

## Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (May 2025)

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **US, Ukraine Sign deal granting Washington access to minerals**

The United States has signed an economic partnership agreement with Ukraine that will allow Washington access to Kyiv's rare earth minerals in exchange for a joint fund to invest in Ukraine's reconstruction.

##### **President Trump nominates Mike Waltz as next US Ambassador to UN**

US President Donald Trump has nominated Mike Waltz as the next US Ambassador to the United Nations. Waltz, a former soldier, congressman, and Trump's current National Security Advisor, is expected to bring his experience to the new role.

##### **Parliamentary elections in Australia**

Polling took place for all 150 seats in the House of Representatives and 40 of the 76 seats in the Senate in Australia to elect members of the 48th Parliament of the country.

##### **US approves sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India**

The United States has approved the sale of HawkEye 360 technology to India to boost the country's surveillance capabilities. The move will enhance India's maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific region.

##### **Singapore's PAP secured landslide victory**

Singapore's People's Action Party (PAP) returned to government in a stunning victory by winning 87 out of 97 seats, with Prime Minister Lawrence Wong securing a strong mandate.

##### **US Approves \$310M F-16 Training and Sustainment Package for Ukraine**

The US has approved an F-16 fighter jet training and sustainment package worth 310 million dollars for Ukraine.

##### **Romania votes in crucial presidential election rerun**

Romanians are voting in a crucial presidential election, following a political crisis last year when the top court annulled the previous vote over fraud and scandal.

##### **President Trump imposes 100% tariff on films produced outside US**

US President Donald Trump will impose a 100 per cent tariff on all movies produced outside the United States. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) to begin the procedure of imposing a 100 per cent tariff on all foreign-produced movies coming into the United States.

##### **Nicaragua leaves UNESCO**

Nicaragua has withdrawn from the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) after the body acknowledged the exiled La Prensa newspaper as part of the organization's press freedom awards.

##### **Cyber security event "GISEC Global" underway in Dubai**

The 14th edition of GISEC Global, the world's third-largest and MENA's largest cybersecurity event, continued into its second day at the Dubai World Trade Centre, featuring strong international participation and notable representation from India. The three-day event is being held under the theme "Securing an AI-Powered Future."

##### **Trump administration cuts off new federal grants to Harvard University**

In the United States, the Trump administration has barred Harvard University from receiving new federal grants, intensifying its clash with the Ivy League school over allegations of antisemitism, political bias, and mismanagement.

##### **Quad concludes Indo-Pacific Logistics Network simulation in Honolulu**

Quad group has concluded a simulation exercise to advance the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network. The exercise was convened at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii, for a Tabletop Exercise.

##### **U.S., China take step back from sky-high tariffs**

U.S. and Chinese officials had reached a deal to roll back most of their recent tariffs and call a 90-day truce in their trade war for more talks on resolving their trade disputes.

##### **Pakistan names its military response 'Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos'**

Pakistan has reportedly named its military response to India "Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos", a term drawn from the Quran meaning "solid wall of lead."

##### **Australian Cabinet sworn in after landslide election victory**

Australia's Cabinet was sworn into office after the centre-left Labor Party was re-elected in a landslide elections. Labor party has secured an estimated 93 seats in the 151-member House of Representatives.

##### **Trump signs executive order aiming to reduce drug prices**

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order aimed at lowering drug prices, demanding that drug companies offer prices for prescription drugs comparable to those in other developed nations.

##### **US President Trump, Saudi Crown Prince sign \$142 billion arms deal**

US President Donald Trump and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman signed a wide-ranging strategic economic partnership agreement in Jeddah. The deal covers multiple sectors, including a huge arms deal worth nearly 142 billion dollars.

##### **Balochs declare independence from Pakistan**

Baloch nationalist leaders have declared independence from Pakistan, citing decades of violence, enforced disappearances, and human rights violations in the region.

##### **US President Trump secures \$243.5 billion in economic deals during Qatar visit**

US President Donald J. Trump has signed a landmark agreement with Qatar to generate an economic exchange worth at least \$1.2 trillion. During the visit, Trump announced economic deals totalling more than \$243.5 billion between the United States and Qatar, including a historic sale of Boeing aircraft and GE Aerospace engines to Qatar Airways.

##### **Lassa Fever Outbreak Kills 138 in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, the death toll from the Lassa fever outbreak in Africa's most populous country has reached 138 since the beginning of this year. Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness caused by the Lassa virus, a member of the arenavirus family of viruses

##### **Libya grants ICC jurisdiction over crimes from 2011 to 2027**

Libya has formally submitted a declaration to the International Criminal Court (ICC) under Article 12(3) of the Rome Statute, granting the court jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory from 2011 to 2027.

##### **Romania Begins Presidential Runoff**

Romanian voters have started casting ballots in a decisive presidential runoff, which pits George Simion, leader of the Alliance for the Union of Romanians, against Nicusor Dan, the mayor of Bucharest.

**UK-EU ties reset with new bilateral deal**

Britain and the European Union (EU) have reached a wide-ranging agreement, which is expected to generate nearly 12.02 billion dollars for the British economy by 2040. The deal was unveiled ahead of the first-ever UK-EU summit held in London.

**Portugal's ruling center-right alliance wins election**

Portugal's ruling center-right Democratic Alliance (AD) has won a snap parliamentary election but again fell short of the majority needed to end a long period of instability as the far-right Chega gained a record share of the vote.

**US President unveils 175-billion dollar Golden Dome missile defence shield plan**

US President Donald Trump has announced 175 billion Golden Dome missile defence shield programme for the United States. The Golden Dome will protect the US from long-range missiles, including those launched from space or other continents, and will integrate with current defense systems.

**UK suspends trade talks with Israel amid Gaza situation**

The UK has suspended trade talks with Israel, summoned the Israeli ambassador, and imposed new sanctions on West Bank settlers over the worsening situation in Gaza.

**UK signs deal to hand over Chagos Islands to Mauritius**

The United Kingdom has signed an agreement on handing sovereignty over the contested and strategically located Chagos Islands to Mauritius.

**US Launches Nuclear-Capable Minuteman III**

The US Air Force launched a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Minuteman III, in a doomsday missile test. The Minuteman III nuclear-capable missile is equipped with a single Mark-21 high-fidelity re-entry vehicle

**India attends 24th IORA meeting**

The 24th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM), hosted by the IORA Chair Sri Lanka, was held virtually, under the theme: "Sustainable Indian Ocean for future Generation". Secretary (East) in External Affairs Ministry, P. Kumaran, led the Indian delegation at the 24th meeting of IORA COM.

**US Administration bars Harvard University from enrolling foreign students**

The US administration has barred Harvard University from taking international students. This move by the Trump administration will force existing students to transfer to other schools or lose their legal status.

**US administration lifts sanctions on Syria**

The US administration has taken significant steps to lift sanctions on Syria, following President Donald Trump's earlier pledge to assist the war-torn country in its recovery efforts.

**Russia, Ukraine wraps up largest prisoner swap**

Russia and Ukraine have exchanged 303 prisoners each, completing the biggest prisoner swap since the war began in 2022.

**EU approves 150-billion-euro loan scheme to rearm**

EU countries have formally approved a new 150-billion-euro loan programme to help rearm in the face of Russia and worries over U.S. reliability. The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) borrowing scheme backed by the EU's central budget was proposed by Brussels in March as the bloc rushes to boost its defences.

**US orders halt in Student-Visa interview**

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has ordered US embassies and consular offices to stop scheduling new visa interviews for student applicants, as the Donald Trump administration is considering strict and careful examination of applicants' social media profiles.

**US appeals court reinstates President Trump's tariffs**

In the United States, a federal appeals court has reinstated President Donald Trump's tariffs, just a day after a trade court ordered an immediate halt to them.

**UN to lay off 6,900 employees, slash \$3.7 billion budget by 20%**

The United Nations is set to lay off approximately 6,900 employees and slash its 3.7-billion-dollar operating budget by 20 per cent, in one of the most significant restructuring efforts in its history.

**India closes its airspace to airlines from Pakistan**

India has banned Pakistan airlines from using its airspace amid escalating tensions with the neighbouring country in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

**Cabinet to enumerate caste in the next Census**

The Central government has announced that the forthcoming population census will include a caste census. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**CBI dismantles international online child sexual exploitation network**

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has dismantled the cybercrime networks of online child sexual exploitation with international linkages. CBI took the action under the "Operation Hawk"

**National Archives of India launches book 'Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician'**

National Archives of India launched a book titled 'Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician' in New Delhi. The book is authored by Arun Singhal and Dr Devendra Kumar Sharma.

**72nd Miss World pageant begins in Hyderabad**

The 72nd edition of the Miss World pageant began at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, with a vibrant showcase of Telangana's cultural heritage. The Miss World finale is scheduled to take place on May 31 in Hyderabad.

**Goa declared fully literate state on Statehood Day**

In a landmark achievement, Goa declared itself a fully literate State on May 30, becoming a beacon of inspiration for the rest of the country. This landmark announcement was made on the occasion of the 39th Goa Statehood Day on May 30

**Centre revamps National Security Advisory Board**

The Central government has revamped the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). Former R&AW chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as NSAB chairman.

**India signs MoU with WHO to promote traditional medicine**

The Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO) have signed a MoU to create a dedicated Traditional Medicine module within the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI). The agreement aims to integrate traditional Indian practices- such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, and Unani- into WHO's international health intervention classification system.

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

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to implement an AI-based real-time alert system on a pilot basis for active forest management using satellite images, mobile feedback, and machine learning,

**Maharashtra is India's top-performing large State: Care Edge Ratings**

Maharashtra is India's top-performing large State, followed by Gujarat and Kamataka, per Care Edge Ratings' composite state ranking for 2025. Goa topped the rankings in Group B (comprising 11 North-East, Hilly & Small States).

**India and Denmark sign a renewed MoU**

To strengthen energy cooperation, India and Denmark have signed a renewed memorandum of understanding. The MoU will support India's ambitious target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

**Core capital facilities for the city of Amaravathi, and Multiple development Projects Inaugurated.**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated, laid the foundation stone, and dedicated to the nation multiple development projects worth over 58,000 crore rupees from Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, including the core capital facilities for the city of Amaravathi.

### **Vizhinjam International Seaport dedicated to the nation**

The first semi-automated one in the country, the Vizhinjam International Seaport, was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 2, 2025.

