

# JUNE 2025 SNIPPETS

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FOR KAS 2024

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**Contact:**

**Hebbal:** No 18, 2nd floor, near Hebbal police station, Bellary Main Road, Bangalore.

**Vijayanagar:** NO-211, 5<sup>th</sup> Main, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore.

**Chandralayout:** 38, 3rd Cross, 60 Feet Main Road, Bengaluru.

Ph: 9632757615/9886151564/080-42103963

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### KARNATAKA ISSUES

- Karnataka experienced the wettest May since 1901, with unprecedented rainfall in 2025. May 2025 rainfall reached 245.2 mm, surpassing the previous 185.9 mm record from 1943. Coastal Karnataka recorded 764.9 mm, and North Interior Karnataka 172.5 mm, both exceeding historical records. Districts like Dakshina Kannada (994.5 mm) and Chikkamagaluru (415.3 mm) set new records.
- In response to rising digital threats like fake news and cybercrime in Karnataka, the government has merged the Information Disorder Tackling Unit (IDTU) with the Cyber Command Unit (CCU) for a centralized, tech-driven approach. A key innovation is the use of agentic AI — autonomous systems capable of independently scanning the internet, flagging harmful content, and supporting police action. The public platform satya.gov.in enables citizen participation in verifying or reporting misinformation. Built in-house using LLMs and SLMs, the initiative aims to reduce manual oversight. However, challenges like AI hallucinations, data accuracy, and a limited ₹5 crore budget persist.
- A solar-powered EV charging station, inaugurated near Kempegowda International Airport, is India's first to use second-life batteries. Developed by Bescom and GIZ, it charges 23 vehicles simultaneously with solar energy stored in old car batteries. Featuring 45 KW solar and 100 KWH storage, it offers 24/7 fast and slow charging, benefiting local drivers and travelers.
- The Deen Dayal Upadhyay integrated students' hostel, inaugurated in Dharwad, is Karnataka's first inclusive hostel accommodating 1,000 students from diverse social and religious backgrounds.
- The Centre's approval for excavations at Lakkundi has heightened expectations of uncovering significant archaeological remnants. Previous excavations in 2004-05 yielded important artifacts. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced ongoing excavations and plans to develop an open-air museum, similar to Warangal's, on land between Nanneshwara temple and the heritage centre, with farmer support. The government aims to include Lakkundi in India's UNESCO tentative list, with INTACH studying the site to aid the heritage nomination.
- Gruha Arogya Yojane, launched in 2024 and expanded statewide in June 2025, offers door-to-door NCD screening for citizens aged 30+, now covering 14 diseases. It empowers ASHAs, CHOs, and Medical Officers to ensure early detection, treatment, and follow-up, aiming for affordable, preventive, rural-focused healthcare through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.
- The horticulture department has launched a pioneering initiative by introducing eco-friendly electric vehicles to explore the 240-acre garden. Provided by Fetch Mobility, these vehicles will be available on a three-month trial, with feedback guiding their future. Inspired by practices in countries like the Netherlands and Germany, the aim is to offer a sustainable, accessible transportation option within the garden. As part of World Environment Day celebrations, saplings from 110 species will be planted along the boundary wall, and QR codes will be added to 50 plant species for educational purposes.
- BESCOM is considering reserving land to boost EV charging infrastructure and encourage private participation in Karnataka. Currently, the state has 5,200 charging stations, the highest in India, but most are slow chargers. BESCOM manages around 200 stations. Private players, like Bolt.Earth, operate around 4,000. Experts highlight that vehicle numbers, especially for four-wheelers, are too low to sustain infrastructure growth. Two- and three-wheelers dominate the market, yet lag in fast-charging access. Infrastructure challenges, particularly grid capacity, remain significant. Policy support varies, with Delhi leading, but Karnataka shows promise for future EV adoption

- Sustainable development, guided by the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aims to harmonize environmental, economic, and social needs for present and future generations. India, a committed signatory, is aligning its development with sustainability principles, especially in urban centers like Bengaluru, which face intense ecological challenges. The 2025 Sustainable Development Report, released by O.P. Jindal Global University and launched by Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, highlights the need for collaborative action among government, academia, and civil society.
- The Karnataka government, in partnership with Infosys, launched a two-day upskilling workshop for district officers and vertical heads to enhance skill development scheme implementation. The training, held at Infosys's Mysuru campus aims to strengthen leadership, governance, and program delivery at the grassroots. The focus areas include district skill development plans, convergence with central schemes, and monitoring the Chief Minister Kalike Koushalya Yojane.
- Leopard presence is increasing on Bengaluru's outskirts, especially around Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), due to urban expansion and habitat fragmentation. BNP, a biodiversity hotspot, hosts 80–85 leopards and endangered species like the tiger and pangolin, with 34 mammal species identified. Leopards are adapting to peri-urban areas, including agricultural and private lands. Camera traps and SECR methods track their population, which has risen from 40 in 2019 to 54 in 2025. Urbanisation is causing habitat conflict and prey depletion. Conservation efforts urge the expansion of BNP, creation of reserves, and protection of corridors to maintain genetic flow and wildlife dispersal.
- The Western Ghats, a global biodiversity hotspot, faces severe ecological degradation due to deforestation and habitat fragmentation. Ecological restoration is vital to revive native ecosystems and enhance climate resilience. *PlantWise*, a newly launched web tool, supports scientific restoration by helping users choose suitable native evergreen tree species, especially those endemic to the region. Developed by NCF, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad, and Thackeray Wildlife Foundation with the Ecological Restoration Alliance, it leverages curated data, environmental variables, and species distribution models. By combining field expertise and data science
- The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL) was honoured with the BluGreen Award 2025 by the, in recognition of its progressive and impactful environmental initiatives.
- The Karnataka health department plans to establish Emergency Care and Recovery Centres (ECRCs) at 27 district hospitals across the state, in partnership with NGOs, to support homeless mentally ill individuals. Four existing centres managed by Aaladamara Foundation reduce the number from 31 to 27. These 30-bedded centres, with an annual budget of Rs 5.41 crore (excluding infrastructure, food, medicines, and psychiatric services), will provide shelter and care. NGOs will manage the centres, offering medication and medical attention using hospital facilities. District authorities will invite EOIs from experienced NGOs, with finalists selected by a committee led by a retired High Court judge.
- The Karnataka government will now serve eggs to nearly 1.98 lakh pre-primary children in government and aided schools, expanding from older students. This change stems from increased admissions to pre-primary classes. Additionally, children who don't eat eggs will receive two bananas instead of one. The Department of School Education and Literacy, in partnership with Azim Premji University, aims to improve nutritional intake. Parents will be invited to inspect the food quality.
- 'Uthpadana Manthana', meaning Churning for Production Excellence, is a one-day flagship event organized by the Government of Karnataka on June 10 in Bengaluru. Led by Minister M.B. Patil, the event aims to position Karnataka as a global manufacturing hub by fostering dialogue between the government and industry. It focuses on six high-potential sectors, including

aerospace, electronics, EVs, and textiles. The initiative seeks to create sector-wise policy blueprints, promote innovation, enable data-driven policymaking, attract investments, and generate inclusive employment, thereby accelerating industrial growth and competitiveness across the state.

- Biocon Foundation, in partnership with BeST Cluster and NCBS, launched the BioWISE program to support 25 women students in Karnataka pursuing life sciences. The initiative provides mentorship, internships, hands-on training, and soft skills to empower disadvantaged women from Tier-2 and Tier-3 universities in STEM. Aimed at increasing women's participation and leadership in science, the program aligns with broader goals of fostering a diverse, future-ready scientific community in India.
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate Karnataka's first Kusum-C solar substation in Gauribidanur, Chikkaballapur, aimed at providing reliable daytime electricity to farmers. The 20 MW solar unit, the largest under Kusum-C in the state, will generate power locally for agricultural pumps. The scheme, supported by a central subsidy, seeks to generate 2,400 MW of solar power by 2025, benefiting over 6 lakh pumpsets and improving rural energy access.
- Karnataka is set to become the first Indian state to commercialize biodegradable, bio-compostable milk packets, addressing the severe plastic pollution crisis. Developed from corn starch, these plant-based packets, tested by BAMUL, decompose within six months and enhance soil fertility. Conventional milk packets take up to 500 years to degrade, harming ecosystems and filling landfills. BAMUL launched a pilot in Hunsenahalli on June 5, 2025, showing promising results without quality loss. With support from Karnataka Milk Federation, state-wide rollout is planned despite a minor cost rise. The initiative offers a scalable, eco-friendly packaging solution for a high-impact, daily-use product.
- IIM-Bangalore ranked among the world's top business schools in the 2025 Positive Impact Rating, earning a Level 5 'Pioneering School' score of 9.3 out of 10, well above the global average of 7.8. The rating evaluates societal contributions, with IIMB excelling in Governance, Culture, and Public Engagement. With strong scores across impact dimensions, the institute's efforts in sustainable, responsible business have been recognized. This year's PIR included 86 schools from 28 countries, featuring both student and faculty assessments.
- Karnataka is the third busiest Indian state for air travel after Delhi and Maharashtra, with 2.3 million seats and an 11% market share in June 2025, according to OAG data. The capacity increased by 13% compared to June 2024. Delhi remains the busiest state with 3.6 million seats, though its capacity declined by 2%. Maharashtra follows with 3.5 million seats. Bengaluru's airport ranks third in domestic capacity, with 1.8 million seats, a 9% increase from last year, and features four routes in India's top 10 domestic flights. However, Bengaluru does not appear in the top 10 international routes.
- Senior IAS officer Akram Pasha took charge as the managing director (MD) of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) in the city
- The state government has issued a draft notification to increase the height of stilt parking from 2.4 metres to 4.5 metres in Bengaluru. The original height limit was intentionally kept low to discourage human habitation, but the new proposal aims to create space for more vehicles by permitting stacked mechanical parking facilities.
- Karnataka's Health Department has revamped the Shravana Sanjeevini programme to enhance early detection and treatment of hearing impairments in children. Launched through a government order on June 12, the ₹12 crore initiative now includes structured cochlear implantation, surgery, post-operative care, auditory-verbal therapy, and maintenance support. It targets children, with age-specific implantation guidelines and partial government funding via

Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST). The revised scheme offers free maintenance during the warranty and a 50% subsidy on processor replacement. By integrating early intervention, therapy, and affordability, the programme ensures inclusive healthcare and long-term developmental outcomes for hearing-impaired children.

- Karnataka led India in wind energy additions for FY 2024–25 by installing 1,331.48 MW, bringing its total capacity to 7,351 MW—comparable to Sweden and Australia. This achievement was recognized during Global Wind Day 2025 in Bengaluru under the theme “Pawan-Urja: Powering the Future of India,” with Karnataka Energy Minister KJ George receiving the award. Wind energy, a clean and sustainable power source, faces challenges like intermittency and land use. Karnataka’s Renewable Energy Policy 2022–2027 aims to repower old turbines, promote digitalisation, and align with India’s 500 GW renewable target by 2030, including 100 GW from wind energy
- Bengaluru leads with 30% of planned hiring in tech and e-commerce startups for the first half of FY 2026, followed by Mumbai at 25% and Chennai at 23%. These cities are major startup hubs due to their strong talent pools and ecosystems. The Net Employment Change (NEC) in these sectors is projected at 6.9%, but overall hiring growth has slowed from around 6-7% in FY 2025 to 2.8% in FY 2026, amid funding winter and economic headwinds. Despite this, 69% of employers plan to increase their workforce, focusing on high-impact tech roles driven by AI and digital transformation.
- A recent analysis of Karnataka’s electoral rolls shows alarmingly high Elector-to-Population Ratios (EPR) in 24 of 31 districts, exceeding the state average of 70.16%. High EPRs, such as Chikmagalur’s 85.84% and Chamundeshwari’s extreme 97.74%, indicate a shrinking youth population, hinting at demographic imbalance. EPR, calculated as  $(\text{voters} \div \text{projected population}) \times 100$ , reveals issues like falling fertility, ageing population, and declining workforce. NFHS data also shows gender disparities, especially among the 18–19 age group. With India’s fertility rate now below replacement level, experts urge demographic audits and long-term policy changes to address education, employment, gender equity, and elderly welfare.
- Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) set a Guinness World Record by receiving over 5.33 lakh pledges for water conservation in a week, the highest globally for such a campaign. Launched in March with a Cauvery Aarti at Sankey Tank, the campaign aimed to promote water saving among citizens. The remarkable response from residents made it the record-holder, recognized by Guinness World Records.
- Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited (VJNL) has won ISDA INFRACON National Award for 2025 for using cutting-edge technology in the Yettinahole project. The award is instituted by the Infrastructure Skill Development Academy. The award was given for the use of advanced technology in building the 10.47-km aqueduct between 199.62 km and 210.09 km stretch of the Yettinahole drinking water project.
- Karnataka, home to over a million tech professionals, is a global AI hub with Bengaluru ranking 5th worldwide in the AI and big data ecosystem. Amid concerns of AI-led job disruptions, the state launched the AI Workforce Impact Survey on June 18, 2025, to assess employment shifts and skill needs. Insights will inform IT Policy 2025 and Nipuna Karnataka—a ₹300 crore skilling initiative backed by public-private partnerships. Launched in September 2024, Nipuna aims to future-proof the workforce despite its website being inactive. A ₹28 crore AI Center of Excellence was also approved in Bengaluru to reinforce Karnataka’s leadership in AI.
- Karnataka, a pioneer in innovation and tech startups, is strengthening its global leadership in the digital economy through a joint initiative by the Government of Karnataka, Bangalore Airport City Limited (BACL), and ANSR. Located within BACL’s 28 million sq. ft. Business Park, the flagship

project "District I" is a collaborative innovation hub designed to support deep-tech entrepreneurship and R&D. Integrating startups, GCCs, corporates, academia, and public institutions, it focuses on AI, quantum computing, blockchain, and advanced customer technologies across sectors like aerospace, smart cities, and telecom. It promotes a "Live, Work, Learn, Create" model to boost innovation, commercialization, and economic growth.

- With over two lakh doses of the Hepatitis B vaccine stock, Karnataka's Health Department is preparing to launch a vaccination drive for healthcare workers. Under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP), more than 56,000 at-risk healthcare staff will receive three doses of the vaccine, spaced one month apart. The vaccine, supplied by the central division, is being dispatched from Bengaluru to district warehouses. It will be administered to medical and paramedical staff in various healthcare facilities. Coordination with RCH officers and District Tuberculosis Control Officers will ensure proper distribution and reporting via the NVHCP/MIS portal.
- The State-run C. V. Raman General Hospital in Bengaluru has tied up with One Billion Lives Foundation (OBLF), an NGO, to provide geriatric and palliative care services for needy patients close to their houses.
- The Suraksha Project, led by NIMHANS and partners, expanded community training in Bengaluru South to prevent suicides. The initiative trains police, teachers, anganwadi workers, and frontline staff to recognize warning signs, provide support, and connect individuals with mental health services. Following the successful training of over 700 police personnel, anganwadi workers began their sessions at the district headquarters. Experts highlight the importance of community involvement, with anganwadi workers being trusted community members capable of early intervention.
- Karnataka's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has significantly dropped from 34.9 (2010–12) to 17.3 (2020–22), and further to 15 in 2022, showing steady improvement across urban and rural areas. This decline is attributed to better healthcare management, expanded vaccination, improved neonatal infrastructure, and strategies like Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), institutional deliveries, and newborn resuscitation training. Despite progress, neonatal mortality remains a concern (NMR at 12 in 2022), with challenges like regional disparities, underutilisation of funds, and the need for timely antenatal care. Strengthening Special Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) and access in Tier 2 & 3 cities continues to be vital.
- On June 4, 2025, a tragic stampede at Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy Stadium resulted in 11 deaths due to overcrowding and lack of police oversight. In response, the Karnataka government drafted the Karnataka Crowd Control Bill, mandating police permission for all mass events, with power to modify or cancel plans. It exempts traditional religious gatherings and penalizes organizers who cause harm or disorder. Offences under the Bill are non-bailable and tried by a First-Class Magistrate, with penalties up to 3 years in jail and ₹5 lakh fines. The Bill aims to enforce safe public gatherings and was recently placed before the Cabinet.
- The Karnataka government has proposed a draft law to address the rising threat of fake news and misinformation on social media, with strict penalties including up to 7 years in jail and a ₹10 lakh fine for spreading fake news. The law aims to prohibit and penalize the spread of false or edited content, misquotation, and fabrication of statements. Special courts will be established to handle cognizable and non-bailable offenses, with fast-track trials and empowered to order correction or disabling of content. A six-member regulatory body will oversee implementation and compliance. The law seeks to ensure accountability and safeguards in the digital landscape.
- The Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka has been protected with the issuance of a final Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) notification by the Centre on June 4, 2025. The ESZ spans 322.695

sq km, covering 62 villages and including both revenue and forest land. The notification bans quarrying and mining within 1 km of the sanctuary boundary and promotes sustainable tourism, eco-restoration, and regulated development. This move aims to protect the area's rich biodiversity, medicinal plants, and wildlife corridors, while also supporting traditional livelihoods. The sanctuary is known for its ecological value, including the discovery of rare species like the white-naped tit.

