

## Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (MARCH 2025)

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **Arab leaders adopt Egypt's Gaza reconstruction plan**

Arab leaders have approved a 53-billion-dollar reconstruction plan for Gaza, that aims to avoid displacing Palestinians from the enclave. The plan was accepted at the closing of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo with full support from participating Arab leaders.

##### **Europe to boost its defence spending**

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen has presented a plan to mobilise some €800 billion (\$843 billion) for Europe's defence and help provide immediate military support for Ukraine after US suspended aid. ReArm Europe' could mobilise close to 800 billion euros of defence expenditures for a safe and resilient Europe.

##### **UK agrees to provide \$2.8 billion loan to Ukraine**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer in London. During the meeting, the United Kingdom agreed to provide Ukraine with a 2.8 billion US dollar loan.

##### **PKK ends its 40 yrs old armed struggle with Turkey**

Kurdish armed group PKK has declared a ceasefire with Turkey after its jailed leader Abdullah Öcalan called on the movement to lay down its arms and dissolve itself.

##### **US President announces additional 10% tariff on imports from China**

US President Donald Trump has announced a 10 per cent additional tariff on imports from China and plans to impose tariffs on Canada and Mexico starting April 2.

##### **Bangladesh: National Citizens' Party led by Student protesters launched**

In Bangladesh, the National Citizens' Party (NCP), a new political platform formed by student activists from the July-August Movement, was officially launched at Manik Miah Avenue in Dhaka.

##### **Tajikistan's ruling party wins parliamentary elections**

Tajikistan's ruling People's Democratic Party has won parliamentary elections with 51.9 per cent of the vote. The ruling party led by President Emomali Rahmon secured 12 out of the 22 seats on party lists, and 37 seats in 41 single-mandate constituencies.

##### **COP16: Key outcomes agreed at the resumed UN biodiversity conference in Rome**

Countries have agreed at the resumed COP16 talks in Rome to a strategy for "mobilising" at least \$200bn per year by 2030 to help developing countries conserve biodiversity. Nations also agreed for the first time to a "permanent arrangement" for providing biodiversity finance to developing nations, "future-proofing" the flow of funds past 2030.

##### **Cholera outbreak kills over 200 people in Angola**

In Angola, the number of people killed in the latest cholera outbreak has risen to 201. The Health Ministry of Angola has announced that nearly 5,600 people have been infected since early January.

##### **U.S. Supreme Court rejects Trump bid to freeze \$2 billion in foreign aid**

A divided U.S. Supreme Court handed a legal defeat to U.S. President Donald Trump rejecting his bid to freeze some \$2 billion in foreign aid payments.

##### **Italy Moves to Criminalize Femicide with Life Sentence**

The Italian government had approved a draft law that, for the first time, introduces the legal definition of femicide in the country's criminal law and punishes it with life imprisonment.

##### **EAM S Jaishankar inaugurates Indian Consulate at Belfast in Northern Ireland**

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar inaugurated the Indian Consulate at Belfast in Northern Ireland. The Consulate in Belfast will explore further bilateral cooperation in trade, technology, business and education.

##### **Pakistan announces deadline for Afghan Citizen Card holders**

The Pakistan government has announced the 31st of March this year as the deadline for Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) holders to voluntarily leave the country. The move is a part of multiphase relocation strategy targeting Afghan migrants, including those residing in Islamabad and Rawalpindi and awaiting resettlement in third countries.

##### **Death toll from clashes in Syria's coastal region reaches over 1,000**

In Syria, the death toll from two days of clashes between country's security forces and supporters of ousted President Bashar-Al-Assad, along with subsequent revenge killings, has surpassed 1000.

##### **South Korea, US begin annual joint military exercises**

South Korea and the United States have begun their annual joint military exercise "Freedom Shield", but halted live-fire drills following a mishap where two South Korean jets accidentally bombed a civilian area.

##### **Vanuatu PM orders to revoke Lalit Modi's passport**

Vanuatu Prime Minister Jotham Napat has ordered the Citizenship Commission to revoke the Vanuatu passport issued to former Indian Premier League (IPL) chief Lalit Modi. Lalit Modi is wanted by Indian authorities for allegedly embezzling crores of rupees during his tenure as chief of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

##### **Ukraine backs U.S. proposal for 30-day ceasefire in war with Russia**

Ukraine has endorsed an American proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and agreed to immediate negotiations with Russia in pivotal talks in Jeddah after three years of grinding war. The Americans agreed to restore military aid and they pledged to conclude a deal on Ukrainian minerals

##### **Pakistan train hijack: 346 hostages rescued**

Pakistan's military says at least 346 hostages have been freed from a passenger train that was hijacked by separatist fighters in Balochistan province in the country's southwest.

##### **UN chief announces new 'UN80 Initiative'**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced a new initiative named UN80 Initiative' aimed at improving efficiencies at the 80-year-old world organisation and making it more cost-effective.

##### **South Africa hosts 1st G20 Trade & Investment Working Group meeting**

South Africa hosted the first G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TWGW) meeting under its presidency from March 18 to March 20. South Africa officially assumed the presidency of the G20 in December 2024 for the year 2025 under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability".

### **US President invokes Alien Enemies Act of 1798**

US President Donald Trump has invoked the Alien Enemies Act of 1798, claiming the United States is being invaded by a Venezuelan gang. The law gives the President broad powers, allowing him to speed up mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.

### **US to impose new travel ban against 43 countries**

The Donald Trump administration is considering imposing a new travel ban that could affect citizens from as many as 43 countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Russia.

### **Ceasefire collapses as Israel resumes airstrikes on Gaza**

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, which had held for nearly two months, came to an abrupt end as Israeli airstrikes targeted Gaza, resulting in over 400 reported casualties.

### **State of Emergency declared in Peru**

Dina Boluarte, Peru's President declared a state of emergency in the capital Lima. This decision comes amid widespread disturbances after the killing of a 39-year-old popular singer Paul Flores, of the cumbia band Armonia 10.

### **Partial ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war.**

After a telephonic conversation with US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed to temporarily halt attacks on energy and infrastructure targets in Ukraine.

### **Russia, Ukraine swap 175 prisoners in major exchange**

Russia and Ukraine had each swapped 175 prisoners in one of the largest exchanges since the Russian military operation started three years ago.

### **S.Korea Opposition parties introduce motion to impeach Acting President**

The opposition parties in South Korea have raised a motion to impeach acting President Choi Sang-mok, escalating the country's ongoing political turmoil.

### **Japan, China & South Korea discuss trilateral cooperation**

Foreign Ministers from Japan, China and South Korea held a meeting in Tokyo to seek common ground on areas like low birth rates, natural disasters and cultural exchanges at a time of growing tensions.

### **India's Jaishankar, Bolivia's foreign minister signs Quick Impact Projects agreement**

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Bolivia's Foreign Minister Celinda Sosa Lunda held discussions & focussed on strengthening bilateral ties, with both nations signing agreements on Quick Impact Projects

### **Canadian PM calls for snap elections for strong mandate to counter US threat**

New Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has called for a snap election on April 28 in order to ensure that his country gets a government with a stronger mandate than the Liberal Party currently has.

### **Over 50,000 Killed in Israel-Hamas War: Gaza Health Ministry**

Gaza's Health Ministry has said more than 50 thousand Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war. The ministry says more than 113,000 have been wounded.

### **Russia developing privileged strategic partnership with India: Sergey Lavrov**

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that the country is developing a privileged strategic partnership with India. He also said that Russia is actively expanding ties with the majority of global states, including China, India, Iran, and North Korea, as well as Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

### **Thailand: No confidence motion against PM Shinawatra voted down**

Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra had survived a no-confidence vote that confirmed the strength of her coalition in Parliament. The no-confidence motion was voted down by 319 to 162, with seven abstaining.

### **US President orders major overhaul of American elections**

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order mandating sweeping changes to the US election process. The changes require documentary proof of citizenship for voter registration and ensuring that all ballots are received by election day.

### **India Sends Humanitarian Aid to Botswana & Kiribati**

India has sent humanitarian assistance to Botswana in the wake of floods in the country. The first tranche of around 10 tonnes of assistance comprising essential medicines, surgical supplies, mosquito nets, and water purifiers was dispatched for Botswana. Meanwhile, humanitarian assistance has also been sent to Kiribati to help strengthen the healthcare system of the country

### **South Korea: 24 dead, 26 injured in multiple wildfires**

In South Korea, at least 24 people have been killed as multiple wildfires continue to ravage the country's southeastern region. Authorities said 26 people were injured, with 12 in critical condition.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India, Mauritius elevate ties to Enhanced Strategic Partnership**

India and Mauritius have elevated their ties to an 'enhanced strategic partnership' and inked eight pacts to boost cooperation in several sectors, including maritime security, and promote trade in local currencies. Following the talks, Mr Modi announced India's new vision for the Global South, naming it "MAHASAGAR" or "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions."

### **India signs MoU with Armenia for cooperation in field of medical products regulation**

India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Armenia for cooperation in the field of medical products regulation. The two countries also agreed to explore cooperation in digital technologies and pharmaceuticals.

### **New Zealand and India ink five agreements**

New Zealand and India have signed five agreements in the fields of Defence, Education, Sports, Horticulture, and Forestry. The two sides also exchanged the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Agreement.

### **Maharashtra govt collaborates with Meta**

The Government of Maharashtra announced partnering with Meta during the Mumbai Tech Week 2025. The aim of this collaboration is to provide all citizen services via WhatsApp on a single number, empowering 125 million citizens to access government services from anywhere, at any time.

### **Initiative launched to standardise and streamline operations of India's major ports**

A "One Nation, One Port Process" initiative to standardise and streamline port operations across India's major ports and improve efficiency was launched by the Ministry of Shipping, Ports and Waterways. The move aimed to remove inconsistencies in documentation and processes that lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and operational delays.

### **India-Nepal sign MoU to cooperate in WASH sector**

India and Nepal have signed a MoU in New Delhi to enhance cooperation in the Water Sanitation, Hygiene sector (WASH) and waste management.

### **India has over 6,300 river dolphins says first-ever estimation report**

The Prime Minister released the report of the first-ever riverine dolphin estimation conducted in the country, which estimated a total of 6,327 dolphins. Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest numbers, followed by Bihar, West Bengal, and Assam.

