals from seven other countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

#### UNGA Elects Latvia, Bahrain, Colombia, Liberia, and DR Congo as New Non-Permanent Members of UN Security Council for 2026-27

- **The United Nations General Assembly** has elected **Latvia, Bahrain, Colombia, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo** as **new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term** starting January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027.
- Latvia has been elected to the UN Security Council for the first time, joining countries like Pakistan, Denmark, Panama, Greece, and Somalia, who are current non-permanent members.
- The UN Security Council consists of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power: China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

#### Bangladesh Removes Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Image from Banknotes for First Time in 50 Years

- **For the first time since 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's image** has been **removed from Bangladesh's banknotes**, with the new designs showcasing Hindu and Buddhist temples, national artwork, and cultural landmarks — reflecting a shift from political iconography to heritage-focused imagery.
- The redesigned currency (Tk 1000, Tk 50, Tk 20) was introduced by the interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus, following the ouster of former PM Sheikh Hasina, and aligns with the administration's aim to depoliticize national symbols.

#### Israel Launches 'Operation Rising Lion' Striking Iran's Nuclear Sites

- **Israel** launched **"Operation Rising Lion" on 13 June 2025, targeting over 100 Iranian nuclear and military sites**, including the Natanz nuclear facility; Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a national emergency fearing Iranian retaliation.

- The U.S. denied involvement in the attack and confirmed American and Iranian negotiators will meet in Oman on 15 June 2025 for the sixth round of nuclear programme talks.

### India Launches Operation Sindhu to Evacuate Citizens from Conflict-Hit Iran

- India launched **Operation Sindhu** to evacuate **Indian nationals, including students and pilgrims, stranded in Iran amid the escalating Iran–Israel conflict.**
- As of now, nearly 2,295 individuals, including one Sri Lankan national, have been successfully evacuated through multiple special flights from Mashhad, Iran, to Delhi.

### Operation Midnight Hammer: US Launches Massive Airstrikes on Iran's Nuclear Sites in Largest Middle East Campaign Since 2003

- The **United States** launched **Operation Midnight Hammer**, targeting Iran's three most fortified nuclear facilities—Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan—marking the largest American **air** campaign in the Middle East since the 2003 Iraq War.
- The strike involved over 125 aircraft, including seven B-2 stealth bombers and submarine-launched Tomahawk missiles. For the first time in combat, the GBU-57 bunker-busting bomb was used to hit deeply buried nuclear sites.

### NATO Leaders Commit to Historic 5% Defence Spending Target by 2035 at Hague Summit

- **NATO leaders officially agreed to raise annual defence spending to 5% of GDP by 2035**, a significant increase from the previous 2% target
- Of the 5%, 3.5% is earmarked for core military expenditures like troops, equipment, and ammunition, while the remaining 1.5% will go toward broader defence-related areas such as infrastructure and cybersecurity
- The new spending commitment—which gained momentum under pressure from former US President Donald Trump—was hailed as a “transformational” move to enhance NATO's collective defence, especially in response to threats from Russia.

### Private Firms Eligible as REIAs to Boost Renewable Energy, But Experts Urge Strong Oversight on Trading Margins and National Priorities

- **Private Indian companies** with a **net worth over ₹500 crore** and long-term credit rating of A or above can **now be designated as Renewable Energy Implementing Agencies (REIAs) for five years**, expanding eligibility beyond PSUs like NTPC, SJVN, SECI, and NHPC.
- REIAs act as intermediary procurers, aggregating renewable power through tariff-based competitive bidding, signing back-to-back power sale agreements with developers and power purchase agreements with Discoms or consumers, and ensuring payment security for RE projects.

## Chapter 14: Banking & Financial

### Hero FinCorp secures SEBI approval for Rs 3,668 crore IPO

- **Hero FinCorp** has received **SEBI approval** to launch its **₹3,668 crore IPO**, marking a key milestone in its journey to go public.
- The IPO comprises a fresh issue of ₹2,100 crore and an Offer for Sale (OFS) of ₹1,568 crore by existing shareholders.

### Bank of Baroda opens first 'Phygital' branch in Kolkata

- **Bank of Baroda** inaugurated its **first 'Phygital' branch in the Kolkata Zone**, blending digital tools with personalised customer service to enhance the banking experience.
- This is the seventh 'Phygital' branch in India, featuring self-service kiosks, a video contact centre for non-financial services, and universal service desks for in-person support.

### Canara Bank Waives Minimum Balance Requirement for All Savings Accounts from June 1, 2025

- Starting 1 June 2025, **Canara Bank** has **waived the Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement for all types of savings bank accounts**.
- Customers will no longer face penalties for not maintaining a minimum balance in their savings accounts, making all SB accounts effectively zero balance.

### India's GST collections in May surge over 16% to ₹2.01 lakh crore

- **India's gross GST collection** crossed the **₹2 lakh crore mark for the second consecutive month in May 2025**, reaching ₹2.01 lakh crore.
- The May 2025 GST collection was 16.4% higher compared to ₹1.72 lakh crore collected in May 2024.
- In April 2025, GST collections surged 12.6% to a record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore, reflecting strong tax revenue growth.

### UPI transactions rebound in May with 18.68 bn payments

- **UPI processed 18.68 billion transactions** in May 2025, up from 17.89 billion in April, **marking a 33% year-on-year growth compared to 14.03 billion transactions in May 2024**.
- The total transaction value via UPI rose to ₹25.14 lakh crore in May, a 5% increase from April's ₹23.95 lakh crore, and a 23% increase compared to May 2024.

### RBI Imposes ₹54.78 Crore Penalties on 353 Entities for Regulatory Violations in FY 2024-25

- During the **financial year 2024-25**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including banks, NBFCs, ARCs, housing finance companies, and cooperative banks for violations of statutory and regulatory provisions.
- The enforcement actions targeted various areas of non-compliance such as cyber security, exposure norms, income recognition and asset classification (IRAC), KYC guidelines, fraud reporting, data submission to CRILC, and credit information reporting to CICs.

### HDB Financial Services Gets SEBI Nod for Rs 12,500 Crore IPO

- **HDB Financial Services**, the NBFC arm of HDFC Bank, has **received SEBI approval for a Rs 12,500 crore IPO**, making it the largest NBFC IPO and the fifth-largest overall in India.
- The IPO consists of a Rs 2,500 crore fresh issue and a Rs 10,000 crore offer for sale by HDFC Bank, marking one of the biggest IPOs by a non-banking lender in India.