- In 2024, cybercriminals exploited over 65,000 mule bank accounts from Karnataka to facilitate illegal money transfers, according to the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre. These mule accounts act as intermediaries, enabling fraudsters to launder stolen funds. Karnataka ranked fifth among states in the number of first-layer mule accounts, with over 50,000 created last year—more than double the average in other states. Investigators blame bank negligence for the high number, as fraudsters use fake or genuine accounts, often purchased or created with faulty KYC documents. The widespread use of mule accounts highlights the urgent need for stricter banking security measures.
- Apsarakonda–Mugali is set to become Karnataka's first marine wildlife sanctuary, covering around 838 ha of land and up to 5,960 ha of marine area along an 8.2 km Honnavar-Kasarkod coastline. It aims to protect 11 IUCN-threatened species including Olive-Ridley turtles, rays, seahorses, and coral reefs, with vital nesting zones and biodiversity near Netrani Island. The sanctuary includes ecologically rich laterite plateaus and 5,400 ha of mangroves. Proposed in 2020, it was approved by the Wildlife Board but awaits cabinet clearance. Sanctuary status is expected to curb environmentally harmful laterite mining and promote long-term coastal conservation.
- The BBMP is adopting Stone Matrix Asphalt (SMA) technology to repair nearly a dozen flyovers in Bengaluru. SMA is a durable material that provides excellent rut resistance and durability, reducing maintenance costs. BBMP has previously used SMA on KG Road, which remained pothole-free for over six years. The technology requires specialized equipment and high-grade materials but offers long-term benefits. BBMP expects the SMA-resurfaced flyovers to last at least five years without major repairs. The Hebbal flyover was recently resurfaced with SMA, and similar work is planned for other key flyovers, aiming to improve road quality and reduce potholes. It's a costly solution.
- Yeshwanth P and Himanshi Chowdhary scored contrasting wins to be crowned champions in the men's and women's singles sections respectively at the State-ranking table tennis tournament at the KGS Club
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) poses a growing global and national health threat, prompting Karnataka to develop its first State Action Plan on AMR, currently awaiting Cabinet approval. This five-year, adaptable strategy—rooted in the One Health approach—integrates human, animal, and environmental health. Based on five pillars (Regulate, Monitor, Educate, Prevent, Lead), it aligns with WHO and National Action Plan guidelines, tailored to Karnataka's specific needs. Developed under Prof. Swetavalli Raghavan after a year-long study across 11 districts, the plan emphasizes curbing OTC antibiotic sales, tracking usage, improving surveillance, enhancing lab infrastructure, and raising public awareness to ensure responsible antimicrobial use across sectors.
- Jamun (*Syzygium cumini*), called Nerale Hannu in Kannada, is a seasonal fruit with strong anti-diabetic properties, widely grown in Karnataka's arid districts like Kolar and Ballari. Despite its short shelf life and vulnerability to rain and pests, its cultivation in dry zones supports climate-resilient agriculture. Traditionally exported only as frozen or powdered form, fresh jamun saw its first export (250 kg) to London on June 19, 2025, from Nelamangala FPO, supported by

APEDA. The move marks a milestone in Indian horticulture exports, offering hope to farmers facing price volatility through new markets and value-added processing opportunities.

- The Karnataka government is advancing financial inclusion by empowering rural women through the BC Sakhi initiative. Women from self-help groups are trained and certified by the Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) to serve as Business Correspondents under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). These BC Sakhis provide banking services like deposits, withdrawals, and account openings, bridging the gap between rural populations and formal financial institutions. With over 5,000 trained women and a goal of “One Gram Panchayat – One BC Sakhi” by September 2025, the initiative supports schemes like Gruha Lakshmi and Shakti, enhancing financial autonomy and last-mile service delivery.
- Defunct gold mining sites in Gadag could soon become a unique tourist attraction, offering an off-beat experience for thrill-seekers and history enthusiasts. The forest department plans to introduce ‘gold tourism’ in the Suvarnagiri range of Kappatagudda Wildlife Sanctuary, which hosts numerous abandoned extraction sites. Approved by the state government, this initiative would be India’s first to open silent, ghostly tunnels and relics of British-era gold mining to visitors. Tourists could explore tunnels, see old railway railings, mechanical lifts, and even spot traces of gold amidst bat-infested caves. With over 519 sites, this venture promises a fascinating glimpse into the area’s rich mining history.
- Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq has been unanimously selected to chair the 88th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in Ballari this December, as announced by the Kannada Sahitya Parishat. The veteran writer, known for her acclaimed collection *Heart Lamp*, became the first Kannada author to win the International Booker Prize. She accepted the invitation to preside over the event, which will be held after a meeting scheduled for July 1 to finalize the venue and dates. Banu is the fifth woman to chair the Sammelana since its inception in 1915, highlighting her significant literary achievement and leadership role in Kannada literature. Jayadevitayi Ligade was the first woman to preside over the Sammelana held in Mandya in 1974. She was followed by Shantadevi Malawad (Bagalkot-2000), Kamala Hampana (Moodbidri-2003) and Geeta Nagabhushan (Gadag-2010).

## **POLITY**

- In a landmark step toward inclusive national growth and regional capacity building, the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, formally acquired a five-acre land parcel in New Shillong Township, Meghalaya, for its first-ever regional campus. This initiative marks a significant expansion of IICA's footprint into the North East, reinforcing its commitment to corporate governance excellence and sustainable development.
- The Election Commission of India is introducing a real-time, app-based voter turnout reporting system to address delays and transparency concerns. Presiding Officers will update data every 2 hours via ECINET app, ensuring faster, accurate reporting. This tech-driven move aims to restore public trust and align with Digital India goals.
- Ladakh’s new reservation policy grants 85% government job reservation for locals, with a 5% domicile quota requiring 15 years of residence since 2019. Total reservations, including EWS, reach 95%. Policies also reserve one-third of hill council seats for women and recognize multiple languages. Following the revocation of Article 370, locals demand protections like statehood, autonomy, and constitutional safeguards amid concerns over land and resource rights. The region continues to seek greater political and constitutional recognition.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has upgraded its Index Card system—a crucial post-election statistical reporting tool—to a digital, automated format. Traditionally a manual and

error-prone process, the Index Card consolidates key constituency-level electoral data, forming the basis for 35 Lok Sabha and 14 State Assembly reports. The revamped system, announced in New Delhi, enhances data accuracy, speeds up processing, and ensures real-time access. It supports researchers, policymakers, and public transparency, aligning with Digital India and e-Governance goals. This modernization will significantly improve electoral data management, aid governance insights, and reinforce democratic accountability through better public scrutiny.

- In 2025, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj introduced a new category in the National e-Governance Awards to recognize innovative digital efforts by Gram Panchayats. Rohini Gram Panchayat, Maharashtra, won the Gold, while West Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, Tripura, secured Silver. The awards celebrate grassroots initiatives that enhance service delivery and citizen engagement. Out of over 1.45 lakh entries from 26 states, four Panchayats were honored for their digital innovations. Winners receive trophies, certificates, and cash prizes—Rs.10 lakh for gold and Rs.5 lakh for silver—encouraging further digital progress at the grassroots level.
- The Centre revised the Foreigners Identification Portal (FIP) procedure, urging States/UTs to use district-level fingerprint scanners under the IVFRT system. NAFIS is a nationwide database of criminal fingerprints, designed to help law enforcement quickly identify criminals and link them to ongoing cases. It assigns a unique 10-digit ID to each criminal, capturing biometric data for life. Managed by NCRB, NAFIS enables real-time tracing and retrieval of criminal information across India.
- The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in September 2023 as the 128th Constitutional Amendment, mandates one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. However, its implementation is linked to delimitation, which will occur after the first Census post-2026, as per the freeze instituted by the 42nd and 84th Amendments. Articles 82 and 170(3) guide the readjustment of constituencies through a Delimitation Act. With the 2021 Census delayed to 2025, delimitation is likely by 2027, enabling reservation by the 2029 elections. This reform aims to empower women and potentially increase total parliamentary seats.
- The next Census is scheduled for 2027, with the Union Home Ministry issuing a notification to this effect. The notification freezes administrative boundaries, preventing States from altering maps of police stations, districts, or tehsils until the Census concludes, as these form the basis of enumeration blocks. The reference date for data collection is March 1, 2027, for most areas, but October 1, 2026, for Ladakh and certain snow-bound regions. The Census will be digital, utilizing mobile apps and self-enumeration options, with strict data security measures. Preparedness includes pre-test exercises and deploying around 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors, as reviewed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- In June 2025, the Election Commission of India (ECI) launched a streamlined EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) delivery system amid concerns over delays and alleged manipulation. The new system introduces a 15-day Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for voter ID issuance, covering new enrolments and updates. It integrates the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Department of Posts (DoP) via ECINet, enabling real-time tracking, SMS alerts, and end-to-end automation. This reform, aligned with Digital India goals, ensures efficient, transparent, and secure delivery, especially aiding migrants and first-time voters. With over 95 crore registered voters, the EC aims to uphold electoral integrity and boost public trust.
- Bihar has become the first Indian state to launch a mobile-based e-voting system for urban local body elections, with a pilot scheduled for June 28, 2025. The system utilizes two Android applications—e-Voting SECBHR developed by C-DAC and another app by the Bihar State Election Commission—incorporating advanced security features such as blockchain-based vote

recording, biometric verification (face matching, liveness detection), and audit trails similar to VVPAT. Aimed at increasing voter accessibility and turnout, the system prioritizes migrant workers, senior citizens, pregnant women, divyang voters, and the seriously ill. With 10,000 voters already registered and capacity for 50,000 mobile votes, the initiative sets a new benchmark in electoral innovation. Globally, few nations like Estonia have adopted remote e-voting. Bihar SEC's proven use of facial recognition, OCR counting, and digital EVM locks reinforces its pioneering role.

**SCHEME**

- To address outdated urban land records and rising disputes due to rapid urbanization, the Department of Land Resources (DoLR) launched NAKSHA (National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations). This pilot project modernizes urban land surveys using GNSS, ETS, and Web-GIS tools. Implemented with Survey of India, NISCI, and five Centres of Excellence, it covers 157 Urban Local Bodies across 27 states and 3 UTs. Phase 2, starting 2nd June 2025, trains 304 officers in geospatial skills at institutes like LBSNAA and ATI Mysuru.
- The Union Government has launched the 'Clean Plant Programme' for grapes, oranges, and pomegranates from Maharashtra. This initiative aims to provide disease-free, high-quality planting material for horticultural crops, improving productivity and reducing crop losses. The programme includes establishing nine Clean Plant Centers (CPCs) for disease diagnostics and quarantine, developing large-scale nurseries for multiplying healthy plants, and creating a regulatory framework for certification and traceability. It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare through the National Horticulture Board and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, ensuring farmers have access to reliable, certified planting material.
- The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), launched in 2018 and running till 2025, is a centrally sponsored initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to combat rising substance abuse in India. Positioned between the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, India faces high drug trafficking risks. NAPDDR adopts a multi-pronged strategy—prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation—focusing on awareness, social reintegration, human resource development, and data-driven policy. It involves multi-agency implementation with financial support to state governments, NGOs, and hospitals. Currently, 291 underserved districts have been identified for new District De-Addiction Centres, emphasizing community-based care and Whole Person Recovery.
- The Ministry of Coal launched C CARES Version 2.0, an upgraded portal of the CMPFO, developed by C-DAC with SBI support. It aims to improve efficiency and transparency in PF and pension disbursements for coal workers. The portal offers real-time claim tracking, automated ledger updates, and direct transfers, along with a mobile app for workers to access profiles, claims, and grievances. It also provides dashboards for coal companies to generate reports and analyze data, enhancing service delivery.
- 'Ayush Nivesh Saarthi' is a digital investor facilitation portal launched by the Indian government to promote traditional medicine and wellness sectors. Unveiled on 29 May 2025, it consolidates policies, incentives, and investment opportunities, supporting both domestic and global investors. The platform aims to boost India's position as a leading hub for holistic healthcare, attract FDI, and harness the sector's growth, which is vital to India's economy and global wellness industry.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Anubhag (BBA) to promote Indian languages and reduce foreign influence in administration. The platform aims to harness India's linguistic diversity, emphasizing the importance of thinking and decision-making in

mother tongues. With a ₹56 crore budget in the 2024-25 Budget, BBA will facilitate translation between languages and Hindi. This initiative seeks to empower regional languages, ensuring they play a central role in governance and communication across India.

- The Indian government approved procurement of 54,166 MT of Moong and 50,750 MT of Groundnut under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) for Summer 2025–26 in Haryana, UP, and Gujarat. Additionally, procurement in Andhra Pradesh was extended by 15 days until June 26, 2025. The government also authorized procurement of pulses like Tur, Urad, and Masur up to 100% of state production for 2024–25, with plans to continue this till 2028–29 to promote self-sufficiency. These measures aim to support farmers, stabilize prices, and boost domestic pulse production under schemes like PM-AASHA.
- To address the shortcomings of traditional PIN codes, especially in rural and informal areas, the Government of India launched DIGIPIN in 2025 under the Department of Posts. Developed in collaboration with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO's NRSC, DIGIPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric code representing a 4x4 meter grid across India, covering all terrains. It offers a geo-coded, privacy-respecting, open-source digital address system linked to geographic coordinates, not personal information. While complementing existing PIN codes, DIGIPIN improves e-commerce logistics, emergency services, and government delivery by providing precise, digital location identifiers, boosting inclusion, planning, and smart governance.
- The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), an autonomous R&D body under the Department of Telecommunications, has launched the 'Samarth' Incubation Program to promote innovation in Telecom and ICT domains like 5G/6G, AI, IoT, quantum tech, and cybersecurity. The program supports up to 36 startups annually across two cohorts, offering up to ₹5 lakh grants, office space in Delhi & Bengaluru, lab access, and expert mentorship. Implementation partners include STPI and TiE. Delivered in a hybrid model, the program facilitates product development and investor engagement. Recently, 18 startups were selected in Cohort-1, and grant awards were distributed in New Delhi.
- The PMGSY QR Code Initiative, launched under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, aims to improve rural road connectivity and governance. Introduced in June 2025, it mandates all states to install QR-coded boards on PMGSY roads. Citizens can scan these bilingual QR codes to submit real-time feedback and photos, which are analysed using AI/ML for objective performance evaluations. This enhances transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. The system is integrated with e-MARG, a web-mobile platform that monitors post-construction maintenance over five years. Implemented by NRIDA under MoRD, it strengthens infrastructure oversight, especially in remote and Left-Wing Extremism-affected areas.
- On 23 June 2025, Tripura was officially declared a fully literate state under the ULLAS Scheme, becoming the third Indian state after Mizoram and Goa to achieve this feat. ULLAS, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aligned with NEP 2020, focuses on foundational literacy for adults aged 15+, critical life skills, and digital literacy. Through massive community participation, mobile app-based learning, and strong state support, Tripura surpassed the 95% benchmark, setting a national model for inclusive adult education.
- On 24th June 2025, the Government of India launched NAVYA (Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls) in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh, under the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision. Aimed at skilling girls aged 16–18 years (Class 10 pass) in non-traditional sectors, NAVYA seeks to reduce gender disparity in the workforce and foster women-led development. Implemented across 27 districts in 19 states, the initiative is a joint effort of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Skill Development and

Entrepreneurship, drawing support from schemes like PMKVY and PM Vishwakarma to promote inclusive and convergent skill-building.