### **India Bans Pakistani Ships, Imports and Postal Services**

India has banned the entry of Pakistani ships at Indian ports. It has also prohibited Indian ships from visiting Pakistani ports. India also banned the direct or indirect import of all goods from Pakistan with immediate effect.

### **India Offers \$200 Million Defence Credit to Angola**

India has announced a defence credit line of 200 million dollars (in Indian Rupees) to support the modernisation of Angola's armed forces.

### **ICAR developed world's first genome-edited improved varieties of rice**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has successfully developed two genome-edited rice varieties. The first variety, named DRR Dhan 100 Kamala, has been developed using the popular high-yielding green rice Samba Mahsuri. The second variety originates from Maruteru 1010 (MTU1010), another widely cultivated rice strain in India.

### **India's First WAVES 2025 Summit Concludes**

India's first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 concluded at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. During the summit, the WAVES declaration was adopted by representatives of 77 countries at the Global Media Dialogue.

### **DRDO successfully conducts maiden flight-trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform**

The DRDO has successfully carried out maiden flight-trials of its Stratospheric Airship Platform from Sheopur Trial site at Madhya Pradesh.

### **ECI to soon launch single-point app ECINET**

The Election Commission of India will soon launch a single-point App ECINET for stakeholders. The new one-stop platform, ECINET, will integrate and reorient over 40 of EC's existing mobile and web applications.

### **India, UK sign pact to enhance cultural exchange**

India and the UK signed a new cooperation agreement aimed at enhancing cultural exchange through the arts and heritage while fostering collaboration between cultural institutions and creative businesses in the two countries.

### **India cuts off water flow to Pakistan from Baglihar Dam**

In the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, India has restricted the flow of water through the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River. India is also planning similar measures at the Kishanganga Dam on the Jhelum River.

### **Navy & DRDO conduct combat firing of indigenously developed Multi-Influence Ground Mine**

Indian Navy and Defence Research and Development Organisation have successfully undertaken combat firing of the indigenously designed and developed Multi-Influence Ground Mine (MIGM).

### **Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor**

Rajasthan is all set to become a part of India's first cheetah reintroduction project, currently operational in Madhya Pradesh.

The corridor will link Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh with the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.

### **Civil Defence Mock Drill conducted across 244 districts of the country**

The Centre had asked the states to conduct mock drills under the name 'Operation Abhyaas' on May 7 to evaluate civil defence preparedness in the country. It has decided to organize the Civil Defence Exercise and Rehearsal across the 244 categorized Civil Defence Districts of the country.

### **Indian Armed Forces launch 'OPERATION SINDOOR'**

The Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', post midnight, hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.

### **IAF Conducts Two-Day Mega Military Exercise Near Pakistan Border in Rajasthan**

The Indian Air Force carried out a two-day mega military exercise in Rajasthan, along the International Border with Pakistan, from May 7. The IAF has termed it a pre-planned routine training exercise that involved all the frontline fighter jets, including Rafale, Sukhoi-30 and Jaguar aircraft.

### **India's first AI data center park launched in Nava Raipur**

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai laid the foundation of the nation's first artificial intelligence (AI)-based Data Centre Park that will come up on 14 acres of land in new capital city Nava Raipur. The data centre has been designed with a focus on environment protection.

### **AP to set up country's first Transmedia Entertainment City in State**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CreativeLand Asia (CLA) to conceptualise and operationalise 'Creatorland', India's first Transmedia Entertainment City in the State.

### **Intel India, India AI Mission tie up to bolster AI capabilities and skilling**

Intel India and the Central government's India AI mission have joined hands to launch an initiative focused on bolstering AI capabilities and skills nationwide.

### **India bolsters defence with ₹250 crore Russian missiles**

The Indian Army has received a fresh consignment of Russian Igla-S air defence missiles worth over ₹250 crore to enhance its air defence capabilities. The Igla-S missiles, part of the Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS).

### **Centre rolls out cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims**

The Centre has notified cashless treatment scheme for road accident victims nationwide, under which they will be entitled to a maximum amount of ₹1.5 lakh per accident per person. The scheme has come into force with effect from May 5, 2025.

### **Indian armed forces target Air Defence Radars and systems at several locations in Pakistan**

According to the Defence Ministry, Indian Armed Forces targeted Air Defence Radars and systems at several locations in Pakistan on the morning of May 8, 2025. The Air Defence system at Lahore has been neutralised. The Ministry said India's response has been in the same domain with the same intensity as that of Pakistan.

### **12th edition of the Global Conference on space exploration.**

India hosted the 12th edition of the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025) from 7th to 9th May 2025 in New Delhi. The three-day global summit, themed "Reaching New Worlds: A Space Exploration Renaissance,"

### **India and Pakistan Agree on Immediate Ceasefire**

India and Pakistan announced a ceasefire, agreeing to stop firing and military action with immediate effect. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made this announcement in New Delhi.

### **RIMES Ministerial Meet Adopts Declaration on Disaster Preparedness**

Ministerial Conference of the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), has unanimously adopted Declaration, reinforcing regional cooperation in disaster preparedness. India participated as co-chair at the 4th Ministerial Conference held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

### **SRS 2021: India Reports Decline in Maternal, Infant, and Child Mortality**

As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) Report 2021, Maternal Mortality Ratio dropped significantly from 130 to 93 per lakh live births. Infant Mortality Rate has also declined from 39 per 1000 live births in 2014 to 27 per 1000 live births in 2021. Total Fertility Rate is consistent at 2.0 in 2021, which is a significant improvement from 2.3 in 2014.

### **India gifts 15 electric vehicles to Nepal**

India had gifted 15 electric vehicles to Nepal to facilitate the organisation of 'Sagarmatha Sambaad' (mountain dialogue).

### **Sarvam AI launches Bulbul-v2**

Indian AI startup Sarvam has unveiled its latest AI model called Bulbul-V2, a text-to-speech (TTS) model that supports 11 Indian languages.

**Indian Navy receives first anti-submarine vessel from GRSE**  
The Indian Navy has received 'Arnala', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs), at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu.

**India will not discuss anything with Pakistan except terrorism and PoK: PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined India's unwavering commitment to combat terrorism, following the success of Operation Sindoor. He outlined three key pillars of India's security doctrine, and the first pillar is the Decisive Retaliation. The second is No Tolerance for Nuclear Blackmail, as India will not be intimidated by nuclear threats. The third pillar is No Distinction Between Terror Sponsors and Terrorists.

**Ladakh records world's highest snow leopard density**  
The UT of Ladakh is home to the highest recorded density of snow leopards in the world, with nearly 68 per cent of India's population of the elusive big cat found in the Union Territory.. Hemis National Park in Ladakh reported the highest recorded number of snow leopards in the world, with about 2.07 animals per 100 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>).

**Economist SP Sharma launches his book 'India@2047,'**  
Renowned economist Dr SP Sharma has launched his new book, 'India@2047: Leading the Global Economic Order,' at an event in New Delhi.

**Akashteer: India's AI-driven war-cloud neutralized all Pakistani drones, missiles**

The Akashteer air defence system has played a critical role in intercepting and neutralising all inbound Pakistani drones, missiles, micro UAVs, and loitering munitions, effectively preventing any breach of Indian airspace.

**Union Minister Vaishnav inaugurates India's first 3nm chip design centre in Noida, Bengaluru**

Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav has inaugurated new state-of-the-art design facilities located in Noida and Bengaluru. This is India's first design centre to work on cutting-edge 3-nanometer chip design.

**Chhattisgarh: 31 Maoists killed in Karregutta hill during 21-day operation**

Thirty-one Maoists, including 16 female Maoists, have been killed in an anti-Maoist operation that lasted for about twenty-one days on Karregutta hill, situated on the Telangana border in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

**Indore becomes India's first beggar-free city**

Indore has been declared India's first beggar-free city under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat (begging-free India) initiative.

**Illinois Tech becomes the first US university approved to establish a campus in India**

Illinois Tech, Chicago's only tech-focused university, has received formal approval from India's University Grants Commission (UGC) to open a new campus in Mumbai. Illinois Tech will be the first American university authorized to establish a degree-granting campus in India.

**Vice-President releases Haryana Governor's book 'Janta Ki Kahani –in Meri Aatamkatha'**

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar has released Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya's autobiography book 'Janta Ki Kahani – Meri Aatamkatha'.

**Indian Army Conducts Teesta Prahar Exercise**

The Indian Army has conducted the Teesta Prahar exercise at the Teesta field firing range in West Bengal. Various units of the Army, including infantry, mechanised infantry, artillery, armed corps, para special forces, army aviation engineering, and signals, participated in the exercise.

**DRDO develops high-pressure polymeric membrane for sea water desalination**

DRDO has developed an indigenous nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane for high-pressure seawater desalination, which will be used in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships.

**Centre revokes Security Clearance of Turkish Firm Celebi Aviation**

The Central government has revoked the security clearance of Turkish ground handling firm Celebi Airport Services India Private Limited with immediate effect. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security said that the decision was taken in the interest of national security.

**ISRO launches EOS-09 satellite aboard PSLV-C61**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-09, aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C61) from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

**Indian delegation attends 17th edition of LIMA 2025 in Malaysia**

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth has led an Indian delegation at the 17th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025), being held at Langkawi, Malaysia.

**India restriction on import of certain goods from Bangladesh through land**

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced new port restrictions on the import of certain goods from Bangladesh to India.

**Govt to send all party delegation to 32 Nations to highlight India's Anti-Terror resolve**

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that seven All-Party delegations will soon engage with key nations under Operation Sindoor. In a social media post, Mr. Rijiju shared the list of MPs and delegations representing this united front. The seven groups comprising 59 Members of Parliament will visit a total of 32 countries.

**ISRO forms probe panel after PSLV-C61 failure**

ISRO has formed a committee to investigate the incident in which a PSLV rocket failed to place the Earth observation satellite, EOS-09, into its intended orbit.

**IIFT first overseas campus in Dubai**

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has announced the establishment of its first overseas campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**India, Maldives sign 13 MoUs**

India has signed 13 MoUs with the Maldives for enhancing ferry services in the island nation with an MVR 100 million grant, expanding maritime connectivity and uplifting community livelihoods.