#### PSU banks to set up common platform for debt recovery

- **Five major public sector banks**, including **SBI, Punjab National Bank, and Bank of Baroda**, are collaborating via PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd to create a common collection firm focused on recovering retail and MSME loans below Rs 5 crore.
- This initiative aims to help banks concentrate on their core activities while improving loan recoveries, especially for borrowers with multiple loans across different banks, with all participating banks eventually taking stakes in the new firm.

#### Private Banks Witness Sharpest Loan Growth Slowdown in FY25

- **Private-sector banks** experienced the **sharpest decline in loan growth in FY25, dropping to 9.5% in March** after consistently exceeding 15% for the previous three years, while overall credit growth slowed to 11.1% from 15.3% the year before.
- Retail loans' share of **total credit** rose **significantly** over five years, reaching 31% in FY25 from 24.1% in FY20; despite slowing growth to 13.2%, retail loans—especially consumer durables and personal loans—continued to grow faster than overall credit.

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

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has cut its **policy repo rate by 50 basis points (0.50%)** and maintained the growth rate forecast of 6.5 % for the Indian economy in 2025-26.
- RBI has also announced a staggered 1% cut in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to 3%. Since February 2025, the RBI has reduced the policy repo rates by 100 basis points or 1%.

#### RBI rejects universal bank licence application of Annapurna Finance

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has rejected **the universal bank licence application filed by Annapurna Finance**. Annapurna Finance was established in 2009 and is now one of the top ten NBFC-MFIs (non-banking finance company-micro finance institution) in the country, according to its website.
- Currently, Fino Payments Bank has applied for a small finance bank licence, while AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) was the first to file the application for conversion to a universal bank and Ujjivan SFB's board has approved applying for a universal SFB licence. As on March end, the MFI had Rs. 11,034 crore of loans, 2.9 million clients and 1,636 branches.

#### RBI Raises LTV Ratio for Small Gold Loans to Boost Credit Access and Ease Borrowing Norm

- **RBI has increased the Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio for gold-backed loans to provide relief to small borrowers — setting it at 85% for loans up to ₹2.5 lakh, 80% for loans between ₹2.5–5 lakh, while loans above ₹5 lakh will continue at 75% LTV.**
- No credit appraisal required for small-ticket gold loans (below ₹2.5 lakh), and end-use monitoring will only apply when these loans are considered under priority sector lending, easing access for small and rural borrowers.
- The move addresses concerns raised during the draft guideline phase, where NBFCs and the Department of Financial Services had warned that stricter norms might push women, rural borrowers, and small traders towards the informal credit sector.

### Wise Gets RBI Approval to Operate as Cross-Border Payment Aggregator in India

- **Wise, a global fintech company, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a cross-border payment aggregator in the country.**
- With this license, Wise can now facilitate international money transfers for Indian customers and businesses, enhancing ease and transparency in global payments.

### RBI Launches ₹1.25 Lakh Prize Scheme to Promote Original Hindi Books on Economics, Banking, and Finance

- To promote original research and **writing in Hindi on Economics, Banking, and Financial topics**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **launched a scheme for the year 2024–25**, offering awards to authors of original Hindi books in these fields.
- Under this scheme, three prizes of ₹1,25,000 each will be awarded to working or retired professors (including Assistant/Associate Professors) from UGC-recognized Indian universities for writing original books in Hindi.

### SBI Pays ₹8,076.84 Crore Dividend to Govt for FY25

- **The State Bank of India (SBI)** has paid a dividend of ₹8,076.84 crore to the Government of India for the financial year 2024-25, marking a significant increase from last year's ₹6,959.29 crore. The dividend cheque was formally handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by SBI Chairman C.S. Setty.
- For FY 2024-25, SBI declared a dividend of ₹15.90 per share, which is higher than the ₹13.70 per share dividend announced for the previous year, reflecting the bank's improved financial performance and shareholder returns.

### World Bank Retains India's FY26 Growth at 6.3% Amid Global Trade Tensions and Slowing Economy

- The **World Bank** has retained **India's FY26 economic growth projection at 6.3%**, down from its earlier January estimate of 6.7%, citing rising tariffs and policy uncertainty as significant global headwinds.
- Despite a strong 7.4% growth in Q4, India's overall FY25 growth stood at 6.5%, the slowest since the COVID-19 period, due to global trade disruptions and slowing demand.



### IOB Launches 'Locate IOB' Online Tool to Help Customers Find Nearest Branches, ATMs & Offices Easily

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched an **online tool** called “**Locate IOB**” to help customers easily find the nearest branches, ATMs, and offices through a dedicated link: <https://locate.iob.in> or via the “Locations” tab on [www.iob.in](http://www.iob.in).
- The tool provides access to branch addresses, directions, IFSC codes, and even allows users to directly call a branch from the website, enhancing convenience for tech-savvy customers.

### Poonawalla Fincorp Launches 'Business Loan 24/7' for MSMEs with Fully Digital

- **Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd (PFL)** has launched **Business Loan 24/7**, a fully digital loan solution aimed at meeting the credit needs of MSMEs through a Straight Through Processing (STP) model, eliminating branch visits and physical paperwork.
- The product uses advanced analytics and a robust risk assessment framework, relying on direct digitised data like GST info and credit bureau records to improve the credit evaluation of MSMEs and self-employed individuals.

### RBI to Discontinue Daily Variable Rate Repo Auctions from June 11 Amid ₹3 Lakh Crore Liquidity Surplus

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it **will discontinue daily Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auctions** from **June 11, 2025**, due to a significant liquidity surplus in the banking system, which currently stands at around ₹3 lakh crore.
- The decision follows **weak demand** for daily VRR operations, with banks borrowing only ₹3,711 crore and ₹3,853 crore on June 9 and 10 respectively, against a notified ₹25,000 crore—signaling that banks do not need daily support under current surplus conditions.

### Sebi mandates verified '@valid' UPI handles to tackle payment fraud

- To curb payment fraud and impersonation, **SEBI** has mandated the **use of verified '@valid' UPI handles** for all registered intermediaries like brokers, mutual funds, and investment advisors, effective October 1, 2025.
- Verified UPI handles (e.g., [abc.bkr@validhdfc](mailto:abc.bkr@validhdfc), [xyz.mf@validhdfc](mailto:xyz.mf@validhdfc)) will feature a green 'thumbs up' icon for easy visual authentication, especially helping non-English speaking investors identify genuine payment accounts.
- Only banks can issue '@valid' UPI IDs after verifying intermediaries via SEBI's portal, ensuring that only authorized entities can receive investor funds; this shift will affect 8,000–9,000 intermediaries.

### DFCC Bank's Green Bond Debut: First Foreign Corporate Issuer at GIFT IFSC

- **Sri Lanka's DFCC Bank PLC** became **the first foreign corporate to list green bonds on the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX)** at GIFT IFSC, with a value of LKR 2.5 billion, aimed at financing solar energy projects.