### **'Diyaslai' book, an inspiring journey of Kailash Satyarthi**

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion, held a dedicated discussion on "Diyaslai", the autobiography of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

### **India hit targeted MMR of 100 deaths per lakh live births**

India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 100 deaths per one lakh live births, and 83% decline in MMR achieved between 1990 to 2020, Health Minister J. P. Nadda said.

### **SC rules visually impaired candidates eligible for appointment to district judiciary**

The Supreme Court of India held that visually impaired persons cannot be denied the opportunity of employment in judicial services. A bench comprising justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan had reserved the judgement on six petitions.

### **First trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks flagged off**

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi has flagged off the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy-duty trucks in New Delhi.

### **Vantara, wildlife conversation & rehabilitation initiative launched**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Vantara, a unique wildlife conservation, rescue and rehabilitation initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The initiative provides a safe haven for animals while promoting ecological sustainability and wildlife welfare.

### **Cabinet clears ₹3,880 crore for livestock health programme**

The Union Cabinet has revised the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP) with a total outlay of ₹3,880 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26. This includes provision of ₹75 crore to provide good quality and affordable generic veterinary medicine and incentive for sale of medicines under Pashu Aushadhi component.

### **DRDO conducts high-altitude trials of Indigenous ILSS for LCA Tejas**

The Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro Medical Laboratory DEBEL, a Bengaluru-based lab under the DRDO has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System OBOGS-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft.

### **2025 edition of India Mobile Congress set for October**

Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia announced at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain, that the 2025 edition of the India Mobile Congress, an annual event organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), will be held from October 8–11.

### **Goldi Solar Unveils India's First AI-Driven Solar Manufacturing Facility**

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi has inaugurated India's first AI-powered solar manufacturing line at Goldi Solar's newly established plant in Kosamba, Surat, Gujarat.

### **Over 700 writers participate in Asia's Largest Literature Festival 'Sahityaotsav'**

Sahitya Akademi organized its annual Festival of Letters, "Sahityaotsav", Asia's Largest Literature Festival in March. Over 700 writers from different parts of the country, representing more than 50 languages, participated in the festival.

### **Ashwini Vaishnav launches AI compute portal & dataset platform AIKosha**

Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched the IndiaAI compute portal and dataset platform AIKosha, among a slew of other initiatives under the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at improving access to AI and fostering innovation.

### **Centre approves ropeway projects in Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib costing ₹7,000 crore**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand, one connecting Sonprayag and Kedarnath and the other Govindghat and Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara. Expected to be built at a cost of ₹7,000 crore under the National Ropeways Development Programme, Parvatmala Pariyojana, the ropeways will cut travel time to the pilgrimage sites situated over 3,500 metres above sea level.

### **India signs contract with Russian firm to supply engines for T-72 Tanks**

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with Rosoboroneexport of Russia worth 248 million US dollars for the procurement of 1000 HP engines for T-72 tanks.

### **India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII held**

The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII was held in Kyrgyzstan from March 10. The aim of the exercise is to exchange experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in urban and mountainous high-altitude terrain scenarios.

### **Madhav National Park has become the country's 58th Tiger Reserve**

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has announced that Madhav National Park of Madhya Pradesh has become the country's 58th Tiger Reserve. It is also the 9th Tiger Reserve in the State.

### **1st Captive-Bred Great Indian Bustard Chick of 2025 Hatched in Rajasthan**

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav had shared the news of the first captive-bred Great Indian Bustard, GIB chick of 2025. It was artificially hatched by the Project GIB team.

### **Parliament passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024**

Parliament has passed the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The bill seeks to amend the Railways Act 1989 and is intended to enhance the power of the Railways Board and enhance the functioning and independence of the body.

### **India has 3rd-largest operating metro system, set to expand to 29 cities**

India has the third-largest operating metro system in the world, after China and the United States. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri stated that more than one thousand kilometres of metro rail is currently operational in 23 cities across the country.

### **Finance Minister announces ₹500-crore corpus for strife-torn Manipur**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a corpus of ₹500 crore to establish a contingency fund in strife-torn Manipur. This allocation was made during her response to the Discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grant (SDG) Second Batch 2024-25, Demands for Excess Grants for 2021-22, the Manipur Budget 2025-26, and SDG (Manipur) 2024-25 in the Lok Sabha.

### **Textbooks to be digitised for all 22 scheduled languages & English**

Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan said this year, the budget has provided for the implementation of the Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Yojana, which will see textbooks digitised for all 22 scheduled languages, as well as English.

### **India Donates 50,000 Furosemide Injection Ampoules to Sri Lanka**

India has donated 50,000 ampoules of Furosemide injection to Sri Lanka in response to an urgent request to address a critical hospital shortage.

### **ISRO completes De-docking of SpaDex satellites**

ISRO has successfully completed the undocking of two satellites, part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDex) mission. India has now become the fourth country after the USA, Russia and China to master this technology.

### **Govt announces 1 billion dollar fund for creators' economy, ahead of WAVES 2025**

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has announced a 1 billion-dollar fund for the creator's economy as part of the World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025.

### **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Achieves 10 Lakh Rooftop Solar Installations**

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the world's largest domestic rooftop solar initiative, has achieved a historic milestone with 10 lakh installations. Under the initiative, over 4,770 crore rupees has also been disbursed as subsidies to over six lakh beneficiaries.

### **Centre launches first exploration licence auction for critical minerals**

The Ministry of Mines, in collaboration with the Government of Goa, has launched India's first-ever auction of Exploration Licences. The auction will focus on 13 Exploration Licence blocks, covering critical minerals such as Rare Earth Elements, Zinc, Copper, and Diamond.

### **Yoga Mahotsav 2025 inaugurated to mark 100-day countdown to International Yoga Day**

Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav has inaugurated Yoga Mahotsav- 2025 in New Delhi, to mark the 100-day countdown to the 11th International Yoga Day, which will be held on 21st June across the globe.

### **India intends to fully fence its 1,643-km border with Myanmar**

India intends to fully fence its 1,643-km border with Myanmar within the next ten years. According to government officials and a parliamentary panel report, this border will be secured with an "anti-cut, anti-climb" fence.

### **India adds six properties to tentative list for UNESCO recognition**

A set of six properties -- including Kanger Valley National Park in Chhattisgarh; Mudumal Megalithic Menhirs in Telangana, Ashokan Edict Sites and Chausath Yogini Temples spread across multiple states -- have been added to India's tentative list by the UNESCO's World Heritage Centre.

### **116 new tourist destinations sanctioned across the country**

The Centre has sanctioned a total of 116 new tourist destinations across the country under various schemes in partnership with State governments which would be developed at a cost of ₹4,088 crores.

### **PM inaugurates 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of Raisina Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi. Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Luxon, will join the inaugural session as the Chief Guest, and deliver the keynote address. The theme this year is "Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet".

### **India, Australia agree to deepen interoperability across maritime, land and air**

India and Australia have agreed to further deepen cooperation and interoperability across maritime, land and air domains, including working with multilateral partners.

### **ISRO, SCL develops 32-bit Microprocessors for space applications**

ISRO and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh have jointly developed two cutting-edge 32-bit microprocessors, Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201, specifically designed for space applications.

### **India AI Mission and Lok Sabha sign an MoU.**

India AI Mission and Lok Sabha signed an MoU in New Delhi to create a data set called the AI Kosh, which will enable the translation of extensive debates in the Lok Sabha into any language.

### **The 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025 Announced**

The 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025, aimed at accelerating the development of innovative 5G-powered solutions to address societal and industrial challenges was announced by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

### **A dedicated app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS) to be launched.**

A dedicated app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS), which, aims to enhance participation by facilitating easier registration for the second round of the scheme, was launched.

### **Indore to launch India's first PPP-based green waste processing plant**

Indore is set to take a major step towards environmental sustainability with the launch of the country's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model-based green waste processing plant under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

### **Vigyan Dhara: A Catalyst for India's Scientific Progress**

The Government of India has significantly increased the allocation for the Vigyan Dhara scheme, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing the country's scientific research, innovation, and technological development ecosystem. The budget has witnessed a substantial rise from ₹ 330.75 crore in 2024-25 to ₹ 1425.00 crore in 2025-26.

### **AFMS, NIMHANS sign MoU to boost mental health support for military personnel & families**

The Armed Forces Medical Services – AFMS and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences – NIMHANS have signed a MoU to collaborate on research, training, and specialized mental health support for military personnel and their families.

### **MoU to be signed between India AI Mission & Bill Gates Foundation**

India AI mission and Gates Foundation will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing AI solutions for better crops, stronger healthcare, smarter education, and climate resilience, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

### **AI Appu to tutor children in India**

Rocket Learning, a Bengaluru-based ed-tech non-profit organisation, with support from Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, has introduced Appu, an AI tutor for personalised learning for children in the age group of 3 to 6 years in India.

### **Centre approves revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission to boost growth in livestock sector**

The Central government has approved the revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission to boost growth in the livestock sector. The implementation of the revised mission is being carried out with an additional outlay of one thousand crore rupees.

### **DAC clears procurement worth ₹54,000 cr to enhance defence system**

The union government has given the nod for the procurement of 1350 HP engines for T-90 tanks, Varunastra Torpedoes and Airborne Early Warning and Control Aircraft systems.

### **India & Mongolia reaffirm commitment to strengthen Strategic Partnership**

India and Mongolia have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their Strategic Partnership. The two sides held discussions on further strengthening the bilateral Strategic Partnership and maintaining high-level engagements.

### **India Expands Strategic Partnerships With more than 30 Nations: MoS**

The Central government has established and strengthened strategic partnerships with more than 30 countries across the Global South and North. These include the Neighbourhood First Policy, Act East Policy, Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR) initiative, among others.

### **S.Jaishankar Witnesses Handover of Gandhi Artefacts from South Africa to India**

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar witnessed the handing over of artefacts and documents related to Mahatma Gandhi by South Africa's Phoenix Settlement Trust-Gandhi Development Trust to the National Gandhi Museum in New Delhi.

### **Exercise 'Varuna: India and France deployed aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and Charles de Gaulle**

India and France deployed aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and Charles de Gaulle for the bilateral exercise named 'Varuna', allowing the Indian Navy getting to closely observe, and operate with the Rafale-M fighter jets, which it is set to contract soon.