**COVID-19 cases see a surge in Singapore, Hong Kong; India reports 257 cases**

COVID-19 cases rise in parts of Asia, especially Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Thailand, as health authorities are monitoring the JN.1 variant. The current COVID-19 situation in India remains under control, and as of May 19, the number of active COVID-19 cases in India stands at 257

**India's largest conservation reserve comes up in Spiti Valley**

The remote and cold Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh is now home to India's largest conservation reserve. The state government has notified the Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve by issuing a notification.

**Union Minister Pralhad Joshi launches Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, Anna Sahayata Apps**

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi launched the Depot Darpan, Anna Mitra, and Anna Sahayata apps in New Delhi. These apps are aligned with the government's aim of advancing the country's food security through digital innovation.

**India receives WHO certification for elimination of Trachoma as Public Health Problem**

India has been awarded the Certificate of Elimination of Trachoma as a Public Health Problem by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

**Mizoram makes history as India's first fully literate state**

Mizoram's recognition as the first fully literate state was declared under the Ministry of Education's ULLAS initiative, which mandates a minimum literacy rate of 95% of the population.

### **Indian Navy to induct 5th century-inspired stitched ship in Karnataka**

The Indian Navy will induct a traditionally built ancient, stitched ship at the Naval Base in Karnataka. The stitched ship is a recreation of a 5th-century ship, inspired by a painting from the Ajanta Caves.

### **2025 Lion census in Gujarat shows 32% population rise**

The latest population estimation exercise in Gujarat has recorded 891 lions, a 32% jump (217 lions) in population since 2020. The census results show 130 adult males, 330 adult females, and 240 cubs.

### **PM Modi inaugurates 103 Amrit Stations across the country**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 103 Amrit Stations across the country. The foundation stone for these works at different stations was laid between August 2023 and February 2024.

### **iGOT Karmayogi platform crosses mark of 1 cr**

The iGOT Karmayogi platform under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building-Mission Karmayogi, has crossed one crore registered civil servants across India.

### **Bihar government renames Gaya city as 'Gaya Jee'**

The Bihar government has approved a proposal to rename Gaya city as 'Gaya Jee'. The renaming aims to boost religious tourism in Gaya, thereby attracting more pilgrims and visitors, strengthening the local economy, and creating livelihood opportunities.

### **PM Modi inaugurates Rising North East Investors Summit in Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Rising North East Investors Summit in New Delhi. The two-day event marks the culmination of various pre-summit activities, such as a series of roadshows, and states' roundtables.

### **India extends airspace ban on Pakistani aircraft till June 23**

India has extended a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) restricting Pakistani aircraft from using Indian airspace until June 23, 2025. This extension follows Pakistan's earlier decision to restrict Indian flights over its airspace.

### **Nagshankar Temple in Assam Recognized as Model for Turtle Conservation**

Nagshankar Temple, located in the Biswanath district of northeastern Assam, has been declared a model temple for turtle conservation efforts.

### **Agnikul Cosmos successfully test-fired India's first electric motor-driven semi-cryogenic rocket engine**

Agnikul Cosmos, the Chennai-based private space startup, has achieved a significant milestone by successfully test-firing India's first electric motor-driven semi-cryogenic rocket engine, which will power its upcoming Agnibaan launch vehicle.

### **UP Government Launches India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train**

The Uttar Pradesh government and the Indian Railways has launched the country's first Vistadome coach train jungle safari, connecting Katamiaghat Wildlife Sanctuary with Dudhwa National Park in the Terai belt in northern Uttar Pradesh.

### **Tamil Nadu: India's first Mahouts Village inaugurated**

For the first time in India, 44 houses have been built for the elephant's Mahouts, which is called Mahouts Village in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Theppakadu Elephant Camp, at a cost of ₹5.6 crore.

### **Culture Ministry Launches 'Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan' to Honour Nation's Bravehearts**

The Ministry of Culture has launched a powerful and binding initiative, Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan (One Nation, One Heartbeat), to honour the bravehearts of the nation. The slogan Ek Desh Ek Dhadkan is being widely adopted across digital platforms, amplifying the spirit of unity, patriotic fervour and reverence for the Tiranga.

### **India tests homegrown 'Bhargavastra' counter-swarm drone system**

India has successfully test fired a new low-cost counter-drone system called Bhargavastra, marking a significant advancement in tackling the growing threat of drone swarms.

### **Shirui Lily Festival Concludes Peacefully in Ukhrul**

The five-day 5th State-Level Shirui Lily Festival has concluded peacefully, celebrating Manipur's rich cultural diversity, natural heritage, arts, and musical talent.

### **Bharat Forecasting System launched**

Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the Bharat Forecasting System, BFS. Developed by the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the Bharat Forecasting System will provide forecasts with a 6-kilometer resolution-the highest in the world-which will allow the meteorological department to predict small-scale weather features more accurately.

### **Konkan Railway to merge with Indian Railways**

The Maharashtra government has officially agreed to merge the Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) with Indian Railways. With Goa, Karnataka and Kerala having already approved the merger

### **Amazon aims to reach 2 lakh women through menstrual hygiene programme by 2025**

Amazon India has unveiled the next phase of its women's health initiative at the Singahalli Community Centre in Bengaluru, aimed at addressing "period poverty" through locally manufactured sanitary products, education, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

### **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 portal & booklet for FY 2023-24 launched**

Ministry of Panchayati Raj has organised a two-day national workshop on rolling out of Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) Version 2.0 for the financial year 2023-24 in New Delhi. PAI has more than 100 indicators, and it provides a comprehensive picture of social development.

### **PM Modi completes 11 years in office**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed eleven years in office on May 26, 2025. It was on this day in 2014 that Mr Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India.

### **India develops anti-stealth Surya VHF radar**

Alpha Design Technologies Limited (ADTL), has reportedly delivered first of six stealth-detecting radars to Indian Air Force under ₹200 crore contract. The indigenous Surya Very High Frequency (VHF) radar systems, developed entirely in India, was reportedly handed over in mid-March 2025.

### **15 foreign universities to set up campuses in India this academic year: Education Minister Pradhan**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that around 15 foreign universities will be coming to establish their campuses in India by this academic year.

### **India to develop indigenous two-seater electric trainer aircraft**

India is developing Electric Hansa (E-Hansa), a next-generation two-seater electric trainer aircraft. The new aircraft is being indigenously developed by the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru.

### **SC collegium recommends transfer of Chief Justices across 5 High Courts**

The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the transfer of the Chief Justices of Rajasthan, Tripura, Jharkhand and Madras High Court. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava has been transferred from Rajasthan to the Madras High Court, while Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh has been transferred from Tripura to the Telangana High Court. Justice MS Ramachandra Rao has been transferred from Jharkhand to the Tripura High Court, and Justice KR Shriram has been sent from Madras to the Rajasthan High Court.

### Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan launches to strengthen "Lab to Land" connection

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the 'Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan' from Sakhigopal in Puri district, Odisha. The campaign promotes two-way communication between scientists and farmers.

### CCEA approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices, MSP for fourteen Kharif crops

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices, MSP for fourteen Kharif crops for Marketing Season 2025-26. The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for nigerseed at 820 rupees per quintal, followed by Ragi at 596 rupees per quintal, Cotton at 589 rupees per quintal and Sesamum at 579 rupees per quintal.

It has also approved the continuation of the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for the Financial year 2025-26 with the existing 1.5 per cent Interest Subvention.

### Anil Kumble appointed Karnataka forest ambassador

Former Indian cricketer Anil Kumble has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Karnataka Forest and Wildlife Department.

### First batch of 17 female cadets graduated from National Defence Academy

In a landmark moment in the country's military history, the National Defence Academy (NDA), Pune, held the Passing Out Parade of its 148th course at the iconic Khetarpal Ground, marked by the commissioning of the first-ever batch of women cadets into the Indian Armed Forces.

### India to develop 5 AMCA stealth fighter prototypes: Defence Minister

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that India plans to develop five prototypes of the fifth-generation stealth fighter jet – the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA) – before undertaking its series production.

## BANKING & ECONOMY

### RBI instructs all banks, financial companies, and other regulated entities to use PRAVAAH portal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mandates the use of the PRAVAAH portal for all regulatory applications from May 1, 2025, for banks, financial companies, and regulated entities.

### Unified Karnataka Grameena Bank to come into existence on May 1

As per a notification issued by the Central Government in line with its 'One state, One RRB' policy, a unified Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB) with its headquarter at Ballari, will come into existence on May 1.

### IKEA India's first 'Plan and Order Point' opens in Bengaluru

Swedish home furnishings retailer IKEA opened its first Plan and Order Point (PaOP) in India, in Bengaluru.

### IndusInd Bank shares decline over 3% as CEO Sumant Kathpalia steps down

Shares of IndusInd Bank declined over 3% after its MD and CEO Sumant Kathpalia resigned with immediate effect. The stock dropped 3.21% to ₹810.40 on the BSE. At the NSE, shares of the firm declined 3.21% to ₹810.05 apiece.

### GST revenue hits record high of ₹2.37 lakh crore in April

GST collection rose 12.6% Y-o-Y to an all-time high of about ₹2.37 lakh crore in April, reflecting strong economic activity and March-end reconciliation of books by businesses.

### Top 10 largest economies in the world (2025): IMF

Rank	Country	GDP (USD)
1.	United States of America	\$30.34 trillion
2.	China	\$19.53 trillion
3.	Germany	\$4.92 trillion
4.	India	\$4.39 trillion
5.	Japan	\$4.27 trillion
6.	United Kingdom	\$3.73 trillion
7.	France	\$3.28 trillion
8.	Italy	\$2.46 trillion
9.	Canada	\$2.33 trillion
10.	Brazil	\$2.31 trillion

### SEBI warns investors against 'Opinion Trading' platforms

SEBI alerts the public about unregulated 'opinion trading platforms' that mimic investment services but fall outside securities laws, offering no investor protection.

### Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam issues India's first certified Green Municipal Bonds

Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, Ghaziabad has issued India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond, raising ₹150 crore for the development of a cutting-edge Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP).

### RBI launches 3 key surveys for monetary policy input

The RBI launched three key surveys namely IESH, UCCS and RCCS, to gather useful inputs for monetary policy decisions. The May round of the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) The Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)

### India's foreign exchange reach 688.13 billion dollars.

According to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the Reserve Bank of India, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by 1.98 billion dollars, reaching 688.13 billion dollars in the week ending April 25.

### India's total exports touch an all-time high

India's total exports have touched an all-time high of 824.9 billion dollars in the financial year 2024-25, which includes the services trade for March 2025.