- These bonds represent Sri Lanka's first capital market debt instruments exclusively dedicated to renewable energy, supporting the country's ambitious target of generating 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

### Retail Inflation Drops to 2.82% in May, Lowest Since Feb 2019

- **India's retail inflation** fell to **2.82% in May 2025**, down from 3.16% in April, marking the lowest year-on-year inflation rate since February 2019, mainly due to easing food prices.
- Food inflation dropped significantly to 0.99%, the lowest since October 2021, with rural food inflation at 0.95% (down from 1.85%) and urban food inflation at 0.96% (down from 1.64%).

### RBI allows KYC updation for low-risk customers till 30 June 2026

- **RBI has directed all regulated entities to continue processing transactions for low-risk individual customers**, but they must ensure KYC details are updated by 30 June 2026 or within one year of due date, whichever is later, especially for accounts linked to DBT, PMJDY, and scholarship schemes.
- To ensure timely KYC updates, banks must send at least three advance and three post-due reminders, including one by physical letter, and are encouraged to organise special KYC camps in rural and semi-urban areas with high pendency.

### RBI allows trading of state govt securities in STRIPS

- **RBI has allowed state government securities** to be traded in **STRIPS format (Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities)**, enabling traders to separate and trade principal and interest components of bonds individually.
- This move comes after consultation with state governments, Union Territories, and market participants, aiming to deepen the bond market and enhance liquidity in state government securities.

### Scapia & Federal Bank Launch Dual-Network RuPay Credit Card with Zero Forex Markup and UPI Integration

- **Scapia, in partnership with Federal Bank, has launched the Scapia Federal RuPay Credit Card**, a dual-network card offering both Visa and RuPay functionality for online, offline, UPI, and international transactions with a single credit card statement.
- The card offers zero forex markup on international transactions and includes unlimited domestic airport lounge access, along with complimentary dining, shopping, and spa benefits at airports.

### Tata Asset Management Launches Unified Investment App Offering One-Stop Portfolio Tracking and Smart Financial Insights

- **Tata Asset Management has launched a new mobile app** providing a unified view of investors' financial portfolios, integrating mutual funds, equities, and bank holdings in one dashboard.

- The app aims to simplify the investment journey with end-to-end support — from onboarding to planning, investing, and tracking — under the **theme “One App. One View. Infinite Opportunities.”**
- It offers features like personalised insights, smart tools, and seamless tracking to help users make informed decisions and gain better control over their financial assets.

### Groww Launches India's First Nifty Internet ETF to Tap Into the Digital Economy

- **Groww Mutual Fund** has launched India's first Nifty Internet ETF, called the **Groww Nifty India Internet ETF**, aiming to track the Nifty India Internet Index with a focus on internet-first companies across sectors like e-commerce, fintech, digital payments, and entertainment.
- The ETF's benchmark index includes 21 listed companies from 6 key sectors—e-retail/e-commerce (36%), fintech (26%), digital retail (19%), stockbroking (8%), digital travel (10%), and online media (1.5%)—representing India's growing digital economy.

### RBI Directs Banks to Enable KYC Updates and Account Reactivation at All Branches, Including Non-Home Locations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has instructed **all banks to provide facilities for KYC updation and activation of inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits at all branches, including non-home branches.**
- Banks have been encouraged to adopt video-based customer identification processes (V-CIP) and involve authorised Business Correspondents (BCs) to help customers update KYC and reactivate accounts, especially in remote areas.

### Wholesale inflation falls to 14-month low in May

- **India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation** eased to a **14-month low of 0.39 per cent in May**, down from 0.85 per cent in April, according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Food inflation dropped to 1.72 per cent from 2.55 per cent, while primary articles saw a contraction of 2.02 per cent.

### First Abu Dhabi Bank Accelerates Digital Transformation with eMACH.ai Lending Platform for Seamless Credit Automation

- **First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)**, the UAE's largest bank, has **implemented Intellect Design Arena's eMACH.ai Lending** platform, marking a major step in its shift from manual to automated credit operations.
- The new system enables end-to-end automation of lending workflows, significantly improving FAB's operational efficiency and customer experience.

### SEBI approves NSE's expiry to Tuesday, BSE to Thursday

- **NSE (National Stock Exchange)** has received **SEBI approval to shift its equity derivatives expiry day from Thursday to Tuesday**, starting with contracts expiring after 1 September 2025.
- **BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange)** has **also been permitted by SEBI to move its expiry day from Tuesday to Thursday**, effectively swapping the expiry days with NSE for upcoming contracts.

- Existing contracts expiring on or before 31 August 2025 will continue with their current expiry schedules, ensuring no disruption in the near-term trading calendar.

### RBI Relocates Andhra Pradesh Regional Office to Vijayawada

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relocated its Andhra Pradesh Regional Office from Hyderabad to Vijayawada**, with Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar inaugurating the new facility.
- The Vijayawada office will house key departments such as the Integrated Banking Department (IBD), Financial Inclusion and Development Department (FIDD), Foreign Exchange Department (FED), and Department of Supervision (DoS), along with administrative and IT-related units.

### UGRO Capital to Acquire Profectus for ₹1,400 Crore in Landmark All-Cash Deal to Boost MSME Lending

- UGRO Capital** has announced the **100% equity acquisition of Profectus Capital for ₹1,400 crore in an all-cash deal**, funded through its recent equity raise and pending regulatory approvals including from the RBI.
- Post-acquisition, Profectus Capital will become a wholly-owned subsidiary, enabling UGRO to strengthen its MSME-focused lending strategy and expand its secured lending portfolio.

### Bajaj Markets Joins ONDC to Expand Digital Commerce Offerings Across Electronics and Financial Services

- Bajaj Markets**, a digital marketplace under Bajaj Finserv Ltd., has **joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** as a buyer network participant, expanding its role in India's growing digital commerce ecosystem.
- With this integration, over 16 million users of the Bajaj Markets App and website can now access and purchase 1.5 lakh+ premium electronics and appliances, in addition to its existing suite of financial products and services.

### Odisha Government Delists HDFC, ICICI, and Axis Banks from State Transactions Over Underperformance

- The **Odisha government** has removed **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank from its list of approved banks**, citing underperformance in implementing key government schemes and failure to meet general banking targets over the past two financial years.
- A directive issued by the Finance Department instructed all state departments, PSUs, agencies, societies, and universities to immediately close their savings, current, or any other operational accounts with these three banks and transfer the funds to other approved banks.

### Bandhan Bank Expands Footprint with 18 New Branches Across 4 States

- Bandhan Bank** has opened **18 new branches across four Indian states, with 7 in Jharkhand, 5 in Andhra Pradesh, and 3 each in Bihar and Odisha**, as part of its effort to expand banking access in semi-urban and rural regions.