### **India's Goli Soda Goes Global: APEDA Launches 'Goli Pop Soda'**

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has announced the global resurgence of the traditional Indian Goli Soda, rebranded as Goli Pop Soda.

### **Centre Notifies Hike in Salary, Allowance & Pension for MPs**

The Central government has notified an increase in the salary, daily allowance and pension of members and former members of Parliament. The monthly salary for MPs has been increased from one lakh rupees to one lakh 24 thousand.

### **Stealth frigate launched into water at Goa Shipyard**

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) has launched Tavasya at Goa Shipyard, the second frigate under Project 1135.6 Additional Follow-on Ships, marking a significant step toward India's naval self-reliance. Named after the legendary mace of Bhima from the Mahabharata, Tavasya symbolises the indomitable spirit and growing strength of the Indian Navy.

### **Parliament Passes Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024**

The Parliament has passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024, with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill amends the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and intends to strengthen the efficient working of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA).

### **India & African nations to hold 1st joint naval exercise AIKEYME in Indian Ocean**

To consolidate the Indian Navy's stature as the 'preferred security partner' and 'first responder' in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), India will conduct its first major naval exercise, AIKEYME (Africa-India key maritime engagement), with 10 African nations next month.

### **JPNadda expands Intensified TB Elimination Campaign to all districts**

Union Health Minister J P Nadda has announced that the Intensified TB Elimination Campaign will now be expanded to all the districts in the country. Earlier, the campaign was implemented in 455 selected high-priority districts. TB treatment coverage in India has increased from 59 per cent to 85 per cent.

### **India develops first indigenous MRI machine**

India has developed its first indigenous Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine, set to be installed at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, by October for trials.

### **India, Singapore sign LoI for Green & Digital Shipping Corridor**

India and Singapore have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for the Green and Digital Shipping Corridor (GDSC), with a focus on digitalisation and decarbonisation.

### **DX-EDGE aims to foster collaboration between public, private & academic sectors**

NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has launched DX-EDGE, which stands for Digital Excellence for Growth and Enterprise'. It is a national initiative to create an ecosystem connecting Medium Small and Micro Enterprises-MSMEs, technology providers, and academic institutions.

### **Labour Ministry & ILO Launch Social Protection Data Pooling**

The Labour and Employment Ministry, in collaboration with the States and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), has begun the social protection data pooling exercise in the country. This exercise aims to obtain a holistic picture of social protection coverage in India.

### **SC stays Allahabad High Court's controversial order on rape**

The Supreme Court of India has stayed the controversial order of the Allahabad High Court and said the judgment showed a "lack of sensitivity". The controversial Order of Allahabad High Court observed that acts like grabbing breasts or breaking the string of pyjamas do not constitute an attempt to rape and the prosecution must go beyond this "stage of preparation" to prove its charges against a rape accused.

### **DRDO & Navy successfully test fired indigenously developed Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy carried out successful flight-test of indigenously developed Vertically-Launched Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

### **Lok Sabha passes Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025**

The Lok Sabha has passed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill 2025 which will empower the rural economy and help in creating self-employment and the development of small entrepreneurs. The Bill seeks to establish the Institute of Rural Management Anand, as a University to be known as the Tribhuvan Sahkari University and to declare it as an institution of national importance.

### **Centre procures Nag Missile system**

The Ministry of Defence has inked a 2,500 crore rupees contract for the procurement of the Nag Missile System (NAMIS), an anti-tank weapon platform, and 5,000 light vehicles.

### **Lok Sabha passes Bill to modernize Immigration laws**

The Lok Sabha has passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 to modernise the immigration laws and it has provisions to confer upon the Central Government certain powers with regard to passports, travel documents, visa and registration.

## BANKING & ECONOMY

### Canada files WTO complaint against U.S. tariffs

Canada has taken its trade dispute with the United States to the World Trade Organisation, filing a complaint over President Donald Trump's tariff hikes.

### Donald Trump declares 25% tariff on all imported vehicles entering US

US President Donald Trump has declared a 25% tariff on all imported vehicles entering the United States. The new import taxes will go into effect on April 2, 2025.

### Centre withdraws 20% duty on onion exports from April 1

The Centre has withdrawn 20 per cent duty on onion export, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. This will ensure remunerative prices to farmers while maintaining the affordability of onion to the consumers at a crucial juncture.

### Centre to help States to procure pulses at MSP

The centre has approved procurement of tur, urad (black gram), and lentil under Price Support Scheme (PSS) at 100% of State production for the procurement year 2024-25.

### Parliament passes Banking Laws Bill, increasing option for nominees to four from one

Parliament has passed the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 with the Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill seeks to increase the option for nominees per bank account to four, from the existing one. The bill also proposes to redefine substantial interest for directorships, which could increase to two crore rupees instead of the current limit of five lakh rupees.

### Trump signs executive order establishing US strategic bitcoin reserve

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order establishing the country's strategic bitcoin reserve. The Treasury Department will set up an office to administer the reserve, which will be capitalized with Bitcoin (BTC) confiscated by the government as part of criminal or civil asset forfeiture proceedings.

### China and Canada impose levies on US goods in retaliation

China and Canada moved swiftly to retaliate against newly imposed US tariffs, announcing their levies on American goods that could further disrupt the United States trade with its top three trading partners.

### India Retains Fastest-Growing Economy Tag with 6.2% GDP Growth in Q3 FY25

India retains the fastest-growing major economy tag as the country's GDP grew by 6.2 percent in the third quarter of FY25, up from the revised rate of 5.6 percent in the previous quarter.

### India-EU Aim to Finalize Historic Free Trade Deal by Year-End: Ursula von der Leyen

India and the European Union are looking at finalizing a free trade agreement by the end of this year. Addressing an event in New Delhi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and she have agreed to push to get it done this year.

### SEBI opens centralised database portal for corporate bonds

SEBI has launched a centralised database portal "Bond Central" for corporate bonds in a bid to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities.

### UPI transactions in January surpass 16.99 billion

UPI transactions in January surpassed 16.99 billion and the value exceeded ₹23.48 lakh crore, marking the highest number recorded in any month.

### Core Sector Growth Hits 4.6% in January 2025

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries, or the core sector, grew by 4.6 percent in January 2025, compared to the same month last year.

### Sugar production drops 14 %

According to the Indian Sugar and Bio Energy Manufacturers Association, sugar production between October 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025 touched 219.78 lakh tonne, which is 14 % less than the sugar produced during the same period during the 2023-2024 sugar season.

### GST collections jump 9.1% in Feb to ₹1.84 lakh crore

India's gross Goods and Services Tax, GST, collections jumped 9.1 percent in February to 1.84 lakh crore rupees in comparison to the same month last year.

### City Union Bank, CSK tie up for co-branded credit card

City Union Bank (CUB) announced a strategic partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to launch a co-branded credit card.

### Women entrepreneurs comprise eight percent of the total seller base on GeM

Women entrepreneurs comprise eight percent of the total seller base at the Government e-Marketplace platform with over one crore 77 lakhs registered Udyam-verified women micro and small enterprises. These entrepreneurs have fulfilled a cumulative order value of over 46 thousand crore rupees.

### Paytm, RBL Bank partnership

Paytm announced a strategic partnership with RBL Bank to provide its Soundbox and card machines to the bank's merchant partners.

### Centre grants Navratna status to IRCTC and IRFC

The Centre has elevated IRCTC and IRFC to Navratna CPSE status, granting them greater financial autonomy and the ability to invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without government approval. With this, IRCTC and IRFC have become the 25th and 26th Navratna among the CPSEs, respectively, marking a major milestone for the Indian Railway companies.

### HDFC Bank executes first trade in gold through IIBX

HDFC Bank executed the first ever trade in gold by any bank on India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) under Special Category Client – Nominated Bank Category, the (IIBX).

### Amazon's cloud business invest \$8.2 billion in Maharashtra

Amazon's cloud services provider, Amazon Web Services, will invest about \$8.2 billion in India's western state of Maharashtra over the next few years.

### Indian startups raise \$1.65 bn in Feb

Indian startups raised a total of \$1.65 billion in funding at a median valuation of \$83.2 million in February 2025, according to data from Tracxn. Entrepreneurs in the country's startup capital, Bengaluru, secured funding worth \$353 million, with a median round size of \$2 million

### SEBI's total income rises 48% to ₹2,075 crore in 2023-24

Capital markets regulator SEBI's total income rose 48% year-on-year to ₹2,075 crore in 2023-24, driven by increased earnings from fees and subscriptions.

### RBI to inject ₹1 lakh crore in G-Secs

The Reserve Bank of India had announced open market purchase of government securities (G-Secs) for ₹1 lakh crore. The move followed a review of current and evolving liquidity conditions.

### AI firm Anthropic valued at \$61.5 billion in funding round

Anthropic, an American artificial intelligence public-benefit startup has raised \$3.5 billion in a funding round that valued the artificial intelligence startup at \$61.5 billion.



**RBI appoints Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director**

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as Executive Director (ED) who will look after Department of Statistics and Information Management and Financial Stability Department.

**Mintoak buys Digiledge to expand CBDC payments**

Indian fintech startup Mintoak has acquired Digiledge in a deal valued at around \$3.5 million, marking the first acquisition in India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) sector.

**India ranks 4th globally with 85,698 super rich**

India has emerged as a leading global wealth hub, with a current population of 85,698 High Net-Worth Individuals (HNWIs), placing it fourth globally, behind only the US, China, and Japan, according to the latest Global Wealth report by property consulting firm Knight Frank.

**MRF named Shubman Gill as its Brand Ambassador.**

MRF confirmed that Gill has been signed up as a brand ambassador. With legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, and Brian Lara having graced the iconic MRF bat, Shubman Gill now carries forward this tradition, inspiring the next generation of cricketers.

**Tesla signs deal for first India showroom to sell imported EVs**

U.S. electric carmaker Tesla has signed a lease deal to open its first showroom in Mumbai, as it moves towards a goal to sell imported cars in India, registration papers show, after it dropped similar plans last year.

**Garuda Aerospace invests in defence drone start-up Zuppa**

Drone manufacturer Garuda Aerospace has made an investment in Zuppa, an indigenous deep-tech start-up specialising in cyber-secure drones and advanced autopilot systems.

**Amitava Mukherjee assumes office as NMDC CMD**

NMDC (formerly National Mineral Development Corporation) Director-Finance Amitava Mukherjee, who since March 2023 has been holding additional charge as the chairman and managing director, has assumed office as the CMD of the State-owned miner.