### Indian government terminated Krishnamurthy V Subramanian's tenure at IMF

The Indian government has terminated Krishnamurthy V Subramanian's tenure as Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), effective April 30, 2025—six months before the scheduled end of his three-year term.

### SBI Q4 net slips 10% on provisions

SBI reported a 10% year-on-year decline in net profit for the fourth quarter of FY25, amounting to ₹18,642.59 crore, compared to ₹20,698.35 crore in the same period last year.

### India's Total Exports Grow by 6.01% to Reach Record \$824.9 Billion in 2024-25

As per the latest data released by the RBI on services trade for March 2025, India's total exports have touched an all-time high of US\$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024-25.

### FM Nirmala Sitharaman Attends ADB Annual Meet in Milan

Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 58th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Milan, Italy.

### World Bank executive director Parameswaran Iyer to represent India at IMF board

Parameswaran Iyer, executive director at the World Bank, has been temporarily entrusted with the responsibility of being India's nominee director on the board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of a crucial May 9 meeting.

### **Razorpay Launches India's First AI-Integrated MCP Server for Payments**

Razorpay, has launched the first MCP server to enhance the connectivity between the business' AI assistant and the payment gateway. Razorpay is the first payment gateway to assimilate the Model Context Protocol Server (MCP).

### **RBI imposes penalties on five major banks for compliance failures**

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty on five banks –ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of Baroda and IDBI Bank. ICICI Bank was fined ₹97.8 lakh, Axis Bank ₹29.6 lakh, Bank of Maharashtra ₹31.8 lakh, Bank of Baroda ₹61.4 lakh and IDBI Bank ₹ 31.8 lakh.

### **Warren Buffett announces his intention to retire at the end of the year**

Billionaire Warren Buffett has announced that he will retire at the end of the year, bringing the curtain down on a six-decade run leading Berkshire Hathaway that made him the most influential investor in the world.

### **India, U.K. conclude 'mutually beneficial' Free Trade Agreement**

In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, along with a Double Contribution Convention.

### **Goldsikka unveils gold-melting ATM**

Hyderabad-based 'Goldsikka' has unveiled an AI-powered Gold-Melting ATM offering users the ability to buy, sell, exchange, lease, digitise and monetise gold and gold jewellery.

### **FSIB recommends Sanjay Joshi as CMD of Oriental Insurance Company**

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Sanjay Joshi for the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Oriental Insurance Company Limited.

### **RBI introduces Framework for standardizing Regulation Formulation & public feedback process**

RBI has published the Framework for Formulation of Regulations. These regulations will include all directions, guidelines, notifications, orders, policies, specifications, and standards as issued by the Reserve Bank.

### **Sebi sets ₹1 crore minimum, mandates demat for securitised debt instruments**

SEBI has mandated a minimum ticket size or investment threshold of ₹1 crore for the RBI-regulated originators and unregulated entities engaged in securitisation activities.

### **OpenAI restructures as public benefit corporation**

OpenAI is restructuring as a public benefit corporation (PBC), reaffirming its founding mission by allowing the nonprofit organisation that oversees it to retain control.

### **IMF's April Outlook projects India to become fourth largest in 2025**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s April Outlook held that India would surpass Japan to become the fourth largest economy. It estimates India's gross domestic product, at current prices, is expected to scale about \$4,187.02 billion in 2025.

### **Shell, RIL, ONGC complete India's first offshore facilities decommissioning project**

Panna-Mukta and Tapti (PMT) oil fields joint venture partners - Shell (through BGEPIL), Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) successfully completed India's first offshore facilities decommissioning project with the safe removal of mid and south Tapti field facilities.

### **The US Federal Reserve has kept its benchmark interest rates unchanged.**

The American central bank, the US Federal Reserve, has kept its benchmark interest rates unchanged in the 4.25 per cent to 4.50 per cent range.

### **Japan's SMBC buy 20% stake in Yes Bank**

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 20% stake in India's Yes Bank for ₹13,483 crore, marking the largest cross-border investment in the Indian banking sector.

### **India, Chile sign terms of reference for new trade deal**

India has signed the terms of reference with Chile for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). India's bilateral trade with Chile stood at \$3.6 billion in 2024-25 as of February 2025.

### **Global ratings agency upgrades India's rating**

Morningstar DBRS, a global ratings agency, has upgraded its rating of India's long-term and short-term debt. India's long-term rating was raised to BBB from BBB (low), while short-term rating was raised to R-2 (high) from R-2 (middle).

### **Adani Green Becomes World's 1st Renewable Energy IPP To Turn Water Positive**

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has become the world's first renewable energy (RE) Independent Power Producer (IPP) to turn water positive across its entire operational portfolio, that exceeds a massive 14 GW capacity.

### **India extends financial support to Maldives through rollover of \$50 million Treasury Bill**

India has extended crucial financial support to the Maldives through the rollover of the \$50 million Treasury Bill for one more year, which will support its ongoing efforts to implement fiscal reforms for economic resilience.

### **Bhutan launches world's first national-level crypto tourism payment system**

Bhutan has joined forces with Binance and DK Bank to become the first country to roll out a national-level crypto payments system for tourists.

### **Porter becomes India's newest unicorn startup after raising ₹1,700 crore in funding**

Porter, the on-demand logistics startup, has reportedly become India's newest unicorn after raising \$200 million (approximately ₹1,700 crore) in a Series F funding round.

### **Public sector banks post record ₹1.78 tn profit in FY25, growth up 26%**

Public sector banks' cumulative profit rose to a record level of ₹1.78 lakh crore in the fiscal year ended March 2025, registering a growth of 26 per cent over the previous year. Out of the total profit of ₹1,78,364 crore earned during the FY25, market leader State Bank of India (SBI) alone contributed over 40 per cent of the total earnings.

### **India Leads Global Rankings In Manufacturing And Services Growth: J.P. Morgan Report**

India has emerged as the global frontrunner in both manufacturing and services activity, according to the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data released by J.P. Morgan. The report highlights that for April 2025, India's manufacturing PMI stood at 58.2.

### **Ant Group to sell 4% stake in India's Paytm for \$242 million**

China's Ant Group will sell a 4% stake in Indian payments firm Paytm for \$242 million. Ant, an affiliate of Chinese conglomerate Alibaba Group, will sell the stake at 809.75 rupees per share.

### **More Retail plans ₹2,000-crore IPO in 2026**

Amazon and Samara Capital-backed supermarket chain More Retail is planning to raise around ₹2,000 crore through an initial public offer (IPO), which is expected to hit the market in the calendar year 2026.

### **JSW One Platforms enters unicorn club with \$40 million funding**

JSW Group's B2B e-commerce venture, JSW One Platforms, has raised around \$40 million in a fresh funding round led by Principal Asset Management, OneUp, JSW Steel and other investors, propelling the company to unicorn status with a valuation of \$1 billion.

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

According to Bloomberg, State Bank of India (SBI), with a net profit of \$9.2 billion (₹77,561 crore) in FY25, has joined the ranks of the world's most profitable companies. Alphabet, the parent company of Google, leads the list with an impressive \$111 billion in annual income, followed by Saudi Aramco at \$105 billion.

### **Wholesale inflation eases to 13-month low of 0.85%**

Inflation at the wholesale level in India eased to its lowest level in a little more than a year, to 0.85% in April, according to the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### **TCS brand valued at \$57.3 billion by Kantar, ranked 45th globally**

According to Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands 2025 Report, Tata Consultancy Services has been accorded a brand value of \$57.3 billion with an accelerated 28% year-on-year growth. TCS now ranks 45th brand globally, in a list of 100 that includes the world's most prominent brands across industry sectors. Apple reigns at the top of the list with a \$1.29 trillion brand value.

### **India's trade deficit widens to \$8.65 billion in April**

India's total trade deficit, counting both merchandise and services, widened to \$8.65 billion in April, compared to \$5.77 billion in April last year, according to the latest data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

### **IMF disburses \$1.023 billion tranche to Pakistan**

The International Monetary Fund has disbursed a second tranche of \$1.023 billion under the Extended Fund Facility programme for Pakistan.

### **Centre approves 187 startups for income tax exemption benefits**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has approved 187 startups for income tax exemption under the revamped Section 80-IAC of the Income Tax Act.

### **India remains fastest-growing economy: UN**

As per the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) mid-year report, the Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.3 per cent this fiscal year.

### **India-Honduras Trade Crosses \$300 Million Mark**

External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar has said that the economic engagements between India and Honduras in the last three decades have grown steadily, with bilateral trade reaching more than 300 million dollars.

### **LIC to get two new managing directors**

The Centre has approved the appointment of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) executive directors Ratnakar Patnaik and Dinesh Pant as Managing Directors of the State-owned insurer.

### **Unemployment rate at 5.1%: PLFS data show**

According to the first monthly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment Rate (UR) in current weekly status (CWS) in the country among persons of age 15 years and above was 5.1% in April, 2025.

### **SEBI, Corporate Affairs Ministry initiate 'Niveshak Shivir' to assist and educate investors**

SEBI and the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), convene a strategic preparatory meeting in Mumbai for Niveshak Shivir initiative. Niveshak Shivir - a nationwide investor assistance initiative aimed at enabling investors to reclaim unclaimed dividends and shares with greater ease, improving financial literacy and reducing reliance on intermediaries.

### **NCLT gave nod for resolution plans to the tune of over ₹67,000 crore in FY2024-25 under bankruptcy law**

As many as 284 resolution plans were approved under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2024-25, which would result in settlements to the tune of ₹67,176 crore in FY 2024-2025.

### **DPIIT Signs MoU with GEAPP to Boost Climate-Tech Startups**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed a MoU with the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) to support early-stage climate-tech startups by providing funding access and mentorship opportunities.

### **IMF Adds 11 More Conditions to Pakistan Bailout**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has slapped 11 new conditions on Pakistan for the release of the next tranche of its bailout programme and warned that tensions with India could heighten risks to the scheme's fiscal, external, and reform goals.

### **BEL signs contract with Indian Army Air Defence to manufacture IDDIS Counter Drone System**

Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has signed a contract with Indian Army Air Defence to manufacture Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System (IDDIS).

### **Adani partners with Sparton to develop anti-submarine warfare solutions**

Adani's group has signed a deal with a U.S. undersea warfare company Sparton to develop electronic sensors and navigation systems that could be used for anti-submarine warfare.