- With this addition, Bandhan Bank's total number of banking outlets has reached 6,300, further strengthening its presence across India, especially in underserved and emerging markets.

### RBI Imposes ₹29.60 Lakh Penalty on Fino Payments Bank for Licensing Norm Violations

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a **monetary penalty of ₹29.60 lakh on Fino Payments Bank Limited** for non-compliance with specific directions under the 'Licensing of Payments Banks' framework.
- The penalty was imposed through an order dated June 6, 2025, under the powers granted to RBI by Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### EPFO Raises Auto-Settlement Limit for Advance Claims to ₹5 Lakhs

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has increased the **auto-settlement limit for advance claims from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakhs**, enabling quicker disbursement of funds to members in need.
- In the financial year 2024–25, EPFO processed a record 2.34 crore advance claims through auto-settlement—a 161% increase from the previous year—with 59% of all such claims settled via this mode.

### India Launches First Maritime NBFC: Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited to Boost Sector Growth

- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)** as **India's first dedicated Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)** for the maritime sector, marking a significant step towards transforming India into a global maritime power.
- SMFCL, registered with the Reserve Bank of India on June 19, 2025, has been granted Mini Ratna Category-I status, reflecting its importance as a Central Public Sector Enterprise focused on bridging financial gaps in the maritime industry.

### Reserve Bank of India Extends Call Money Market Hours to 7 PM Starting July 1, 2025

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** formed a **Working Group chaired by Radha Shyam Ratho** to comprehensively review the trading and settlement timings of financial markets regulated by the central bank, aiming to improve market development, price discovery, and liquidity optimization.
- Based on the committee's suggestions and stakeholder feedback, the RBI announced that **from July 1, 2025**, the trading hours for the **call money market will be extended until 7:00 PM**, revising market hours to **9:00 AM–7:00 PM**.

### IRDAI Slaps ₹1 Crore Fine on Edelweiss Life Insurance for Violating Corporate Governance Norms

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has imposed a **penalty of ₹1 crore on Edelweiss Life Insurance Company** for



violating corporate governance norms, highlighting serious lapses in adherence to regulatory standards.

- In its order, IRDAI directed the company to categorise certain transactions as outsourcing in line with applicable regulations and to report these transactions to the Authority as required.

### RBI 2025

<b>Repo Rate</b>	5.50%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate</b>	5.75%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	5.75%
<b>Cash reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	3%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18%
<b>Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)</b>	5.25%

### Chapter 15: Committee

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Headed by</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)</b>	PM Narendra Modi	The projects include the <b>Koderma–Barkakana doubling (133 km) in Jharkhand and the Ballari–Chikjajur doubling (185 km)</b> , spanning parts of <b>Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh</b> , aimed at improving connectivity, especially for coal and freight movement.
<b>A multi-disciplinary high-level committee</b>	The Union Home Secretary	To investigate the causes of the <b>Air India Flight AI-</b>

		<b>171 crash</b> that claimed <b>241 lives</b>
<b>The BCCI has formed a committee</b>	Devajit Saikia	To draft <b>comprehensive guidelines for conducting safe and orderly celebration events</b>

## Chapter 16: Defence News

### Indian Army Conducts Major Trials of Next-Gen Indigenous Defence Technologies Across Key Locations

- **The Indian Army** is conducting **large-scale field trials of next-generation defence technologies** at multiple strategic locations including Pokhran, Babina, Joshimath, Agra, and Gopalpur, under simulated near-combat conditions to test real-world effectiveness through integrated Electronic Warfare (EW) simulations.
- These trials are part of the Army's vision for a "Decade of Transformation" and align with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, focusing on indigenously developed advanced platforms like Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), Precision-Guided Munitions, Vertical Launch Drones, and Integrated Drone Detection Systems.

### Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems to Manufacture Rafale Fuselages in India

- **French aerospace giant Dassault Aviation** and **India's Tata Advanced Systems Limited** signed four agreements to jointly manufacture the Rafale fighter aircraft fuselage in India, marking the first time this critical component will be produced outside France.
- Tata Advanced Systems will establish a state-of-the-art production facility in Hyderabad to manufacture key structural sections of the Rafale, with the first fuselage sections expected to be ready by 2028, and a capacity of up to two complete fuselages per month.

### Fifth FPV 'Achal' built by Goa Shipyard Ltd Launched for ICG

- **'Achal'**, the fifth Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) in a series of eight being **constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**, was ceremoniously **launched in Goa by Smt. Kavita Harbola** in the presence of Coast Guard Commander (Western Seaboard), Additional Director General Anil Kumar Harbola.
- Designed and constructed under stringent dual-class certification from the American Bureau of Shipping and Indian Register of Shipping, the FPV features over 60% indigenous content. The vessel measures 52 meters in length and 8 meters in breadth, with a displacement of 320 tons. Powered by a CPP-based propulsion system, the vessel can reach a top speed of 27 knots.

## INS Arnala Commissioned into Indian Navy, Boosting Coastal Defence and ASW Capabilities

- **INS Arnala**, the **first Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, was **commissioned into the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command** at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, in the presence of Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan.
- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro Shipbuilding, INS Arnala is designed for multiple roles, including sub-surface surveillance, search and rescue missions, and low-intensity maritime operations (LIMO).

## Indian Navy to Commission Stealth Frigate 'Tamal' in Russia on 1st July 2025

- The **Indian Navy** will **commission the stealth multi-role frigate Tamal on 01 July 2025 in Kaliningrad, Russia**, with Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh presiding over the ceremony, alongside top Indian and Russian defence officials.
- Tamal is the eighth Krivak-class frigate acquired from Russia and the second in the upgraded Tushil-class, following the Talwar and Teg classes, each of which had three ships.

## ICG Inducts 'Adamyia', First Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessel with Advanced Capabilities to Boost Maritime Security

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** **inducted 'Adamyia'**, the **first Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) of eight being built at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**; it is the first ICG ship to feature Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPPs) and indigenously developed gearboxes for superior maneuverability and operational flexibility.
- Equipped with advanced technology like a 30mm CRN-91 gun, 12.7mm stabilized remote-control guns, Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), and Automated Power Management System (APMS), 'Adamyia' enhances the ICG's capability for precision maritime operations.