**Ola Electric becomes first 2W EV manufacturer to bag PLI incentives**

Ola Electric has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first two-wheeler automotive electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer in India to receive incentives under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Automotive and Auto Component (PLI-Auto Scheme).

**Axis Bank completes aircraft financing transaction through GIFT City IFSC unit**

Axis Bank has become the first Indian bank to successfully execute an aircraft financing transaction through its International Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT City IFSC.

**India Cuts Tariffs for Key Trade Partners**

India has significantly reduced its average applied tariffs for key developed countries such as Australia, the UAE, Switzerland, and Norway under recently concluded, mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreements.

**Sun Pharma to acquire Nasdaq-listed oncology firm Checkpoint Therapeutics for \$335 million**

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd and Nasdaq-listed Checkpoint Therapeutics, Inc. have announced that they have entered into an agreement by which Sun Pharma will acquire Checkpoint, an immunotherapy and targeted oncology company.

**India's share in global seasoning market is 0.7%: WSO**

Regardless of being the largest producer and exporter of diverse varieties of spices in the world, India's share in the global seasoning market, pegged at \$14 billion in 2024, is only a paltry 0.7%, against China's 12% and U.S.A.'s 11%.

**RBI grants only one-year extension to IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia**

The RBI has granted only a one-year extension to Sumant Kathpalia, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO), IndusInd Bank. This is despite the bank's Board requesting a three-year reappointment.

**Amul ranked among India's most valued brands, the only FMCG in the top 3 list**

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (Amul), the country's largest milk cooperative, has been ranked as the third most valued brand in India in the prestigious YouGov India Value Rankings 2025. Amul is the only Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) brand in the top three list, alongside e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart.

**Centre appoints Vikas Kaushal as CMD of HPCL**

The Centre has appointed Vikas Kaushal as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for a five-year term. He is the first private sector executive to head a state-run oil refinery.

**India's agricultural production surges to record high in 2024-25**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has released Second Advance Estimates of production of Major Agricultural Crops for the year 2024-25. The estimated Kharif food grain production stands at approximately 664 lakh metric tons, while Rabi food grain production is projected to exceed 645 lakh metric tons.

**Govt. calls for applications for IRDAI Chief post**

The Centre has set in motion the process of identifying next Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) with incumbent Debasish Panda's three-year term coming to end in a few days.

**Sebi amends rules to tighten SME IPO norms**

SEBI has notified a stricter regulatory framework for small and medium enterprise (SME) IPOs by introducing a profitability requirement and capping a 20% limit on offer-for-sale (OFS).

**LIC is the world's third strongest insurance brand**

According to the Brand Finance Insurance 100 2025 ranking, LIC ranked 12th, has secured its position as the third strongest insurance brand globally, achieving a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 87.9/10.

Ping An Insurance remains the most valuable insurance brand for the 9th year, with a stable USD33.6 billion value, driven by strong familiarity in China.

**India emerges as top source of FDI into Dubai**

India's foreign direct investment (FDI) into Dubai surged to \$3.018 billion in 2024, a five times jump from \$589 million in 2023, making the country the top investor in Dubai.

**Govt extends duty-free imports of Urad till March 2026**

Indian government has extended duty-free imports of Urad for another year until March 31, 2026. The provision was earlier in place until the end of March this year.

**Airtel, Jio sign deal with Elon Musk's SpaceX to bring Starlink to India**

Telecom firms Airtel and Jio are teaming up with SpaceX to bring Starlink's satellite internet to India, which will allow them to provide their services in the most remote areas of the country.

**Industrial Production rises by 5 % in January 2025**

India's industrial production growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) rose to 5 percent in January as compared to 3.2 percent in December,

**India's retail inflation eased to 3.61 percent in Feb.**

India's retail inflation eased to a seven-month low of 3.61 percent in February from 4.31 percent in January, as the rate of increase in food prices slowed to 3.75 percent as compared to 6.02 percent in the previous month.

**RBI to issue new series of 100 & 200 denomination Notes**

The RBI announced that it will soon issue 100- and 200-rupees denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The RBI said that the design of these notes will be identical in all respects to the existing 100- and 200-rupees banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.

**Global fintech investment falls to a seven-year low**

Global fintech investments have fallen to a seven-year low of \$95.6 billion in 2024, reported KPMG. The Americas accounted for \$63.8 billion in fintech funding in the year, including \$50.7 billion in the U.S., while India had the single largest share in the ASPAC (Asian and Pacific Council) region at \$4.1 billion.

**Atul Goel assumes charge as Chief Executive of IBA**

Atul Kumar Goel has assumed charge as Chief Executive (CE) of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Goel was MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) from February 2022 to December 2024. He was Chairman of IBA for two terms – 2021-22 and 2022-23.

**IndusInd Bank stock crashes 27% amid expectation of lower net worth on accounting discrepancy**

IndusInd Bank (IIB) stock slipped 27%, at the NSE, to ₹656.80 on March 11, a day after the bank flagged an adverse impact on its net worth due to a discrepancy on accounting for derivatives holdings.

**LIC, New India Assurance, GIC Re remain D-SIIs**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), The New India Assurance Company and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) have retained the domestic systemically important insurers (D-SIIs) tag. The three insurers have been identified as D-SIIs for 2024-25.

**India's Forex Reserves Surge by \$15.26 Billion, Cross \$653.96 Billion Mark**

India's foreign exchange reserves surged by 15.26 billion dollars, reaching over 653.96 billion dollars in the week ending March 7, bolstered by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) currency swap operations last month.

**ISRO Earns \$143 Million from Foreign Satellite Launches**

ISRO has generated nearly 143 million US dollars in foreign exchange revenue through satellite launches. ISRO launched a total of 393 foreign satellites and 3 Indian customer satellites on a commercial basis over the past decade.

**Intel hires former board member Lip-Bu Tan as new CEO**

Intel Corporation has announced that its board of directors has appointed Lip-Bu Tan, as chief executive officer, effective March 18. He succeeds Interim Co-CEOs David Zinsner and Michelle (MJ) Johnston Holthaus.

**Gold hits \$3,000/oz for first time in historic safe-haven rally**

Gold broke through the key \$3,000 barrier on March 14 for the first time as investors piled on to a historic rally in the safe haven asset to seek cover from economic uncertainty sparked by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war.

**Canara Bank proposes to raise upto ₹4,000 crore through Basel III-Compliant Tier II Bonds**

Canara Bank was proposing to raise up to ₹4,000 crore through Basel III-compliant Tier II Bonds the bond is rated AAA/Stable by CRISIL and CARE and will have a tenor of 10-years with five year call option.

**Amazon, Google sign pledge to support tripling of nuclear energy capacity by 2050**

Amazon and Google have signed a pledge to support the goal of at least tripling the world's nuclear energy capacity by 2050, on the sidelines of the CERAWee conference in Houston.

**RBI fixes Sovereign Gold Bond redemption rate at ₹8,624 per unit**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the redemption price for the final redemption of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) due on March 17, 2025 would be ₹8,624 per unit of SGB.

**India to become world's third-largest economy by 2028, overtaking Germany, says Morgan Stanley**

India will become the world's third-largest economy by 2028, overtaking Germany, according to a report by global financial services firm Morgan Stanley. The Indian economy, valued at 3.5 trillion dollars in 2023, is projected to expand to 4.7 trillion dollars by 2026.

**Standard Chartered raises €1 billion via first social bond issuance**

Standard Chartered has successfully raised approximately ₹9,400 crore through its first social bond issuance. The funds will be used to support sustainable development projects across the bank's emerging market network, including India.

**India, New Zealand Begin Talks for Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement**

India and New Zealand have announced the launch of negotiations for a comprehensive and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation.

**Apple to begin AirPods production for exports at Foxconn's Hyderabad plant**

Apple is planning to start production of AirPods for exports at the Foxconn plant in Hyderabad from April, 2025. AirPods will be the second product category that Apple will start producing in India after iPhones.

**IndusInd Bank's financial health remains stable: RBI**

Amid speculations relating to IndusInd Bank Ltd.'s financial health in certain quarters and the fall in its share prices due to the discovery of discrepancy in its derivatives portfolio which will have an impact of 2.35% to its net worth, the RBI has clarified that the bank was well-capitalised and the financial position of the bank remained satisfactory.

**India's goods trade deficit at a 42-month low**

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry India's goods trade deficit was down to a 42-month low of \$14.05 billion as imports of gold, silver and crude dipped in February 2025.

**Bajaj to acquire Allianz's 26% stake in life, general insurance JVs**

Bajaj Finserv will acquire Allianz SE's 26% stake in Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company for ₹24,180 crore.

**WPI inflation at 2.38 per cent in February**

the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation slightly increased to 2.38 per cent in February primarily due to the price increase in manufactured food items like vegetable oil and beverages.

**MoU to promote the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions**

A Memorandum of Understanding to establish a framework promoting the use of local currencies for cross-border transactions was signed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM).

**Alphabet to acquire cybersecurity startup Wiz**

Google owner Alphabet will buy cybersecurity startup Wiz for \$32 billion. Wiz, a four-year-old startup headquartered in New York, makes security tools designed to shield the information stored in remote data centres from intruders.



**OECD lowers India's growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4%**  
The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4% from 6.9% due to rising global uncertainty.

**SEBI, Digilocker partnership to address unclaimed financial assets**

SEBI has partnered with DigiLocker to address the issue of unclaimed financial assets. This initiative enables investors to store and access information on their demat and mutual fund holdings through DigiLocker, a key Digital Public Infrastructure, benefiting investors and their families.

**Moody's places IndusInd Bank's Baseline Credit Assessment under review for downgrade**

Moody's has placed IndusInd Bank's baseline credit assessment (BCA) under review for a possible downgrade. The rating review comes days after IndusInd Bank disclosed a ₹2,100 crore discrepancy in accounting with an estimated impact of 2.35% of the bank's net worth.

**US Federal Reserve holds interest rates steady**

US Federal Reserve has kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged in the 4.25 per cent to 4.50 per cent range. The Federal Reserve sees core inflation hitting 2.7% next year, higher than December's projection of 2.5%.