### **RBI proposes relaxation in norms for investment in AIFs by banks, NBFCs**

The RBI has sought to ease norms on investments by regulated entities (REs) in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) by proposing revised guidelines that cap investment by REs in any AIF scheme at 15 per cent, with the contribution of a single RE capped at 10 per cent of the scheme's corpus.

### **ED arrests former UCO Bank CMD Subodh Kumar Goel on money-laundering charges**

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested former UCO Bank CMD Subodh Kumar Goel on money-laundering charges in an alleged bank loan fraud case of more than ₹6,200 crore linked to a Kolkata-based company.

### **India dominates Forbes 30 Under 30 2025 list**

India has dominated the Forbes 30 Under 30 2025 list with 94 honorees, the most from any country in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **TCS Partners with Mongolia's Khan Bank**

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered into a strategic alliance with Mongolia's Khan Bank to help modernize its core digital banking platform and transform its banking operations.

### **RBI to grant in-principle nod for Emirates NBD Bank PJSC**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to grant "in-principle" approval to Emirates NBD Bank PJSC for setting up a Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) in India, under the "Scheme for Setting up of WOS by foreign banks in India".

### **GeM emerges as largest procurement platform globally**

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has emerged as one of the World's largest and most efficient public e-procurement platforms, setting new benchmarks in accessibility and affordability.

GeM has launched GeMAI, India's first generative AI-powered chatbot for the public sector, marking a significant milestone in digital public service delivery.

### **Times Rich List 2025: Hinduja family dominates UK rich list**

The Hinduja family, led by Gopichand Hinduja, Chairman of the 110-year-old multinational Hinduja Group, has once again secured the top spot on The Sunday Times Rich List 2025, with a reported net worth of £35.3 billion.

### **Apple supplier Foxconn to invest \$1.5 billion in India unit**

Apple supplier Foxconn will invest \$1.5 billion in its India unit, as the iPhone maker shifts more manufacturing out of tariff-hit China.

### **Core sector output growth slows down to eight-month low of 0.5% in April**

The output of eight key infrastructure sectors slowed down to an eight-month low of 0.5% in April due to contraction in the production of crude oil, refinery products and fertiliser.

### **EnKash Launches India's 1st Payment Gateway Built for SMBs and Startups**

EnKash, India's leading spend management and payments platform, has officially launched the EnKash Payment Gateway - a first-of-its-kind payment solution engineered for India's 63 million+ small to medium-sized & startup merchants.

### **Nvidia plans to sell tech to speed AI chip communication**

Nvidia will begin offering its advanced chip interconnect technology, NVLink Fusion, to other companies. This technology is designed to enhance chip-to-chip communication, a critical component in building and deploying artificial intelligence (AI) systems.

### **HDFC Bank launches 'Biz+ Current Account'**

HDFC Bank has launched "Biz+ Current Accounts" to meet the evolving needs of Indian businesses. The Biz+ offering includes four variants tailored to different business growth phases: Biz Lite+ for setup, Biz Pro+ for growth, Biz Ultra+ for expansion, and Biz Elite+ for diversification.

### **Net FDI falls 96% in 2024-25 to \$353 mn**

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India crashed by more than 96% to just \$353 million in 2024-25 as compared to the previous year, the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India shows.

### **Coinbase Global to become first crypto exchange to join S&P 500 index**

The US-based cryptocurrency exchange, Coinbase Global has officially joined the S&P 500, marking a historic moment as it became the first cryptocurrency exchange to be listed in the US benchmark index.

### **TIME 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy 2025**

TIME magazine has released its 2025 list of the 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy. Michael Bloomberg co-founder, CEO, and majority owner of Bloomberg LP is named as 2024's biggest donor.

From India, Indian business tycoon Azim Premji, was recognised in the prestigious 'Titans' category, while Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath earned a spot in the 'Trailblazers' list. Mukesh Ambani & Nita Ambani also found place in the TIME 100 Philanthropy list.

### **SEBI Extends ODI Framework Deadline by FPIs to November 17, 2025**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the compliance deadline for its revised offshore derivative instruments (ODIs) framework. Initially set for May 17, 2025, the deadline will now end on November 17, 2025.

### **Creditors realisation stands at over 32.8% till March 2025 under bankruptcy framework: IBBI**

Creditors have realised ₹3.89 lakh crore from resolution plans till March 2025, under India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) enacted in the year 2016.

### **RBI To Pay Record ₹2.69-Lakh-Crore Dividend To Government**

The Central Board of Directors of the RBI has approved a record transfer of over 2.68 lakh crore rupees as surplus to the Central Government for the financial year 2024-25. The surplus was calculated under the revised Economic Capital Framework, which now mandates maintaining the Contingent Risk Buffer between 5.50 per cent and 7.50 per cent of the central bank's balance sheet.

### **Algeria officially becomes member country of New Development Bank**

Algeria has officially become a new member country of the New Development Bank (NDB). On May 19, 2025, Algeria deposited its instrument of accession, in line with the provisions of the Articles of Agreement of the New Development Bank.

### **North East Small Finance Bank becomes Slice SFB**

North East Small Finance Bank Ltd (NESFB) has officially changed its name to Slice Small Finance Bank (Slice SFB). The rebranding follows the merger of Bengaluru-based fintech startup Slice with Guwahati-headquartered NESFB in October 2024.

### **Google Unveils A.I. Chatbot, Signaling a New Era for Search**

Google said it was introducing a new feature in its search engine called A.I. Mode. The tool will function like a chatbot, allowing people to start a query, ask follow-up questions and use the company's A.I. system to deliver comprehensive answers.

### **Bitcoin Jumps To All-Time High**

Bitcoin has surged to a new all-time high on May 21 climbing past its previous January record. It was last trading at \$108,955, up nearly 2%, according to data from Coin Metrics. It touched a high of \$109,857.

### **RBI penalises Union Bank of India**

The RBI has levied fines on Union Bank of India for breaching regulatory norms. Union Bank was fined 63.60 lakh rupees for failing to transfer eligible funds to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund and collecting collateral on small agricultural loan.

### **Fitch raises India's average growth potential to 6.4% till 2028**

Fitch Ratings has raised India's average annual growth potential till 2028 to 6.4 per cent, from 6.2 per cent estimated in November 2023.

### **Trump threatens Apple with 25% tariffs if iPhone assembly doesn't move to U.S.**

U.S. President Donald Trump has threatened Apple, Inc. with 25% tariffs on iPhone imports if the company didn't make them domestically. Repeating his insistence that he didn't want iPhones to be assembled in India.

### **U.S. government moves to cut proposed tax on outward remittances to 3.5% from 5%**

The U.S. government has decided to cut the tax it plans to levy on outward remittances sent to other countries, including India, from the earlier planned 5% to 3.5%.

### **Reliance to invest ₹75,000 cr in North-Eastern States**

Reliance Industries Ltd will invest ₹75,000 crore in North Eastern States in setting up 350 biogas plants, expanding its telecom services, retail footprint, and clean energy projects.

### **U.S. remained top destination for engineering exports in April: EEPC India**

The U.S. was the top destination for Indian engineering exports in April with shipments of worth \$1.66 billion of a total of \$9.51 billion of such exports.

### **IndusInd Bank reveals fresh discrepancies in its microfinance loans**

IndusInd Bank has revealed fresh discrepancies in its microfinance loans segment amounting to ₹1,886.2 crore, where some loans were wrongly classified as 'standard assets'.

### **India's Forex Reserves Dip by \$4.88 Billion to \$685.7 Billion**

India's foreign exchange reserves declined by 4.88 billion dollars, reaching 685.7 billion dollars in the week ending 16th May.

### **Centre approves 8.25% interest rate on EPF deposits for FY 2024-25**

The Centre has approved 8.25 percent interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2024-25.

### **India Becomes World's 4th Largest Economy, Surpasses Japan: NITI Aayog**

India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy. NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said.. India is now a 'four trillion dollar' economy as per the IMF data.

### **RBI to have six-member payments regulatory board**

The RBI has announced the formation of a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) to regulate and supervise payment systems in the country. Headed by the RBI Governor, the PRB will have three nominees from the central government.

### **PLI scheme for 11 pharma products rolled out**

The Centre's Department of Pharmaceuticals is inviting applications from drugmakers for a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme to encourage setting up new manufacturing capacities for as many as 11 eligible products.

### **Rising North East Investors Summit Attracts ₹4 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals**

The Rising North East Investors Summit 2025, which was held in New Delhi, attracted investment proposals worth over 4 Lakh Crore rupees.

### **Siemens delivers India's first 9000 HP electric locomotive for long-haul freight trains**

Siemens India has announced the delivery of India's first 9000 HP electric locomotive, with critical components built at its Nashik, Aurangabad, and Mumbai facilities.

### **India's FDI inflows surge 14% to over \$81 billion in FY 2024-25**

India has received foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows worth 81.04 billion US dollars in the financial year 2024-25. It reflects a 14 per cent increase from 71.28 billion US dollars in the financial year 2023-24. Services sector emerged as the top recipient of FDI equity in 2024-25.

### **Instamart drops parent 'Swiggy' in rebranding move**

Quick commerce platform Instamart has dropped parent Swiggy from its name, in a strategic move aimed at carving a standalone brand identity.

### **Olympic Hero Neeraj Chopra Is The New Brand Ambassador Of Audi India**

Neeraj Chopra has partnered with Audi India as their new brand ambassador and posed with ₹Q8 Performance confirming the association.

### **India shipped 3.3 million PCs in Q1 of calendar year 2025: IDC**

India's traditional PC market, which comprises desktops, notebooks, and workstations, grew 8.1% year-on-year in the January-February-March quarter of calendar year 2025, with 3.3 million units shipped,

### **India among world's leading honey-producing countries**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the transformative journey of India's honey industry over the past decade. He noted a remarkable 60 per cent increase in honey production in the country. Ten to eleven years ago, honey production in India was around 70,000-75,000 metric tonnes per year. Today, it has increased to around 1.25 lakh metric tonnes.

### **India's industrial production growth drops to 2.7% in April 2025**

India's industrial production growth, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) slowed to 2.7 percent in April, as compared to growth rate of 3 percent in March.

### **Pet food firm Drools becomes unicorn after Nestle investment**

Home-grown pet food firm Drools Pet Food has achieved the unicorn status after Nestle SA, the parent company of Nestle India, bought a minority stake in it.