Defence Exercise	Between	About
<b>17th 'Nomadic Elephant' Military Exercise</b>	India and Mongolia	With a focus on enhancing <b>interoperability under UN mandates in semi-urban and mountainous terrains</b>
<b>The 22nd edition of the multinational military exercise Khaan Quest</b>	<b>Indian Army</b> and co-sponsored by the <b>United States Indo-Pacific Command</b> and the	The exercise aims to enhance <b>interoperability for UN peace operations (Chapter VII)</b> through <b>drills in joint operations,</b>

	<b>Mongolian Armed Forces</b>	<b>counter-IED tactics, evacuation of civilians, cordon and search, and checkpoint establishment, promoting cooperation</b> among participating nations' armed forces.
<b>The first-ever joint military exercise "Tiger Claw"</b>	<b>First Indian &amp; US Special Forces Exercise</b>	<b>The Tiger Claw exercise</b> marks the first collaboration between the <b>Air Forces' Special Forces of India and the U.S.</b> , aimed at enhancing <b>interoperability, sharing best practices</b> in Special Operations, and strengthening bilateral military ties.
<b>The 8th edition of the India-France joint military exercise "Shakti"</b>	<b>Indian and French armies</b>	The joint exercise will <b>strengthen cooperation between Indian and French armies</b> , promoting multi-domain operational coordination and deepening <b>military diplomacy between the two countries.</b>

## Chapter 17: Sports News

### Virat Kohli Becomes First Cricketer to Score 9,000 T20 Runs for a Single Franchise with RCB

- **Virat Kohli** became the **first cricketer to score 9,000 T20 runs for a single franchise**, achieving this milestone while playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their final league match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).
- His total runs of 9,000 include performances in both the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the now-defunct Champions League T20 (CLT20), making him RCB's all-time leading run-scorer with consistent and remarkable performances.

### Thailand's Opal Suchata Wins 72nd Miss World Title

- **Miss Thailand, Opal Suchata Chuangsri**, was crowned **Miss World 2025** at the **72nd Miss World** pageant held in Hyderabad, standing out for her confidence, grace, and dedication to women's health awareness.
- **Ethiopia's Hasset Dereje Admassu was the first runner-up**, Poland's Maja Klajda was second runner-up, and contestants from Martinique, Ethiopia, Poland, and Thailand received continental titles like Miss America and Caribbean, Miss Africa, Miss Europe, and Miss Asia and Oceania respectively.

#### Heinrich Klaasen announces retirement from international cricket

- **South African power-hitter Heinrich Klaasen** announced his immediate **retirement from all forms of international cricket**, including Test, ODI, and T20I formats, to focus on work-life balance and commitments in global T20 franchise leagues.

#### Glenn Maxwell Announces Retirement from ODIs After 13-Year Career

- **Glenn Maxwell**, the star Australian all-rounder, has announced his **retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs)** after a successful 13-year-long career, making his debut in August 2012.

#### PKL legend Pardeep Narwal retires at 28

- **Pardeep Narwal**, the most successful player in Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) history, announced his **retirement from the sport after going unsold during the PKL 12 players auction**. The 28-year-old announced during a live session with a sports broadcaster.
- Throughout his career, Narwal amassed a record-breaking 1801 raid points, averaging 9.47 raid points per match.

#### Thailand Open 2025: Deepak, Naman Tanwar clinch Gold as India return with eight medals

- In the 4th Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament, **Deepak and Naman Tanwar spearheaded India's campaign**, securing two golds as part of an impressive **eight-medal haul**.
- Deepak clinched the gold with a 5:0 win over Abdurakhimov Javokhir of Uzbekistan in the 75 kg final, while Naman got the better of China's Han Xuezheng 4:1 in the 90 kg category.

#### Royal Challengers Bengaluru Win Maiden IPL Title

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** won the Indian Premier League (IPL) **trophy for the first time**, defeating Punjab Kings by 6 runs at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad
- RCB scored 190/9 batting first, with Virat Kohli top-scoring 43 runs and captain Rajat Patidar contributing 26 runs; Krunal Pandya's exceptional bowling (2 wickets for 17 runs) earned him the Player of the Match award.

Award Category	Prize Money	Winner
Winner	₹20 Crore	Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)
Runners-up	₹13 Crore	Punjab Kings



Orange Cap	₹10 Lakh	Sai Sudarshan (759 Runs in 15 Matches)
Purple Cap	₹10 Lakh	Prasidh Krishna (25 wickets in 15 Matches)
Emerging Player	₹20 Lakh	Sai Sudharsan (Gujarat Titans)
Most Valuable Player	₹10 Lakh	Suryakumar Yadav (MI)
Super Striker	₹10 Lakh	Vaibhav Suryavanshi (RR)
Maximum Sixes	₹10 Lakh	Nicholas Pooran (LSG) with 40 Sixes
Maximum Fours	—	Sai Sudharsan (GT) with 88 fours
Game Changer	₹10 Lakh	—
Final Player of the Match	₹5 Lakh	Krunal Pandya – 2/17 in 4 overs.
Most dot balls	—	Mohammed Siraj (GT) – 151 dot balls
Perfect Catch of the Season	—	Kamindu Mendis (SRH)
Best Ground	—	Delhi (DDCA)
Fairplay Award	—	Chennai Super Kings – 10.21 points/match
My11Circle Fantasy King of the Season:		Sai Sudharsan (GT) – 1495 Fantasy Points

### Paris Saint-Germain Clinches First-Ever Champions League Title with Record 5-0 Win Over Inter Milan

- **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)** won their **first-ever UEFA Champions League title** by defeating Inter Milan with a historic 5-0 scoreline, marking the most one-sided final in the tournament's history.
- Teenager Désiré Doué scored twice, while captain Marquinhos led the team to a dominant victory, solidifying PSG's golden 2024–2025 season under manager Luis Enrique.

### Piyush Chawla Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket

- **Star Indian spin bowler Piyush Chawla** has announced **his retirement from all forms of cricket after a successful 20-year professional career.**
- Chawla, aged 36, represented India in 3 Tests, 25 ODIs, and 7 T20Is, with his last international match being the 2012 T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka.

### Magnus Carlsen Clinches Seventh Norway Chess Title; Anna Muzychuk Wins Women's Event

- **Magnus Carlsen**, the Norwegian grandmaster and world No. 1, **won his seventh Norway Chess tournament title** in Stavanger by finishing with 16 points after a crucial draw against Arjun Erigaisi in the final round.

- American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana secured second place with 15.5 points, following a key victory over Indian player D. Gukesh, who finished third with 14.5 points—matching his performance from the 2023 edition.
- In the Women's event, Anna Muzychuk from Ukraine won the title, with China's Lei Tingjie finishing second and India's Koneru Humpy securing third place.

### Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram Clinches Title at 6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial Chess Tournament

- Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram** won the **6th Stepan Avagyan Memorial chess tournament** held in Jermuk, Armenia, finishing with 6.5 points from 9 rounds and remaining unbeaten throughout the event.
- He tied on points with fellow Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa but clinched the title by winning on tie-breaks after scoring four wins and five draws in the 10-player round-robin format.
- In the final round, Aravindh, playing with the black pieces, defeated Armenia's Aram Hakobyan, while Praggnanandhaa also won his game, marking a strong finish for both Indian players.

### India-England Test Series Renamed as Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy to Honour Cricket Legends

- The ECB and BCCI** have renamed the **India-England Test series as the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy**, replacing the Pataudi Trophy (used in England) and the Anthony de Mello Trophy (used in India).
- The trophy honours James Anderson (188 Tests, England's highest Test wicket-taker) and Sachin Tendulkar (200 Tests, the most-capped Test cricketer in history).

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

- UAE batter Muhammad Waseem** and **South African all-rounder Chloe Tryon** were awarded the **ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month for May 2025** for their outstanding performances.
- Waseem scored 169 runs in five ODIs during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 and led UAE to a 2-1 T20I series win against Bangladesh, earning Player of the Series honors; this is his second time winning the award.

### Carlos Alcaraz and Coco Gauff Shine at Historic 2025 French Open Finals

- Carlos Alcaraz of Spain** defeated world No. 1 Jannik Sinner of Italy in a five-hour and 29-minute marathon final to win the **2025 French Open men's singles title**, coming back from two sets down. It was the longest French Open final ever and marked Alcaraz's fifth Grand Slam title.
- Coco Gauff of the United States beat world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus to win her first French Open women's singles title. This was her second Grand Slam win, following her US Open victory in 2023.
- Winners of the 2025 French Open

Event	Winner	Runners Up
<b>Men's Single</b>	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Jannik Sinner (Italy)

<b>Women's Singles</b>	Coco Gauff (USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
<b>Men's Double</b>	Horacio Zeballos (Argentina) and Marcel Granollers (Spain)	Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski (Both Great Britain)
<b>Women's Double</b>	Jasmine Paolini and Sara Errani (Both Italian)	Aleksandra Krunic and Anna Danilina (Kazakhstan)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Andrea Vavassori and Sara Errani (Both Italian)	Taylor Townsend and Evan King (Both American)

### Anahat Singh shines with double honours at PSA Awards 2024-25

- **India's 17-year-old squash sensation Anahat Singh** won **two major honours at the PSA Awards 2024-25**: the Women's Challenger Player of the Season and the Women's Young Player of the Season (shared with Egypt's Amina Orfi), marking a standout year on the professional circuit.
- Throughout the season, Anahat claimed 9 titles in 11 tournaments, including 8 Challenger-level victories across various tiers (3k to 15k). Her impressive run included a 29-match unbeaten streak and a memorable win over veteran Joshna Chinappa at the Indian Open (15k-level).

### Former India captain MS Dhoni inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

- **MS Dhoni** has been inducted into the **ICC Hall of Fame**, joining six other global cricket legends including Matthew Hayden and Hashim Amla.
- He scored 17,266 international runs, effected 829 dismissals, played 538 matches, and led India to three major ICC titles — 2007 T20 World Cup, 2011 ODI World Cup, and 2013 Champions Trophy.

### Nicholas Pooran Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- **Nicholas Pooran**, one of West Indies' most explosive T20 batsmen and record-holders, has announced his **retirement from international cricket**, marking the end of a notable career in the West Indies jersey across formats.
- Nicholas Pooran has not represented his country in the Tests, but has played 61 ODIs scoring 1,983 runs at an average of 39.66 with three centuries at a strike rate of 99.15.

### Priyanka Goswami Wins Gold at Austrian Racewalking Championships

- **Priyanka Goswami** clinched **gold in the women's 10km race at the Austrian Racewalking Championships** in Innsbruck with a time of 47:54, marking her first win of the season
- In the men's 35km event, Sandeep Kumar won silver with a time of 2:38:45, while Ram Baboo secured bronze with 2:41:47; the gold was taken by Jaromír Morávek (Czech Republic).

### Portugal beats Spain to win the 2024/25 UEFA Nations League Title

- **Portugal** won their **second UEFA Nations League title** by defeating Spain in a thrilling final held at the **Allianz Arena in Munich**, Germany, via a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw in regular and extra time.

- Cristiano Ronaldo set a new world record by becoming the oldest player to score a goal in an international men's football match, scoring in both the semi-final against Germany and the final against Spain.

### **Arunachal's Yajik Hillang Creates History with Gold at South Asian Bodybuilding Championship 2025**

- **Yajik Hillang from Arunachal Pradesh made history by winning the Gold medal in the Women's Model Physique (up to 155 cm) category** at the 15th South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championships 2025 held in Thimphu, Bhutan.
- She became the first female Physique Sports athlete from Arunachal Pradesh to win a Gold medal at an international event, marking a significant achievement for the state in the field of bodybuilding and fitness.

### **South Africa Win First ICC Title in 27 Years, Clinch WTC 2025**

- The **South African men's cricket team won the 3rd ICC World Test Championship**, defeating defending champion Australia by five wickets.
- This was the first major cricket title for the South African team, also known as Proteas, since the 1998 ICC Knockout Championship (later renamed ICC Champions Trophy), held in Kenya.

### **India with four medals finishes 3rd at the Munich ISSF World Cup 2025**

- **India concluded its campaign at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Munich with a total of four medals – two gold and two bronze – securing 3rd position** on the medal table behind China and Norway.
- Gold medals were won by Suruchi Singh in the women's 10m air pistol event and the duo Arya Borse/Arjun Babuta in the 10m air rifle mixed team event.

### **U Mumba clinches their maiden Ultimate Table Tennis title**

- **Mumbai-based franchise, U Mumba, clinched their maiden Ultimate Table Tennis title** with a dominant 8-4 win over the Jaipur Patriots in the Season 6 grand finale.
- Early victories by Lilian Bardet and Bernadette Szocs gave U Mumba a strong start, before Szocs teamed up with Akash Pal to sweep the mixed doubles 3-0, putting them on the brink of victory.

### **ICC announces schedule for Women's ODI WC 2025**

- The **2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup** will be held **from 30th September to 2nd November across India and Sri Lanka**, with India as the official host and Sri Lanka hosting Pakistan's matches due to political tensions.
- India will kick off its campaign against Sri Lanka on 30th September at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, while the high-voltage India vs Pakistan match is scheduled for 5th October at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo.

### **Nishant Dev wins 2nd professional fight in Super Welterweight bout in New York**

- **Indian boxer Nishant Dev clinched his second professional win by defeating Josue Silva via unanimous decision (60-54) in a Super Welterweight bout at Madison Square Garden, New York.**

- The 24-year-old pugilist, who made his professional debut in January 2025 with a first-round stoppage win over Alton Wiggins, continues to impress in the pro boxing circuit.

