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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

Industrial Output Drops to 2.9 percent in February 2025, Hitting 6-Month Low

India's industrial production growth slowed to a six-month low of 2.9 percent in February 2025, as per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the government. This decline marks a significant drop from January's 4.1 percent growth, largely due to weaker performance in the manufacturing and mining sectors. Analysts attribute the slowdown to subdued demand and global economic uncertainties. The moderation in industrial activity may impact overall economic growth, raising concerns about the strength of the ongoing recovery.



2. Dr. Ambrish Mithal Honored with IOF 2025 CSA Medal of Achievement for Outstanding Contributions

Dr. Ambrish Mithal, a renowned Indian endocrinologist, received the 2025 CSA Medal of Achievement from the International Osteoporosis Foundation for his contributions to osteoporosis research. He pioneered India's first bone density measurement service in 1996 and has significantly advanced bone and mineral research. He also contributed to global vitamin D reports and led IOF Asia Pacific Audits. The award was presented at the WCO-IOF-ESCEO 2025 in Rome, recognizing his efforts in raising awareness and improving treatment for osteoporosis in India.

3. Milkfed Unveils Veera Mascot for Verka to Strengthen Its National Presence

Milkfed, Punjab's prominent milk cooperative, has launched a new mascot named 'Veera' for its Verka brand to enhance its national presence. Veera,

symbolizing a friendly Sikh boy with folded hands, aims to connect with consumers like the iconic Amul girl. The mascot was introduced during the foundation stone-laying of a Rs 135 crore project in Amritsar to expand production of items like Lassi and Curd. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also announced Verka's availability on global e-commerce platforms to boost accessibility.



4. Aamir Khan Receives Recognition at the 2025 Macau Comedy Festival

Aamir Khan was recently honored at the 2025 Macau Comedy Festival in China, a country where his films like 3 Idiots, PK, Dangal, and Secret Superstar achieved immense success. Attending the event with his girlfriend, Gauri Spratt, Aamir shared the stage with Chinese actors Shen Teng and Ma Li. During the festival, the trio participated in a discussion on the impact of comedy. Aamir's films have made him a beloved figure in China, where he's affectionately known as 'Uncle Aamir.'

5. ACI World Report 2024 Ranks Delhi Airport as 9th Busiest Globally

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport ranked 9th among the world's busiest airports in 2024, with 77 million passengers, according to ACI World. It has shown consistent growth, improving from 17th in 2019. This milestone reflects IGI's robust infrastructure, global connectivity, and rising passenger traffic. It remains the only Indian airport on the list. The airport connects to 150 destinations and also won the "Best Airport in Asia-Pacific" ASQ Award for the seventh consecutive year, reinforcing its global standing.

6. SC Sets Three-Month Deadline for President to Approve Bill Held by Governor

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The Supreme Court ruled that the President and Governors' decisions to grant or withhold assent to state bills are subject to judicial review. While the reasons for assent may not be reviewed, the decision itself can be challenged if based on extraneous or mala fide factors. This ruling came after the Telangana government claimed the Governor was delaying assent to several bills. The court emphasized that Governors must act within a reasonable time, ensuring the legislative process is not frustrated.

7. Morgan Stanley Revises Down India's FY26 Growth Forecast

Morgan Stanley has cut its December 2025 Sensex target by 12% to 82,000, still implying a 7% upside from current levels. The firm remains bullish on financials, consumer cyclicals, and industrials, while cautious on energy, materials, utilities, and healthcare. It projects a bull-case Sensex of 91,000 and a bear-case of 63,000. A potential India-US trade deal and rising domestic and global equity participation are seen as positive catalysts for long-term market stability and moderate growth.