**Cabinet approves UPI incentive of ₹1,500 crore to banks**

The Union cabinet has announced an incentive scheme for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments of less than ₹2,000 for 2024–25 with an outlay of around ₹1,500 crore. Banks will get a 0.15% incentive, one fifth of which will be incumbent on adequate performance of their infrastructure over the year.

**Bain Capital to acquire 18% stake in Manappuram Finance for ₹4,385 crore**

Bain Capital has entered into definitive agreements to acquire joint control in Manappuram Finance, a Kerala-based non-banking financial company through its affiliates. Bain Capital will be investing ₹4,385 crore to acquire an 18% stake on a fully diluted basis.

**Hindalco to invest ₹45,000 crore in copper and aluminium upstream business**

Hindalco Industries, a leading copper and aluminium player, announces investment of ₹45,000 crore in its copper, aluminium and speciality aluminium business.

**L&T arm launches AI-powered railway track inspection solution**

L&T Technology Services Limited (LTTS), an engineering and technology services firm, has launched TrackEi, an AI-powered railway track inspection solution.

**India's Bioeconomy Hits \$165B: BioEconomy Report**

Speaking at the 13th Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) Foundation Day, union minister of state for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, highlighted that there are around 10,000 biotechnology startups in India, contributing to an estimated 165 billion dollar bioeconomy.

**India ranks 2nd women-led tech startups in 2024**

Women-led tech companies globally secured \$29.6 billion in 2024, representing an 11% decline from \$33.1 billion in 2023. India 2nd after US in all-time funding for women-led tech startups, as per Tracxn.

**India's Lendbox, emerged as one of the fastest-growing firms in the Asia-Pacific region.**

Indian company, Lendbox, emerged as one of the fastest-growing firms in the Asia-Pacific region. Lendbox, a peer-to-peer (P2P) non-banking financial company (NBFC), has secured the top spot in this prestigious list compiled by Financial Times and Statista.

**RBI appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as executive director**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Indranil Bhattacharyya as executive director (ED). As executive director, Mr. Bhattacharyya will look after the Department of Economic and Policy Research.

**Fitch cuts global GDP growth forecast to 2.3% on U.S. trade war**

According to a report titled "Global Economic Outlook" by Fitch ratings, cut global GDP growth forecast for 2025 to 2.3%, down 0.3 percentage points as U.S. tariff hikes are rapidly unfolding.

**Share of remittances to India from advanced economies surpasses that of Gulf: RBI Bulletin**

India's remittance patterns have shifted with advanced economies like the US and UK becoming key contributors, while the Gulf nations' share decreased. By 2023-24, remittances amounted to USD 118.7 billion. The US leads with a 27.7% share, followed by UAE at 19.2%.

**PM Modi hails India's milestone of crossing one billion tonnes in coal production**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the milestone of India crossing one billion tonnes of coal production. PM Modi called it a remarkable achievement and said it highlights India's commitment to energy security, economic growth and self-reliance.

**India's GDP Doubles in a Decade, Set to Overtake Japan: IMF**

India has doubled its GDP in the last 10 years at a growth of 105 percent, from 2.1 trillion dollars in 2015 to 4.3 trillion dollars in 2025. According to the data released by IMF, India is now the fifth-largest country in terms of GDP in the world after the US, China, Germany and Japan.

**Zomato is now Eternal, Corporate Affairs Ministry approves name change**

Food and grocery delivery major Zomato on said it has received the Corporate Affairs Ministry's approval regarding its name change to "Eternal Limited" with effect from March 20, 2025.

**PLI schemes attracted investment worth ₹1.61 lakh crore**

The Centre's production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes across 14 sectors to boost manufacturing have attracted investments to the tune of ₹1.61 lakh crore and generated sales worth ₹14 lakh crore, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

**L&T elevates Sarma as deputy MD & president**

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has elevated Subramanian Sarma from the position of wholtime director and President, Energy, to deputy managing director and president of the company, effective April 2, 2025.

**Centre notifies revised criteria for classifying MSMEs**

The Central government has notified significant revisions to turnover and investment criteria for classifying MSMEs that will take effect from April 1.

**India achieves record ₹1.27 lakh crore in indigenous defence production in 2023-24**

India has achieved the highest-ever growth in indigenous defence production in 2023-24, reaching a record one lakh 27 thousand crore rupees. The value of defence production has surged 174 per cent increase from 46 thousand 429 crore in 2014-15.

**SEBI Doubles FPI Disclosure Threshold to ₹50,000 Cr**

SEBI has approved a proposal to double the investment threshold for granular disclosures by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to 50,000 crore rupees.

**Govt appoints Rahul Bhawe as MD of IFCI**

The Central government has approved the appointment of Rahul Bhawe as Managing Director and CEO of financial institution IFCI.

### **Centre Launches BAANKNET to enhance PSU Bank E-Auctions for Asset Sales**

The Finance Ministry has launched a revamped e-auction portal 'BAANKNET' to enhance transparency and efficiency in disposing of banks' non-performing assets. The portal, designed to streamline the auction process, incorporates automated KYC tools and secure payment gateways.

### **Dilma Rousseff to head BRICS Development Bank for five more years**

Brazil's Former President Dilma Rousseff was re-elected head of the New Development Bank (NDB), also known as the BRICS Bank. Her current term, which began in March 2023 and runs until July this year, was unanimously extended for another five-year period.

### **SEBI to constitute committee to decide on conflict of interest of board members**

The SEBI board at its meeting has decided to constitute a High-Level-Committee (HLC) to undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to conflict of interest, disclosure pertaining to property, investment and liabilities and related matters in respect of SEBI members and officials of the board.

### **NSDC partners with PayPal to empower youth with industry-relevant skills**

National Skill Development Corporation has partnered with PayPal to launch a skill development program that will empower youth, including women from low-income families, to pursue careers in India's banking, financial services and insurance sectors.

### **Centre discontinues Gold Monetisation Scheme**

The Central government has decided to discontinue the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) starting from March 26, 2025 in view of the evolving market conditions.

### **Government drops import duty on EV, phone battery components**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced there would be no import duties on 35 capital goods used to make Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries and 28 items used in mobile phone battery making to boost domestic manufacturing.

### **HDFC Bank introduces Embassy Fixed Deposit**

HDFC Bank has introduced the Embassy Fixed Deposit for diplomats, non-diplomatic staff, and missions, allowing investment exclusively in USD. The minimum deposit amount is USD 5,000 equivalent.

### **India top milk producer in the world: Animal Husbandry Minister**

India is the top producer of milk in the world and has set a target of producing 300 million metric tons (MMT) of milk in the next five years from the present 239 MMT, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said in the Lok Sabha.

### **ADB and Shriram Finance Sign Deal to Boost MSME and EV Financing in India**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Shriram Finance Limited have signed a loan agreement for \$150 million to boost access to finance for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in India with a focus on business loans and for financing electric vehicles (EVs) and low-emission commercial vehicles for business purposes.

### **Public Sector Banks Record 33% Rise in Dividend Payouts in FY24**

According to government data, public sector banks (PSBs) declared a total dividend of ₹27,830 crore for FY24, marking a significant 32.7% rise from the ₹20,964 crore distributed in FY23.

### **NBSL unveils BHIM 3.0 with enhanced features**

NPCI Bhim Services Ltd has launched the Bhim (Bharat Interface for Money) 3.0 app with new features. Users can now split bills with friends and family, onboard family members, track shared expenses and assign specific payments.

### **IMF approves \$1.3 billion loan for Pakistan**

The International Monetary Fund had approved a loan of USD 1.3 billion for Pakistan to address climate change while also reaching a staff-level agreement on the first review of the already agreed USD 7 billion loan.

### **JSW Steel becomes world's most valuable steelmaker with \$30.3 bn market cap**

JSW Steel Ltd. has emerged as the most valuable steel company globally, surpassing industry leaders such as ArcelorMittal and Nucor Corp. The Indian steelmaker now holds a market capitalisation of \$30.31 billion, exceeding its closest competitors by \$91 million to \$3 billion.

### **Future Generali India Insurance bags DI-verse Certification**

Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII) said it has received the DI-verse - India's First Disability Inclusion Certification, for its initiatives in setting new benchmarks in corporate disability inclusion.

### **RBI imposes penalties on HDFC Bank**

The RBI has imposed penalties on HDFC Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. A penalty of ₹75 lakh on HDFC Bank has been imposed for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI.

### **Wipro bags £500 mn strategic deal from Phoenix Group of U.K.**

Wipro Limited, a technology services and consulting firm has won a £500 million, 10-year strategic deal with Phoenix Group, the U.K.'s largest long-term savings and retirement business.

### **NTT DATA to commission MIST submarine cable by June 2025**

NTT Data has announced that its Malaysia, India, Singapore Transit (MIST) submarine cable system would be commissioned by June 2025, providing direct connectivity to and from India. The 8,100-kilometre cable, that can carry over 200 terabits per second (Tbps), is one of the largest cables in Asia and will connect Malaysia, India, Singapore and Thailand.

## **AWARDS**

### **97th edition of the Academy Awards**

Director Sean Baker's romantic comedy-drama "Anora" emerged as the ceremony's biggest winner, at the 97th edition of the Academy Awards in Los Angeles taking home five awards.

"Anora" swept the Academy Awards, winning Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing, and Best Actress.

Adrien Brody won the Best Actor Oscar for "The Brutalist," Mikey Madison won Best Actress for Anora.

Zoe Saldaña won her first Academy Award, taking home the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Emilia Pérez. Kieran Culkin received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in 'A Real Pain'.

The Oscar for Best Documentary Feature was awarded to No Other Land.

### **Liu Jiakun is the winner of the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize**

Chinese architect Liu Jiakun has been announced as the winner of the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize, the highest honor in the architecture field. He becomes the second Chinese architect to receive the accolade, following Wang Shu (2012).

### **PM Modi conferred with Barbados Award for his leadership during COVID-19**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred with the prestigious Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados Award in recognition of his strategic leadership and valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **EV startup Pravaig has won the prestigious IDEX Award**

EV startup Pravaig has won the prestigious IDEX Award for its VEER Electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (E-TATV) -- a cutting-edge, highly stealthy vehicle designed for forward patrolling, reconnaissance, and ISR operations.

### **Zerodha founder Nithin Kamath named EY entrepreneur of the year 2024**

Nithin Kamath, founder and chief executive officer of Zerodha was declared the EY Entrepreneur of the year 2024.

Kamath will represent India at EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo to be held in June 2025.