### India's Maaya Rajeshwaran clinches women's single ITF J200 Gladbeck title in Germany

- **In Tennis, India's Maaya Rajeshwaran** has clinched the **women's singles ITF J200 Gladbeck title in Germany**. The 16-year-old defeated Switzerland's Noelia Manta 6-2, 6-4 in the final. This triumph marks Maaya's maiden ITF Junior title on European clay.
- Earlier in the semifinals, she defeated Daphnee Mpetshi Perricard of France 6-2, 6-1. It is Maaya's seventh ITF Junior title overall. Her earlier titles include victories at J100 and J300 events.

### India Tops Archery Asia Cup 2025 Singapore Leg 2 with Nine Medals

- **India's young archers continued** their strong performance, **finishing at the top of the medal table at the Archery Asia Cup 2025 – Singapore Leg 2** with a total of 9 medals – 2 gold, 6 silver, and 1 bronze.
- In the first leg held in Bangkok, Thailand, Indian archers had also topped the medal tally with 8 medals, showing consistent dominance across both legs of the tournament.

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### India scripts historic finish at U23 Asian Wrestling Championships with double team titles

- **India's young wrestlers** delivered a **stellar performance on the final day of the Under-23 Asian Wrestling Championships in Vung Tau, Vietnam**, winning six medals in men's freestyle. Five wrestlers, Nikhil, Sujeet, Jaideep, Chander Mohan, and Sachin, clinched gold.
- India also topped the team rankings in men's freestyle and won the women's freestyle team title, marking a historic finish at the continental event.

### Neeraj Chopra Wins Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 with 85.29m Throw

- **Neeraj Chopra** won the **Javelin Throw title at the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 in the Czech Republic with a best throw of 85.29 metres**, defeating South Africa's Douw Smit (84.12m) and Grenada's Anderson Peters (83.63m).



- This win marks Neeraj's second consecutive gold medal, following his historic 90.23-metre throw at the Paris Diamond League, where he crossed the 90m mark for the first time in his career.

### Jaipur to Host Khelo India University Games 2025 in November

- The **Khelo India University Games 2025** are **scheduled for November this year in Jaipur, Rajasthan**, bringing together young athletes from across the country to compete at a national level.
- More than 4,000 athletes from over 200 universities are expected to participate, showcasing their skills across 20 different sporting disciplines, making it one of the largest university-level sports events in India.

### ICC Introduces New Powerplay Rules for Shortened T20 Matches to Ensure Fair Play in Rain-Affected Games

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced **revised powerplay rules for shortened T20 matches**, updating the number of overs with restricted fielding based on the reduced length of each innings.
- Under the new Playing Conditions effective from July, **an eight-over innings will feature 2.2 overs of powerplay with only two fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle.**

### Indian Wrestlers Shine with 35 Medals, Three Team Titles at Asian U23 & U17 Championships 2025

- The **young Indian wrestling contingent** wrapped up the **U23 and U17 Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Vung Tau, Vietnam**, with an impressive total of 35 medals — 18 gold, 10 silver, and 7 bronze — demonstrating India's rising dominance in the sport.
- Organized by the Vietnam Wrestling Federation, the championships took place from June 18 to 26, 2025, with separate competitions for U23 (June 18–21) and U17 (June 23–26) categories at the same venue in Vung Tau.

### Odisha Women, Tamil Nadu Men Clinch Titles in Inaugural Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 in Chennai

- **Hockey Association of Odisha** and **Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu** won the **women's and men's titles, respectively**, in the inaugural edition of the Hockey India Masters Cup 2025.
- The inaugural edition of the Hockey India Masters Cup was held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, from June 18 to 27, 2025.

## Chapter 18: Book and Author

Book	Author
Memoir titled "A Different Kind of Power"	Jacinda Ardern

<b>Book 'The Emergency Diaries – Years that Forged a Leader'</b>	Union Home Minister Amit Shah
<b>Former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan</b>	His autobiography " <b>The One: Cricket, My Life and More</b> ", published by HarperCollins India

## Chapter 19: Important Day

Date	Day	Theme/Importance
<b>30 May</b>	Hindi Journalism Day	To commemorate the launch of India's first Hindi newspaper, ' <b>Udant Martand (The Rising Sun)</b> ', which was first published on May 30, <b>1826, in Calcutta (now Kolkata) during British rule.</b>
<b>31 May</b>	World No Tobacco Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Bright products. Dark intentions. Unmasking the Appeal</b>
<b>1 June</b>	World Milk Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Let's Celebrate The Power of Dairy</b>
<b>1 June</b>	Global Day of Parents	Theme 2025 - <b>Raising Parents</b>
<b>2 June</b>	International Sex Workers' Day	To honor <b>sex workers and address their often exploitative working and living conditions</b>
<b>3 June</b>	World Bicycle Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Cycling for a Sustainable Future</b>
<b>4 June</b>	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	The observance aims to raise awareness about the <b>rights of children and to promote efforts globally to protect children from all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation.</b>
<b>5 June</b>	World Environment Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Putting an End to Plastic Pollution</b>

<b>5 June</b>	The International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing	This day marks the entry into force of the <b>Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) on 5 June 2016, the first binding international treaty specifically targeting IUU fishing</b>
<b>6 June</b>	National Donut Day	<b>National Donut Day</b> is celebrated annually on the <b>first Friday of June</b> , honoring the beloved donut and its unique history. In <b>2025, National Donut Day falls</b> on Friday, June 6.
<b>6 June</b>	Russian Language Day	This date marks the birthday of <b>Alexander Pushkin (1799–1837)</b> , one of the <b>greatest Russian poets and the founder of modern Russian literature</b> .
<b>7 June</b>	World Food Safety Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Food Safety: Science in Action</b>
<b>8 June</b>	World Oceans Day	Theme 2025- <b>Wonder: Sustaining what sustains us</b>
<b>8 June</b>	World Brain Tumour Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Brain Health for All Ages</b>
<b>9 June</b>	World Accreditation Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Accreditation: Empowering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)</b>
<b>10 June</b>	International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations	The day was proclaimed by the <b>United Nations in 2001</b> , in response to increasing global tensions and cultural misunderstandings, encouraging nations to replace the “ <b>clash of civilizations</b> ” with conversations that foster peace and cooperation.
<b>11 June</b>	International Day of Play	Theme 2025 - <b>Choose Play – Everyday</b>
<b>12 June</b>	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme 2025 - <b>Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts</b>