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has re-launched the SPREE Scheme from July 1 to December 31, 2025. Originally introduced in 2016, the Scheme aims to expand ESI coverage nationwide by encouraging registration of employers and employees. It successfully registered over 88,000 employers and 1.02 crore workers. The renewed scheme offers a one-time opportunity for unregistered employers and workers, including contractual and temporary staff, to enroll under the ESI Act. Emphasizing voluntary compliance, it aims to reduce litigation, promote formal registration, and strengthen stakeholder engagement for better social security coverage.

### SOCIAL ISSUES

- With the rapid growth of e-commerce in India, consumers are increasingly vulnerable to deceptive digital tactics known as dark patterns, which manipulate user behavior through design tricks like false urgency, hidden charges, or confusing language. Recognizing the threat, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) issued binding guidelines in December 2023, identifying 13 types of dark patterns and launching digital platforms for grievance redressal. In May 2025, the government urged e-commerce platforms to self-regulate and eliminate these manipulations. Studies reveal that over 79% of Indian apps employ such practices, prompting stronger enforcement to uphold digital consumer rights and fair trade.
- The ULLAS - Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, a centrally sponsored scheme running from 2022-2027, has helped Goa achieve full literacy, marking a major milestone toward India's 2030 goal. Targeting adults aged 15 and above who missed formal schooling, ULLAS aims to empower marginalized groups through components like foundational literacy, critical life skills, vocational training, and continuing education. Aligned with NEP 2020, it promotes lifelong learning and volunteerism, utilizing digital tools like the ULLAS app and DIKSHA portal for registration and resource access. Its overarching goal is to make India fully literate and inclusive, fostering societal growth.
- India, set to have 40% urban population by 2030, faces critical challenges in infrastructure, transport, and service delivery, despite urban areas contributing around 63% to GDP. To address this, the Asian Development Bank (ADB)—a multilateral institution founded in 1966 with 69 members—has committed \$10 billion from 2025–2030 to support India's urban transformation. With focus on metro expansion, sanitation, transit-oriented development, and capacity-building, ADB aims to modernize 100 cities. ADB raises funds via global bonds and member inputs, with India actively participating. Active in 110+ cities, ADB's efforts align with inclusive, sustainable development and SDG priorities.
- On World Environment Day 2025, India reinforced its commitment to environmental justice and sanitation worker dignity through the NAMASTE scheme, now expanded to include Waste Pickers. Initially designed for Sewer and Septic Tank Workers (SSWs), the scheme—run by MoSJE and MoHUA—now seeks to digitally profile 2.5 lakh Waste Pickers for targeted welfare. The initiative provides health insurance, occupational ID cards, PPE kits, skill training, and livelihood support. It also promotes collective empowerment through Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs). Knowledge products released include a resource guide and socio-economic report. As of May 2025, over 80,000 SSWs have been enumerated and validated.
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has introduced new guidelines to promote safe, mechanised sanitation practices and prevent unsafe ones. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U), model empanelment and contract documents have been issued

to help urban local bodies engage Private Sanitation Service Operators. These guidelines ensure legal compliance with the PEMSRC Act, 2013, and provide clear procedures for registering private entities involved in sewer and septic tank cleaning, aiming to improve sanitation safety and efficiency.

- The Cause of Death in India 2019–21 report by the Sample Registration System (SRS), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, identifies cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) as the leading cause of death in India, contributing to 30.2% of all non-communicable disease (NCD) deaths. CVDs, including heart attacks, strokes, and hypertension-related complications, are driven by poor lifestyle habits, stress, and comorbidities like diabetes. Urban areas report slightly higher CVD-related deaths than rural. Regional data shows the highest CVD deaths in northern India. While NCDs now account for over 54% of deaths, child and youth mortality reveal continued challenges in trauma, infections, and nutrition.
- ESIC Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad, has become a model in public healthcare and medical education, serving over 72.6 lakh insured persons. Spanning 21 acres with future expansion, it offers 1,044 beds, advanced specialties like cardiology, nephrology, neuro-surgery, and high-end interventions. Accredited with NABH, NABL, and ISO, it leads in quality standards. The campus leverages IT solutions like PACS, online consultations, and 5G ambulances. It trains over 125 MBBS, 83 MD/MS students, and paramedics, fostering innovation, research, and leadership. Recognized as a benchmark, it exemplifies government commitment to accessible, high-quality public health services.
- Kerala's Green Army, composed of over 35,000 women primarily with basic education, has been instrumental in achieving near-total waste-free status in the state. Through the Haritha Karma Sena (HKS), these women earn an average of Rs 10,000 monthly by collecting, segregating, and scientifically managing waste from over 85 lakh households. Since its launch in 2017, HKS has generated Rs 350 crore by processing over 61,500 tonnes of waste, transforming trash into valuable resources. Their efforts, part of the Haritha Kerala Mission, have not only improved environmental health but also empowered women, with some earning up to Rs 30,000, showcasing Kerala's successful model of community-driven waste management.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country's highest civilian honour. Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides conferred the award during the PM's state visit.
- MoTA has launched the DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, the largest tribal empowerment campaign in India. Covering 550 tribal districts, 2900+ blocks, and over 207 PVTG-dominated districts, it aims to reach about 1 lakh villages. The campaign promotes inclusive development, dignity, and self-respect for tribal communities, honoring their heritage. Running from June 15-30, it provides doorstep access to schemes like Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan, and livelihood programs. With community-led efforts, the initiative ensures no eligible household is left behind, fostering participatory governance and tribal pride across the nation.
- Reasi is set to become the second district in Jammu and Kashmir, after Srinagar, to implement the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme. This initiative by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to support marginalized groups, including transgender persons and beggars. With a total allocation of ₹365 crore from 2021-22 to 2025-26, SMILE includes sub-schemes for rehabilitation, scholarships, skill development, and shelter homes like Garima Greh. It also emphasizes legal protection through Transgender Protection Cells, ensuring safety, empowerment, and holistic development for marginalized communities across the country.

- The Ministry of Education has established a nine-member panel, led by Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi, to examine students' reliance on coaching centers, dummy schools, and the fairness of entrance exams. The panel will explore gaps in the current schooling system, such as rote learning and limited focus on critical thinking, that push students toward coaching. It will also assess how dummy schools and state quotas influence admissions. Additionally, the panel aims to evaluate the effectiveness of entrance exams and the role of formative assessments. Their goal is to recommend measures to improve the education system and reduce dependency on coaching for higher studies.
- The Ladakh administration has issued the Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Rules, 2025, to revise quotas and recruitment processes in accordance with central laws. Effective immediately, these changes address long-standing local concerns, especially among youth. The amendments, under Section 23 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, include revised direct recruitment quotas of 1% SC, 80% ST, 4% ALC, and 10% EWS, along with horizontal reservations for ex-servicemen and persons with disabilities. They also introduce a three-list selection system and a 100-point roster, enhancing transparency and aligning local policies with national disability rights laws.

### ECONOMY

- IEPFA (under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs) and SEBI launched Pune's first Niveshak Shivir to promote investor empowerment and financial literacy. It addressed unclaimed dividends, share claims, KYC updates, and nominations, with 450+ participants and 19 kiosks for assistance. Officials provided guidance, and a new NSDL investor brochure was launched to facilitate claims, with future events planned in high-unclaimed-fund cities.
- India is intensifying efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through policy reforms and improved ease of doing business. FDI includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings, and other capital, contributing to job creation, technology transfer, and infrastructure growth. In FY25, FDI rose by 14%, reaching the highest level in three years. Maharashtra and Karnataka led with a combined 51% share due to robust infrastructure and investor-friendly policies. Other key contributors include Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, and Telangana. Experts cite strong physical and digital infrastructure as major factors influencing foreign investor interest in India.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 29th FSDC meeting in Mumbai, emphasizing swift refunds of unclaimed assets through multi-agency camps. She urged regulators to prioritize citizen interests and streamline KYC processes for better user experience. The council discussed enhancing regulatory responsiveness, reducing unclaimed assets, digital KYC, increasing investments, and financial sector reforms. Strengthening inter-regulatory coordination and cybersecurity measures were also key topics, aiming to boost financial stability and sector development in India.
- India remains the fastest-growing major economy amid global uncertainties, though the World Bank's June 2025 Global Economic Prospects Report revised its FY26 GDP forecast to 6.3% from 6.7%. The downgrade stems from weak global demand, trade restrictions, and industrial slowdown in FY25 (growth at 6%). Despite these, India's resilience is fueled by robust domestic consumption, rebounding agriculture, strong rural demand, and consistent growth in services and construction. Globally, growth is projected at 2.3% in 2025, the slowest since 2008 outside recessions. China's outlook lags behind, with India retaining its lead as the most dynamic large economy amid global economic volatility.
- In response to rising fraud cases in digital securities transactions, SEBI introduced a mandatory new UPI payment mechanism from October 1, 2025, for all registered intermediaries. This move

aims to secure fund collection, prevent impersonation, and build investor trust by ensuring transactions are real-time, verified, and traceable. The system requires standardized UPI handles and introduces the “Sebi Check” tool, enabling investors to verify UPI IDs via QR codes or manual entry, displaying bank details for transparency. This initiative enhances cybersecurity, accountability, and consumer protection, aligning with broader fintech reforms to promote secure, transparent, and inclusive digital investing.

- The government has capped spending under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at 60% of its annual allocation for the first half of FY 2025-26. This means only Rs 51,600 crore will be available for the scheme until September. The Finance Ministry introduced this spending limit, despite the Rural Development Ministry's objections. The cap may impact employment generation due to pending liabilities of Rs 21,000 crore from the previous year. The scheme's allocation is Rs 86,000 crore, with a labour budget of 198.86 crore person-days. The Centre has released 28.47% of the allocation, and officials have raised questions about pending liabilities from the previous year. The scheme's demand has declined since the Covid-19 outbreak, with 5.79 crore families employed in 2024-25.
- SEBI plans to implement a structured UPI address mechanism for its registered intermediaries to address the rise of unregistered entities misleading investors. The initiative introduces a unique “@valid” handle, allocated exclusively by NPCI, to enhance investor security and prevent illegal money collection. NPCI, which manages the UPI platform, will assign certified handles for payment collection. Intermediaries will select clear usernames with category-specific suffixes: ‘.brk’ for stockbrokers and ‘.mf’ for mutual funds. This system aims to strengthen transparency and trust in the securities market.
- According to rbi.org.in, NEFT is an electronic fund transfer system where transactions received up to a designated time are processed in batches, whereas RTGS processes transactions continuously throughout the day on a transaction-by-transaction basis. RTGS has no amount cap set by RBI and operates 24x7x365, enabling real-time fund transfer to the beneficiary’s account. Remitters do not need to use physical cheques or demand drafts, and beneficiaries are not required to visit bank branches for depositing paper instruments. This system facilitates seamless, instant fund transfers at any time.
- India’s retail inflation fell below 3% in May to 2.82%, the lowest in over six years, driven by a sharp decline in food prices—vegetables (-13.7%), pulses (-8.2%), and spices (-2.82%). Food inflation dropped to 0.99%. The RBI recently cut the repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.5%, supporting growth amid benign inflation. Despite overall moderation, core inflation remains sticky at 4.2%. Rural inflation is lower at 2.6%, indicating recovery in rural demand. Analysts expect the RBI to pause rate hikes until December 2025, closely monitoring incoming data.
- The RBI has eased KYC norms to enhance customer convenience, as per a circular released on June 12. Banks now have until June 2026 or within a year to update KYC for ‘low risk’ flagged customers. A new Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP) allows KYC upload via video, aiding onboarding and updates. Banks are encouraged to involve banking correspondents and conduct outreach in semi-urban and rural areas. This move aims to address issues of inoperative accounts and improve access to financial services, especially for beneficiaries of schemes like PMJDY and DBT, by simplifying KYC procedures while ensuring safety.
- Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL), a PSU under the Ministry of Railways, is in talks with Russia’s Rosatom to develop Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to power its major projects, including the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag, Bhanupali-Bilaspur, Yavatmal-Nanded, and Indore-Budni railway lines. SMRs are compact nuclear reactors with capacities up to 300 MW, designed to require less space and offer efficient energy solutions. This collaboration aims to ensure a reliable and sustainable

energy supply for these infrastructure projects, leveraging advanced nuclear technology to meet India's growing energy demands while supporting the development of key railway corridors.

- India's trade deficit narrowed to \$21.88 billion in May from \$26.42 billion the previous month, mainly due to lower imports. Merchandise exports declined slightly to \$38.73 billion, a 2.17% decrease year-on-year, while imports fell by 1.7% to \$60.61 billion. Despite global uncertainties, India recorded a robust services surplus of \$14.65 billion, with services exports reaching \$32.39 billion. Overall, combined merchandise and services exports increased by 2.8% to \$71.12 billion in May. Experts highlighted the resilience of Indian exporters amid geopolitical tensions and rising input costs, although challenges from global conflicts and tariffs remain.
- The Union Finance Ministry has capped spending on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at 60% of its annual budget for the first half of FY 2025–26. This move has raised concerns among civil society groups as it undermines the scheme's demand-driven and statutory nature. MGNREGA, enacted in 2005, guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual work annually to rural households and is legally binding, with provisions for women participation and additional days in special areas. Implementation is decentralized via Gram Panchayats, and legal precedents affirm that financial constraints cannot override workers' statutory employment rights.
- India's defense capital expenditure (capex) faces slow absorption due to lengthy procurement timelines, bureaucratic hurdles, and global geopolitical factors. Recent incidents like Operation Sindoor and terrorist attacks in Pahalgam have intensified efforts to reform procurement processes and boost readiness. Despite a record FY25 budget of ₹6.81 lakh crore, only 2% of capex was utilized in April, revealing inefficiencies. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is overhauling procedures, shifting toward simulation-based testing and faster vendor processes. Emphasis is on indigenous production, private-sector engagement, and interoperability across armed forces. Strategic measures, including ₹40,000 crore emergency powers, aim to accelerate procurement by December 2025.
- India is aiming to bring start-ups back from foreign jurisdictions through regulatory easing and improved access to domestic capital markets. SEBI's June 2025 reforms support "reverse flipping," where foreign-registered Indian start-ups return to list on Indian exchanges, driven by India's stable economy, growing consumer base, and strong investor confidence. Flipping refers to shifting ownership/IP abroad for valuation and funding benefits, while reverse flipping uses mechanisms like inbound mergers or share swaps to return. Key reforms include eased IPO norms, investor-friendly KYC processes, simplified disclosure for portfolio managers, and relaxed rules for PSUs, REITs, and capital market intermediaries, strengthening India's startup ecosystem.
- The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has announced India's first comprehensive Household Income Survey, scheduled for 2026, to be conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS). This historic effort aims to fill a critical data gap, as NSS has traditionally focused on consumer expenditure rather than income. The survey will provide detailed insights into income levels, sources, and distribution, supporting targeted welfare policies and better understanding of economic inequality. Previous attempts since the 1950s faced methodological limitations and were discontinued. The 2026 survey forms part of NSS's broader initiative to strengthen data on unincorporated sectors and macroeconomic trends.