KV Kamath, the Padma Bhushan recipient and Chairman of Jio Financial Services, was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to India's financial services sector.

S.Somanath received the Special Jury Award for leading India's landmark space missions.

### **Suman Chakraborty wins UNESCO award for developing low-cost medical diagnostic solutions**

Suman Chakraborty, institute chair professor in the Mechanical Engineering department of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), has been awarded the 2026 TWAS Award in Engineering and Computer Sciences by the UNESCO.

### **Mauritius confers its highest honour 'Order of the Star and Key of Indian Ocean' on Indian PM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was bestowed with the topmost honour of Mauritius, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean. Mr. Modi is the first Indian to receive the honour. It is the 21st international honour bestowed upon Mr. Modi by a foreign country.

### **Turing Award Goes to Andrew Barto and Richard Sutton of Artificial Intelligence**

The Association for Computing Machinery, the world's largest society of computing professionals, has announced that Dr. Andrew Barto and Dr. Richard Sutton had won this year's Turing Award, often called the Nobel Prize of computing.

Andrew Barto and Richard Sutton developed reinforcement learning, a technique vital to chatbots like ChatGPT.

### **Jayshree Vencatesan becomes first Indian to win Ramsar award**

Jayshree Vencatesan, co-founder of Chennai-based Care Earth Trust, has become the first Indian to be honored with the Ramsar award for 'Wetland Wise Use'. She is one of the 12 women changemakers in the world of wetlands as announced by the Ramsar. T

### **Five Indian Airports Recognised As 'World's Best' At Annual Awards**

Five Indian airports namely Kannur International Airport, Chandigarh Airport, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, and Indira Gandhi International Airport have been recognised as among the world's best in the Asia-Pacific region for the 2024 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards.

### **Harmanpreet Singh, Savita Punia Win Hockey India Player of the Year Awards**

India captain Harmanpreet Singh and senior goalkeeper Savita Punia won the Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Player of the Year award in the men's and women's categories

### **RBI for being selected for Digital Transformation Award 2025**

The Reserve Bank of India has won the Digital Transformation Award 2025, instituted by Central Banking, London. The RBI has been selected for the award for rolling out digital initiatives, including Pravaah and Sarthi systems, that have reduced the use of paper-based submissions to transform its internal and external processes.

### **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak wins 2025 Holberg Prize**

Gayatri Spivak has won the 2025 Holberg Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the field of humanities, social sciences, law or theology research. She won the prize for her influential work in literary theory and philosophy.

### **Günter Blöschl wins 2025 Stockholm Water Prize**

Hydrologist Günter Blöschl, a pioneer of water engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize 2025. Blöschl's comprehensive database and analysis have revolutionised and deepened the global understanding of flood risk reduction and water resource management

### **Chiranjeevi Honoured with Bridge India's First Ever Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service Entertainment**

Indian actor Chiranjeevi has been honoured by many esteemed Members of Parliament, at the House of Commons in the UK Parliament. He has also received the "Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Public Service through Cultural Leadership" from Bridge India, a renowned UK-based organisation focused on improving public policy

### **Hindi Writer Vinod Kumar Shukla Wins Jnanpith Award**

A famous Hindi poet and writer from Chhattisgarh, Vinod Kumar Shukla, has been selected for the Jnanpith award. This award is considered the country's highest literary honour.

### **Violinist RK Shriramkumar awarded Sangita Kalanidhi by the Music Academy**

Violinist RK Shriramkumar has been awarded Sangita Kalanidhi by the Music Academy in Chennai. Shriramkumar has been playing with generations of musicians for over three decades and learned the art of composition from Subbulakshmi and Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer among others.

### **National Intellectual Property Awards 2024.**

Union Minister, Piyush Goyal has conferred the National Intellectual Property Awards 2024. These were conferred across the following 13 categories:

Top Indian Individual - Patents: Sidramappa Shivashankar Dharane (Male), Dr. Swagatika Panda (Female)  
Top Indian Individual – Designs: Dr. Anusha P. (Female)  
Top Indian Academic Institution – Patents: IITKanpur  
Top Public /Private Company for Patents Filing, Grant & Commercialization in India

a. Manufacturing Sector: Tata Steel Limited

b. Services Sector: Jio Platforms Limited

Top Indian Company /Organization for creating Brand in India and Abroad: Biocon Biologics Ltd.

Top Start-up for IP Filing: Numeros Motors Pvt. Ltd.

Top Indian Company/Organisation – Designs: Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

## **PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)**

### **Christian Stocker**

Christian Stocker has been sworn in as Austria's chancellor at the head of a three-party coalition government, ending five months of political deadlock that followed a far-right party's election win.

### **Mark Carney**

Former central banker Mark Carney has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Canada. Fifty-nine-year-old Carney replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was in office for nine years.

**Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in as the first woman president of the southern African nation of Namibia. Nandi-Ndaitwah's SWAPO party won both the presidential and parliamentary elections in November.

**Christopher Luxon**

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon had arrived in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials, businesses, media and members of the Indian diaspora community.

**Jay Bhattacharya**

The US Senate has confirmed the appointment of Indian-origin Jay Bhattacharya, a professor at Stanford School of Medicine, as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Stuart Young**

Stuart Young was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr Young earlier served as the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries. He will succeed the outgoing Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley.

**PM Han Duck-soo**

South Korea's Constitutional Court has overturned the impeachment of Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, reinstating him as acting President. Meanwhile, the court has yet to decide on the impeachment of former President Yoon Suk Yeol.

**Jair Bolsonaro**

In Brazil, Supreme Court has ruled that former President Jair Bolsonaro will stand trial for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the government after he lost the 2022 election.

**Luis Montenegro**

Portuguese Prime Minister Luis Montenegro lost a confidence vote, forcing his government to resign after less than a year in office.

**Rodrigo Duterte**

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested on a warrant from the International Criminal Court, accusing him of crimes against humanity over the deadly anti-drug crackdowns he oversaw while in office.

**Ajay Bhadoo**

The centre has appointed Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Ajay Bhadoo, as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM) with effect from March 3, 2025.

**Justice Yashwant Varma**

The Delhi High Court has withdrawn judicial work from Justice Yashwant Varma with immediate effect after a large stash of cash was allegedly found at his official residence following a fire.

**Justice Harish Tandon**

Justice Harish Tandon of Calcutta High Court has been appointed the new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. The office of the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court has been vacant since the retirement of Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh on January 19 this year.

**Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri**

Tunisian President Kais Saied dismissed Prime Minister Kamel Madouri and appointed Sarra Zaafrani Zenzri as the new head of the cabinet. Zaafrani is Tunisia's third prime minister in less than two years and the country's second woman premier.

**Sanjay Mishra**

Sanjay Kumar Mishra, the former Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief, has been a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). Sanjay Kumar Mishra is a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer from Uttar Pradesh.

**Rajiv Gauba**

Former cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba has been appointed full-time member of the NITI Aayog. A 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand cadre, Mr Gauba served as the top bureaucrat of the country for five years from 2019 to August 2024.

**Ajay Seth**

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth was on March 1, 2025, given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue.

**Justice Joymalya Bagchi**

The Central government had notified the President's appointment of Calcutta High Court judge, Justice Joymalya Bagchi, as a Supreme Court judge on March 10, 2025.

**Boris Spassky**

Soviet chess grandmaster and tenth-world champion Boris Spassky has passed away in Moscow. Spassky is best remembered for his duel with US player Bobby Fischer in 1972, which was emblematic of the confrontation between East and West and was later referred to as "the match of the century".

**Padmakar Shivalkar**

Padmakar Shivalkar, the champion left-arm spinner who is counted among the greatest Indian cricketers to never play for India, has died at the age of 84. Shivalkar featured in ten of Bombay's victorious Ranji Trophy campaigns from 1965-66 to 1976-77 - they won the title in every season barring one in that time.

**Fred Stolle**

Fred Stolle, a two-time major winner and member of three Davis Cup-winning teams, has died. Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley described Stolle as an "iconic figure" in tennis as a player and later as a commentator for Australia's Nine Network and for CBS and Fox Sports.

**Syed Abid Ali**

Syed Abid Ali, who represented India in 29 Tests from 1967 to 1974, has died in California aged 83. Abid Ali also played five ODIs between 1974 and 1975, which also happened to be India's first five ODIs.

**Ramakanta Rath**

Renowned Odia poet and former bureaucrat Ramakanta Rath died at his residence in Bhubaneswar. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to literature, he was conferred with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in 2006.

**George Foreman**

The former boxing heavyweight champion George Foreman died at the age of 76. He won global acclaim at the Olympic Games in Mexico in 1968, where he fought his way to the super-heavyweight gold at just 19.

**Debendra Pradhan**

Veteran BJP leader Debendra Pradhan, father of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, passed away at 84 due to age-related ailments. A former minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government and three-time president of BJP in Odisha.

**Han Jong-hee**

South Korean tech giant Samsung Electronics said that its co-chief executive officer Han Jong-hee has died from cardiac arrest. Han was 63.

**SPORTS****Chile Open 2025: Indian-Colombian duo claim men's doubles title**

In Tennis, India's Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli and his Colombian partner Nicolás Barrientos have claimed the men's doubles title of the Chile Open in Santiago.

**Bengaluru Open 2025: Chandrasekar/Ho win doubles title with straight sets win**

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Ray Ho emerged victorious to claim the men's doubles title. The Indo-Taiwanese pair defeated Australia's Blake Bayldon and Matthew Christopher Romios.

**Indian-Australian duo wins Dubai Tennis Championships doubles title**

In Tennis, India's Yuki Bhambri and his partner Alexei Popyrin of Australia clinched the doubles title at the Dubai Tennis Championships.

**Brandon Holt wins the ATP Challenger 125 tennis tournament.**

Brandon Holt of the USA won his second ATP Challenger singles title of the season after beating Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki in the Bengaluru Open 2025 tennis tournament's singles final.

**P.Iniyan wins Cannes Open**

Indian Grandmaster P. Iniyan won the Cannes International Open, defeating compatriot V Pranesh in the ninth and final round in Cannes, France.

**Vidarbha claim third Ranji Trophy title**

Vidarbha claimed their third Ranji Trophy cricket title with a dominant performance against Kerala. Their hard-fought first innings lead and marathon second-innings batting display broke Kerala's resistance, sealing a memorable victory.