### **Rakesh Gangwal, family trust sell 5.7% stake in IndiGo for ₹11,385 crore**

InterGlobe Aviation promoter Rakesh Gangwal and his family trust have sold a 5.7% stake in the airline for about ₹11,385 crore (\$1.33 billion) through a block deal.

### **Govt extends income tax returns filing deadline to September 15, 2025 from July 31**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the deadline for filing income tax returns (ITRs) for the financial year 2024-25 to September 15 from the earlier deadline of July 31, 2025.

### **Sebi Bars Ex-IndusInd CEO, Four Others from Stock Market Over Insider Trading**

SEBI has cracked down on IndusInd Bank Ltd's (IBL) former managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) Sumant Kathpalia, along with four other senior officials for alleged insider trading.

### **Hero FinCorp gets Sebi's nod to float ₹3,668 crore IPO**

Hero FinCorp, the financial services division of two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp, has received Sebi's go-ahead to float a ₹3,668 crore Initial Public Offering (IPO).

### **Life insurance sector in India to grow at 10.5%**

Life insurance market in India will grow at 10.5 per cent against a global average of 5 per cent over the next ten years, according to a report by Allianz Global Insurance.

### **Google unveiled its AI-first restructuring strategy called AI Matryoshka**

Google has unveiled its AI-first restructuring strategy called AI Matryoshka at the I/O Developers Conference 2025. This layered AI ecosystem is built around Gemini 2.5 models, reshaping how users, developers, and enterprises interact with technology.

### **Defence Ministry approves Miniratna-I status for MIL, AVNL, IOL**

Defence Ministry has approved Miniratna Category-I status for Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL).

### **10 Indian AI Startups Selected for Global Accelerator Programme in Paris**

Ten Indian AI startups have been selected to participate in a global acceleration programme in Paris as part of the IndiaAI Startups Global Initiative, an international effort led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in partnership with Station F and HEC Paris.

### **Raman Aggarwal Appointed As CEO At Finance Industry Development Council**

Raman Aggarwal has taken over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), the representative body for loan and asset financing NBFCs in India.

### **Vikram Singh Mehta takes over as IndiGo Chairman**

IndiGo, operated by InterGlobe Aviation, has appointed veteran corporate leader Vikram Singh Mehta as the new Chairman of its board. Mehta succeeds Dr Venkataramani Sumantran,

### **India opens cross-border doors for PayPal, Worldline with RBI's nod**

The RBI has granted in-principle approval to PayPal and Worldline to operate as cross-border payment aggregators (PAs).

### **RBI's annual report projects India as fastest-growing economy during current fiscal**

According to RBI's "2024-2025 Annual Report", India is poised to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy in FY2025-26, with a real GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent.

### **Consumer Ministry identifies 13 dark patterns on e-commerce platforms**

Minister of Consumer Affairs Prahlad Joshi has held a meeting with the e-commerce platforms over the issue related to dark patterns in New Delhi. The ministry has identified 13 dark patterns. He said that false urgency claims, misleading advertisements falls under such Dark Patterns.

### **Finance Ministry Flags Concerns Over Rising FDI Outflows by Indian Companies**

As per the Reserve Bank of India's data in 2024-25, overseas investments by Indian companies stood at \$29.2 billion in 2024-25, up 75% from the previous year. Following this, India's net foreign direct investment (FDI) fell by 96% to just \$0.4 billion.

## AWARDS

### **Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy Receive Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023**

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has felicitated and presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023 to badminton champions Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in New Delhi.

### **All India Football Federation (AIFF) Awards 2025**

Subhasish Bose was named the Men's Player of the Year, while Soumya Guguloth was named the Women's Player of the Year for the 2024-25 season. Khalid Jamil was awarded Best Men's Coach, and Sujata Kar received the Best Women's Coach honour. Vishal Kaith and Elangbam Panthoi Chanu were named Best Goalkeepers in the men's and women's categories, respectively.

### **La Prensa wins UNESCO /Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025**

The Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa has been announced as the laureate of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2025. This Prize is a tribute to all journalists who continue to inform us despite numerous risks and threats to their personal safety.

### **Pulitzer Prize 2025 Winners**

One of the most prestigious recognitions in journalism in the US, the Pulitzer Prize Board announced the winners of its 2025 awards. The New York Times secured four awards across multiple categories. The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal also received honours for their high-impact reporting on key political and societal issues.

### **Cannes 2025 film festival opens**

At the opening ceremony of the 78th Cannes Film Festival, highly acclaimed Veteran American actor, producer, and director, Robert De Niro, has received an honorary Palme d'Or, 49 years after Taxi Driver won the festival's top prize.

### **Bhuwan Ribhu To Receive World Law Congress Honour For Child Rights**

Bhuwan Ribhu became the first Indian lawyer to receive the prestigious Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association at the World Law Congress 2025 in the Dominican Republic. Ribhu has led over 60 public interest litigations that have helped reshape child protection laws in India.

### **Brazil's Mariangela Hungria named 2025 World Food Prize laureate**

Brazilian microbiologist Mariangela Hungria has been awarded the 2025 World Food Prize for her groundbreaking work in biological nitrogen fixation—a sustainable technique that enhances crop growth while reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers

### **President Murmu Confers 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit Scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya**

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya at a function in New Delhi. Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and the renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar have been selected for this prestigious award for 2023.

**India's Banu Mushtaq Wins International Booker Prize**  
Writer, activist and lawyer Banu Mushtaq's short story collection 'Heart Lamp' became the first Kannada title to win the coveted GBP 50,000 International Booker Prize in London.

### **Seventeen MPs, including Ravi Kishan, Supriya Sule, to receive Sansad Ratna Awards**

Seventeen Members of Parliament, including Bhartruhari Mahtab and Ravi Kishan, and two Parliamentary Standing Committees, have been selected for the Sansad Ratna Award 2025. Seven Members of Parliament (MPs) from Maharashtra are among the top 17 MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who have been nominated to receive the prestigious Sansad Ratna Awards 2025.

### **President Murmu presents Gallantry Awards in Defence Investiture Ceremony**

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred six Kirti Chakras, including four posthumous, and 33 Shaurya Chakras, including seven posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State/Union Territory Police during Phase-I of the Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

### **78th Festival de Cannes winners**

The 78th Cannes Film Festival has concluded in France,

#### **Winners list**

**Palme d'Or:** 'It Was Just an Accident', Director: Jafar Panahi  
**Grand Prix:** AFFEKSJONSVERDI (Sentimental Value)  
Director: Joachim Trier

**Best Director:** Kleber Mendonça Filho for O AGENTE SECRETO (The Secret Agent).

**Best Performance by an Actress:** Nadia Melliti in LA PETITE DERNIÈRE

**Best Performance by an Actor:** Wagner Moura in O AGENTE SECRETO (The Secret Agent)

**Special Award:** KUANG YE SHI DAI (Resurrection)

**Best Screenplay:** Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne for JEUNES MÈRES

#### **Argentina's President Javier Milei to receive \$1M Genesis Prize**

Argentina's President Javier Milei will be awarded a \$1 million Genesis Prize grant during his visit to Israel next month. The award was announced in January in recognition of his unequivocal support for the Jewish state.

#### **Singer Sumeet Tappoo awarded Fiji's highest civilian honour for humanitarian work**

Mumbai-based, Fiji-born singer and humanitarian Sumeet Tappoo has been conferred with the nation's highest civilian honour, the Companion of the Order of Fiji — in recognition of his outstanding service to his nation through his humanitarian work and his music.

#### **President Murmu confers Padma Awards to 69 eminent personalities**

President Droupadi Murmu has conferred Padma Awards to 69 eminent personalities for the year 2025 at the second Civil Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. Of them, three were conferred with Padma Vibhushan, 9 with Padma Bhushan and 57 personalities were conferred with Padma Shri.

#### **2 Indian peacekeepers to be honoured posthumously on International Day of UN Peacekeepers**

Two Indian peacekeepers Brigadier General Amitabh Jha and Havildar Sanjay Singh will be honoured posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjold medal on the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

#### **Adille Sumariwalla Conferred With Asian Athletics Leadership Gold Pin**

Vice President of World Athletics and Athletics Federation of India spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla was honoured with the Asian Athletics Leadership Gold Pin at the Asian Athletics Association Congress in recognition of his contributions to the growth and leadership of athletics in the continent.

#### **Sadhguru receives 'Global Indian of the Year' award from Canada India Foundation**

Spiritual leader and founder of the Isha Foundation, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, has received the 'Global Indian of the Year' award from the Canada India Foundation (CIF).

#### **President Murmu honours 15 nurses with National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025**

President Droupadi Murmu has presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2025 to 15 Nursing professionals at a function held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The award has been given for their outstanding contribution in the field of nursing.

#### **Anubhav Awards, 2025 to be conferred**

National Anubhav Awards Scheme, 2025 was notified and it was unique as for the first time, apart from the employees of Central Government, employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Public Sector Banks (PSBs) were also covered under the scheme to acknowledge their contribution in the nation building.

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

**Mark Carney**

Mark Carney will continue as Prime Minister of Canada as Liberal Party has won the election for House of Commons. Opposition leader Pierre Poilievre conceded defeat after failing to bring an end to the dominance of the Liberal Party.

**Nicusor Dan**

In Romania, Nicusor Dan has assumed office as President. He has secured 53.6 per cent of the votes in the presidential runoff on 18th of this month, defeating George Simion.

**Dr. Samir V. Kamat**

The Centre has granted a further one year extension to Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) upto May 31, 2026.

**Asim Munir**

The Pakistani government has promoted its current army chief, General Asim Munir, to the rank of Field Marshal. This was only the second time in the country's history that the title was bestowed upon someone.

**Tapan Kumar Deka**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended the services of Tapan Kumar Deka, a 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, as Director of the Intelligence Bureau for another year.

**Kamil Idris**

Sudan's army chief and de facto head of state, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has appointed former United Nations official Kamil Idris as prime minister, as the country's civil war grinds on into its third year.

**Elon Musk**

Space X founder Elon Musk has announced that his term as the chief of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has come to an end, thanking US President for the opportunity to reduce wasteful spending.

**Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit has assumed charge as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) at the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff in New Delhi.

**João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of Angola, arrived in New Delhi on a State Visit to India. A visit by the President of Angola to India is taking place after 38 years.

**Anthony Albanese**

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has been re-elected as the country's leader, becoming the first in decades to secure a second term.

**Salem Saleh Bin Braik**

Yemen has appointed Salem Saleh Bin Braik, who served as finance minister in the previous cabinet, as prime minister following the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak.

**Friedrich Merz**

Germany's conservative leader Friedrich Merz has been elected as new chancellor of the country after securing a majority in the second round of voting in the Lower House of Parliament

**Praveen Sood**

The Centre has extended the tenure of CBI Director Praveen Sood for one year beyond 24th of this month. Mr Sood is an IPS officer of Karnataka Cadre and was to retire on 25th of this month.

**Robert Francis Prevost**

American Robert Francis Prevost has been elected the new Pope, becoming the first American pontiff in the history of the Catholic Church. He will take the pontifical name of Pope Leo XIV.

**Justice Surya Kant**

Justice Surya Kant, a judge of the Supreme Court of India, has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He succeeds Justice B.R. Gavai, who is set to become the 52nd Chief Justice of India.

**Anita Anand**

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney has appointed Anita Anand of Indian-Origin to the powerful post of Foreign Minister in his new cabinet.

**BR Gavai**

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai has sworn in as the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI). He assumed office a day after Justice Khanna formally demits office. Justice Gavai is the first Buddhist CJI and only the second from the Dalit community, after former CJI KG Balakrishnan

**Harvansh Chawla**

Renowned corporate legal expert Harvansh Chawla has been appointed as the Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

**Ajay Kumar**

Retired IAS officer and former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has taken Oath as the new Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman.

**Arunabha Ghosh**

Arunabha Ghosh has been appointed as the South Asia envoy for this year's UN climate conference (COP-30), which will take place in Brazil in November.

**Saroj Ghose**

Saroj Ghose, the founding Director General of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), and the father of India's science museum movement, passed away. Ghose is the recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2007), and the Padma Shri (1989).

**Dr. Jayant Narlikar**

Padma Vibhushan awardee & renowned astrophysicist, Dr Jayant Narlikar, passed away. He is known for his seminal works in the areas of cosmology and most importantly, for believing in an alternate model to the popular Big Bang theory for the origin of the universe.

**K V Rabiya**

K V Rabiya, known for her prominent role in Kerala's adult literacy programme, died. Rabiya worked relentlessly for the betterment of the differently abled and inspired thousands of women to enter the world of letters. In 2022, she was honoured with the Padma Shri for social work.

**Baba Sivanand**

Yoga practitioner, a Padma Shri awardee, Baba Sivanand passed away in Varanasi. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2022 for his exceptional contribution to society through yoga.

**MR Srinivasan**

Dr MR Srinivasan, eminent nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, passed away. Dr Srinivasan was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honour.

**Malani Fonseka**

Sri Lanka has bid farewell to legendary actress Malani Fonseka with full state honours at Independence Square in the Capital Colombo. Dubbed the "Queen of Sri Lankan Cinema,"

**Uruguay's José Mujica**

Former Uruguayan President José Mujica, known as "Pepe", has died. The ex-guerrilla who governed Uruguay from 2010 to 2015 was known as the world's "poorest president" because of his modest lifestyle.

**Robert Benton**

Robert Benton, the three-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker known for directing the 1979 best picture winner Kramer vs. Kramer and co-writing the groundbreaking Bonnie and Clyde, died. He was 92.

### **Prof Sunny Thomas**

Former national shooting coach and Dronacharya awardee Prof. Sunny Thomas, who played a pivotal role in transforming the country into a shooting powerhouse, passed away.

### **Subbanna Ayyappan**

Renowned fisheries expert and Padma Shri awardee Subbanna Ayyappan was found dead in the Cauvery river. Ayyappan was widely celebrated as the architect of India's Blue Revolution — a movement that enhanced fish production through scientific aquaculture.

## **SPORTS**

### **Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships: India concludes with 43 medals**

India concluded its campaign with a strong performance at the inaugural Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan, winning a total of 43 Medals, including 15 gold, 6 silver, and 22 bronze medals.

### **Badminton: China claims 14th Sudirman Cup title**

China beat South Korea 3-1 in the Sudirman Cup final to capture a record-extending 14th title at the biennial mixed team competition in the Chinese city of Xiamen.

### **Tennis: Sabalenka win Madrid Open 2025**

Aryna Sabalenka has defeated Coco Gauff to win her third Madrid Open title. She cruised past the American in the first set before digging deep in the second to triumph in a tie-break, sealing victory as Gauff double faulted.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates Bihar Khelo India Youth Games 2025**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th edition of the Bihar Khelo India Youth Games 2025 through a video message.

### **Anarghya Panchawatkar Wins Gold**

Anarghya Abhishek Panchawatkar of Gurugram has clinched the gold medal at the 11th Budokan International Karate Championship held in Dubai.

### **Madrid Open 2025: Ruud lifts maiden Masters title**

Norway's Casper Ruud won his first Masters 1000 title, as he stormed to a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 victory over fifth seed Jack Draper in the Madrid Open final.

### **F1 Miami GP 2025: Oscar Piastrini wins**

Oscar Piastrini has won the 2025 Miami Grand Prix for McLaren to complete a hat-trick and stretch his Formula One championship lead over teammate Lando Norris to 16 points after six rounds.

### **Football: Bayern Munich wins record-extending 34th Bundesliga title**

Bayern Munich secured its 34th German league title without kicking a ball after title rival Bayer Leverkusen was held to a 2-2 draw at Freiburg, leaving the leader with an unassailable lead with two games left to play.

### **Boxing: Alvarez reclaims undisputed super middleweight championship**

Saúl "Canelo" Álvarez has reclaimed his status as the undisputed super middleweight champion after he defeated William El Indomable Scull via unanimous decision at the ANB Arena in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### **Rohit Sharma retires from Test Cricket**

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

### **India wins Women's ODI Tri-Series.**

India crushed Sri Lanka by 97 runs and won the Women's Tri-Nation ODI series title after vice-captain Smriti Mandhana scored a sublime century

### **Zarco becomes first Frenchman in 71 years to win Grand Prix**

Johann Zarco became the first Frenchman in 71 years to win the French Grand Prix. Zarco won by a huge margin of nearly 20 seconds ahead of Ducati's Marc Marquez.

### **India Bags 7 Medals at Archery World Cup in Shanghai**

Seasoned archer Deepika Kumari and Parth Salunkhe bagged bronze medals as India finished their campaign with seven medals at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai, China

### **Boxing: Navarrete retains WBO title**

Mexico's Emanuel Navarrete kept his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-featherweight world title with a seven-round technical decision over previously unbeaten Filipino fighter Charly Suarez in San Diego.

### **Virat Kohli announces retirement from Test cricket**

Virat Kohli has announced his retirement from Test Cricket. Virat scored 9230 runs in 123 matches at an average of 46.85 in the game's longest format.

He led the country in 68 Tests, most by an Indian, losing just 17 of them.

### **IPL 2025 to resume on May 17**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 will resume on the 17th of this month, after a week-long pause due to rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

### **Indian shuttlers win 19 medals at Fazza Para Badminton International**

Indian shuttlers finished with a haul of 19 medals, including a gold, four silver and 14 bronze, at the 6th Fazza Para Badminton International tournament in Dubai.

### **Asian Blitz Championship: Ivan Zemlyanskii and Alua Nurman capture titles**

Ivan Zemlyanskii emerged undefeated to win the Asian Individual Blitz Chess Championship, held at the Danat Resort Hotel in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates. In the women's section, WGM Alua Nurman of Kazakhstan won the title with 7.5 points

### **UAE Athletics Women's Gala 2025: Karishma Sanil wins javelin throw title**

India's Karishma Sanil has won the javelin throw title while Ancy Sojan and Shaili Singh finished second and third, respectively, in the long jump event at the UAE Athletics Women's Gala 2025 in Dubai.

### **Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Ends; Maharashtra Tops with 158 Medals**

The Khelo India Youth Games 2025 concluded in Patna, Bihar. Maharashtra emerged as the overall champion at the games, garnering 158 medals, including 58 gold and 47 silver.

### **Nihal Sarin finishes runner-up at Asian Chess Championship**

Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin finished as runner-up at the Asian Championship held in Al Ain, UAE. He defeated Iran's Bardiya Daneshvar in the final round clash between the joint overnight leaders.

### **R Praggnanandhaa wins Superbet Chess Classic**

Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa has won the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, Romania.

### **Neeraj Chopra Breaks 90m Mark at Doha**

Javelin Thrower Neeraj Chopra has finished second at the 2025 Doha Diamond League Men's Javelin Throw event. Despite a record-breaking 90.23 meter throw, Neeraj had to settle behind Germany's Julian Weber

### **Srihari becomes India's 86th Chess Grandmaster**

Tamil Nadu's L. R. Srihari became India's latest and 86th Grandmaster. He had crossed the 2500 Elo rating (live) last May at the Dubai Open.

### **India wins 2025 SAFF U-19 Football Title**

India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship 2025, beating Bangladesh 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final at the Yupia Outdoor Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh.

### **Squash World Championships: El Sherbini wins record-equalling 8th title, Asal clinches maiden crown**

Egyptians Nour El Sherbini and Mostafa Asal were crowned the women's and men's champions, respectively at the Squash World Championships in Chicago. World No. 2 El Sherbini matched Nicol David's all-time record of eight World Championship crowns.

In the men's final, World No. 1 Asal defeated World No. 2 and compatriot Ali Farag

### **Tennis: Paolini wins brace of Italian Open titles with doubles triumph**

Jasmine Paolini became the first woman since Monica Seles in 1990 to win the Italian Open singles and doubles titles when she and Sara Errani beat Veronika Kudermetova and Elise Mertens 6-4, 7-5.

### **Ronaldo tops Forbes' sports rich list**

Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo has once again claimed the top spot on Forbes' list of the world's highest-paid athletes – his third straight year and fifth overall. He has raked in an estimated \$275 million, fueled by both on-field wages and booming off-field earnings.

### **Scottie Scheffler wins PGA Championship**

Scottie Scheffler has won his third major title, outdueling Spain's Jon Rahm down the back nine in the final round to win the PGA Championship.

### **Tennis: Alcaraz lift Italian Open title**

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has won the Italian Open after beating rival Jannik Sinner 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 in the final.

### **Max Verstappen Wins F1 Emilia Romagna GP 2025**

Max Verstappen has claimed victory at the 2025 Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix after a daring overtake on standings leader Oscar Piastri at the start.

### **First-ever Khelo India Beach Games inaugurated in Diu**

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the first-ever Khelo India Beach Games at Ghoghla Beach in the Union territory of Diu.

### **Delhi CM inaugurates Delhi Games 2025**

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta officially inaugurated the Delhi Games 2025 at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.

### **Adriyan Karmakar wins Silver medal at ISSF Junior World Cup**

Adriyan Karmakar opened India's medal account with a silver in the 50m rifle prone event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

### **Football: Tottenham Hotspur wins Europa League**

Tottenham beat Manchester United 1-0 to win the Europa League final and lift its first European trophy in more than four decades.

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

Shooter Kanak has won India's first gold medal at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

### **Neeraj Chopra wins Silver medal**

Neeraj Chopra has won a silver medal at the 2025 Janusz Kusociński Memorial meet in Chorzów, Poland. He recorded a throw of 84.14 metres in challenging conditions

### **Raiza wins skeet silver**

In Shooting, Raiza Dhillon has won a silver medal in the women's skeet event at the ongoing ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany. Dhillon hit 51 targets in the 60-shot final.

### **Djokovic becomes third to win 100 ATP Singles titles**

Serbia's Novak Djokovic has scripted another history by becoming the third man to reach 100 career ATP Tour titles. He defeated Hubert Hurkacz in the Geneva Open final in Switzerland. With his victory, Djokovic joined Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer as the only men in the Open Era to win 100 or more titles.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup: Shambhavi clinches Gold in women's 10 mt air rifle event**

In Shooting, India's Shambhavi Shravan Kshirsagar won a gold medal in the women's 10 meter air rifle event at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Suhl, Germany. Ojasvi Thakur bagged silver medal in the same event.

### **Shubman Gill becomes Team India's new Test Captain**

BCCI has announced the squad for the upcoming test series against England. Shubman Gill has been named as Test captain for Team India, while Rishabh Pant has been chosen as vice-captain in Test cricket.

### **Malaysia Masters 2025: Kidambi Srikanth loses to Li Shi Feng in the final**

Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth ended as a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament, going down in straight games to China's world No. 4 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final. He lost the final in 11-21 9-21 in 36 minutes.

### **Marco Bezzecchi of Aprilia Racing wins British MotoGP 2025**

Marco Bezzecchi has won a chaotic British Grand Prix for Aprilia's first victory of the season in a race that was initially red flagged for an oil spill and riders crashed or retired while in the lead.

### **F1 Monaco GP 2025: Norris wins from pole**

McLaren's Lando Norris has won 2025 Monaco Grand Prix win from pole position and slashed McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri's Formula One World Championship lead to three points in a race.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup: Tejaswani claims Gold in 25m pistol event**

Indian shooter Tejaswani has won the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event to continue the country's domination in the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 in Suhl, Germany.

### **Mahendra Gurjar creates new world record in Men's Javelin throw**

Indian para athlete Mahendra Gurjar has scripted history by setting a new world record in the men's F42 javelin category with a throw of 61.17 meters at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland.

### **Asian Athletics Championships 2025 kicks off in South Korea**

The Asian Athletics Championships 2025 kicked off at Gumi in South Korea, with a 60-member Indian contingent participating in the mega event.

### **Asian Athletics Championships: India wins gold in 4x400m mixed relay**

India has successfully defended its 4x400m mixed relay title at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea. The Indian quartet, Rupal Choudhary, Santhosh Kumar Tamilarasan, Vishal TK, and Subha Venkatesan, clocked 3 minutes 18.12 seconds to win gold, comfortably ahead of China.

### **Archery: India bags gold in men's compound team event at World Cup**

In Archery World Cup Stage 2, India won three medals in Shanghai. The men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale, and Rishabh Yadav won gold, defeating the Mexico team 232-228 in the final.

### **Ahmedabad to host Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1 to 10**

The 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships will be held in Ahmedabad from April 1 to 10, the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) confirmed.

### **Asian Athletics Championships: India second in tally with 18 medals**

India's Gulveer Singh bagged his second gold at the Asian Athletics Championships. In the women's high jump, Pooja bagged a gold with a season-best effort 1.89m, breaking her own U-20 national record. India is currently second in the medal tally with 18 medals, including eight gold, seven silver and three bronze.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Amazon launches Project Kuiper satellites**

The first 27 satellites for Amazon's Kuiper broadband internet constellation were launched into space from Florida.

### **India, EU Launch Projects to Tackle Marine Plastic and Develop Waste-to-Hydrogen Technology**

India and the European Union (EU) have launched two major collaborative research projects under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), aiming to deliver innovative solutions to marine pollution and green hydrogen production from waste.

**Kozhikode gets WHO recognition as age-friendly city**  
Kozhikode city has been honoured with another global recognition in the form of a membership in the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

### **CWRDM's Water Heritage Museum in Kozhikode gets global honour**

The Water Heritage Museum operated by the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) in Kozhikode has been included in the Global Network of Water Museums, an initiative under UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme.

### **UAE University team develops improved non-surgical blood flow monitoring device**

Researchers from the United Arab Emirates University have created an enhanced technology for monitoring blood flow without surgery, using piezoelectric pressure sensors.

### **UAE schools to teach AI starting in kindergarten**

The United Arab Emirates will introduce artificial intelligence as a mandatory subject across all government schools beginning next academic year.

### **India jumps four places to rank 130th on Human Development Index: UNDP report**

India ranked 130th on the Human Development Index, out of 193 countries and territories, according to the 2025 Human Development Report (HDR) released by UNDP. Iceland ranked at the top of the Index, followed by Norway and Switzerland. South Sudan was at the bottom at 193.

### **China launches 12 AI satellites**

China recently launched 12 AI satellites, marking the first phase of its Three-Body Computing Constellation. A Long March 2D rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.

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

The world's first commercial-scale e-methanol plant began operations in Denmark, with shipping giant Maersk set to buy part of the production as a low-emission fuel for its fleet of container ships.

### **Lord Hanuman's 16-foot tall statue installed in Guyana**

In Guyana, a towering 16-foot statue of Lord Hanuman has been installed at the Essequibo Coast of Sparta, at the Seeta Ram Radhey Shyam Mandir.

### **GMV Unveils Revolutionary Lunar Navigation System**

Spanish firm GMV has introduced an innovative lunar navigation system designed to transform how astronauts and rovers find their way on the moon. Dubbed LUPIN, the project aims to bring intuitive, real-time positioning to the lunar surface—making navigating the moon as seamless as using Google Maps or Waze on Earth.

### **Global Hunger Crisis Worsens in 2024**

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has reported a worsening global hunger crisis in 2024, with 295 million people suffering from acute food insecurity across 53 countries, a rise of 13.7 million from 2023.

### **Top 10 most spoken languages in 2025: 5 Indian languages among global 20**

English is the most widely spoken language in the world in 2025. It is the native and second language of 1.53 billion individuals across 188 countries. India, renowned for its rich cultural and linguistic diversity, has five widely spoken languages – Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Marathi, and Telugu – worldwide in 2025.

### **SpaceX's Starship fails 3rd time,**

Elon Musk's SpaceX launched its mega rocket Starship on a third test flight after the earlier two failed. However, the third test also met the same fate just minutes after liftoff.

### **World's First Human Bladder Transplant Performed in California**

A team of US surgeons has performed the world's first in-human bladder transplant. Surgeons in Southern California have performed the first human bladder transplant, introducing a new, potentially life-changing procedure for people with debilitating bladder conditions.

### **India assumes the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization**

India has officially assumed the Chairmanship of the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) for the 2025–26 term during the 67th Session of the Governing Body Meeting (GBM) held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

### **India lost 18,200 hectares of primary forest in 2024**

India lost 18,200 hectares of primary forest in 2024 compared to 17,700 hectares in 2023, according to the latest data from a global collaboration of over 100 organisations.

### **Earth's average temperature for 2025-29 likely to exceed 1.5 deg C limit: WMO**

A new World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) report warns of a high probability that global temperatures will exceed the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold above pre-industrial levels between 2025 and 2029.

### **International Labour Day being celebrated globally**

International Labour Day is being celebrated across the globe on May 1. The day is also known as Global Workers Day or May Day.

### **World Laughter Day 2025: 4th May**

World Laughter Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of May every year. In 2025, it falls on May 4th.

### **World Red Cross Day celebrated**

World Red Cross Day was celebrated on May 8, 2025, to commemorate the 197th Birth Anniversary of its founder, Jean Henry Dunant. The theme for this year is "Keeping Humanity Alive"

### **World Migratory Bird Day: 10th May**

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2025 is being celebrated on two peak dates: May 10 and October 11. The theme for WMBD 2025 is "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities."

### **National Technology Day: 11th May**

On May 11, 2025, India observed National Technology Day, marking the anniversary of the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests and celebrating the country's advancing capabilities in science and technology.

### **Mother's Day 2025: 11th May**

Mother's Day 2025 was celebrated on Sunday, May 11, as it traditionally falls on the second Sunday of May each year.

### **International Nurses Day observed honouring Florence Nightingale**

International Nurses Day is being celebrated May 12 around the world to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. The theme for this year is "Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies".

### **Buddha Purnima being celebrated on May 12**

Buddha Purnima is being celebrated on May 12. It not only marks the day when Gautam Buddha was born, but also the day when he attained Nirvana under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodh Gaya.

### **International Museum Day: 18th May**

International Museum Day, observed annually on 18th May. The theme for 2025 is "The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities",

### **World AIDS Vaccine Day: 18th May**

World AIDS Vaccine Day 2025, observed on May 18, served as a global call to action to accelerate the development of a preventive HIV vaccine and to honor the efforts of scientists, healthcare workers, and volunteers dedicated to this mission.

### **International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 observed on May 22**

Every year May 22nd is celebrated as the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB). The theme for IDB 2025 is 'Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development'.

### **World Thyroid Day: 25th May**

World Thyroid Day is being observed across the globe on 25th May to raise awareness about thyroid disorders, promote early diagnosis, and encourage proactive management of thyroid health.

### **World Hunger Day 2025**

World Hunger Day is observed every year on May 28th. This year, the theme for World Hunger Day 2025 is "Sowing Resilience."

### **International Day of Potato on May 30**

International Day Of Potato is observed on May 30 every year. The theme of this year's day is Shaping history, feeding the future. The potato, called aloo in India, is very important in Indian food and farming.