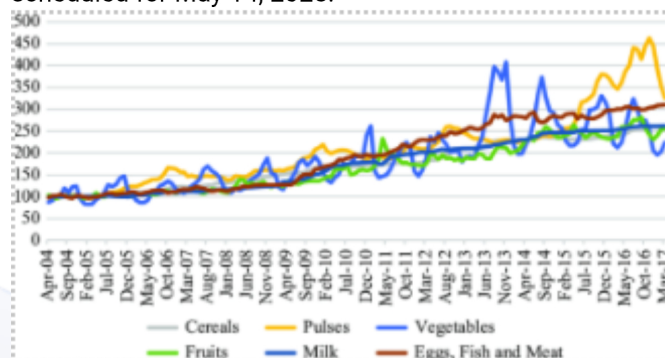
8. MoU Signed Between Ministry of Labour and Employment and Swiggy to Create Gig and Logistics Job Opportunities

The Ministry of Skill Development and Swiggy have partnered to launch the 'Swiggy Skills' initiative, aimed at upskilling gig workers and creating employment opportunities. The program will train over 2.4 lakh delivery partners through the Skill India Digital Hub and offer 3,000 direct jobs in Swiggy Instamart. It also promotes social security integration via the e-Shram portal. This public-private partnership marks a significant step towards empowering India's gig economy with sustainable growth and inclusive development.



9. Wholesale Price Index Figures for India Released for March 2025

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation for March 2025 stood at 2.05% year-on-year, mainly driven by rising prices in food products, electricity, and textiles. The WPI index dropped slightly to 154.5, with a 0.19% monthly decline. Primary Articles and Fuel and Power indices decreased, while Manufactured Products rose. The Food Index inflation fell to 4.66%. The final WPI for January 2025 was 155.0 with 2.51% inflation. The next WPI data release is scheduled for May 14, 2025.



10. India's FY25 Trade Sees Growing Surplus with US, Expanding Deficit with China

In FY 2024-25, the U.S. emerged as India's top trading partner, reflecting deepening economic ties and growing export demand. Bilateral trade rose to 131.84 billion USD, with India enjoying a significant trade surplus of 41.18 billion USD. Meanwhile, India's trade imbalance with China widened sharply to a record 99.2 billion USD, driven by a surge in Chinese imports and a drop in Indian exports. These trends underscore shifting global trade dynamics and India's strategic efforts to diversify its trade partnerships.

11. India's March 2025 Exports Show Modest Growth of 0.7%

India's total exports for FY 2024-25 (April-March) reached 820.93 billion USD, marking a 5.5% growth from the previous year. Merchandise exports rose slightly to 437.42 billion USD, while services exports surged to 383.51 billion USD. Major contributors included electronic goods, coffee, rice, and pharmaceuticals. Despite growth in exports, imports also increased, leading to a trade deficit of 94.26 billion USD.

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USD. Notable export gains were seen in non-petroleum sectors, while imports of items like silver and project goods saw significant declines.

12. Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme Held by Ministry of Ayush

The Ministry of Ayush, in collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission, conducted the Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Programme at Ayush Bhawan to enhance employees' public service skills. Held under the Mission Karmayogi framework, the interactive session focused on self-awareness, motivation, and leadership through discussions, teamwork, and real-life case studies. Led by Dr. Subodh Kumar and Shipra Singh, the programme emphasized practical learning and aimed to build a more efficient, responsive workforce committed to improved public service delivery.

13. Union Minister Launches New Athlete Passport Management Unit

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) at NDTL, New Delhi, marking a major step in India's anti-doping efforts. The APMU will monitor athletes' biological data through the Athlete Biological Passport system, aligning with WADA standards. As the 17th unit globally, it will support clean sports, regional collaboration, and awareness, especially across the Global South. The initiative also encourages educational outreach on doping, reinforcing India's commitment to ethical sports and fair play on global platforms.

14. India Partners with Japan for High-Speed Rail Project

Japan will gift two Shinkansen trains to India for trial runs on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor, marking a significant step in India's high-speed rail project. The trains, from the E5 and E3 series, will be delivered in 2026 and used to gather data on driving conditions. This collaboration supports the future production of E10 Shinkansen trains in India under the 'Make in India' initiative. Japan will also provide low-interest loans for the project, which is expected to cost around 1.8 trillion.