<b>12 June</b>	World Day Against Child Labour	Theme 2025 - <b>Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts</b>
<b>13 June</b>	International Albinism Awareness Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Demanding our rights: Protect our skin, Preserve our lives.</b>
<b>14 June</b>	World Blood Donor Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Give blood, give hope: together we save lives</b>
<b>15 June</b>	World Wind Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Day of Community Action</b>
<b>15 June</b>	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Addressing Abuse of Older Adults in Long Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action</b>
<b>15 June</b>	Father's Day	To honor and appreciate <b>fathers, father figures, and the role of paternal bonds</b> in families and society
<b>16 June</b>	- International Day of Family Remittances	Theme 2025 - <b>Remittances Financing Development</b>
<b>17 June</b>	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	Theme 2025 - <b>Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities</b>
<b>18 June</b>	Autistic Pride Day	It emphasizes self-advocacy, acceptance, and the <b>celebration of neurodiversity, shifting the focus from "curing" autism</b> to embracing it as a different way of thinking and experiencing the world.
<b>18 June</b>	International Picnic Day	To encourage people to step <b>outdoors, spend quality time with family</b> and friends, and enjoy a natural meal.
<b>19 June</b>	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	The day recognises the long-term impact of <b>sexual violence in conflict, including trauma, stigma, displacement, and the breakdown of families and communities.</b>
<b>19 June</b>	World Kidney Cancer Day	Theme 2025- <b>Show Your Kidneys Some Love</b>

<b>19 June</b>	World Sauntering Day	To remind people to <b>slow down, relax, and enjoy life at a leisurely pace</b> , rather than rushing through it.
<b>20 June</b>	World Refugee Day	Theme 2025 - <b>For a World Where Refugees Are Welcomed</b>
<b>21 June</b>	International Yoga Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Yoga for One Earth, One Health</b>
<b>21 June</b>	International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	Declared by the <b>United Nations in 2019</b> , the day recognises the <b>cultural, spiritual, and ecological</b> significance of <b>solstices and equinoxes in various civilisations</b> throughout history.
<b>21 June</b>	World Music Day	To honour the <b>power of music and its ability to bring people together across cultures, languages, and borders.</b>
<b>21 June</b>	World Hydrography Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Seabed Mapping: Enabling Ocean Action</b>
<b>22 June</b>	World Rainforest Day	The goal was to highlight threats to rainforests, such as <b>deforestation, illegal mining, and habitat loss, and to inspire global action to protect them.</b>
<b>23 June</b>	United Nations Public Service Day	To promote <b>professionalism, innovation, and integrity in public administration and encourages youth to pursue careers</b> in the public sector.
<b>23 June</b>	International Widows' Day	Theme 2025 - <b>Empowering Widows: Building Resilience, Restoring Dignity</b>
<b>25 June</b>	Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas	To remember the day in <b>1975</b> when the <b>Indian Constitution</b> was severely undermined during the <b>Emergency period, and to pay homage to those who suffered due to its excesses.</b>



<b>25 June</b>	Day of the Seafarer	The theme for 2025 is " <b>My Harassment Free Ship</b> "
<b>26 June</b>	International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	Theme 2025 - <b>Break the Cycle. #StopOrganizedCrime</b>
<b>26 June</b>	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	It aims to <b>honor and support victims and survivors of torture, raise awareness</b> about their rights, and promote access to rehabilitation and justice.
<b>27 June</b>	MSME Day	The day aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by <b>MSMEs, including access to finance, technology, and markets</b> , and to encourage policies that support their growth and resilience.
<b>27 June</b>	International Day of Deafblindness	To raise awareness about the <b>unique challenges faced</b> by people with combined hearing and vision impairments and to <b>advocate for their rights and inclusion in society</b> .
<b>29 June</b>	National Statistics Day	Theme 2025 - <b>75 Years of National Sample Survey</b>
<b>29 June</b>	International Day of the Tropics	To celebrate the <b>extraordinary diversity of the tropics</b> while highlighting <b>unique challenges</b> and opportunities faced by <b>tropical regions around the world</b> .
<b>30 June</b>	World Asteroid Day	To raise awareness about <b>asteroids, their potential threat to Earth, and the importance of finding, tracking, and studying them</b> .

## Chapter 20: Science & Technology

### ISRO transfers SSLV tech to defence major HAL in a Rs. 511 crore deal

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** secured a **₹511 crore deal to manufacture ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)** after emerging as the top bidder in a competitive process led by IN-SPACe.
- With this deal, HAL becomes the first Indian company to own, build, and commercialise a complete launch vehicle system, expected to produce 6–8 SSLVs annually for both domestic and international markets.

### Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Becomes First Indian to Reach ISS Aboard Axiom-4 Mission After 41 Years

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** became the **first Indian astronaut to visit NASA's International Space Station (ISS)** and the second Indian ever in space, following Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission. The Axiom-4 spacecraft, carrying four astronauts, docked with the ISS at 4:30 PM IST.
- The Axiom-4 mission lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12:01 PM IST, with a diverse crew including Peggy Whitson (USA), Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski (Poland), and Tibor Kapu (Hungary). Shukla is piloting the mission.

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

- **Jahnavi Dangeti** is set to **become the first Indian astronaut on the Titans Space mission in 2029**, marking a historic milestone for India's presence in human space exploration; she is a graduate of NASA's International Air and Space Program and a passionate advocate for STEM education.
- The US-based Titans Space mission will last around five hours, during which the crew will orbit the planet twice, experiencing two sunrises and two sunsets, and achieving nearly three hours of continuous zero gravity for groundbreaking scientific research.

## Chapter 21: Obituary

Person	About
<b>Valmik Thapar, a legendary tiger conservationist and author</b>	Valmik Thapar had been a <b>central figure in India's wildlife conservation movement since the 1970s</b> and served on over <b>150 government panels</b> related to conservation.
<b>French scientist Etienne-Emile Baulieu</b>	Baulieu's research extended beyond abortion, including discoveries on <b>DHEA hormone's anti-aging properties and neurosteroids</b> , and he founded the <b>Institute Baulieu</b> in <b>2008</b> to study <b>neurodegenerative diseases</b> like Alzheimer's.
<b>Eminent Marathi Scholar Daji Panshikar</b>	Known for his <b>profound interpretations of Indian epics</b> like the <b>Mahabharata, Eknaathi Bhagwat, and Bhavarth Ramayan</b>
<b>Edgar Lungu, former President of Zambia</b>	<b>Lungu</b> served as <b>Zambia's president from 2015 to 2021</b> , during which he

	focused on <b>infrastructure development</b> but faced criticism over economic management and democratic backsliding
<b>Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani</b>	<b>Vijay Rupani</b> served as the <b>16th chief minister of Gujarat</b> from <b>August 2016</b> to <b>September 2021</b> .

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