**Koneru Humpy joins as brand ambassador of SOG Grandmaster Series**

The Skill Online Games Federation (SOGF) announced the appointment of Koneru Humpy as the Brand Ambassador of the SOG Grandmaster Series.

**Krishna Jayasankar becomes 1st Indian woman to cross 16m in indoor shot put**

India's Krishna Jayasankar made history at the 2025 Mountain West Indoor Track and Field Championships by becoming the first Indian woman to cross the 16-metre mark in indoor shot put. Her record-breaking throw measured 16.03 metres.

**Asian Yogasana Sports Championship Rescheduled to April 25-27 in Delhi**

The second edition of the Asian Yogasana Sports Championship has been rescheduled and will now take place from April 25 to 27, 2025, in the national capital Delhi.

**WTT Youth Contender: India sweeps all categories, claims 22 of 24 titles**

In Table Tennis, India made a stunning sweep in the WTT Youth Contender event held in Vadodara, claiming 22 out of the 24 available titles.

**TT legend A. Sharath Kamal announces retirement**

Indian table tennis legend A. Sharath Kamal announced that he will retire later this month. His achievements, which include seven Commonwealth Games gold medals, two historic Asian Games bronze medals, and five Olympic appearances.

**Khelo India Para Games held in Delhi**

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has announced that the Khelo India Para Games 2025 was held in New Delhi from the 20th to the 27th of this month.

**Australia's Steve Smith retires from ODI cricket**

Australian cricket legend Steve Smith has officially announced his retirement from One-Day Internationals (ODIs), marking the end of an illustrious 14-year career in the 50-over format.

**Mushfiqur Rahim announces retirement from ODIs**

Veteran Bangladeshi cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim has announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket. He confirmed that he will continue to represent Bangladesh in Test cricket. 7

**Pranav Venkatesh becomes World Junior Chess Champion 2025**

18-year-old Indian Grandmaster Pranav Venkatesh dominated the FIDE World Junior Championship 2025 to claim the title in Montenegro. Pranav becomes the fourth Indian to win the World Junior title, following Viswanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, and Abhijeet Gupta.

**Chithambaram wins Prague Masters 2025 Chess title**

Indian Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram has clinched the Prague Masters 2025 Chess title. He finished the tournament with six points after settling for a draw against Turkey's EdizGurel in the final round.

**Siddhant Banthia and his partner Alexander Donski win ATP Kigali Challenger title**

In tennis, India's Siddhant Banthia and his partner Alexander Donski of Bulgaria have won the ATP Kigali Challenger title in Kigali, Rwanda.

**India wins record third ICC Champions Trophy**

Team India lifted the ICC Champions Trophy for a record third time after a commanding victory over New Zealand by four wickets in the grand finale at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Chasing a target of 252 runs in the summit clash, India achieved it with an over to spare.

**World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 took place Delhi**

India fielded 145 athletes in the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025, at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi from March 11. The event witnessed the participation of another 105 para-athletes from 19 countries.

**Tennis: Kristina wins Gurugram ITF women's tournament**

Kristina Dmitruk defeated second seed Ekaterina Makarova in the final of the \$30,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project, Baliyawas.

**F1: General Motors-backed Cadillac team confirmed for 2026 season**

General Motors-backed Cadillac will become Formula One's 11th team next year after securing formal approval from the commercial rights holders and governing FIA.

**Deepti Sharma takes fifth spot in ICC Women's all-rounders rankings**

India's Deepti Sharma has surpassed New Zealand's Amelia Kerr to climb one spot and break into the top five of the latest ICC Women's all-rounders rankings.

**Sports Ministry revokes WFI suspension**

The Union Sports Ministry has revoked the 'suspension' of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) paving the way for the National Sports Federation's smooth functioning and the wrestlers' participation in international events.

**Second phase of 5th Khelo India Winter Games concludes**

The second phase of the four-day 5th Khelo India Winter Games at the picturesque Gulmarg in North Kashmir's Baramulla district concluded.

**Mumbai Indians win second Women's Premier League title**

In the Women's Premier League cricket final, Mumbai Indians secured their second title as Delhi Capitals faltered for the third consecutive time.

**India Masters win International Masters League T20 title**

Sachin Tendulkar led India Masters has claimed the inaugural International Masters League T20 title beating Brian Lara's West Indies Masters by 6 wickets at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

**All England Badminton Open: China's Shi Yuqi, An Se-young win**

An Se-young beat China's Wang Zhiyi in a classic All England Open final as top seed Shi Yuqi lifted the men's crown. Earlier, China's men's world number one Shi delivered a composed performance to see off Taiwan's Lee Chia-hao, also collecting his second All England crown.

**Special Olympics Winter Games: India concludes with 33 medals**

Indian athletes concluded their remarkable campaign at the Special Olympics World Winter Games with 33 medals having 8 Gold, 18 Silver, and 7 Bronze – in Turin, Italy. On the final day, India won nine medals.

**Indian Wells: Andreeva beats Sabalenka to claim title**  
Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva fought back to overcome world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the Indian Wells final on Sunday, winning a second WTA 1000-level event in a row.

**Kabaddi World Cup 2025 begins in England**

The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 has begun in England. The Indian Men's team will start their campaign against Italy at Wolverhampton. The competition will span seven days with over 60 matches

**Australian GP 2025: McLaren's Norris wins F1 season opener**

McLaren's Lando Norris has won a chaotic rain-affected Australian Grand Prix, his first at Albert Park, with the Brit just managing to stay ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen

**Argentina Grand Prix: Marc Marquez wins**

Ducati's Marc Marquez has won the Argentina Grand Prix after trailing his brother Alex of Gresini Racing for much of the race as the pair finished in the top two yet again, while VR46 Racing's Franco Morbidelli was third.

**Indian Wells: Briton Draper wins maiden Masters 1000 title**

Britain's Jack Draper thrashed Denmark's Holger Rune 6-2, 6-2 to collect the biggest title of his career at Indian Wells with a place in the top 10 assured for the first time.

**Los Angeles Olympic 2028: IOC Board approves boxing for inclusion in Games**

Boxing is set to be on the program for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles after years of disputes over how the sport is run. The IOC had suspended the IBA in 2019 following long-running disputes over governance, its finances and the integrity of bouts and judging.

**Newcastle United win its maiden Carabao Cup Trophy**

Newcastle United ended a 70-year domestic trophy drought as it beat holder Liverpool 2-1 to win the League Cup (also known as Carabao Cup) with goals in each half by Dan Burn and Alexander Isak.

**Khelo India Para Games mascot Ujjwala is inspired by the house sparrow of Delhi.**

Khelo India Para Games 2025 has unveiled its anthem, mascot and logo. The highly anticipated Para Games took place from March 20th until the 27th of this month in the National Capital. The Khelo India Para Games mascot Ujjwala is inspired by the house sparrow of Delhi symbolising the pride and fighting spirit of the city.

**Kabaddi's global body declares World Cup in UK 'unauthorised'**

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) declared that the World Cup being held in London is not an "authorised" event and asked the sport's Indian apex body to act against the team that had gone to take part in the tournament.

**'Leo—The Untold Story,' on Chennai Super Kings launched**

A new book on Chennai Super Kings, 'Leo—The Untold Story,' written by senior advocate and former TNCA vice president P.S. Raman, was officially launched in the presence of former CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni.

**Matt Richtman becomes first American man to win Los Angeles Marathon in 31 years**

Matt Richtman had won the 40th annual Los Angeles Marathon, becoming the first American man to take the title in 31 years. He set a personal-best time of 2 hours, 7 minutes, 56 seconds over the course.

**Kirsty Coventry becomes first female president of IOC**

Zimbabwe's Kirsty Coventry has been elected as the 10th President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), becoming the first woman and African to ever be elected to the position. Coventry, 41, will also be the youngest ever to assume the role.

**BCCI announces ₹58 crore reward for Team India after ICC Champions Trophy 2025 triumph**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of 58 crore rupees for Team India following their triumph at the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

**Anahat Singh & Veer Chotrani Win PSA Challenger Squash Titles**

India's Anahat Singh has won the women's Squash title, and Veer Chotrani won the men's title of the PSA Challenger squash in Chennai.

**India to host 11th Asian Swimming C'ship in Gujarat**

India will host the 11th Asian Swimming Championship at the Naranpura Sports Complex in Ahmedabad. The Swimming Federation of India announced that it has received in-principle approval from both the Gujarat government and Asia Aquatics to organize the championship.

**IPL 2025 kicks off on March 22**

The 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 kicked off on March 22, marking the start of another season of high-octane T20 cricket.

**Sankar Subramanian beats world no. 2 Antonsen in Swiss Open**

In badminton, India's Sankar Subramanian has stormed into the Men's Singles quarterfinals of the Swiss Open Championship in Basel, Switzerland. Subramanian, ranked 64th in the world, defeated the current World No. 2, Anders Antonsen of Denmark

**India submits bid to host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat**

India has taken a major step toward hosting global sporting events by officially submitting an expression of interest to organize the Centenary Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in 2030.

**Gymnastics: Pranati Nayak wins bronze in Women's Vault at FIG World Cup**

India's Pranati Nayak has bagged the bronze medal in the Women's Vault final at the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.

**India claims both Men's & Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025**

India has won both the Men's and Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 at Wolverhampton in England. At the inaugural edition, hosted by Malaysia in 2019, India won both the men's and women's crowns.

**India qualifies for FIBA Men's Asia Cup 2025**

The Indian basketball team has qualified for FIBA Men's Asia Cup 2025 after registering a thrilling win over hosts Bahrain 81-77 at Khalifa Sports City in Manama. Harsh Dagar was the star of India with 28 points with 6-3 pointers.

**F1 China GP 2025: PIASTRI wins Chinese Grand Prix**

Australian Oscar Piastri has won the Chinese Formula One Grand Prix from pole position in a McLaren one-two with championship-leading teammate Lando Norris.

**ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025: India Wins Silver in Women's Doubles, Bronze in Men**

In the Doubles events category of the ISTAF Sepak Takraw World Cup 2025 at Patna, the Indian Women's team has won the silver medal. In the doubles event, the Indian men's team was successful in winning the bronze medal jointly with Malaysia.

**Asian Wrestling Championship: Sunil Kumar wins Bronze Medal**

Sunil Kumar won the bronze medal in the 87kg Greco Roman category of the Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan.