**ENVIRONMENT**

- Recently, the Telangana State government issued orders declaring the tiger corridor area connecting the Kawal Tiger Reserve with the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra as 'Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve'.
- On June 2, 2025, Mount Etna—Europe's largest active volcano located in Sicily, Italy—erupted violently, sending a vast ash and smoke plume skyward. Despite its intensity, no injuries, damages, or major flight disruptions occurred. Known for frequent activity, Etna features five summit craters and over 300 flank vents. Its eruptions vary from moderately explosive Strombolian to highly explosive Plinian types. This event underscores the Mediterranean region's ongoing geological volatility, raising crucial concerns for disaster preparedness, air traffic safety, and volcanic gas impact on climate. The eruption reignites global discussions on volcanic eruption classification and monitoring systems.
- Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur, both in Rajasthan, have been added to the prestigious list of Ramsar Sites. With this addition, India now has a total of 91 Ramsar Sites.
- Maharashtra's most ambitious road infrastructure project, the 701-km-long Samruddhi Mahamarg, will become fully operational after the final 76-km stretch from Igatpuri in Nashik to Amane in Thane is inaugurated.
- The Aravalli Green Wall Initiative is a central government-led project launched on June 5, 2025, by PM Narendra Modi to restore the ecologically degraded Aravalli mountain range spanning Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. This ancient range is vital for preventing desertification, supporting biodiversity, and regulating climate. The initiative focuses on afforestation, reforestation, and the use of native plant species across 1,000 nurseries in 29 districts. It emphasizes landscape-level planning with satellite tools and local community involvement. With Rajasthan accounting for 81% of degraded land, the project aims to combat desertification, reduce air pollution, and boost biodiversity and climate resilience.
- India is planning fiscal measures to boost domestic rare earth magnet production after China curbed exports of key rare earth materials, essential for electric vehicles, clean energy, defence systems, and electronics. China controls 90% of global processing, posing strategic risks. Though India has rare earth reserves, it lacks processing capacity. The Ministry of Heavy Industries is proposing Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs) and funding to bridge the price gap with Chinese magnets. The aim is to ensure supply chain self-reliance and stockpiling. India currently relies on imports, and automakers like Suzuki have halted production due to shortages, prompting urgent policy responses.
- Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district, covering 524.7 hectares, lies within the ecologically rich Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. This wetland is crucial for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, hosting over 10,700 birds of 128 species, including flamingos, herons, and sandpipers. It supports diverse habitats like mangroves, mudflats, and marshes, with key mangrove species such as Avicennia and Rhizophora. Legally notified in June 2024, the site aims to conserve biodiversity, protect against erosion, and promote eco-tourism. Future designation as a wildlife sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is also under consideration.
- Tigers in India rely heavily on ungulates such as spotted deer, sambar, wild pigs, and gaur for survival. A 2022 national assessment shows significant prey declines in regions like Odisha, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh due to habitat loss, hunting, and fragmentation, threatening tiger populations and ecological balance. Some areas, including the Western Ghats and Central India, maintain healthy prey populations. Vulnerable species like hog deer and barasingha require targeted conservation. Poor prey availability increases human-tiger conflicts and livestock

predation. Recommendations emphasize habitat restoration, enhanced protection, prey monitoring through technology, and breeding programs to sustain tiger prey and support tiger conservation efforts.

- Released on June 5, 2025, by MoSPI during the National Workshop on “Alternate Data & Frontier Technologies,” the 8th edition of EnviStats India aligns with the UN’s FDES 2013 framework to provide comprehensive environmental statistics. Initiated by NSO in 2018, it aids evidence-based policymaking on climate, resources, and sustainability. The 2025 edition includes expert-recommended structural improvements and new indicators like electricity access and Ramsar sites. Key trends show rising temperatures, variable rainfall, increased thermal and renewable energy generation, and growth in inland fisheries. India’s biodiversity is rich, with 6% of global faunal species, while environment sustainability expenditure leads government funding, with agro-forestry least funded.
- Recently, the Prime Minister of India marked World Environment Day by planting a Sindoor sapling at his official residence, 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, in New Delhi.
- A new species of planarian worm that regenerates, named *Dugesia Punensis*, has been found in the Pashan Lake in the city of Pune recently.
- Recently, donkey prices in Pakistan have surged due to high Chinese demand for ejiao, a gelatin used in traditional medicine. Ejiao is made from collagen extracted from donkey skin and is valued for its health benefits. China’s ejiao industry has grown over 160% in five years, increasing demand for donkey hides globally. Pakistan, home to the third-largest donkey population after Ethiopia and Sudan, is significantly impacted by this rising demand, impacting local donkey markets.
- Recently, researchers have discovered a new species of bat named Himalayan long-tailed *Myotis* (*Myotis himalaicus*).
- Guatemalan authorities evacuated over 500 people from near Fuego Volcano, Central America’s most active volcano, after it emitted gas and ash. Located in Guatemala, Fuego has erupted more than 60 times since 1524, including a deadly 2018 eruption that killed 194. It’s a steep-sided stratovolcano, prone to explosive eruptions due to viscous magma. Despite reduced activity since 2018, Fuego continues to produce ashfall, pyroclastic flows, and lava, highlighting ongoing volcanic hazards in the region.
- A new species of beetle, named *Spathaspina noohi*, was recently discovered from the biodiverse forests of Meghalaya.
- Recently, CSIR reported the first flowering and seed set of Heeng (*Ferula assa-foetida*) in Palampur, confirming successful cultivation in India. Heeng is a perennial plant taking five years to mature, thriving in cold, arid climates with sandy, well-drained soil and low rainfall. It tolerates temperatures between 10-20°C, withstanding up to 40°C and winter lows of -4°C. The resin, derived from its taproot, is used for culinary and medicinal purposes. Currently, India relies on imports, as native species do not produce asafoetida.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare plans to establish CROPIC (Collection of Real-Time Observations and Photos of Crops), an AI-based project to monitor crop health through field photos. Crops will be photographed four to five times during their lifecycle to assess health and potential losses, initially covering kharif 2025 and rabi 2025-26 seasons. Farmers will crowdsource photos via a mobile app, which will be analyzed by an AI-powered cloud platform. CROPIC aims to improve crop monitoring, stress detection, and automate crop loss assessments, enhancing farmers’ financial resilience.

- The Blue NDC Challenge was launched at the third UN Ocean Conference to enhance ocean-focused climate actions. Initiated by France and Brazil, it urges countries to include ocean-related measures in their NDCs ahead of COP30 in Brazil. Six countries—Australia, Fiji, Kenya, Mexico, Palau, and Seychelles—joined this effort, supported by organizations like Ocean Conservancy and WWF-Brazil. NDCs are national climate plans under the Paris Agreement, aiming to limit global temperature rise to below 2°C, with efforts to stay within 1.5°C. The initiative promotes stronger ocean-climate integration to address climate change impacts.
- A Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*), a semi-aquatic carnivorous mammal once thought extinct in Kashmir, was recently spotted in the Lidder River, marking its third confirmed sighting in 2024. Known for its dense water-repellent fur, webbed feet, and elusive nature, this species inhabits rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Its return is seen as an indicator of improving aquatic ecosystems. Once common in Kashmir (locally called Vuder), its numbers declined due to pollution and illegal fur hunting. Currently listed as Near Threatened by IUCN and protected under Schedule II of India's Wildlife Protection Act, it also features in Kashmiri folklore.
- Mizoram's capital Aizawl has been connected to the Indian Railways network for the first time via the 51.38-km Bairabi–Sairang line, with the final Hortoki–Sairang stretch cleared in June 2025. This milestone, aligning with Indian Railways' mission to connect all North-East capitals, includes 48 tunnels, 142 bridges, and India's tallest railway bridge pier (104 m). Sairang, 20 km from Aizawl, replaces Bairabi as the key railhead. Mizoram becomes the fourth NE state capital with rail connectivity. As of April 2024, 18 major NE rail projects are ongoing, with ₹40,549 crore spent. Meghalaya remains unlinked due to local opposition.
- Scientists in India's Western Ghats made a groundbreaking discovery: a mushroom growing out of a live frog. On June 19, 2023, researchers found several Rao's Golden-backed frogs near Mala, Karnataka. One frog exhibited a white growth on its side, which was identified as a Bonnet mushroom—typically found on decaying wood. Rather than removing the frog, scientists photographed it and published their findings in *Reptiles and Amphibians*. This marks the first recorded instance of a fungus growing on a living organism, as fungi usually parasitize dead or rotting matter, making this an extraordinary discovery in mycology and biology.
- The Union government has declined Kerala's request to classify wild boars as vermin under the Wildlife Protection Act and also opposes removing bonnet macaques from Schedule I to Schedule II. Under Section 11 of the 1972 Act, hunting of Schedule I animals is permitted if they pose a danger or are diseased. Additionally, Section 62 allows the government to declare certain animals as vermin temporarily, which removes their protection from hunting. Declaring wild boars as vermin would enable culling to address threats to life and crops, helping to control their population and mitigate damage, but the central government maintains this classification has not been approved.
- In a bold move, Israel launched its most ambitious recent military operation by striking Iran's nuclear sites, missile facilities, and military infrastructure. Key targets included the Natanz nuclear facility, Iran's main uranium enrichment site partially built underground to withstand attacks, and the nearby mountain tunneling efforts to fortify it. Additionally, the Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre, a vital hub with research reactors and scientists, was targeted. The Arak Heavy Water Reactor, capable of producing plutonium for potential nuclear weapons, was also hit. These strikes represent a significant escalation in efforts to curb Iran's nuclear capabilities and regional influence.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched three key technology platforms to enhance disaster management in India. These include the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER), the National Database for Emergency Management Lite 2.0 (NDEM Lite 2.0), and the Flood

Hazard Zonation Atlas of Assam. Shah emphasized that these platforms will enable faster, more precise responses to emergencies by utilizing real-time satellite data and centralized information. The Flood Atlas aims to improve flood mitigation efforts by providing up-to-date data on water levels and flood impacts in Assam. These innovations aim to strengthen India's disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

- Since the launch of the Madhya Pradesh government's Jal Ganga Sanvardhan Abhiyan, the Ghoda Pachhad River—a tributary of the Narmada—has been revived in Khandwa district.
- Shipki La Pass, located at 3,930 meters in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district, has historically served as a key Indo-Tibetan trade and cultural link. Closed after the 1962 war with China, it reopened to Indian tourists on June 10, 2025, with no permit required—only an Aadhaar card. Once a hub of spiritual, economic, and cultural exchange, the pass is now being leveraged for tourism and local development. Shared Buddhist traditions and familial ties unite communities on both sides. Its reopening signals potential for religious tourism, regional growth, and soft-border diplomacy through civilian engagement rather than military presence.
- Goan Feni, a traditional spirit native to Goa, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2025, recognizing its unique regional identity and traditional production. Introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the 1600s, Feni is crafted from cashew apples or coconut sap through a four-step process including fermentation and double distillation. Traditionally made by 'Bhatikars' in earthen pots, Feni holds deep cultural value. The GI tag, valid for 10 years, ensures authenticity, legal protection, and promotes rural livelihoods. Its recognition boosts tourism and local economies, with Cazcar Distillery in Nanora being a key producer.
- Researchers at IISc have uncovered how lac insects produce laccaic acid, used in lac pigment. The study reveals that a symbiotic yeast-like organism inside the insect, not the insect itself, carries the genes necessary for pigment synthesis. The lac insect feeds on certain trees and secretes shellac, but the production of the bright red pigment was a mystery. The team sequenced the microbiome and identified the yeast as the key producer, providing insight into India's historic lac industry. This discovery highlights the role of symbiotic organisms in natural pigment production, advancing understanding of traditional Indian dyeing and coloring techniques.
- The Kerala High Court has banned single-use plastics in hilly areas, hotels, and during events like weddings from October 2, citing serious environmental threats. The ban covers plastic water bottles under five liters, soft drink bottles under two liters, food containers, plates, cups, and straws, including government-hosted functions. The court emphasized responsible disposal to protect water bodies and urged the government and local bodies to prevent plastic dumping and promote awareness of its harmful effects. It also directed the establishment of kiosks providing safe drinking water, preferably in glass or stainless steel bottles, to reduce plastic waste and safeguard ecosystems.
- The integration of electric vehicles (EVs) into household waste collection under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban marks a significant step toward sustainable urban sanitation. Cities like Guntur, Chennai, and Indore are deploying e-autos, e-rickshaws, and electric trucks, reducing carbon emissions, air and noise pollution, and operational costs. These eco-friendly initiatives promote source segregation, real-time monitoring, and renewable energy use, enhancing efficiency and service quality. They also generate employment and foster community awareness about waste management. Overall, adopting EVs in waste collection exemplifies India's commitment to cleaner, greener cities, aligning technological innovation with environmental responsibility.

- Two new species of earthworms—*Kanchuria tripuraensis* and *Kanchuria priyasankari*—were recently discovered in Tripura, marking a significant contribution to the scientific understanding of soil biodiversity in the region.
- Kanha Tiger Reserve, located in Madhya Pradesh's Satpura ranges, is India's top habitat for ungulates, according to a Wildlife Institute of India report. Covering 2,074 sq km, it features lush deciduous forests, hills, and valleys. Historically under Gondwana rulers, it was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1933 and became a national park in 1955. Kanha boasts a vital corridor connecting Pench and Achanakmar reserves. Known for its rich flora and fauna, including Bengal tigers, leopards, and sloth bears, it is famous for saving the endangered Barasingha deer. The reserve also inspired Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book."
- Studies carried out in mice have demonstrated that two approved drugs — varespladib and marimastat — were effective in countering systemic and lethal effects of Russell's viper (*Daboia russelii*) venom either individually or in combination.
- The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) released a report titled 'How Extreme Heat is Impacting India', highlighting the growing district-level heat risks due to climate change. Unlike heatwaves or heat stress, heat risk encompasses illness or death likelihood based on heat intensity, exposure, and community vulnerability. Using a Heat Risk Index (HRI) across 734 districts and 35 indicators, the report reveals expanding high-risk zones beyond traditional areas. As 2024 was the hottest year globally, urgent policy actions like district-wise heat plans, urban climate adaptation, and early warning systems are needed to protect vulnerable populations
- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development recently released the Global Drought Outlook Report, highlighting the growing threat of droughts worldwide. It emphasizes that 40% of global land faces increasingly severe droughts, with economic costs rising by 3% to 7.5% annually. Projected losses could increase by at least 35% by 2035. Since 1980, 37% of land has experienced significant soil moisture loss, and water levels in rivers and aquifers are declining globally. Despite representing only 6% of natural disasters, droughts account for 34% of disaster-related deaths, especially impacting vulnerable regions like Sub-Saharan Africa.
- The rising demand for agarwood has caused widespread overharvesting, putting wild populations of *Aquilaria malaccensis* at risk of extinction. This tree, valued for its fragrant resin, produces the aroma as a defense against mold infection. Known as Oud, Gaharu, or Agar, it is highly prized globally for its use in incense and traditional medicine. Wild agarwood takes nearly a decade to mature and is mainly found in Northeast India. Due to overharvesting, it is now classified as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and listed on CITES Appendix II. Conservation efforts are crucial to prevent its extinction and protect this precious resource.
- The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), launched in March 2024 by India under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), aims to conserve seven major big cat species globally—Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma. India, home to over 70% of the world's tigers, has reversed drastic tiger population declines through Project Tiger since 1973. IBCA fosters cooperation across 95 range countries, promotes anti-poaching, habitat conservation, and capacity building. With ₹150 crore allocated, 25 countries had joined by September 2024. In June 2025, India hosted the first IBCA Assembly, confirming IBCA's HQ in India and India's leadership in wildlife diplomacy. India was endorsed as the IBCA President (Bhupender Yadav), and SP Yadav was appointed as Director General.
- India's Green India Mission (GIM), launched in 2014 under the NAPCC, aims to increase forest/tree cover by 5 million hectares and improve the quality of another 5 million. Revised in 2025, it now targets ecologically vulnerable regions like the Aravallis, Himalayas, Western Ghats,

and mangroves. The Aravalli Green Wall spans 8 lakh hectares across 29 districts. GIM supports afforestation, carbon sequestration, groundwater recharge, and land restoration. It aligns with India's Paris Agreement commitments, aiming to create a 2.5–3 billion tonne CO<sub>2</sub> sink. To date, 11.22 million hectares have been afforested, supporting ecosystem services and sustainable rural livelihoods.

- The Northeast region is emerging as a key hub for critical minerals essential for clean energy, advanced electronics, and defense applications. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has identified 38 mineral blocks in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, ready for exploration, with seven blocks already auctioned to companies like Vedanta, Star Cements, and Oil India Limited. These sites contain critical minerals like graphite, vanadium, and rare-earth elements (REEs) crucial for batteries, permanent magnets, semiconductors, and advanced alloys. The region's unique geological identity makes it an attractive destination for mineral development, supporting India's ambition for a swift transition to clean energy technologies
- According to the WMO's 2024 State of Climate in Asia report, the continent experienced its warmest or second warmest year on record, with temperatures rising by 1.04°C above the 30-year average. This intense warming led to extreme weather events, including 29 tropical cyclones, prolonged heatwaves, and heavy rainfall, notably in India. Glacial melt persisted, with 23 of 24 glaciers in High Mountain Asia losing mass. The report highlights the urgent need for climate action as Asia faces escalating impacts of climate change, threatening ecosystems, livelihoods, and water resources across the region.
- The WHO Global Tobacco Epidemic 2025 report, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, highlights progress in tobacco control measures, especially graphic health warnings under the MPOWER strategy. The report notes significant advancements in regulating e-cigarettes, with 133 countries now regulating or banning ENDS, up from 122 in 2022, though over 60 countries still lack regulations. Since 2007, large graphic warnings have seen the most progress worldwide. India received the 'O' category award for tobacco cessation efforts, alongside countries like Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, the Philippines, and Ukraine, recognizing their commitment to reducing tobacco use.
- Researchers at Bengal's Raiganj University recently discovered a new soil bacteria called *Bacillus ayatagriensis*. Isolated from the rhizosphere of mulberry plants, it plays a vital role in local sericulture and farming systems. This bacteria exhibits strong antimicrobial properties and significantly boosts seed germination, enhancing plant health and productivity. It shows promise as an organic farming agent, reducing reliance on chemicals. *Bacillus ayatagriensis* offers hope for farmers facing soil degradation and crop vulnerability. Its name is derived from Sanskrit, with 'ayata' meaning growth and 'agriensis' reflecting its agricultural importance.
- The Kerala State Wildlife Board recently renamed Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur as the Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary, making it India's first protected forest dedicated solely to butterflies. Spanning 55 sq. km of tropical and semi-evergreen forests along the Western Ghats, it hosts over 266 butterfly species, including endangered and region-specific varieties. From October to February, the sanctuary becomes a vibrant spectacle as butterflies migrate here, creating a colorful scene amid lush trees and wildflowers. Besides butterflies, it is home to elephants, leopards, giant squirrels, and numerous bird species. The annual Butterfly Migration Study in January or February highlights its ecological significance.
- Recently, the Chief Minister of Karnataka requested a report from the Horticulture Department regarding the threat posed by the black-headed caterpillar (*Opisina arenosella*) to coconut plantations across the state. This pest damages coconut trees by feeding on the leaves, causing dried patches and a scorched appearance in severe cases. It infests all age groups and spreads

rapidly through wind, especially during summer. Control measures include neem-based pesticides, nutrient management, and releasing parasitoids like *Goniozus nephantidis*. These measures aim to mitigate the pest's impact on Karnataka's vital coconut industry.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

- According to a recent study by the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), nearly 41 per cent of urban adolescents in government schools across northern India suffer from folate or vitamin B9 deficiency, which might be affecting their growth and development.
- India's DHRUVA policy (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address) is a transformative digital initiative aimed at standardizing and modernizing the country's address infrastructure. Building on the success of DIGIPIN, DHRUVA introduces Address-as-a-Service (AaaS), enabling interoperability, geo-tagging, consent-based sharing, and public-private innovation. It seeks to improve governance, enhance delivery efficiency, support e-commerce, and promote digital inclusion, especially in rural areas. The Department of Posts has opened the policy for public feedback until July 31, 2025. With integration to Aadhaar and mobile platforms, DHRUVA emphasizes user control and scalability, though challenges in adoption and privacy remain
- The Indian government plans to gradually wind down the National Polio Surveillance Network (NPSN), a WHO-established system of over 200 units, despite India being declared polio-free in 2014. The transition, starting in June, involves reducing units annually and decreasing financial support, with surveillance eventually integrated into broader disease monitoring.
- India is set to build its first indigenously developed Polar Research Vessel (PRV) through an MoU between Kolkata's GRSE and Norway's Kongsberg, enhancing India's polar and ocean research capabilities. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal emphasized this as a milestone supporting scientific progress, sustainability, and the 'Make in India' initiative.
- On May 4, 2025, India released two gene-edited rice varieties—DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala) and Pusa Rice DST1—developed using SDN-1/SDN-2 gene-editing techniques, which involve no foreign DNA insertion. While the Coalition for GM-Free India raised concerns about biosafety and exports, ICAR dismissed them, citing safety, historical consumption, and global acceptance. Unlike mutation breeding, gene editing is precise and poses fewer risks. Over 30 countries, including the EU, consider such crops safe. The rice types are non-Basmati, so export risk is minimal, and India is prioritizing domestic benefits over a small EU market.
- With global warming and declining anthropogenic sulphur emissions, natural sources like Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS)—a sulphur compound produced by oceanic phytoplankton—are gaining attention. DMS contributes ~40% of atmospheric sulphur and aids cloud formation, reflecting sunlight and cooling the Earth. A 2024 study by IITM Pune and European scientists using machine learning and 8 climate models (1850–2100) suggests that despite reduced oceanic DMS, atmospheric levels may rise due to increasing sea temperatures and winds. This challenges earlier models and highlights DMS as a potential dominant sulphur source. The findings are key for India's climate forecasting, mitigation, and marine policies.
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an escalating global crisis, potentially costing \$1 trillion by 2050. With current antibiotics losing effectiveness, extreme environments like hot springs offer promising grounds for discovering new antibiotic-producing microbes. A recent study by VIT at Rajgir hot springs, Bihar, identified diverse thermophilic bacteria, notably Actinobacteria comprising over 40% of the microbial community. Seven strains showed antimicrobial activity against major pathogens. Using techniques like 16S rRNA metagenomics and GC-MS, researchers isolated Diethyl phthalate—effective against *Listeria*. This research underscores hot

springs' potential in medicine, industry, and sustainable agriculture through bioactive compounds and thermophile-derived enzymes.

- With India's urban population projected to hit 850 million by 2051 and rooftop solar (RTS) space constraints limiting scalability, Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) offers a land-neutral, dual-purpose solar solution. BIPV replaces traditional construction materials like glass and tiles with solar panels integrated into facades, roofs, windows, and balconies, enabling power generation without extra space. Though India has a few pilot projects, its BIPV potential is 309 GW. Key challenges include high initial costs, policy voids, and lack of awareness. The way forward involves financial incentives, inclusion in building codes, and indigenous manufacturing through policy, training, and pilot innovation.
- BharatGen is India's first government-backed multimodal Large Language Model (LLM), developed under NM-ICPS at IIT Bombay and supported by DST. Built to process text, speech, and images in 22 Indian languages, it aligns with PM Modi's "Techade" vision of innovation-driven inclusion. BharatGen empowers sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance by promoting regional language AI access, reducing reliance on foreign models, and fostering grassroots entrepreneurship. Integrated with national policies like Digital India and NEP 2020, it also supports 25+ Tech Hubs and youth via AI hackathons, ensuring ethical, culturally rooted, and inclusive digital transformation for all of Bharat.
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- Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) is a pollution control technology that removes sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) from the flue gases emitted by coal-fired thermal power plants. It typically uses absorbents like lime, limestone slurry, or ammonia to scrub SO<sub>2</sub> from exhaust gases. A high-powered expert committee in India, led by Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay Sood, has recently recommended ending the decade-old mandate requiring FGD installation in all thermal power plants. This shift is driven by high installation costs, delays, and India's usage of low-sulphur coal, along with an increasing focus on flexible emission norms, renewable energy, and cost-effective low-emission technologies.
- The Indian Air Force is considering acquiring Israel's 'Ice Breaker' missile, developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, to boost its air strike precision and strategic deterrence amid regional security concerns. The Ice Breaker is an air-launched cruise missile with a 300 km range, high subsonic speed, and a 250 lb warhead. Lightweight and compact (~4 meters, under 400 kg), it can be launched from fighter jets, drones, helicopters, naval vessels, and ground vehicles. Equipped with AI, an electro-optical seeker, and stealth features, it offers autonomous and networked multi-missile attack capabilities, enhancing India's deep strike, low-detection, and multi-domain warfare readiness.
- The Indian Navy will commission the anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft (ASW-SWC) ship Arnala on June 18, 2025, at Visakhapatnam. Presided over by CDS Gen Anil Chauhan and hosted by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, this event marks the induction of the first of sixteen such vessels. Built by GRSE and L&T under a PPP, Arnala exemplifies India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, featuring over 80% indigenous content. Named after the historic Arnala Fort, it reflects India's maritime heritage. Equipped for ASW, surveillance, and rescue, Arnala enhances India's coastal security and maritime self-reliance in the Indian Ocean.
- Recently, IIT Kharagpur associate professor and students developed DRUM, a web app for urban green mobility. Similar to Google Maps, DRUM offers five route options: shortest, fastest, least

exposure to air pollution (LEAP), least energy consumption route (LECR), and a suggested route combining all factors. It fetches real-time traffic and pollution data using GraphHopper and Mapbox, with data from CPCB and the World Air Quality Index. The app estimates pollution in unmonitored areas through segment-wise interpolation. Testing in Delhi's corridors revealed that shorter or faster routes often pass through more polluted zones, highlighting trade-offs between speed and air quality.

- NASA's 2001 Mars Odyssey orbiter captured a striking image of Arsia Mons, a massive shield volcano in Mars's Tharsis region. Standing over 18 km high with a 300 km base, it is one of the largest volcanoes in the solar system. Arsia Mons has a wide caldera and shows signs of billions of years of activity, with recent eruptions within the last 2 million years. Its lava flows and volcanic features reveal a complex eruptive history.
- Researchers at IISER Bhopal discovered that the BBX32 gene helps seedlings time their emergence from soil by keeping the shoot hook closed until light is detected. Ethylene activates BBX32 underground, while light stabilizes it by preventing degradation from COP1. BBX32, in turn, boosts PIF3, which activates HLS1, crucial for hook maintenance. In soil-like tests, overexpressed BBX32 led to better seedling survival. This mechanism ensures safe emergence and holds potential for breeding climate-resilient crops. The study, published in *New Phytologist*, highlights how BBX32 regulation aids in germination through precision timing and stress adaptation.
- A U.S. study found that weight-loss drugs semaglutide and tirzepatide are less effective in real life than in clinical trials due to patient discontinuation and lower dosages. Researchers from Cleveland Clinic observed that stopping treatment early or using reduced doses diminishes weight loss outcomes. Experts highlight that strict follow-up in trials ensures better results, unlike real-world settings where compliance is lower, especially in India due to costs and lifestyle factors. Proper adherence is crucial for these medications to work effectively.
- Neutrinos, elusive subatomic particles discovered in 1938, challenge the Standard Model of physics by possessing a small but non-zero mass, proven through oscillation experiments that earned the 2015 Nobel Prize. There are three known neutrino types that can transform into one another during travel. Direct mass measurement, unlike oscillation methods, requires observing beta decay in tritium, as done in the KATRIN experiment in Germany. Despite detection difficulties due to weak interactions, KATRIN has set a new upper limit of 0.8 eV for neutrino mass, offering model-independent results and surpassing previous experiments in precision, with further analysis still underway.
- At WWDC 2025, Apple launched iOS 26 and its new Liquid Glass UI, a sleek, translucent interface amid rising criticism of its AI stagnation. While rivals like Google, Microsoft, and OpenAI push ahead, Apple clings to Siri and a privacy-first AI strategy that limits personalization. New features like Call Screening and Hold Assist are functional but fall short of innovation. Analysts fear Apple risks repeating Nokia's downfall by failing to reinvent its AI core. Despite strong hardware dominance, its Vision Pro lags behind sleeker AI wearables. Even the inclusion of ChatGPT hints at a strategic retreat rather than leadership.
- Ola's Krutim launched an artificial intelligence (AI) tool, Kruti. Developed on an in-house model similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT, it offers tools to pay bills, book a cab among other features. Clarifying on data and security concerns, the company said that the methods used are secure and data compliant. The AI will also pick up the user's behaviour based on ordering patterns, searches and other things to give personalised and contextual suggestions.
- The Delhi government plans to develop India's first integrated E-Waste Eco Park at Holambi Kalan, covering 11.4 acres. Built under a PPP model by DSIIDC, it will process up to 51,000 metric

tonnes of e-waste annually. The facility will include zones for dismantling, refurbishing, component testing, plastic recovery, and second-hand electronics markets. It aims to create over 1,000 green jobs and training centers for informal recyclers. The project will manage nearly 25% of Delhi's e-waste, reduce landfill dependency, and promote sustainable resource recovery, setting a national benchmark for smart waste management.

- Recent research suggests that statins could reduce the death rate by nearly 40% in critically ill sepsis patients. Statins are medications primarily used to lower cholesterol by blocking an enzyme in the liver, reducing LDL or "bad" cholesterol. They help prevent plaque buildup in arteries, decreasing the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Additionally, statins have anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, and antithrombotic properties, which may help mitigate excessive inflammation in sepsis. While they offer many cardiovascular benefits, statins can interact with other drugs and cause side effects like muscle damage. Their potential role in improving outcomes in sepsis is an exciting development in medical research.
- Recently, Krutrim launched India's first agentic AI, Kruti, a sophisticated GenAI system that autonomously manages complex tasks, makes decisions, and solves problems using advanced reasoning. Kruti ingests data from multiple sources, enabling proactive, action-driven responses while integrating seamlessly with backend systems. It can book cabs, pay bills, generate images, and support 13 Indian languages, including voice and text inputs. With retentive memory, personalized interactions, and adaptive learning, Kruti enhances user experience across various applications. Its embeddable SDK allows developers to incorporate its capabilities easily, marking a significant breakthrough in India's AI landscape.
- The Rudrastra VTOL combat drone, developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Ltd., is India's latest indigenous unmanned system designed for modern asymmetric warfare. In the wake of Operation Sindoor (May 2025), its hybrid VTOL design offers runway-independent operations with vertical lift and fixed-wing cruise capabilities. With a mission radius of 50+ km, 90-minute endurance, autonomous navigation, and precision airburst warheads, it is suited for tactical, deep-strike, and urban missions. Successfully tested at Pokhran, Rudrastra is poised for Army induction, reflecting India's push for defence self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- India has achieved a significant breakthrough in quantum communication, demonstrating secure, real-time quantum cybersecurity applications. The Defence Ministry announced that over a 1 km free-space optical link at IIT-Delhi, India successfully established quantum entanglement. This milestone marks India's entry into a new quantum era, with potential uses in long-distance Quantum Key Distribution, quantum networks, and the future quantum internet. The experiment achieved a secure key rate of 240 bits/sec with a low error rate. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised this achievement, emphasizing its importance for national security, defense, and technological advancement.
- The fifth FPV 'Achal' was launched by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on June 16, 2025, in Goa. This vessel, part of a series of eight, features over 60% indigenous components, measuring 52 meters long with a displacement of 320 tons. Powered by a CPP system, it can reach speeds of 27 knots, and is designed for protection, surveillance, and offshore safeguarding. Built at a cost of Rs 473 crore, 'Achal' exemplifies India's Aatmanirbharta in defence manufacturing, boosting local industry and employment. The launch was attended by senior officials, including GSL CMD Shri Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay.
- Researchers developed a simple, one-step method to produce nano-cups for cancer treatment. Using room temperature and common chemicals like Vitamin C, they carve out nano-cup structures from a metal-organic framework called ZIF-8. These nano-cups are coated with

polyethylene glycol (PEG), making them safe, stable, and compatible with blood. They strongly absorb near-infrared light, allowing them to generate heat and destroy cancer cells effectively through photothermal therapy. This process is faster, safer, and easier than older methods, promising improved cancer treatments with fewer side effects and better stability for clinical use

- A new study suggests dogs could aid in public health by detecting early Valley Fever spread. Valley Fever, or coccidioidomycosis, is caused by fungi in soil, mainly in the southwestern U.S. and parts of Central and South America. Spores become airborne through soil disruption, inhaled by humans and pets. Most infected show no symptoms, but some develop flu-like or pneumonia symptoms. Severe cases may spread beyond the lungs, requiring antifungal treatment or surgery. Dogs, with their keen sense of smell, could potentially identify early fungal presence, helping to monitor and control outbreaks before they worsen, offering a promising tool for disease prevention.
- Google marked a major milestone in its Asia-Pacific operations by opening its first Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in the region, located in Hyderabad. This is only the fourth such center worldwide and will focus on cybersecurity, AI research, and combating online fraud. It aims to enhance digital security, protect critical infrastructure, and promote responsible AI development tailored to India's digital growth. Google's Hyderabad office was established in 2007.
- ISRO launched the 'Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025' with Hack2skill as the partner, inviting students and scholars to solve space-related challenges. Launched by ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, the hackathon targets undergraduates, postgraduates, and PhD scholars, excluding working professionals. The event features 14 challenges directly from ISRO, encouraging innovative solutions for India's space missions. The hackathon aims to foster creativity and problem-solving skills among young minds, contributing to India's space research and exploration goals. Registration is open on Hack2skill's website.
- In Kerala, a three-week-old newborn with the SMN1 gene mutation for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is receiving presymptomatic treatment with Risdiplam at SAT Hospital, marking a first in India. Prenatal genetic screening identified the mutation, allowing early intervention before symptoms appeared. SMA affects motor neurons controlling movement and muscle activity, and early treatment can minimize nerve damage and improve development prospects. The mother, an SMA patient, chose to continue the pregnancy despite the diagnosis. Kerala's health department is providing Risdiplam free to about 100 SMA patients through its KARE initiative, highlighting a proactive approach to rare disease management.
- India has made a significant breakthrough in green hydrogen production by developing a scalable device that splits water molecules using only solar energy. Led by Dr. Ashutosh K. Singh at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences, scientists used earth-abundant materials to create a silicon-based photoanode with an innovative heterojunction architecture. The device demonstrates high efficiency, stability for over 10 hours, and can operate at large scales, such as a 25 cm<sup>2</sup> photoanode. This advancement brings us closer to affordable, large-scale solar-to-hydrogen systems, promising a cleaner energy future for industries, transportation, and homes powered by renewable sunlight.
- 78th World Health Assembly adopted a landmark resolution recognizing skin diseases as a global public health priority, marking the first formal acknowledgment of skin health as a public health and equity issue. With 1.9 billion people affected—mostly in low- and middle-income countries like India—skin diseases remain stigmatized and underfunded. The resolution, sponsored by nations including Nigeria and Togo, aims to integrate dermatology into primary care, promote

culturally competent services, and boost research on neglected conditions. This global shift, especially in regions like South Asia and Africa, positions India to lead in inclusive dermatologic care and policy reform.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Maharatna defence PSU, has secured a ₹511 crore contract to acquire and operationalize the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) technology from ISRO through IN-SPACE. This marks India's first full launch vehicle technology transfer from a national agency to a private firm. SSLV, developed by ISRO, is designed for quick, cost-effective deployment of small payloads to Low Earth Orbit. HAL will build and launch two SSLV prototypes with ISRO support and eventually manage future missions independently.
- To address delays at toll plazas, the government has launched a ₹3,000 FASTag-based annual pass for private vehicles and plans to shift towards satellite-based tolling integrated with NavIC navigation. FASTag, developed by NPCI and NHAI, is a contactless toll system using passive RFID technology, auto-deducting charges via vehicle-mounted tags. Unlike barcodes, RFID doesn't need line-of-sight. Advanced models include ANPR-FASTag for barrier-less tolling and proposed GNSS-based tolling via satellites, though privacy and tech limitations hinder rollout. NavIC, India's GPS alternative by ISRO, uses a 7-satellite network to provide regional navigation, but faces challenges like satellite failures and limited operational coverage.
- India, under the Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives, is rapidly strengthening digital infrastructure to bridge the rural-urban divide and ensure inclusive high-speed internet access. In this context, BSNL has launched Quantum 5G FWA, a SIM-less, indigenously developed Fixed Wireless Access solution offering fibre-like broadband using 5G radio. Built on BSNL's Direct-to-Device platform, it enables auto-authentication without a physical SIM and delivers speeds up to 980 Mbps with under 10 ms latency. Soft-launched on June 18, 2025, in Hyderabad, it aims to expand to other cities by September 2025, reinforcing India's technological self-reliance and 5G innovation leadership.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recently launched NAKSHATRA, a high-performance computing (HPC) facility at the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM). Designed for advanced virological and genomic research, NAKSHATRA includes 12 compute nodes, 700 cores, and 1 petabyte of storage. It supports key bioinformatics workflows and accelerates AI-driven vaccine and drug development. By reducing genome analysis time from weeks to 24–48 hours, it enhances surveillance, outbreak response, and pandemic preparedness. It also supports Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratories (VRDLs) and promotes centralised sequencing data and public health precision.
- Recently, the FDA approved Lenacapavir (LEN), a groundbreaking HIV prevention drug. LEN is an injectable antiretroviral used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV-negative individuals at risk. Studies show it prevents 99.9% of HIV transmissions. Developed by Gilead Sciences and marketed as Yeztugo, LEN is administered twice yearly via injection. It works as a capsid inhibitor, blocking the HIV virus's protein shell needed for replication. Unlike daily oral PrEP pills, LEN offers a discreet, highly effective, long-acting alternative, improving adherence and reducing the risk of infection.
- India is pushing for electric vehicle (EV) adoption to curb road transport emissions, which contribute 12% of its CO<sub>2</sub> output, reduce urban pollution, and cut energy imports. EVs—comprising BEVs, PHEVs, and HEVs—use electric motors, lithium-ion batteries, and regenerative braking. Unlike hybrids, pure EVs emit no tailpipe emissions. India plans to scale EV production from 0.2 million to 2.5 million by 2030, targeting global leadership. Government schemes like FAME, PLI, and e-AMRIT support this shift. Despite benefits like energy security and job creation,

challenges persist in cost, charging infrastructure, battery recycling, and global competitiveness, especially against China's dominance.

- The Union Health Ministry plans to integrate India's Rare Donor Registry with e-Raktkosh to ensure the efficient management and availability of rare blood groups nationwide. e-Raktkosh is a centralized, web-based blood bank management system developed by C-DAC under the National Health Mission. It offers a scalable, modular architecture accessible to all stakeholders and includes over 3800 registered blood centers. Key features include Aadhar-linked donor records, real-time blood availability, and six modules covering donor tracking, testing, inventory, waste, and alert systems. This integration aims to enhance coordination among blood banks and streamline access to rare and repeat donors across the country.
- The Vera C Rubin Observatory, the world's largest digital camera, unveiled stunning images of the universe, including vibrant nebulas, stars, and galaxies. Located in Chile, it aims to explore the hidden corners of the night sky over the next decade. Funded by the US National Science Foundation and Department of Energy, it captured iconic sights like the Trifid and Lagoon nebulas, along with galaxies from the Virgo Cluster. The observatory plans to image 20 billion galaxies and discover new celestial objects, advancing our understanding of dark matter, named after astronomer Vera Rubin. This groundbreaking tool marks a significant leap in astronomical observation.
- Recently, France's French Blood Establishment (EFS) discovered a new blood group system called "Gwada negative," officially recognized as ISBT042. Named EMM-negative and colloquially "Gwada negative," it refers to the absence of the high-incidence EMM antigen on red blood cells. This rare blood type, identified in a woman from Guadeloupe, is the only known individual globally to possess it, inherited from both parents. The discovery adds as the 48th recognized blood group system by the ISBT, highlighting its medical significance. The ISBT, founded in 1935, promotes standardization and collaboration in blood transfusion worldwide.
- The Indian government announced Bihar's first small modular nuclear reactor (SMR) plant under its Nuclear Energy Mission, part of the 2025-26 Union Budget with a Rs 20,000 crore allocation. Bihar will be among the first six states to host an atomic plant, aiming to boost regional energy security and industrial growth. SMRs are safer, cost-effective, and flexible compared to traditional reactors, suitable for smaller grids. The project supports Bihar's power needs amid infrastructure challenges. Alongside, a 1,000 MW battery storage project will enhance grid stability and renewable energy integration. This initiative aligns with India's broader goal of expanding clean energy and technological collaboration with foreign partners.
- Five people have died from leptospirosis in Ernakulam, Kerala, over the past three weeks. Leptospirosis is a potentially fatal zoonotic bacterial disease caused by *Leptospira interrogans*. It's found in the urine of infected animals like rats, cattle, and dogs, and can infect humans through skin wounds. The disease is prevalent in warm, humid countries and can be transmitted through contaminated water or soil. Symptoms include fever, chills, and muscle aches, and if left untreated, can lead to kidney or liver failure. Antibiotics can treat the disease, but prompt medical attention is crucial.
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted Adamyra, the first of eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in Goa, marking a key step in India's maritime security and self-reliance under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. FPVs like Adamyra are agile, high-speed vessels used for coastal surveillance, maritime law enforcement, and search and rescue operations. Adamyra features controllable pitch propellers, indigenous gearboxes, advanced weaponry, and integrated systems like IBS, IPMS, and APMS. It enhances ICG's readiness and strengthens

coastal defense. As a fully indigenous build, it also supports Make in India goals, with seven more vessels planned for future deployment

- In 2017, a grape vineyard in Moldova showcased the unique effects of botrytis fungi, known as “noble rot,” which infects grapes to produce high-quality sweet wines like Sauternes and Tokaji. The fungi cause grapes to shrivel by evaporating water, concentrating sugars and flavors, which explains the labor-intensive hand-picking process and the high cost of these wines. Recent research by Sichuan University and the University of British Columbia revealed a surprising biological trait: botrytis fungi cannot be cloned because they possess an unusual nuclear organization. Unlike most organisms where nuclei contain complete sets of chromosomes, these fungi have nuclei that each contain only a subset of chromosomes, distributed across multiple nuclei within a single cell. This discovery was unexpected and challenges existing understanding of genetic inheritance. The fungi, part of the ascomycetes group, normally produce asci with eight genetically identical spores, but the distribution of chromosomes across multiple nuclei complicates this process. Researchers used molecular probes to determine that individual nuclei harbor only a few chromosomes, with their distribution varying among spores. This finding raises numerous questions about chromosome allocation, genetic stability, and the evolutionary advantage of such a system. These groundbreaking insights have sparked new interest in fungal biology, highlighting the complex and often surprising nature of genetic organization in fungi like Botrytis and Sclerotinia.
- Recently, Danish pharmaceutical giant Novo Nordisk launched its weight-loss injectable semaglutide in India, following Eli Lilly’s tirzepatide. GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) is a natural gut hormone that regulates blood sugar, metabolism, and appetite. Synthetic GLP-1 receptor agonists like semaglutide and tirzepatide mimic this hormone, activating similar responses. They increase insulin, reduce glucagon, slow gastric emptying, and suppress appetite, aiding weight loss and diabetes management. Developed after decades of research, these drugs have revolutionized obesity and diabetes treatment worldwide, with newer formulations offering greater efficacy and fewer side effects.
- Recently, scientists dated rocks from the Nuvvuagittuq Greenstone Belt in Quebec to be approximately 4.16 billion years old using two independent radioactive methods. Located on Inuit land near Hudson Bay, this region’s ancient rocks are among the oldest on Earth, providing valuable insights into Earth’s early crust. These ultramafic rocks, rich in magnesium and iron, are key to understanding mantle composition and early planetary processes. Due to environmental concerns and local community efforts, further sampling is restricted. The Inuit community aims to balance scientific research with conservation by establishing a provincial park, preserving this critical site for future study.

### **INTERNATIONAL ISSUES**

- Mexico holds historic elections to choose judges at all levels, aiming to tackle corruption making it first country
- Ukraine launched "Operation Spider's Web," a drone attack on Russian military airbases
- The Zangezur Corridor is a proposed transport route connecting mainland Azerbaijan to its exclave Nakhchivan, bypassing Armenia’s Syunik Province. Strategically, it enhances Azerbaijan-Turkey connectivity and aligns with the Middle Corridor initiative, boosting Ankara’s influence in the South Caucasus. Armenia strongly opposes it, citing sovereignty concerns, while India supports Armenia due to shared geopolitical interests and regional connectivity plans involving Iran and Russia. The corridor, still in the proposal stage, has heightened tensions in the region and competes with Iran’s North-South Transport Corridor, potentially affecting India’s Eurasian

outreach. India's growing ties with Armenia make the project geopolitically sensitive from New Delhi's perspective.

- Recently, a large chunk of the Birch Glacier largely destroyed an Alpine village in Switzerland.
- For the first time, MSC Irina, the lead vessel of the MSC Irina-class, is approaching a South Asian port. Built in 2023 and flying the Liberian flag, it is the world's largest container ship, operated by MSC. Measuring 399.9 meters in length and 61.3 meters wide, it can carry over 24,300 TEUs stacked up to 22 decks. The Irina-class surpasses previous records, showcasing advanced eco-friendly technologies like air lubrication, energy-efficient propellers, and innovative hull design. This pioneering vessel exemplifies MSC's commitment to green shipping and represents a significant milestone in maritime logistics.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. Established by the Lagos Treaty on May 28, 1975, in Nigeria, ECOWAS aims to promote regional cooperation, economic integration, and stability among West African nations. Its objectives include creating a common currency, fostering trade, and enhancing social development. Member countries include Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and others. Notably, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger withdrew in January 2025. ECOWAS also works to resolve conflicts through peacekeeping missions like ECOMOG, led by Nigeria. Its headquarters is in Abuja, Nigeria.
- The 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum recently concluded in Brasilia, Brazil. This platform facilitates dialogue among parliaments of BRICS nations, now including India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Iran, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Indonesia. The forum began in 2015 during Russia's chairship, with India hosting in 2016. Chairmanship rotates among members, with India set to lead the 12th forum in 2026. BRICS, formed in 2001, aims to enhance cooperation among major developing countries to challenge Western dominance. Recent expansion added Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, UAE, Egypt, and Indonesia as new members.
- President Donald Trump announced a new US-China trade deal focusing on rare earth minerals and magnets vital for American industries. The agreement also includes allowing Chinese students to attend U.S. universities.
- MSC IRINA, the world's largest container ship by capacity, arrived at Vizhinjam International Seaport last month, marking its first call to a South Asian port. Measuring 399.9 meters in length, 61.3 meters in breadth, and with a capacity of 24,346 TEUs, its arrival is a historic milestone for Kerala, showcasing the port's global importance. Kerala Chief Minister Vijayan highlighted this achievement as a testament to the port's strategic position and growth potential. Managed by Adani Ports under a DBFOT model, Vizhinjam has made remarkable progress in transshipment container handling, boosting regional trade and connectivity.
- Scientists have confirmed that *Khankhuluu mongoliensis*, dubbed the "Dragon Prince," lived around 86 million years ago during the Cretaceous period, predating *T. rex* by about 20 million years. Fossils found in Mongolia's Gobi Desert in the 1970s were recently identified as a distinct species. This medium-sized, agile predator weighed about 750 kg and measured up to 4 meters. It was a mesopredator that relied on speed, serving as a crucial ancestor to *T. rex* and revealing insights into the evolution and migration of tyrannosaurs from Asia to North America.
- Scientists have discovered TOI-6894b, a giant planet orbiting a tiny red dwarf star—an unprecedented finding. The planet, about 1.07 times the diameter of Saturn but with only half its mass, is extremely low in density and orbits very close to its star, completing a revolution in under three days. Located 241 light-years away in Leo, the red dwarf star has just 21% of the Sun's mass and is 250 times dimmer. This pairing challenges existing models, as small stars were believed unable to form such large planets due to limited material.

- Researchers at NIAB discovered that reducing the activity of ‘Cathepsin B’ (Cat B), a lysosomal enzyme involved in protein degradation, helps preserve the ovarian reserve—the finite pool of egg cells females are born with. Cat B degrades extracellular matrix proteins and is linked to neurodegenerative diseases. As ovarian reserve declines with age due to oxidative stress and cellular wear, lowering Cat B activity could delay egg loss and extend female fertility naturally. This breakthrough offers potential for developing treatments to slow reproductive aging.
- At the United Nations Oceans Conference in Nice, France, India announced that it is in the process of ratifying the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also known as the high seas treaty. This reaffirmed India's commitment to conserving and sustainably using oceans, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 14. India signed the BBNJ Agreement at the UN General Assembly in New York on September 25, 2024, making statement 3 invalid. The high seas, covering 64% of the ocean surface and about 43% of the Earth, are home to approximately 2.2 million marine species and trillions of microbes. These waters belong to no one, ensuring equal rights for navigation, scientific research, and infrastructure installation, such as underwater cables. The treaty, signed in March 2023, applies to oceans beyond national jurisdiction. Its objectives include establishing marine protected areas (MPAs), promoting sustainable use of marine genetic resources with benefit-sharing, environmental impact assessments, and capacity building. It mandates prior EIAs for activities that could harm marine ecosystems, emphasizing environmental protection and sustainable utilization of ocean resources.
- Recently, the Passage Exercise (PASSEX) was held in the North Arabian Sea, jointly conducted by India and the UK. Indian assets included the stealth frigate INS Tabar, a submarine, and the P-8I aircraft, while the UK contributed HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Richmond. Conducted in a vital maritime region, PASSEX emphasized the importance of maritime stability, protecting sea routes, and projecting power in the Indo-Pacific. It reaffirmed the strong strategic partnership between India and the UK in safeguarding global trade and regional security.
- India's Vice President actively participated in the 2nd Session of the IALA Council in Nice, France, representing the country in the global organization for marine aids to navigation. Established in 1957, IALA transitioned from an NGO to an intergovernmental organization in 2024, with 34 ratifying states. Its mission is to promote safe, efficient maritime navigation through harmonization of aids worldwide, fostering international cooperation, and supporting safety initiatives. With 200 members—including national authorities and industry stakeholders—IALA aims to enhance maritime safety and environmental protection. India has been a member since 1957, contributing to global efforts in maritime navigation and safety.
- The UK government has appointed Blaise Metreweli as the first woman to lead MI6, amid unprecedented threats facing the country. Metreweli becomes the 18th head of MI6, also known as SIS, which gained fame through James Bond. Starmer emphasized the importance of intelligence work today, citing threats from hostile ships and cyberattacks. The MI6 chief reports directly to the foreign secretary and is publicly identified only as “C.”
- The Prime Minister recently traveled to Canada to attend the G7 summit at the invitation of Prime Minister Mark Carney. The G7, an informal group of the world's seven leading advanced economies—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US—addresses global issues. The European Union also participates. Established in 1975, it initially focused on economic development but now covers topics like security, trade, climate, and development. The G7 has no permanent secretariat; its presidency rotates annually. Summits bring leaders together to discuss priorities, often resulting in communiqués that influence global governance and decision-making.

- On April 22, 2025, a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, claimed 26 lives, with Indian authorities attributing the act to Pakistan-trained terrorists. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global watchdog against money laundering and terror financing, issued a rare condemnation—only the third in a decade—highlighting the role of financial support in enabling such attacks. FATF, with 200 member jurisdictions, uses grey and black lists to pressure non-compliant nations. Following Pakistan’s past grey-listing (2018–2022), India is preparing a detailed dossier to push for its re-listing, with the upcoming FATF report set to include unprecedented acknowledgment of state-sponsored terrorism.
- Indian government launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran.
- UK lawmakers have taken a historic step by approving a bill that allows terminally ill adults in England and Wales to choose assisted death.
- Neighbourhood First policy guides India’s relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood. It focuses on creating mutually beneficial, people-oriented, regional frameworks for stability and prosperity through the building of physical, digital and people-to-people connectivity.
- Finland’s Parliament has voted to withdraw from the Ottawa Convention, which bans anti-personnel landmines, citing concerns over a potential military threat from neighboring Russia. The Ottawa Convention, also known as the Mine Ban Treaty, was adopted in 1997 to eliminate the use, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel mines, aiming to reduce casualties and suffering. It requires member states to destroy stockpiles within four years, clear mined areas within ten, and provide assistance to survivors. Currently, 165 countries are members, but Finland’s decision reflects evolving security considerations amid regional tensions. Notably, India is not a signatory to the treaty.
- Oman has announced plans to introduce a 5% personal income tax starting in 2028, marking the Gulf Cooperation Council’s first such move. The tax will target individuals earning over \$109,000 annually, representing the top 1% of earners. This shift aims to diversify Oman’s revenue sources and reduce dependence on oil, which currently accounts for up to 85% of public income.
- Iran’s parliament has proposed closing the Strait of Hormuz following U.S. airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites, though the final decision rests with its Supreme National Security Council. This comes amid rising Iran-Israel tensions, threatening global energy security. The Strait, a vital oil chokepoint, handles ~20% of global oil and LNG transit, especially from the Gulf to markets like India. Governed by UNCLOS, it guarantees freedom of navigation. India, importing over 85% of its crude, would face supply shocks, increased fuel prices, higher CAD, and inflation if the Strait is blocked, impacting transport, manufacturing, and power sectors significantly.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated India’s first maritime NBFC, Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), marking a significant milestone in India’s maritime development. Registered as an NBFC with the RBI on June 19, 2025, SMFCL aims to bridge financial gaps and offer sector-specific solutions to ports, MSMEs, startups, and educational institutions. Sonowal emphasized that SMFCL aligns with the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, strengthening India’s goal to become a global maritime leader. The corporation will support sectors like shipbuilding, renewable energy, and cruise tourism, fostering innovation, investment, and sustainable growth in India’s maritime sector.
- The UNESCAP-led civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) conference held in Bangkok aims for 100% birth and death registration by 2030, aligning with SDG 16.9. CRVS systems ensure universal, continuous recording of key life events, supporting legal identity, public health, education, and social protection. The Asia-Pacific region saw a 60% drop in unregistered children

under five from 2012 to 2022, though challenges remain. India improved birth registration from 86% to 96%, adopting digital platforms and legal reforms. The new roadmap focuses on digital transformation, data interoperability, and gender equity, enhancing inclusion, governance, and evidence-based policy-making across the region.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the South Asia Regional Centre of the International Potato Center (CIP–CSARC) at Singna, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, making India the second country after China to host a CIP regional centre. Backed by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and initiated by the UP Government, the centre will boost food security, farmer income, and rural employment. CIP, headquartered in Lima, Peru, is a CGIAR body focused on potato, sweet potato, and Andean tubers. The ₹171 crore initiative will promote R&D, tech transfer, and regional collaboration, complementing India’s agricultural goals and enhancing agri-based diplomacy.

### MISCELLEANEOUS

- Kheer Bhawani fair marks the annual pilgrimage to the sacred spring to seek the blessings of goddess Ragnya Devi. The annual Kheer Bhawani Mela will be observed at five Ragnya Bhagwati shrines across the Kashmir Valley: Tulmulla in Ganderbal, Manzgam and Devsar in Kulgam, Logripora in Anantnag, and Tikkar in Kupwara.
- Thailand’s Suchata ‘Opal’ Chuangsri was crowned Miss World in Hyderabad
- Olympian Srihari Nataraj set a new best Indian time in the men’s 200m freestyle, winning gold at the Singapore Championships with 1:48.66. The 24-year-old, an Olympian, also earned silver in the 100m freestyle, breaking the previous record of 1:49.73.
- A significant discovery at Raigad Fort—capital of the Maratha Empire under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj—has brought to light a rare astrolabe, or Yantrraj, highlighting India’s rich scientific heritage. Excavations led by ASI and the Raigad Development Authority unearthed this 1597 CE instrument near Kushavarta Lake. Crafted with Sanskrit and Devanagari inscriptions, and animal motifs denoting directions, the rectangular device showcases advanced astronomical knowledge during the Maratha era. Though found earlier, the discovery was recently announced, with plans to exhibit it in a Mumbai museum. This reinforces Raigad’s historic and scientific relevance in Indian history.
- The Indian Premier League (IPL), initiated by BCCI in 2008, stands as the richest T20 league globally, blending sports, entertainment, and business. Valued over \$11 billion, it boosts India’s economy, regional identity, and infrastructure. IPL 2025 featured 10 teams and 74 matches, concluding at Ahmedabad’s Narendra Modi Stadium, where RCB defeated PBKS to end their 18-year title drought. Standout performers included Sai Sudharsan (Orange Cap, Emerging Player), Prasidh Krishna (Purple Cap), and Suryakumar Yadav (MVP). Krunal Pandya earned Player of the Final, and CSK won the Fair Play Award, highlighting IPL’s broad sporting and social impact
- The Central Government launched UMEED Portal, a centralized digital platform for registering Waqf properties nationwide. This initiative aims to improve management, transparency, and accountability under the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Respective State Waqf Boards will facilitate registrations, which must be completed within six months, including details like measurements and geotagged locations. Properties registered in women’s names will be excluded from Waqf classification, ensuring compliance. Unregistered properties beyond the deadline may face disputes and referral to the Waqf Tribunal. The portal marks a significant step towards modernizing Waqf asset management.

- Capgemini's World Wealth Report 2025 highlights India's rapid economic growth, which is fostering wealth creation and prompting High Net Worth Individuals (HNWIs)—those with over \$1 million in liquid assets—to increasingly invest in offshore assets for better diversification, financial stability, and tax benefits. With 98% of next-gen Indian HNWIs planning to increase offshore investments by over 10% by 2030, the report reveals motivations such as advanced wealth management services and improved market access abroad. India added 20,000 millionaires in 2024, reaching 3,33,340 HNWIs. This trend signifies growing financial maturity, while raising concerns around capital flight and domestic wealth management reforms.
- Recent research at IIT Gandhinagar reveals that prehistoric hunter-gatherer communities thrived in Kutch, Gujarat, over 5,000 years before the Harappan civilization. Archaeological evidence shows early inhabitants relied on shellfish like oysters and gastropods, leaving behind shell-midden sites identified as significant cultural remnants. These sites, including Khadir near Dholavira, date back prior to the Harappan era and resemble coastal sites in Pakistan's Las Bela and Makran regions. The study highlights early coastal adaptations and tool-making activities, offering new insights into ancient human settlement and survival strategies in the region.
- The revamped "Hall of Nuclear Power: Atoms Serving the Nation" was inaugurated on June 5, 2025, at the National Science Centre, Delhi. Originally opened in 2016, the gallery now features over 56 interactive exhibits across 7,000 sq. ft., including 3D walkthroughs, reactor artifacts, and immersive simulations to educate the public on nuclear energy's science, safety, and strategic importance in India. It honors pioneers like Dr. Homi J. Bhabha and emphasizes India's thorium reserves for energy security. Managed by NPCIL and NSC under the National Council of Science Museums, it targets students, educators, and the general public to promote scientific awareness and nuclear literacy.
- Operation Shiva', a coordinated initiative by the Indian Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and Jammu & Kashmir Police, aims to provide full security cover to the pilgrimage route leading to the revered Amarnath cave shrine.
- Military contingents of India and Mongolia participating in an ongoing bilateral exercise in Ulaanbaatar are actively exchanging best practices in counter-terrorism operations and precision sniping, thereby improving interoperability
- Spain's Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos of Argentina won their first Grand Slam men's doubles title
- Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini won the French Open women's doubles title for the first time
- India's teen squash sensation Anahat Singh won the PSA Young Female Player for the Year 2024-25 along with World junior champion Amina Orfi of Egypt at the PSA Awards function in Birmingham
- Recent archaeological discoveries on Khadir Island in Gujarat's Great Rann of Kutch reveal human presence predating the Harappan civilization by nearly 5,000 years, dating back to the 7th–5th millennium BCE. A collaborative study using radiocarbon dating uncovered hunter-gatherer shell midden sites, stone tools, and temporary house structures, suggesting a mobile lifestyle reliant on marine resources. Tools made of non-local stones indicate early trade links, while similarities with sites in Oman and Pakistan point to Arabian Sea coastal interaction. These findings deepen our understanding of India's pre-Harappan prehistory, highlighting cultural continuity and the ecological intelligence of early human communities.
- The Madhya Pradesh government recently renamed the Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary after Raja Bhabhut Singh, a 19th-century Gond tribal freedom fighter, to honour his role in India's freedom struggle. A descendant of the Pachmarhi Jagirdar family, Singh used guerrilla warfare tactics in

the 1857 revolt, leveraging his knowledge of the Satpura forests. He allied with Taty Tope and resisted British forces until 1860, earning the title “Shivaji of Narmadachal.” Executed by the British, his legacy lives on in Korvu tribal folklore. This move acknowledges unsung tribal heroes, promotes inclusive history, and supports tribal cultural pride and heritage tourism.

- Carlos Alcaraz made a historic comeback to win his fifth Grand Slam at the French Open, overcoming a two-set deficit for the first time in his career. Facing world No. 1 Jannik Sinner in a marathon final, he saved three match points and triumphed in a five-set thriller. At 22, he matched Rafael Nadal’s record of five majors at the same age, calling it destiny. This victory cements his status among tennis’s elite and sparks talks of a new rivalry.
- MS Dhoni, India’s most successful cricket captain, was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame 2025 in a ceremony held in London. The Hall of Fame, established in 2009, honours cricketers globally for exceptional skill, leadership, and lasting impact on the sport. Dhoni, known for his calm leadership and match-finishing abilities, played 538 international matches, scored 17,266 runs, and made 829 dismissals. Under his captaincy, India won the T20 World Cup (2007), ODI World Cup (2011), and Champions Trophy (2013). He becomes the first Indian wicketkeeper-batter to receive this prestigious global recognition.
- Recently, India’s Prime Minister addressed the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) in Nice, France, organized by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). Established in 2019 under India’s leadership with UNDRR support, CDRI is a global partnership promoting resilient infrastructure against climate and disaster risks. Its mission aims to drive \$10 trillion in resilient investments by 2050, benefiting over 3 billion people. Headquartered in New Delhi, it has 46 members and 8 partners, focusing on sustainable development.
- The Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, recently witnessed the Maha Kumbhabhishekam ritual after 270 years, marking the revival of royal and spiritual traditions. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu in Anantha Shayanam posture, the temple blends Kerala and Dravidian architecture, with iconic elements like a 7-tier gopuram, gold-covered dhwaja stamba, and intricate murals. Dating back to the 8th–9th century, the temple was offered to the deity by Marthanda Varma in 1750. It houses 3 million palm-leaf manuscripts and gained global attention in 2011 for vault treasures. The 2020 Supreme Court ruling upheld the Travancore royal family’s custodianship
- The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2024 was awarded jointly to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Henry Roberts Johnson and James A. Robinson “for studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity.”
- Wimbledon prize money will increase by seven percent to a record pot of £53.5 million for this year’s championships as pressure grows from players for a greater slice of Grand Slam profits. The winners of the men’s and women’s singles titles will each receive £3 million, an increase of more than 11 % on 2024, while a main draw spot is worth a minimum of £66,000, up 10 %.
- World Day Against Child Labour, observed annually on June 12, since 2002 by ILO, highlights the urgent need to protect children from exploitation and ensure their rights. The 2025 theme is “Progress is clear, but there’s more to do,” emphasizing the need to accelerate efforts to end child labour. Globally, nearly 138 million children are engaged in child labour, with Africa and Asia most affected. In India, approximately 10.1 million children worked in 2011, a decrease from 2001, but poverty and lack of education remain key drivers of child labour.
- The Indian Army contingent reached Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for the Multinational Military Exercise KHAAN QUEST, which is scheduled to be conducted from 14th to 28th June 2025.

- Sri Lanka celebrated Poson Poya on June 10–11, 2025, marking over 2,000 years since Buddhism's arrival. The festival commemorates Arahata Mahinda's introduction of Buddhism in the 3rd century BCE at Mihintale, a pivotal event shaping Sri Lankan culture and religion. Celebrated nationwide, major observances occur at Mihintale and Anuradhapura, featuring offerings, meditation, lantern displays, and community activities promoting non-violence and unity. Buddhism, founded by Siddhartha Gautama, emphasizes enlightenment through ethical living, meditation, and wisdom. Its arrival transformed Sri Lanka into a major Theravāda Buddhist center, fostering spiritual and cultural growth
- The 19th Global Gender Gap Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum assesses 148 countries across economic participation, education, health, and political empowerment. Global gender parity stands at 68.8%, with Iceland topping for the 16th year. While health (96.2%) and education (95.1%) gaps are nearly closed, economic (61%) and political (22.9%) gaps remain wide. India ranks 131 with a 64.1% parity score—improvements in education and income, but setbacks in political representation. At the current pace, global parity is 123 years away. Related indices include GII, GDI, GGPI, and WEI, offering complementary insights into gender-based disparities worldwide.
- Bengaluru advanced seven spots to rank 14th in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025, up from 21st. The rise was driven by four major exits exceeding \$1 billion in 2024, led by Swiggy's \$12 billion valuation. The report, unveiled at Viva Technology 2025, highlights Bengaluru's growth in performance, funding, talent, and AI strength. It now ranks No. 5 globally in AI and big data ecosystems, reflecting the city's resilience and innovation potential.
- 'The Man Who Fed the World: Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug and His Battle to End World Hunger' is a biography written by Leon Hesser.
- U Mumba clinched their maiden Ultimate Table Tennis title with a commanding 8-4 victory over Jaipur Patriots, led by captain Bernadette Szocs's exceptional performance
- Tatjana Maria, 37, won the Queen's Club title, becoming the oldest WTA 500 winner.
- On May 9, Lieutenant Commander Yashaswi Solankee (27) made history as the first woman officer appointed as an Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the President of India. The President's ADCs typically include five officers—three from the Army, one from the Navy, and one from the Air Force—with none previously women. The ADC acts as a vital liaison, managing her appointments, accompanying her at presidential ceremonies, and coordinating communication between the President and various government and military branches. Her appointment marks a significant milestone in gender equality and reflects increasing opportunities for women in prestigious military and diplomatic roles.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), established in 1944 through the Chicago Convention, is a UN specialized agency promoting safe and orderly international civil aviation. It became fully operational in 1947, with Montreal as its headquarters since 1946. The Montreal Convention of 1999, under ICAO's guidance, unifies rules for international carriage by air, protecting passengers, baggage, and cargo. India joined in 2009, implementing its provisions via the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Act. The convention ensures airline liability limits, fair compensation, and strict penalties for negligence, replacing earlier international agreements and enhancing safety and accountability in global air travel.
- Recently, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) chaired the 137th Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) meeting in New Delhi. Established in 1978, the OSCC ensures offshore security by formulating policies, providing guidance, and addressing threats like terrorism and sabotage to offshore installations. It develops contingency plans for agencies to maintain

offshore safety, especially amid the sector's rapid growth in oil and gas exploration. The ICG, an armed force under the Ministry of Defence, was created to protect India's maritime interests within its territorial waters, including the exclusive economic zone. Led by the Director General, the ICG's responsibilities have expanded to address increased security challenges around oil platforms and fishing activities.

- Gyan Post Service, launched by the Department of Posts on May 1, 2025, is a dedicated postal service aimed at delivering affordable educational, cultural, social, and religious books across India, including remote areas. It supports the New Education Policy by making printed educational materials accessible and affordable. Available at all departmental post offices, it offers traceable surface mail for non-commercial educational content only, with rates starting at ₹20 for up to 300 grams and up to ₹100 for 5 kg packets. The service ensures transparency with tracking facilities, accepting only books without ads, bearing publisher details, and promoting the dissemination of educational resources nationwide
- A tragic aviation disaster occurred when Air India Flight AI-171, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner with 242 people aboard, crashed near BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad shortly after takeoff, causing India's worst air crash in a decade. The crash resulted in 24 ground casualties, with only one known survivor. The incident happened during the climb phase—a statistically high-risk period. The black box recovery is underway to aid investigation. The Dreamliner is a fuel-efficient, long-haul aircraft. International response involves the Montreal Convention on liability and national disaster protocols. Emergency teams faced intense fire, while identification of victims is ongoing through DNA analysis.
- The ICC World Test Championship (WTC), launched in 2019 to elevate the status of Test cricket, culminated in a thrilling 2025 final at Lord's between Australia and South Africa. Despite past underperformance in ICC events, South Africa triumphed, chasing 282 and winning by 5 wickets. Aiden Markram starred with 136 after a first-innings duck, while Captain Temba Bavuma battled injury to contribute 66. Rabada and Jansen were pivotal with both bat and ball. The win, South Africa's first ICC men's title, was hailed as a historic "Springbok moment," silencing critics and uniting fans worldwide with scenes reminiscent of a home victory.
- In June 2024, the CBI filed a chargesheet against eight individuals, including a French Embassy official in New Delhi and his family, for their role in a visa fraud racket involving Schengen visas from January 2021 to May 2022. In a significant development, India secured its first Interpol "Silver Notice" to trace proceeds of crime linked to the scam. Part of a 2023–2025 pilot project involving 52 countries, the Silver Notice aids in cross-border asset tracing and recovery. This marks a milestone in India's fight against transnational crime, supporting its anti-corruption efforts under PMLA and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.
- George Russell celebrated Mercedes' first win of the Formula One season in Canada
- Recently, Lucknow officially submitted its nomination to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) as a "City of Gastronomy." The UCCN, established in 2004, promotes cooperation among cities leveraging creativity for sustainable urban development. It aims to foster cultural diversity, resilience, and innovation, addressing challenges like climate change and urbanization. Member cities recognize creativity as vital for growth, forming partnerships across sectors. India has ten cities in the network, including Jaipur, Varanasi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Srinagar, Kozhikode, and Gwalior. Lucknow's inclusion would further highlight India's rich culinary heritage on the global stage, supporting cultural and economic development.
- India to participate in the eighth edition of the India-French joint military exercise named 'Shakti', which will be conducted at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie in France

- Tom Cruise, Debbie Allen, Wynn Thomas, and Dolly Parton will receive honorary Oscars at the 2025 Governors Awards for their lifetime achievements. Mr. Cruise, nominated four times, is recognised for his dedication to film-making and stunts. Ms. Parton earns Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her philanthropy
- India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana moved up to the top spot in ICC ODI batting rankings for the first time since 2019
- The SIPRI 2025 Report highlights escalating global nuclear threats amid rising geopolitical tensions and weakening arms control treaties. Nine nuclear-armed states—US, Russia, UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel—collectively possess 12,241 warheads, with 9,614 in military stockpiles and 3,912 deployed with delivery systems. All are modernising arsenals, including canisterised missiles for rapid launch. India increased its warheads to 180 and enhanced missile capabilities, while China's inventory rose to 600. The US and Russia reported slight reductions. A brief India-Pakistan conflict in early 2025 underscored the danger of misinformation escalating nuclear risks. Strategic treaty frameworks continue to erode.
- Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary body, annually confers the Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar to honor exceptional works in Indian languages. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar recognizes imaginative children's literature rooted in Indian ethos, offering ₹50,000, a copper plaque, a citation, and a shawl across 24 languages. The Yuva Puraskar, for writers under 35, promotes socially relevant themes in 23 languages with similar rewards. In 2025, 24 authors received the Bal award, including K. Shivalingappa Handihal (Kannada), while 23 young writers were awarded the Yuva Puraskar, like R. Dileep Kumar and K. Jayaprakash Hegde for their Kannada literary contributions.
- India ranked 71st out of 118 countries in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2025, slipping 8 places from 2024. Developed by WEF and Accenture, ETI evaluates countries based on energy security, sustainability, and equity, along with readiness factors like infrastructure and finance. India scored 53.3 overall, excelling in renewable energy (42% share), energy access, and reduced emissions. It ranks as the 4th largest renewables market and has seen significant clean energy investments. However, challenges like coal reliance, grid limitations, and import dependence persist. Despite this, India and China showed the most improvement among large economies.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% Government of India-owned entity under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, has been conferred the prestigious Digital Payments Award 2024-25 by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, in recognition of its outstanding contribution to expanding digital payments and financial inclusion across the country.
- An inscription dated June 28, 1456 CE, discovered at Mallikarjunaswamy Temple in Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh, by ASI's Epigraphy Director K. Munirathnam Reddy, reveals India's earliest epigraphical reference to a comet, likely Halley's Comet. Issued during King Mallikarjuna's rule of the Vijayanagar Empire, the Sanskrit text in Nagari script mentions a celestial event (Dhumaketu) and a meteor shower, prompting a land grant to a Vedic scholar to mitigate potential disasters. This record integrates medieval astronomy with religious governance and reflects early Indian scientific awareness. The comet reference aligns with Halley's 1456 appearance, predating modern astronomical understanding.
- India, as a major emerging economy, continues to attract global investment amidst shifting geopolitical and economic trends. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2025, India ranked 15th in global FDI inflows at \$27.6 billion despite a 2% dip, while greenfield project announcements surged, placing India 4th globally. Outward FDI rose significantly to \$24 billion,

moving India to 18th rank globally, with strong investments in semiconductors, EVs, and basic metals. These trends highlight India's growing role in global value chains, increased manufacturing appeal under the "Make in India" initiative, and the rising competitiveness of Indian firms in international markets.

- Carlos Alcaraz won his second Queen's Club title
- Marketa Vondrousova won the Berlin WTA title
- The annual JCB Prize for Literature, the most expensive literary award — Rs 25 lakh — in the country, has been shut down. The discontinuation of the award, which was last given to writer Upamanyu Chatterjee for 'Lorenzo Searches for the Meaning of Life', in 2024. Established in 2018, the JCB Prize for Literature, besides carrying a hefty cash prize, was a pioneer in celebrating Indian fiction, particularly translations.
- In 2019, Goa's State Cabinet declared the Ghumot as the state's heritage instrument, excluding monitor lizard skin, sparking an aesthetic debate on folk music. The Ghumot, a traditional membranophone, features an earthen clay pot with one open side covered by animal hide—historically monitor lizard, now replaced by goat hide—secured around the rim. It is warmed near a bonfire to tighten the skin, producing sharp beats when struck. It holds cultural significance in Hindu and Christian rituals, such as Ganesh festivals, pre-wedding ceremonies, and harvest festivals like Shigmo and Holi. Originally crafted and played by local tribal communities, the Ghumot remains a vital symbol of Goa's cultural heritage.
- The new International Olympic Committee president, Kirsty Coventry, pledged to strengthen and extend the reach of the Games, as Zimbabwe's Olympic swimming champion took over from Thomas Bach in a ceremony. Coventry became the first woman and the first African to be elected head of the Olympic ruling body in March.
- Dhinidhi Desinghu and Shoan Ganguly claimed top honors at the National Aquatics Championships in Bhubaneswar, setting 'India best' times. Dhinidhi, 15, improved her meet record in the women's 200m freestyle with a time of 2:02.97, just shy of World championships qualifying mark. She overcame a disappointing previous day to surge ahead after the first 50m. Shoan, trained under his father, clocked 2:04.34 to win the men's 200m medley, bettering his earlier performance. Karnataka also set a meet record in the 4x100m mixed freestyle relay, while Tamil Nadu made a mark in the medley relay, showcasing the rising talent across states.
- Indians bagged seven medals, including three gold, to finish on top of the standings at the Seychelles National Day boxing tournament at Mahe. India also clinched three silver and one bronze, finishing one medal ahead of Mauritius in the overall tally.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 47th Annual General Meeting of the PMML Society at Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi. He emphasized the importance of museums in experiencing history and proposed a "Museum Map of India" to unify cultural efforts. He suggested developing a national museum database, organizing capacity-building workshops, and forming a youth committee for fresh ideas. The PM highlighted the creation of Prime Minister museums, including that of Jawaharlal Nehru, and urged engaging influencers and embassies to promote heritage. He also proposed preserving legal documents related to the Emergency's 50th anniversary and planted a Kapur tree symbolizing growth and sustainability.
- India swept all three titles in the 2nd Asian Squash Doubles Championships, winning men's, women's, and mixed doubles events. Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar won men's doubles, overcoming a set deficit to beat Pakistan's Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal 2-1. Joshna Chinappa and Anahat Singh claimed women's doubles, also from a set down, against Malaysia's Ainaa Amani and Xin Ying Yee 2-1.

- Keshav Maharaj became the first spinner to scalp 200 Test wickets for South Africa during the first Test against Zimbabwe.
- A Zilla Parishad (ZP) school in Pune's Jalindarnagar village has been shortlisted as a finalist for the World's Best School Prize 2025 in Community Collaboration. Alongside, three other Indian schools from Karnataka, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh have also been recognized across various categories by T4 Education, a UK-based platform. The Pune school's innovative 'Vishay Mitra' initiative involves senior students mentoring juniors, promoting peer learning and fostering a collaborative educational environment. This recognition highlights India's commitment to innovative, community-oriented education, emphasizing student-led initiatives that enhance learning and mentorship at the grassroots level.
- The government appointed Parag Jain as the new chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's external intelligence agency. Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre, succeeds Ravi Sinha, who retires on June 30.
- MoSPI Celebrates 19th Statistics day to commemorate 132nd Birth Anniversary of Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis with the theme '75 Years of National Sample Survey'
- Prada recently admitted that its Spring/Summer 2026 men's sandals were inspired by India's traditional Kolhapuri chappals, a centuries-old handcrafted footwear from Maharashtra. These leather sandals are known for their intricate designs, open-toed T-strap style, and use of vegetable-tanned leather, often in shades of tan or brown. Originating in Kolhapur since the 13th century, they are handmade by artisans over six weeks, offering durability, comfort, and a custom fit. Prada's acknowledgment highlights the influence of Indian craftsmanship, which has long been celebrated for its heritage, artistry, and sustainable, long-lasting footwear.