International

1. India-Italy Boost Strategic Ties with Focus on Trade, Defence, and IMEEC

India and Italy have agreed to enhance cooperation in trade, defence, clean energy, and high technology, with a focus on advancing the India-Middle-East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani held talks under the Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025-29, emphasizing collaboration in areas such as AI, cyber, digital technologies, renewable energy, and education. They also discussed global and regional issues and Italy's continued interest in the Indo-Pacific.



2. Trump Administration Halts 2.3 Billion Dollars in Funding for Harvard University

The U.S. Department of Education has frozen approximately 2.3 billion dollars in federal grants and contracts to Harvard University after the institution rejected White House demands to restrict campus activism and shut down diversity initiatives. The Trump administration cited these measures as efforts to combat antisemitism. However, Harvard argued the directives infringed on its First Amendment rights and exceeded governmental authority. In response, the education task force criticized Harvard's stance, calling it an example of entitlement within elite academic institutions.

3. WHO and IDF 2025 Event in Bangkok to Address Tuberculosis and Diabetes Integration

On April 8, 2025, WHO and the International Diabetes Federation co-hosted a hybrid event at the IDF World Diabetes Congress in Bangkok to address the dual burden of tuberculosis (TB) and diabetes. The event highlighted WHO's latest guidance on integrated care, shared experiences from affected individuals, and discussed strategies for collaborative

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action in high-burden countries. Experts emphasized the urgent need for person-centered, primary healthcare approaches, as diabetes significantly increases TB risk and worsens treatment outcomes, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

4. Beijing Suspends Boeing Purchases as US-China Trade Tensions Rise

China has halted Boeing jet deliveries and purchases of U.S. aircraft parts in retaliation to U.S. tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese goods, escalating the trade war. This move impacts Boeing's shares and raises maintenance costs for Chinese airlines, with Juneyao Airlines delaying a Dreamliner delivery. Airlines may shift to Airbus or COMAC. Beijing, calling U.S. actions 'bullying,' may aid affected carriers. The deepening tariff conflict threatens the 650 billion USD U.S.-China trade, though Trump hints at a potential deal.

5. WHO Finalizes Proposal for Global Pandemic Treaty

After over three years of negotiations, WHO Member States finalized a draft Pandemic Agreement to be reviewed at the May 2025 World Health Assembly. The agreement aims to enhance global cooperation in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. Key proposals include technology sharing, a global supply chain network, workforce mobilization, and affirming national sovereignty. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros praised the unity shown by nations. The agreement highlights equity, health security, and global solidarity as essential pillars for tackling future pandemics.

6. China Imposes Curbs on Export of Rare Earth Minerals

China, which supplies 85–95% of the world's rare earths, has imposed export restrictions on seven of these critical elements. Announced on April 4, 2025, this move follows U.S. President Donald Trump's recent tariffs on global trade partners. Rare earths are essential for manufacturing smartphones, electronic displays, defence systems, and clean energy technologies. Given China's dominance in this sector, the restrictions could have major global economic and industrial repercussions, particularly affecting countries dependent on these resources.

Sports

1. Six teams are set to participate in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

Cricket is set to make its Olympic return at the Los Angeles 2028 Games after 128 years. The International Olympic Committee has confirmed that both the men's and women's T20 tournaments will feature six teams each. A total of 90 athletes per gender have been allotted, allowing squads of 15 players. The venues are yet to be finalised. Cricket last appeared in the 1900 Paris Olympics. Its inclusion alongside five other sports reflects its rising global popularity, especially after appearances at events like the Asian Games and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

2. India Secures Second Place Overall at the First ISSF World Cup 2025

India secured second place in the overall standings at the first leg of the ISSF World Cup 2025 held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, finishing behind China. The Indian shooting contingent earned a total of eight medals—four gold, two silver, and two bronze. On the final day, Saurabh Chaudhary and Suruchi Singh claimed bronze in the mixed team event. Other key medalists included Sift Kaur Samra, Rudranksh Patil, Esha Singh, and Vijayveer Sidhu. The next stage will take place in Lima, Peru.

3. Carlos Alcaraz Clinches Victory at the 2025 Monte Carlo Masters

Carlos Alcaraz claimed his first Monte Carlo Masters title by defeating Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in the final. The 21-year-old Spaniard made a comeback after losing the first set, finishing the match in under two hours. This victory marks his sixth ATP Masters 1000 title and a strong start to the European clay-court season. Alcaraz will now focus on defending his French Open title at Roland Garros. His win boosts his ATP ranking to world No. 2.



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4. Oscar Piastri clinched victory at the 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri secured his second Formula One victory of the season at the 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix, dominating from pole position. With the win, he climbed to second in the drivers' standings, just three points behind his McLaren teammate, Lando Norris. Piastri extended his lead throughout the race, finishing 15.5 seconds ahead of the competition. George Russell of Mercedes narrowly claimed second, while Norris, despite a penalty, took third. The race marked Piastri's 50th F1 start and his fourth career win.

5. ISL 2024-25: Mohun Bagan Secures the Championship

Mohun Bagan Super Giant secured the Indian Super League 2024-25 title with a 2-1 win over Bengaluru FC at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Bengaluru initially led with an own goal by Mohun Bagan's Alberto Rodríguez. Jason Cummings equalized through a penalty in the 72nd minute. Greg Maclaren netted the winner during extra time. This marked Mohun Bagan's second ISL title and made them only the second team to win both the League Shield and ISL Cup in one season.



6. Mirabai Chanu Named Chairperson of the IWLFF Athletes Commission

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu has been appointed chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation's newly formed athletes commission. Proud of the opportunity, Chanu pledged to responsibly represent and amplify the voices of fellow weightlifters while helping them stay focused on the sport. A two-time

Commonwealth Games gold medallist and India's second Olympic medallist in weightlifting, she brings valuable experience and empathy to the role. Despite challenges at the Paris 2024 Olympics, her decorated career continues to inspire athletes nationwide.

7. Saurabh Chaudhary Clinches Bronze in 10m Air Pistol at 2025 ISSF World Cup

Saurabh Chaudhary made a strong comeback to the Indian shooting team by winning bronze in the men's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Peru. Competing against top shooters, including Olympic medalists, the 22-year-old held his nerve in a low-scoring final. Despite a shaky start, Chaudhary recovered well to finish third, while his cousin Varun Tomar narrowly missed a podium finish. The medal marks a new beginning for Chaudhary after a two-year gap from international competition.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. DRDO Successfully Completes Release Trials of LRGB Gaurav from Su-30 MKI Fighter Jet

The DRDO successfully conducted release trials of the indigenously developed 1,000-kg Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from the Su-30 MKI between April 8 and 10, 2025. The trials demonstrated a range of nearly 100 km with high precision, paving the way for its induction into the Indian Air Force. Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat and ARDE, the trials involved support from Adani Defence, Bharat Forge, and MSMEs. The certification was handled by the Centre for Military Airworthiness and DGAQA.



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2. Madhya Pradesh Announces New Wildlife Sanctuary Named in Honor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

The Madhya Pradesh government has declared a new wildlife sanctuary named Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran in the Sagar district, covering 258.64 sq km in the North Sagar forest division. Announced ahead of Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary, it becomes the state's 25th sanctuary. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav stated that the sanctuary will enhance conservation, promote tourism, and create local jobs. The move reflects the state's ongoing commitment to protecting forests and wildlife while honoring Ambedkar's legacy.

3. Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 Wraps Up with Key Strategic Discussions

The inaugural Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 wrapped up on 11 April after a week-long session held at Karwar and New Delhi. Core topics addressed included maritime security, combat preparedness, and the Indian Navy's growing influence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the Navy's increasing responsibilities. Notable events included the flag-off of IOS Sagar and inauguration of Project Seabird facilities. The conference underscored Tri-Service synergy, strategic vision MAHASAGAR, and reaffirmed the Navy's future-ready and credible posture.



4. Siachen Day, Saluting the Heroes of the World's Highest Battlefield

Operation Meghdoot, launched on April 13, 1984, marks 41 years as India's longest-running military operation on the world's highest battlefield—the Siachen Glacier. Initiated to counter Pakistan's planned incursion, the Indian Army secured strategic positions in this harsh

terrain. The Indian Air Force has supported vital logistics since 1978. Siachen Day is observed every April 13 to honour the bravery and resilience of Indian soldiers serving in one of the most extreme and inaccessible conflict zones on Earth.

5. India Records Discovery of Six New Scarab Beetle Species

Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Germany's Museum A. Koenig have discovered six new species of Sericinae scarab beetles in India, published in Zootaxa. Found in Northeast India and the Western Ghats, these species contribute to understanding India's insect biodiversity. The research underscores the importance of species identification for conservation and ecological management, with some beetles serving as agricultural pests and others benefiting soil health. The discovery highlights the need for international collaboration in protecting natural heritage and promoting sustainable agriculture.



6. Blue Origin Successfully Launches Historic All-Female Spaceflight in April 2025

Blue Origin's NS-31 mission launched on April 14, 2025, with an all-female crew, including pop star Katy Perry and journalist Lauren Sanchez. The 11-minute flight crossed the Kármán line, marking the boundary of space. Other crew members included Gayle King, Amanda Nguyen, Aisha Bowe, and Kerianne Flynn. Upon returning, the women expressed deep emotional experiences. The mission, celebrating female empowerment in space, marked the first all-female spaceflight since 1963, inspiring audiences and symbolizing a powerful step forward for women in space exploration.

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7. Five Defence Personnel Awarded the Esteemed MacGregor Memorial Medal

Five Armed Forces personnel were honored with the prestigious MacGregor Memorial Medal for their exceptional contributions to military reconnaissance, exploration, and adventure. The awards were presented by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan at a ceremony held at the United Service Institution of India, New Delhi. The event also saw the launch of *Bravest of the Brave*, a book on Naib Subedar Chunni Lal's inspiring life. The ceremony celebrated the Armed Forces' enduring legacy of courage, exploration, and dedicated service to the nation.



8. Indian Navy Conducts Third Edition of Meghayan-25

The Indian Navy's Meghayan-24 seminar, held on March 28, 2024, in Kochi, highlighted its commitment to climate resilience and environmental awareness in maritime operations. The event focused on integrating meteorological science into naval strategy, launching the INDRA app for real-time weather intelligence. Senior officers, scientists, and technologists discussed climate-driven risks and solutions. Through such initiatives, the Navy aims to enhance preparedness, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen its strategic role in the Indo-Pacific amid evolving environmental challenges.

9. Kalam and Kavach 2.0 Defence Literature Festival Successfully Organized

The Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, under the Ministry of Defence, hosted the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam and Kavach 2.0' in New

Delhi on April 15, 2025. Themed 'Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms,' the event focused on defence technology, manufacturing, and future warfare. Key discussions included AI, cyber, space tech, and procurement reforms. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh declared 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms,' highlighting efforts to modernize the Armed Forces through technological advancement and strategic integration.



10. India Projected to Be the Fastest-Growing Major Aviation Market by 2026

India is poised to surpass China in air passenger growth by 2026, becoming the fastest-growing major aviation market over the next 30 years, according to Airports Council International. Driven by low per capita air travel and rising demand, India is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.5% (2023–2027), outpacing China's 8.8%. Long-term growth is also strong, with India forecasted at 5.5%. Despite a lower current base, India's expanding infrastructure and large population present immense potential for aviation expansion.

11. Defence Production in India Set to Reach ₹3 Lakh Crore by 2029

At a Defence Conclave on April 17, 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh emphasized India's vision to become a global military and economic power. Highlighting self-reliance, he noted major strides in defence production, with targets of Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029 and rising exports. Key reforms include indigenization, corporatization of ordnance factories, and support for start-ups via iDEX and ADITI schemes. Singh stressed strengthening global supply chains, promoting peace through strength, and advancing in areas like AI, missiles, submarines, and shipbuilding.

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12. India Chosen as Host for International Big Cat Alliance Headquarters

The Union Cabinet approved the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), headquartered in India, with Rs 150 crore support for five years (2023–2028). IBCA aims to conserve seven big cat species through global collaboration among 96 countries, scientific bodies, and partners. It promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building, sustainable development, and climate resilience. With a multi-tier governance model, IBCA strengthens biodiversity integration into national policies. It ensures ecological protection, supports local communities, and aligns with SDGs for holistic, inclusive, and long-term conservation outcomes.



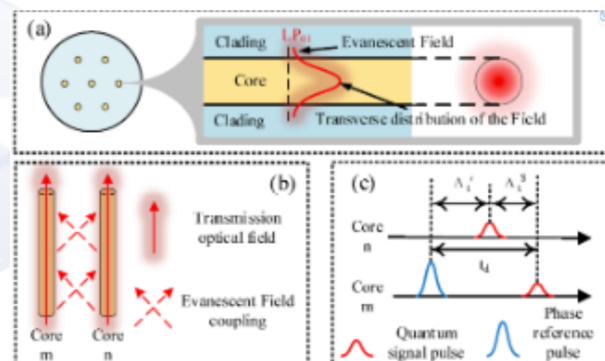
13. Gujarat's Surat Cuts Pollution by 30% Through Cap-and-Trade Model

The Surat Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), launched in 2019, became the world's first market-based approach to control particulate matter pollution. Developed with global academic partners, it allowed industries to trade emission permits under a cap-and-trade system. A study found that participating industries cut emissions by 20–30% and reduced compliance costs by 11%. The scheme

proved more effective than traditional regulations, offering a model for pollution control through market mechanisms while enhancing government enforcement and environmental outcomes.

14. India Achieves First Quantum Key Distribution via Multi-Core Fibre

C-DOT, in collaboration with Sterlite Technologies Ltd. (STL), has successfully conducted India's first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) over a 4-core Multi-Core Fibre (MCF). This innovation enables simultaneous transmission of quantum and classical data through separate cores in a single fibre, enhancing security while reducing infrastructure costs. The QKD link remained stable over 100 km, validating its efficiency. This achievement marks a significant step towards secure, cost-effective quantum communication networks, showcasing the strength of India's public-private collaboration in advanced telecom technologies.



Miscellaneous

1. Kavach 5.0 Set to Enhance Mumbai Local Train Efficiency by 30 percent

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the launch of Kavach 5.0, an advanced Automatic Train Protection system, to enhance Mumbai's suburban rail services. This upgrade aims to reduce the interval between trains by 30 percent, allowing more frequent services. Kavach 5.0 automatically applies brakes if the Loco Pilot fails to do so, ensuring safety even in adverse weather conditions. The system is expected to be operational by December 2025. Additionally, infrastructure projects worth 17,000 crores are underway to support this initiative.

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2. NITI Aayog Launches Strategic Initiative to Elevate India's Global Role in the Automotive Industry

NITI Aayog's report, 'Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains,' outlines India's ambition to boost auto component production to 145 billion dollars and GVC share from 3 percent to 8 percent by 2030. It highlights emerging EV trends, Industry 4.0 adoption, and challenges like low high-precision exports and innovation gaps. The report suggests fiscal and non-fiscal measures, including skill development, IP support, and global collaboration, to position India as a competitive global automotive manufacturing hub.

3. Razorpay Unveils Turbo UPI Plugin to Transform Digital Payment Experience

Razorpay, in collaboration with NPCI BHIM Services Ltd and Axis Bank, has launched the Turbo UPI plugin on the BHIM Vega platform. This integration aims to enhance digital payments by eliminating redirections during UPI transactions, enabling seamless in-app payments. Businesses can now offer smoother user experiences with reduced friction, leading to higher transaction success rates. Razorpay CEO Harshil Mathur highlighted that this solution minimizes drop-offs and delivers a fast, efficient, and truly frictionless payment experience for customers.

4. Tripura set to host vibrant Jatra Utsav celebration

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha inaugurated the five-day Tripura Jatra Utsav in Agartala, emphasizing the government's commitment to preserving traditional culture. Organized by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and Tripura Jatra Academy, the festival features 12 jatra groups performing mythological, historical, and social dramas. Saha highlighted initiatives like financial aid and skill training for artists. The event also includes workshops, seminars, and exhibitions, aiming to support and promote the folk theatre form and attract widespread public participation.

5. Emmy-Winning Upstairs, Downstairs Actress Jean Marsh Passes Away

Jean Marsh, the Emmy-winning British actress best known for her role as Rose Buck in Upstairs, Downstairs, has passed away at the age of 90. She co-created the

iconic series, which portrayed life in an Edwardian household and later inspired Downton Abbey. Marsh won an Emmy in 1975 and was the only original cast member in the 2010 revival. Known for roles in Doctor Who, Frenzy, and Willow, she was honored with an OBE in 2012 for her contributions to drama.

6. P. Sivakami Receives the Verchol Dalit Literary Award 2025

P. Sivakami, a retired IAS officer and writer, was honored with the 2025 Verchol Dalit Literary Award by Neelam Cultural Centre during the Vaanam Art Festival. Filmmaker Pa Ranjith praised her for boldly asserting her Dalit identity and addressing the challenges faced by Dalits and marginalized communities. Sivakami highlighted the antagonism Dalit writers face from non-Dalit authors and stressed the importance of translating Tamil Dalit literature into English for wider recognition. She encouraged the youth to believe in themselves and not follow external influences.

7. Nobel Laureate Mario Vargas Llosa has passed away

Mario Vargas Llosa, the renowned Peruvian novelist and Nobel laureate, passed away at the age of 89 in Lima, surrounded by his family. Known for his intellectual rigor and lyrical prose, Vargas Llosa was a key figure in Latin American literature. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010 for works such as Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter and The War of the End of the World. A former presidential candidate in Peru, he remained influential in Latin American political and literary circles.

8. Meghalaya Receives Dual UIDAI Awards for Outstanding Aadhaar Implementation

Meghalaya was honored with two awards at Aadhaar Samvaad 2025 for its outstanding performance in Aadhaar services. Recognized as the Best Performing State in Mandatory Biometric Updates for children and in verifying adult enrolments, the state showcased its dedication to accurate Aadhaar coverage. Shai Kubar War accepted the awards, while Dr. Joram Beda praised the team's efforts. The General Administration Department pledged continued collaboration with UIDAI to strengthen Aadhaar services and ensure access to identity and government schemes for all residents.

9. UP to Name Its Zero Poverty Initiative After Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

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On Ambedkar Jayanti, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath dedicated the state's zero poverty scheme to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, renaming it in his honor. Speaking in Lucknow, he highlighted efforts to uplift marginalized communities by providing housing, pensions, and essential facilities. Adityanath credited Atal Bihari Vajpayee and PM Modi for advancing Ambedkar's vision. He praised Ambedkar's dedication to the oppressed and criticized past governments for neglecting his legacy. The CM also emphasized the role of education in empowering the disadvantaged.

10. Tokyo Honours Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy with Prestigious Endoscopy Award

Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, chairman of AIG Hospitals, received the prestigious 'Legends of Endoscopy' award from the Japanese Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society at Tokyo Live Global Endoscopy 2025. He is the first Indian to earn this honour, recognised for his groundbreaking work in gastrointestinal endoscopy. Known for innovations like the 'Nagi stent,' Dr. Reddy has advanced endoscopic care in India and globally. He credited his team's efforts and emphasized continued innovation to enhance patient outcomes.

11. Jagannath Temple in Digha to Be Inaugurated by Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the Jagannath Temple in Digha on April 30. Preparations are in full swing, with accommodations reserved for dignitaries, including CMs, officials, and celebrities. Temporary helipads, security, and logistics are being arranged. The temple, modeled after Puri's Jagannath Temple, spans 22 acres and includes facilities like guest rooms and rest areas. Managed by a trustee board, it will also support local women's self-help groups. Tourists can't access government guesthouses from April 27 to May 1.



12. Telangana Leads as the First State to Adopt SC Sub-Categorisation

Telangana has become the first state in India to implement Scheduled Caste (SC) sub-categorisation, dividing SCs into three groups—Group I, II, and III—with 1%, 9%, and 5% reservations respectively within the 15% SC quota. This move, backed by a recent Supreme Court judgment, aims to ensure equitable distribution among SC sub-castes. Implemented through the Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2025, the decision was hailed as a historic step toward social justice, especially benefiting long-marginalized groups like the Madigas.

13. Daniel Noboa Secures Re-election in Ecuador's 2025 Presidential Run-off

Daniel Noboa has been re-elected as Ecuador's president with 55.8% of the vote, defeating leftist lawyer Luisa González, who claims electoral fraud and demands a recount. Noboa, a wealthy businessman with a tough crime fighting approach, will now serve a full four-year term after first winning a snap election in 2023. His controversial methods have sparked debate, but many voters support his stance on crime. This marks the third presidential loss for former president Rafael Correa's party.



14. Delhi Government Hikes Minimum Wages for Laborers

The Delhi government has announced a hike in minimum wages by up to 500 rupees for all workers, effective April 1. Unskilled workers will now earn 18,456

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rupees per month, while semi-skilled and skilled workers will get 20,371 rupees and 21,917 rupees respectively. Wages for non-matriculated, matriculate, and graduate workers have also been increased. This move aims to offset inflation and support workers. Delhi continues to offer the highest minimum wages in the country compared to other states like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

15. Tamil Nadu Sets Up Top-Level Panel to Enhance State Autonomy

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has formed a committee, led by Justice Kurian Joseph, to reassess Centre-State relations and reinforce state autonomy. This mirrors the 1969 Rajamannar Committee, which criticized excessive central control and recommended repealing Article 356 and strengthening the Inter-State Council. It highlighted the Centre's dominance through constitutional provisions and bodies like the Planning Commission. Reviving this discussion, Stalin aims to restore federal balance amid ongoing disputes with the Centre over issues like NEET, GST, and language policy.



16. NITI Aayog Releases Report on Tapping 25 Billion USD+ Export Potential

NITI Aayog launched a report titled "Unlocking 25+ Billion USD Export Potential - India's Hand and Power Tools Sector", highlighting India's potential to boost exports and generate 35 lakh jobs in the next decade. The global market, expected to reach 190 billion USD by 2035, offers major opportunities. The report recommends creating advanced tool clusters, implementing market reforms to reduce cost disadvantages, and supporting MSMEs. These steps aim to enhance competitiveness, promote the "Make in India" initiative, and establish India as a global manufacturing hub.



17. Justice BR Gavai Named as Successor to CJI Sanjiv Khanna

Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna has recommended Justice B.R. Gavai as his successor. Upon government approval, Justice Gavai will become the 52nd Chief Justice of India, serving until November 23, 2025. With a legal career beginning in 1985, he served as a judge in the Bombay High Court before his Supreme Court elevation in 2019. Justice Gavai has contributed to key rulings, including those on demonetisation, Article 370, electoral bonds, and the use of bulldozers without due process, emphasizing equality and constitutional values.

18. Santosh Kumar Named Deputy Chief Financial Officer at IndusInd Bank

IndusInd Bank has promoted Santosh Kumar to Deputy CFO and Special Officer – Finance & Accounts, effective April 18, 2025. He replaces interim CFO Arun Khurana and will lead the finance function until a full-time CFO is appointed. This move comes as the bank faces a ₹1,979 crore loss due to discrepancies in its derivatives portfolio, amounting to 3.1% of its net worth. The bank is also searching for a new CEO to replace Sumant Kathpalia, who received only a one-year extension.

19. J&K Reservation Policy Changes Spark Controversy

The Jammu and Kashmir government's recent reservation policy changes, increasing quotas from 43% to 70% and including the Pahari community under the ST category, have sparked legal and political backlash. Critics argue it violates the 50% reservation cap set by the Supreme Court, affecting merit-based access. The Gujjar and Bakerwal communities oppose the move, fearing reduced representation. Despite earlier