**World Athletics Mandates Cheek Swabs for Gender Testing**

The international sports governing body, World Athletics, has approved the introduction of mandatory cheek swabbing to determine an athlete's gender.



### **Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2025: India wins 2nd bronze**

Indian wrestlers have continued their good run on the second day of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championship 2025, with Nitesh clinching the second bronze medal for the country in Amman, Jordan.

### **Khelo India Para Games 2025 concludes**

The Khelo India Para Games 2025 concluded at JLN Stadium, New Delhi. In the medal tally, Haryana topped the chart with 34 gold, 39 silver, and 31 bronze medals. Tamil Nadu secured second place.

### **India wins 1 silver, 2 bronze medals in wrestling at Senior Asian Championship**

In wrestling, India bagged one silver and two bronze medals at the Senior Asian Championship in Amman, Jordan. So far, India has won a total of five medals at the championship, including 1 silver and 4 bronzes.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Finland Is World's Happiest Country For 8th Year Straight year**

According to the annual World Happiness Report 2025, Finland has retained its top spot as the happiest country in the world for the eighth consecutive year. India's rank had improved from 126 in 2024 to 118. Afghanistan has been ranked as the unhappiest country in the world.

### **Sweden took top spot in The Economist's annual glass-ceiling index**

The Economist released its annual glass-ceiling index which analyzes working conditions for women across the 29 countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Sweden has replaced Iceland at the top of the list, which takes into account factors such as salaries, representation in the labor force, and paid parental leave.

### **Mumbai Ranked 14th Best Food City In The World**

Time Out recently released its rankings for the world's 20 best cities for food for this year. Mumbai occupies the 14th position. Last year, it was ranked 8th globally.

### **13 Of World's 20 Most Polluted Cities In India: IQAir.**

Thirteen of the world's top 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Bymihat in Assam topping the list, according to a new report published by The World Air Quality Report 2024 by IQAir. Delhi remains the most polluted capital city globally, while India ranked as the world's fifth most polluted country in 2024, down from third in 2023.

### **Indian digital economy ranked 28th on user spending: IPCIDE report**

The ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE) unveiled the third edition of the 'State of India's Digital Economy 2025 report. But the level of digitalisation seen at the level of an average Indian, has ranked the country at 28th out of 32. The overall ranking for India is 8th out of 32. As per the overall ranking, the US leads, with China a close 2nd.

India has secured the 11th position in AI research and the 16th spot in AI infrastructure among a group of 32 countries.

### **Ukraine world's biggest arms importer in 2020-24**

According to data from SIPRI, Ukraine became the world's largest importer of major arms in the period 2020–24, with its imports increasing nearly 100 times over compared with 2015–19. The United States further increased its share of global arms exports to 43 per cent. India was the second-largest arms importer.

**Firefly Aerospace Lands Blue Ghost spacecraft on Moon**  
US firm Firefly Aerospace achieved its first successful moon landing with the Blue Ghost spacecraft, touching down near Mare Crisium. The uncrewed lander, carrying 10 scientific payloads, marks Firefly as the second private company to land on the moon, following Intuitive Machines' partial success last year.

### **India's social security coverage doubled from 24.4 % in 2021 to 48.8 % in 2024:ILO**

According to International Labour Organization (ILO), India's social security coverage has doubled from 24.4 percent in 2021 to 48.8 percent in 2024. Unemployment rate has declined from 6 percent in 2017-18 to 3.2 percent in 2023-24

### **UN lauds India's efforts and progress in reducing child deaths**

India's efforts and progress in reducing preventable child deaths has been lauded as 'exemplar' by the United Nations, which cited the example of health initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat.

### **Blue Cross of India' celebrates 60 Years with Release of "Memories and Milestones"**

The Blue Cross of India marked a significant milestone on 15th March ,2025 with the release of "Memories and Milestones," a book documenting its 60-year journey. The book, authored by historian V. Sriram and Lashman, was released by Justice P.N. Prakash, Former Judge of Madras High Court.

### **SpaceX Starship to depart for Mars at the end of 2026**

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has announced that the Starship rocket would depart for Mars at the end of 2026. The spacecraft will also carry Tesla's humanoid robot Optimus onboard, as a precursor to human landings.

### **Faya Site Reveals Humanity's 210,000-Year Desert Adaptation**

Sharjah's Faya Palaeolandscape, recently nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status, presents compelling evidence of human resilience and adaptation spanning over 210,000 years, while also serving as a crucial link in ancient trade networks connecting Arabia with India.

### **Five Indo-Pacific nations begin Exercise Sea Dragon 25**

Naval exercise Sea Dragon 2025, which includes the Indian Navy, commenced off the Guam coast in the western Pacific Ocean. The Sea Dragon exercise 2025 is being hosted by the United States Navy's 7th fleet and was held from 4-19 March 2025. Five nations have participated in this exercise.

### **India assumes Chair of 68th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs**

India presided over the 68th Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), which commenced in Vienna. Ambassador Shambhu S. Kumaran, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, chaired the session, which will run until March 14.

### **Foxconn unveils its first large language model named 'FoxBrain'**

Taiwan's Foxconn has launched its first large language model(LLM) and plans to use the technology to improve manufacturing and supply chain management. The model, named "FoxBrain," was trained using 120 of Nvidia's H100 GPUs and completed in about four weeks.

### **NASA, Nokia Launch First Mobile Network On The Moon**

NASA and Nokia have taken a major step in lunar exploration by deploying the first-ever mobile network on the Moon. As part of Intuitive Machines' IM-2 mission, this initiative introduces the Lunar Surface Communication System (LSCS), designed to facilitate high-definition streaming, telemetry exchange, and reliable connectivity for lunar operations.

### **NASA Launches Missions to Study Sun, Universe's Beginning**

NASA's SphereX space telescope was successfully launched into space from California. SphereX lifted off on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and will explore the origins of the universe.

### **SpaceX & NASA launch Crew-10 mission to bring home stranded astronauts**

SpaceX and NASA have launched a mission to bring back US astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore from the International Space Station (ISS), where they have been stranded for nine months. The mission also launched four crew members to the ISS. Crew-10 marks the 10th crew rotation mission under SpaceX's human space transportation system.

### **NASA Astronauts return to Earth after 286 days in space.**

Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore of NASA who were on the International Space Station since June of last year, following the maiden crewed mission of the Boeing Starliner spacecraft, which encountered technical issues that rendered it unsuitable for their return journey, returned to Earth, aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon Spacecraft on March 18.

### **NASA Reports Alarming Surge in Global Sea Levels in 2024**

NASA has revealed that global sea levels have risen faster than anticipated in 2024. The US space agency reported that the rate of sea level rise last year reached 0.59 centimeters per year, surpassing the expected 0.43 centimeters.

### **China Delivers Second Advanced Submarine to Pakistan**

China has delivered a second new submarine, equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, to Pakistan as part of its efforts to beef up the navy of its all-weather ally to back its growing presence in the Arabian Sea and in the Indian Ocean.

### **Three day ASEAN Gaming Summit begins in Philippines**

The three-day ASEAN Gaming Summit was held at the Shangri-La the Fort in Manila, Philippines. The international gaming conference was attended by nearly 1 thousand 6 hundred participants from across Asia and beyond.

### **Atmospheric CO2 reaches 800,000-year high at 420 ppm in 2023: WMO**

According to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) State of the Climate report, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have reached 420 parts per million in 2023, the highest in the last 8,00,000 years.

### **India sends \$1 million worth machinery to Suriname**

India has sent machinery valued at one million US dollars to Suriname as a component of its development partnership aimed at fostering the growth of the nation's Passion fruit industry.

### **Three cities honoured for public health achievements at 2025 Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit**

During the annual Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit in Paris, three cities Córdoba, Argentina; Fortaleza, Brazil; and Greater Manchester, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were recognized for their achievements in preventing noncommunicable diseases and injuries.

### **National Science Day 2025 observed on February 28**

National Science Day is observed every year on the 28th of February to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by the eminent physicist Sir C.V. Raman. Sir Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930 for this groundbreaking discovery.

### **World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated on 3 March**

United Nations World Wildlife Day (WWD) is celebrated every year on 3 March to celebrate wild animals and plants. The WWD2025 theme is Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet.

### **54th National Safety Week being observed**

The 54th National Safety Week is being observed across the country. The week is celebrated between the 4th to 10th of March annually in the country. This year's theme is 'Safety and Well-being Crucial for Viksit Bharat' which focuses on the importance of safety for a developed India.

### **Jan Aushadhi Diwas celebrated on March 7**

Jan Aushadhi Diwas is celebrated on March 7 every year to raise awareness about the scheme and promote the use of generic medicines. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) aims to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

### **International Women's Day: 8th March**

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8. The theme for 2025 is "Accelerate Action,".

### **National Vaccination Day: 16<sup>th</sup> March**

National Vaccination Day, celebrated every year on March 16, highlights India's commitment to safeguarding public health through immunisation.

### **World Sparrow Day observed on March 20**

World Sparrow Day is being observed worldwide on March 20, marking an annual effort to raise awareness about the rapid decline in sparrow populations.

### **International Happiness Day observed globally on March 20**

International Happiness Day- IHD is being observed across the globe on March 20. The theme of this year is 'Caring and Sharing'.

### **International Day of Forests celebrated on March 21**

International Day of Forests is being celebrated on March 21. The theme for this year is "Forests and Food".

### **World Down Syndrome Day observed on 21 March**

World Down Syndrome Day is being observed on 21 March each year. The theme of World Down Syndrome Day 2025 is 'Improve Our Support Systems'.

### **India joins Earth Hour with special focus on water conservation**

India joins the world's largest grassroots environmental movement, Earth Hour, on March 22, with a special focus on water conservation.

### **World Water Day: 22nd March**

World Water Day is observed on March 22, to highlight the importance of freshwater and the need for its sustainable management. This year's theme, "Glacier Preservation,"

### **Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day 2025 observed on March 23**

Shaheed Diwas, or Martyrs' Day, is a tribute to the bravery and devotion of India's freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the nation's independence. On March 23, 1931 - three revolutionary freedom fighters, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, were hanged in the Lahore jail.

### **World Theatre Day 2025 is celebrated on March 27**

World Theatre Day 2025 is observed on March 27 every year. It is an annual celebration that highlights the importance of theatres as a form of entertainment throughout history. It was established in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute.