

Date : 2025-04-28

Weekly Current Affairs

English

## National

### 1. FY25 Sees Over 6% Rise in Engineering, Textile, and Apparel Exports

India's exports for FY2024-25 rose by 5.5% to \$820.93 billion, with March 2025 alone seeing a 2.65% year-on-year increase. The growth was driven by strong performance in sectors like electronics, coffee, tobacco, rice, tea, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and processed foods. Electronic goods exports jumped 32.47%, while coffee and tobacco grew over 36%. Non-petroleum exports rose 6% to \$374.08 billion. The data, released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, reflects India's robust export momentum across diverse industries.



### 2. PM Modi Scheduled to Visit Saudi Arabia on April 22-23, 2025 – Key Highlights

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Saudi Arabia from April 22-23, 2025, to enhance bilateral relations and discuss key regional and global issues. This marks his third visit and follows Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's 2023 India trip. The two nations share strong ties in defence, trade, energy, and people-to-people relations. Trade reached \$43.3 billion in 2023-24, and defence cooperation is growing, with major ammunition deals and joint naval exercises. Modi's visit will also address West Asia's security and boost investment and expatriate engagement.



### 3. Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey Named Vice-President of AIIB

Ajay Bhushan Prasad Pandey, former Finance Secretary of India, has been appointed Vice-President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), highlighting India's growing global financial influence. He will oversee investment planning, sustainability, and portfolio management. A 1984-batch IAS officer, Pandey led Aadhaar's rollout and held key financial reform roles. His appointment aligns with India's prominent role in AIIB, which has funded USD 10.45 billion across 48 Indian projects. His expertise is expected to strengthen AIIB's sustainable infrastructure mission.



### 4. India Introduces 12% Import Duty on Steel

To protect domestic steel industries from a surge in imports, the Indian government has imposed a 12% safeguard duty on non-alloy and alloy steel flat products, effective for 200 days. The duty follows concerns about rising imports, particularly after the U.S. imposed duties on Chinese steel. Certain steel items like CRGO and tinplate are excluded. The Indian Steel Association warned that excess steel production in countries like China and South Korea could harm Indian manufacturing. Concerns over price hikes and supply disruptions for MSMEs were also raised.

### 5. India's Smartphone Exports Cross ₹2 Lakh Crore Milestone in FY25

India's smartphone exports have reached a record Rs 2 lakh crore in FY 2024-25, surpassing traditional exports like petroleum and diamonds. This marks a 55% increase from the previous year, driven by the government's Make in India initiative and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. The growth has been fueled by global companies like Apple and Samsung expanding their manufacturing in India. As a result, India's mobile phone production also surged to Rs 5.25 lakh crore in FY25, up from Rs 4.22 lakh crore.



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## 6. Pahalgam Terror Attack: Cowardly Assault on Tourists by Terrorists

A deadly terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, in Baisaran, Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, killed 26 people and injured several others, targeting tourists during the peak season. The incident, which involved indiscriminate gunfire by militants, has caused widespread cancellations and panic, severely impacting the region's recovering tourism sector. The attack is seen as an attempt to disrupt the region's post-conflict revival. It highlights security lapses and may influence upcoming security reviews, elections, and political decisions in the area.



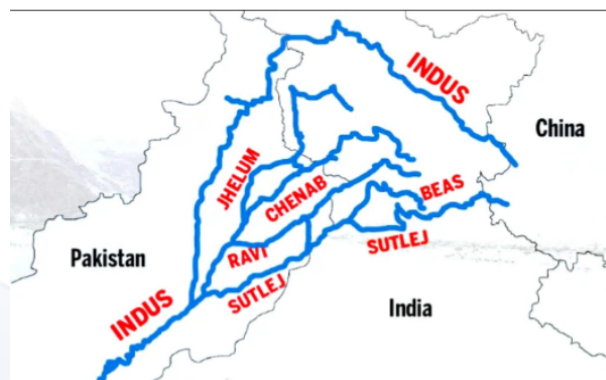
## 7. India's Biggest Cruise Terminal

India's largest cruise terminal, the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), began operations on April 21, 2025, inaugurated by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. With a capacity to handle 1 million passengers annually and five ships simultaneously, the Rs 556 crore terminal boosts India's cruise tourism and maritime infrastructure. Additionally, agreements for over Rs 5,700 crores were signed for VadHAVAN Port, focusing on container, bulk, and liquid cargo terminals. These developments support India's growth as a global maritime hub under the Sagarmala Programme.



## 8. India's suspension Indus Waters Treaty

India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan for the first time since 1960, following a deadly terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. The treaty, brokered by the World Bank, divides river rights between the two nations. India's move signals a strategic shift, particularly concerning hydroelectric projects like Kishenganga and Ratle. While the treaty lacks a unilateral exit clause, legal complexities remain. The suspension may escalate regional tensions and threaten Pakistan's water security, heavily reliant on Indus River flows.



## 9. National Panchayati Raj Day 2025

National Panchayati Raj Day, celebrated on 24th April, honours the Panchayati Raj system and its role in empowering grassroots governance. This year, Prime Minister Modi will visit Bihar to launch development projects worth over Rs. 13,480 crore, including infrastructure and welfare initiatives. The day marks the 1993 enforcement of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which established a three-tier local governance system. Events will include awards, workshops, and digital empowerment efforts. Key projects include LPG plants, rail connectivity, and support for Self-Help Groups in Bihar.





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## 10. India's Five-Pronged Strategy Against Pakistan Following the Pahalgam Terror Attack

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India has taken decisive measures against Pakistan, including suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, closing the Attari-Wagah border, and cancelling the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistani nationals. Additionally, India has expelled Pakistani military advisors, reduced its diplomatic staff in Pakistan, and initiated a massive manhunt for the terrorists, some of whom are confirmed to be Pakistani nationals. These actions aim to isolate Pakistan diplomatically and halt cross-border terrorism.



## International

### 1. New York City Honors Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with Dedicated Day

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary was celebrated at the United Nations headquarters in New York, organised by India's Permanent Mission to the UN. In a significant tribute, New York City officially declared April 14 as Ambedkar Day. Union Minister Ramdas Athawale highlighted the global recognition of Ambedkar's contributions to justice and equality. India's UN Representative, Parvathaneni Harish, emphasized Ambedkar's vital role in India's freedom struggle and his legacy as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

### 2. EU Expands Anti-Piracy Naval Mission Under Operation Atalanta

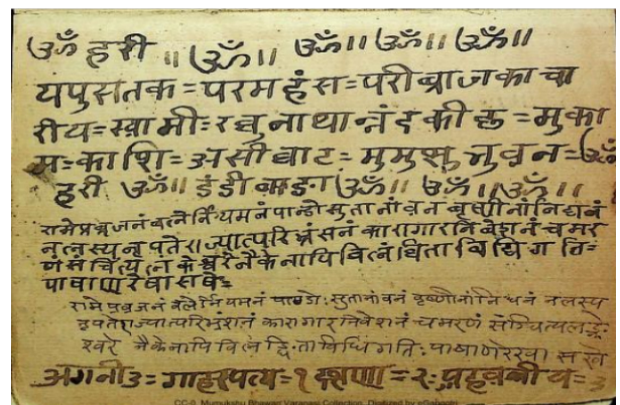
The European Union Naval Force Operation ATALANTA has proposed a joint anti-piracy exercise with the Indian Navy in May to enhance maritime security and coordination in the Indian Ocean. Vice Admiral Ignacio Villanueva Serrano praised the Indian Navy's role and emphasized the need for collaboration.

The exercise aims to improve interoperability through tactical operations and joint planning. He also highlighted successful past cooperation and stressed continued vigilance against piracy, especially off Somalia. A formal proposal has been sent to Indian authorities.



### 3. UNESCO Honors Gita and Natyashastra Manuscripts in Global Register

The Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra have been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, recognizing their global cultural significance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated this as a proud moment for Indians worldwide, noting that these ancient texts have shaped civilization and consciousness for centuries. Their inclusion among 74 new entries highlights their enduring influence and contribution to humanity's intellectual and spiritual heritage. Manuscripts were nominated by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute and officially recognized by UNESCO in April 2025.





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#### 4. Pope Francis Passes Away at the Age of 88

Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit pope, passed away at 88 after a prolonged illness. Elected in 2013, he was known for his humility, reform efforts, and focus on social justice. He championed climate action, interfaith dialogue, and inclusivity while facing criticism from conservative factions. His legacy includes empowering women, supporting marginalised communities, and modernising the Vatican. Despite internal opposition, he remained a global symbol of compassion, making the Church more accessible and aligned with contemporary humanitarian values.



#### 5. EUNAVFOR Operation ATALANTA

Operation ATALANTA, launched by the EU in 2008, addresses maritime security threats in the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. Initially focused on counter-piracy, its scope expanded to protect humanitarian aid vessels, monitor illegal fishing, and combat drug trafficking. The operation has enhanced rapid response capabilities and fostered international cooperation, including an upcoming joint exercise with the Indian Navy in May 2025. With its mandate extended to 2027, ATALANTA aims to address both security and developmental challenges for long-term regional stability.

#### 6. China Develops Explosive Device Powered by Hydrogen

Chinese scientists have tested a hydrogen-based explosive that produces a fireball lasting over two seconds—15 times longer than TNT—without using nuclear materials, according to a recent study. Developed by the 705 Research Institute under the China State Shipbuilding Corporation, the 2-kilogram device reached temperatures above 1,000°C during a controlled test.

The extended thermal effect is due to magnesium hydride, a hydrogen storage material. Though specific military uses were not detailed, the study noted potential applications for wide-area impact or targeted energy release.

#### 7. Klaus Schwab Steps Down as Chairman of the World Economic Forum After Five Decades

Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), resigned as Chairman and Board Member on April 20, 2025, after leading the institution for over five decades. His departure ends an era marked by the iconic Davos summit, which facilitated global dialogue among political and business elites. Despite criticism of elitism and controversies over internal culture, Schwab's vision foresaw the rise of populism and global discontent. Vice Chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe will assume interim leadership amidst challenges to WEF's relevance.



### Sports

#### 1. Nishchay Secures Silver with 19.59m Shot Put at Asian U-18 Championships

Nishchay, a rising Indian shot put talent, won the silver medal at the Asian U-18 Athletics Championships in Tashkent with an impressive throw of 19.59 meters. His achievement marks a significant milestone in India's youth athletics, reflecting the growing strength and potential of the country's field event athletes. Nishchay's performance not only highlights his personal dedication and skill but also represents the success of India's evolving sports infrastructure and investment in nurturing young athletic talent at the grassroots level.



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## 2. Oscar Piastrì Clinches Victory at the 2025 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix

Oscar Piastrì won the 2025 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at Jeddah Corniche Circuit on April 20, claiming his third victory of the season and taking the lead in the Drivers' Championship. Max Verstappen finished second, penalised for a Turn 1 infraction, while Charles Leclerc secured his first podium of the year in third. Key moments included Piastrì's strategic race management, Verstappen's penalty, Lando Norris' recovery to P4, and strong finishes by George Russell, Kimi Antonelli, and Lewis Hamilton in P5, P6, and P7, respectively.



## 3. Virat Kohli Creates History by Scoring the Most Fifty-Plus Runs

Virat Kohli set a new IPL record by surpassing David Warner for the most fifty-plus scores, reaching his 67th during Royal Challengers Bangalore's (RCB) seven-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS). Kohli's unbeaten 73 off 54 balls guided RCB to chase a target of 158. This milestone includes 8 centuries and highlights his consistency in the league. Kohli has scored 8,326 runs in 190 IPL matches, with an average of 39.27 and a strike rate of 132.26, continuing his stellar form in the ongoing season.

## 4. India Shines at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Lima

India's shooting team delivered an impressive performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru, securing 7 medals—2 gold, 4 silver, and 1 bronze—

finishing third overall. The competition, held from April 13 to 22, featured over 400 shooters from 43 countries. Gold medalists Suruchi Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary helped India qualify for the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha. India's medal winners included Suruchi Singh, Manu Bhaker, Arjun Babuta, and others in various categories.

## Ranks/Reports/Indices

## Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

### 1. India Demonstrates Digital Leadership at GITEX Africa 2025

At GITEX Africa 2025 in Morocco, India's Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary highlighted India's success in developing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including Aadhaar, UPI, and ONDC. He emphasised India's potential for technological collaboration with African nations, sharing expertise in digital systems and AI. Minister Chaudhary also engaged in discussions with Moroccan officials on AI, research, and skill development. India's initiatives like Skill India, DigiLocker, and Digital India were showcased as global best practices for inclusive growth and digital transformation.

### 2. MSDE and Microsoft Unveil AI Careers for Women Initiative

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, in collaboration with Microsoft, launched the 'AI Careers for Women' initiative to empower 20,000 women from Tier-II and Tier-III towns across six Indian states. The program offers a 240-hour AI curriculum aligned with industry standards and NEP guidelines, delivered through a hub-and-spoke model with 30 Centres of Excellence and 150 spoke centres. It focuses on technical training, hands-on experience, and career guidance, aiming to foster inclusive growth, leadership, and entrepreneurship among underrepresented women.





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## Science and tech/Space/Defence

### Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

#### 1. India and Slovakia Sign First Defence MoU via JCBL Group Collaboration

Airbornics Defence & Space (ADSL), part of the JCBL Group, has partnered with Slovakia to co-develop and manufacture advanced defence technologies for Light Tanks, FRCVs, and FICVs. This first defence MoU between India and Slovakia was signed during President Droupadi Murmu's visit. ADSL will lead indigenous production in India, supporting the Make-in-India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. The partnership focuses on technology transfer and co-development, aiming to boost India's global defence role and open export opportunities through joint innovation and manufacturing.



#### 2. ISRO-NASA's NISAR Satellite Launch Anticipated for June 2025

The long-delayed NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite mission, a joint project between India and the US, is expected to launch in June 2025, as confirmed by ISRO Chairman V Narayanan during a meeting with Science Minister Jitendra Singh. This groundbreaking mission aims to monitor Earth's surface changes with high precision. Before NISAR, ISRO has scheduled two key launches in May, including the EOS-09 Earth observation satellite, which will capture high-resolution images during both day and night.

#### 3. Govt Unveils Pilot Project for Barrier-Free Tolling Using ANPR-FASTag Technology

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has clarified that there are no plans to launch a satellite-based tolling system from 1st May 2025.

Instead, an 'ANPR-FASTag-based Barrier-Less Tolling System' will be introduced at select toll plazas. This system combines Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and the existing FASTag technology, allowing seamless toll collection without stopping. E-notices will be issued for non-compliance. NHAI has invited bids for this system, and its success will determine nationwide implementation.

#### 4. Forest Officials to Conduct Survey of Grizzled Giant Squirrel in Pakkamalai and Gangavaram Hills

The Villupuram Forest Division plans a population study of the grizzled giant squirrel in Pakkamalai and Gangavaram hills to develop a conservation strategy. The endangered species, protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, faces threats from habitat loss and poaching. The study aims to gather baseline data and support the long-standing demand to declare the region a wildlife sanctuary. Rich in biodiversity, the area is home to rare species of flora and fauna, highlighting the need for protection.



#### 5. Google Held Accountable in Landmark Antitrust Verdict

A U.S. federal court has found Google guilty of violating antitrust laws in its digital advertising business. The ruling targets Google's dominance through its ad server (DFP) and ad exchange (AdX), stating the company used monopolistic practices that harmed competition. Google's control, high market share, and restrictive integration of its tools limited publisher choice and kept prices high. While its acquisitions weren't deemed anti-competitive, the court will now determine penalties, potentially including divestiture of Google's ad tech assets.



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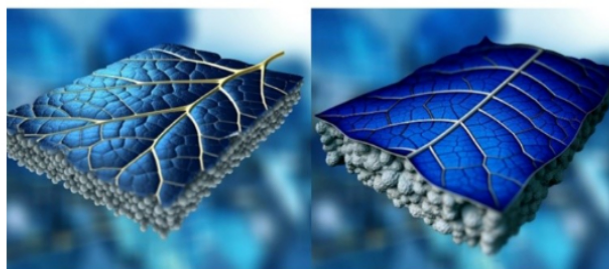
## 6. Flamingo Lake Near DPS Recognized as New Conservation Reserve

DPS Flamingo Lake in Navi Mumbai has been declared a conservation reserve by the Maharashtra State Wildlife Board, marking it as the first wetland linked to the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary to gain such status. Spanning 30 acres, the lake is a vital habitat for migratory flamingos. The decision follows strong advocacy by environmentalists and actions to restore water flow after previous damage. Experts stress its importance to avoid bird strikes near the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport.



## 7. Bio-Inspired Solar Device Mimics Lotus Leaf to Purify Saltwater

IIT Bombay scientists have developed a Dual-Sided Superhydrophobic Laser-Induced Graphene (DSLIG) evaporator to improve desalination efficiency. Mimicking the lotus leaf's water-repelling surface, DSLIG resists salt buildup and works with both solar and electric (Joule) heating, ensuring consistent performance despite sunlight fluctuations. Made using PVDF and PES polymers, the material is mechanically stable and hydrophobic. It effectively treats highly saline water and industrial wastewater, with enhanced results when stacked. While promising for large-scale use, further field testing and funding are needed.



## 8. BRICS Nations Unite for Cross-Border Land Restoration Initiative

BRICS nations, now comprising 11 members including India, have launched the 'BRICS Land Restoration Partnership' to combat land degradation, desertification, and soil fertility loss. Announced during the 15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' meeting in Brazil, the initiative promotes sustainable agriculture and inclusive agri-food systems. India emphasized support for small farmers and shared key climate-resilient initiatives. The joint declaration focused on food security, climate adaptation, empowering women and youth, and promoting sustainable farming practices and fair agricultural trade in the Global South.



## 9. INS Sunayna Docks at Nacala Port in Mozambique

INS Sunayna, part of India's IOS SAGAR mission, docked at Nacala Port, Mozambique, on April 17, 2025, marking a significant step in India-Africa maritime cooperation. The mission, launched on April 5, 2025, includes personnel from nine nations and focuses on joint training, surveillance, and enhancing maritime security. INS Sunayna's visit also promotes people-to-people interactions and reinforces India's commitment to regional stability. This collaboration exemplifies India's strategic vision for maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region, supporting smaller states' security concerns.

## 10. Mangi Lal Jat Becomes New DARE Secretary and ICAR Director General

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat has been appointed as the new Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR for a three-year term. A renowned agronomist with over 25 years of global experience, he succeeds Himanshu Pathak. Jat's expertise spans conservation and climate-smart agriculture. Previously serving at ICRISAT, CIMMYT, IRRI, and ICAR, he holds a PhD from IARI.



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His appointment is seen as a step towards strengthening sustainable farming and reforming ICAR. Experts have praised his dynamic leadership and global outlook.



## 11. Understanding the Lyrid Meteor Shower

The Lyrid meteor shower, active from April 15 to 30, will peak on the night of April 21–22, though visibility may be affected by a 40% full moon and cloud cover in many U.S. regions. Originating from comet Thatcher, Lyrids are best viewed in the Northern Hemisphere. Experts recommend watching with the naked eye under dark, clear skies away from light pollution. Meteor showers occur annually when Earth passes through debris left by comets or asteroids, creating visible streaks in the sky.

## 12. GCC countries increased wildlife conservation efforts

According to GCC-State, wildlife sanctuary in GCC countries rose 6.6% to 390.5 thousand square kilometers in 2023, which was 366.5 thousand square kilometers in 2022. Remarkably, the mountainous sanctuaries in Oman, UAE and Saudi Arabia increased from 9.5 to 14.7 thousand square kilometers from 9.5 and 2022. Since 1985, GCC has preferred protection through initiatives such as Green Gulf Initiative and Convention on Biological Diversity and CITES, which has increased regional biodiversity efforts.



## 13. Meity has launched the coffee table book titled 'I Am Circular'

On 23 April 2025, Meity and the ICCE launched the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book, highlighting 30 impactful Indian innovations in the circular economy. The book showcases sustainable solutions under themes like durability, eco-friendly design, and resource optimisation. Innovations include e-waste recycling, biodegradable packaging, and IoT-enabled systems. The initiative promotes tech-driven sustainability, aligning with India's climate goals. Shri Abhishek Singh emphasised it as a statement of India's dedication to responsible innovation and inclusive, green development.



## Miscellaneous

### 1. SBI Brings Back 'Amrit Vrishti' Fixed Deposit Scheme with Updated Interest Rates

SBI has cut fixed deposit (FD) rates by 10 basis points on select tenures from April 15, 2025, with the highest rate now 6.90% for 2–3 years for regular customers and 7.50% for senior citizens on 5–10 years. The special 'Amrit Vrishti' scheme returns with lower returns: 7.05% for general, 7.55% for seniors, and 7.65% for super seniors for 444 days. Other banks like Canara, Yes Bank, and HDFC have also reduced FD rates following the RBI's repo rate cut.

### 2. SBI Card and Tata Digital Introduce Tata Neu SBI Co-branded Credit Card

SBI Card and Tata Digital have introduced the Tata Neu SBI Card in two variants—Infinity and Plus—offering 5% and 2% cashback in NeuCoins on spending across Tata brands like BigBasket, Croma, and Air India. The card includes fuel surcharge waivers, lounge access benefits, and UPI compatibility with the RuPay version.



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Users earn joining rewards and can redeem NeuCoins via the Tata Neu app. Annual fees can be waived based on yearly spending. The card can be applied for online or at select Croma stores.

### 3. Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Greenlights Draft Ordinance on SC Sub-Categorisation

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved an ordinance for Scheduled Caste (SC) sub-categorisation, aiming to allocate reservations based on each sub-caste's social and economic backwardness. Following a Supreme Court verdict, a commission led by Rajeev Ranjan Mishra proposed dividing SCs into three groups: Most Backward (1% quota), Backward (6.5%), and Less Backward (7.5%). This move seeks to ensure equitable access to education, employment, and representation for all SC sub-groups, especially those like the Madiga community who feel underrepresented.



### 4. Centre Confirms No GST on UPI Payments Exceeding ₹2,000

The government has clarified that claims about imposing GST on UPI transactions over ₹2,000 are false and baseless. No such proposal exists, and since no Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) is charged on Person-to-Merchant UPI payments, GST is not applicable. To promote digital payments, the government launched an Incentive Scheme from FY 2021-22, allocating ₹7,230 crore over three years. This initiative has strengthened India's digital ecosystem, with UPI transactions rising sharply, making up 49% of global real-time payments in 2023.

### 5. Maharashtra Introduces Comprehensive Overhaul in Education Policy

Maharashtra has adopted the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, making Hindi a compulsory third language for Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English-medium schools, starting 2025-26.

The state aims to train 80% of teachers in modern methods and digital tools to support this shift. The traditional 10+2+3 education system will be replaced with a 5+3+3+4 structure. Led by SCERT and Balbharati, this policy emphasizes access, equity, and quality, aligning with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

### 6. Telangana Passes Bhu Bharati Act to Modernize Land Records

The Telangana government introduced the Bhu Bharati Act, 2025, and its portal to address issues caused by the previous Dharani portal and 2020 land laws. Problems included missing survey numbers, unauthorized registrations, and lack of a proper grievance system. The new Act ensures decentralized, accessible redressal through RDOs and collectors, with a district tribunal as a final step. It also allows rectification of records, time-bound title mutations, and free grievance registration. The portal is being piloted before statewide implementation by June 2.



### 7. Bihar Launches Mahila Samvad to Amplify Women's Voices

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the 'Mahila Samvad' campaign to empower women by raising awareness about state welfare schemes. The campaign features 600 vehicles with large screens that will travel across districts, facilitating dialogue with over two crore women at 70,000 locations. Problems raised during interactions will be addressed promptly, aiding policy-making. The initiative also reviews the 7-Resolves programme and aims to strengthen women's participation, especially in rural areas, ahead of the upcoming assembly elections.



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## 8. SBI Introduces 'Grahak Mitras' to Promote Adoption of Alternate Banking Channels

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'Grahak Mitras' at 4,500 high-footfall branches to assist customers with digital and self-service banking. Drawn from SBI's subsidiary SBOSS, they aim to reduce branch congestion and promote digital literacy. SBI is also upgrading 40,000 ATMs/ADWMs and adding 5,500 SWAYAM kiosks by FY26. With 98.1% of transactions via alternate channels by December 2024, SBI's tech-driven approach is transforming customer experience and operational efficiency across its vast network.



## 9. Ananya Panday Named Chanel's First Indian Brand Ambassador

Ananya Panday has been named the first-ever Indian brand ambassador for Chanel, marking a milestone in both the actress's career and Chanel's expansion into India. At 25, Ananya is celebrated for her fashion influence, blending youthful charm with bold sartorial choices. With over 25 million Instagram followers, she has become a Gen Z icon. Besides Chanel, she represents brands like Swarovski and Jimmy Choo. Her appointment highlights the growing global presence of Indian celebrities in the luxury fashion industry.



## 10. RBI Allows Children Above 10 to Manage Their Own Bank Accounts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines allowing minors aged 10 and above to independently open and operate savings and term deposit accounts, subject to each bank's policies. All minors, regardless of age, can still open accounts through guardians. Banks may offer services like internet banking and debit cards to eligible minors. Overdrawing is strictly prohibited. Upon turning 18, fresh KYC and account instructions are required. Banks must align with these norms by July 1, 2025.

## 11. Kaveri Baweja Named Registrar (Vigilance) of Delhi High Court

The Delhi High Court has appointed Special Judge Kaveri Baweja, known for handling high-profile cases like the Delhi excise policy case and the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, as Registrar (Vigilance) on deputation. She recently denied bail to Manish Sisodia and stayed an order involving BJP leader Kapil Mishra. Additionally, Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj, who handled coal scam cases, has been named the new Registrar General of the Delhi High Court, effective from May 1, 2025, on a deputation basis.

## 12. Maharashtra Makes Hindi Compulsory as Third Language for Grades 1 to 5

The Maharashtra government's decision to make Hindi compulsory in schools from Classes 1 to 5 has faced opposition from the Language Consultation Committee. In a letter to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the committee urged the government to scrap the order, arguing that students should be taught in their mother tongue and that introducing a third language would overburden teachers and hinder language learning. The committee also expressed concerns about the impact on Marathi teachers and the cultural implications of imposing Hindi.



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### 13. Wisden Honours List 2025

In the 2025 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana were named the world's leading male and female cricketers, respectively, for their record-breaking performances in 2024. Bumrah starred across formats, while Mandhana set a new annual run record in women's cricket. Wisden also honoured five standout cricketers, including Sophie Ecclestone and Gus Atkinson. Mitchell Santner earned "Outstanding Performance" for his series-winning effort in India. The edition paid tribute to legends like James Anderson and reflected on cricket's global governance and legacy.



### 14. Government Extends Tenure of T. Rabi Sankar as RBI Deputy Governor

The Indian government has re-appointed T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for one year starting May 3, 2025. This marks his second extension since his initial appointment in 2021. He oversees key areas like foreign exchange, currency management, and government accounts. His leadership has contributed significantly to India's economic stability and policy continuity. The re-appointment reflects the government's confidence in his role amid ongoing economic challenges and reinforces the RBI's focus on inflation control and financial reforms.



### 15. Manik Saha Inaugurates 'Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav' in Agartala

The 'Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025' was inaugurated by Tripura's Chief Minister Manik Saha in Agartala at Swami Vivekananda Maidan. The two-day festival celebrates Garia Puja, an important religious event for the Tripuri and Reang communities. The festival features traditional cultural performances, folk dances, and local food stalls, highlighting the region's rich heritage. Distinguished guests, including Tribal Welfare Minister Bikash Debbarma and Mayor Deepak Majumder, attended, underscoring the festival's cultural and religious significance for Tripura's indigenous people.

### 16. 4th Annual Gold House Gold Gala

The 4th Annual Gold House Gold Gala will be held on May 10, 2025, at the Music Centre in Los Angeles, honoring global figures like Priyanka Chopra, Ang Lee, Megan Thee Stallion, and Jon M. Chu for their cultural impact. The event will also celebrate the 2025 A100 List, recognising top Asian Pacific changemakers. Chopra will receive the inaugural Global Vanguard Honour for her career bridging Bollywood and Hollywood. The gala's theme, 'First Light,' celebrates trailblazers who have sparked change for future generations.



### 17. Maharashtra Governor Presents the Yashraj Bharti Samman Awards 2025

The 3rd edition of the 'Yashraj Bharti Samman' was held in Mumbai, where Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan conferred awards on three grassroots organisations: Jan Swasthya Sahayog for healthcare in remote areas, Pratham Education Foundation for sustainable education, and the Services Plus platform (NIC) for enhancing governance.



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The ceremony, attended by dignitaries like Dilip Walse Patil and Amitabh Kant, highlighted the need for improving education quality, healthcare in tribal areas, and promoting ethical governance for social change.



### 18. Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative of Maharashtra

The Government of Maharashtra has launched the Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative to empower women, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds, by providing eco-friendly electric rickshaws. Initially piloted in Pune, the scheme expands across eight districts, aiming to distribute 10,000 e-rickshaws. Beneficiaries receive financial subsidies, training, and infrastructure support, including charging stations and maintenance services. The initiative fosters self-reliance, with plans for integration into ride-sharing networks. The e-rickshaws offer safety features, a 120 km range, and promote women's economic independence and dignity.



### 19. PNB Marks Its 131st Foundation Day with the Introduction of 34 New Initiatives

On its 131st foundation day, Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched 34 new products and services to enhance financial inclusion and digital banking. These included 12 deposit schemes for various groups and 10 digital transformation tools, such as an AI-powered chat assistant and a QR-based feedback system.

PNB also promoted cybersecurity awareness through a half-marathon, Cyber Run. MD & CEO Ashok Chandra emphasised the bank's commitment to supporting underprivileged communities, youth education, and farmer welfare while improving customer service.

### 20. Jitendra Mishra Appointed President of CIFEJ

Jitendra Mishra, acclaimed Indian filmmaker and Festival Director of the Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY), has been elected President of the International Centre of Films for Children and Young People (CIFEJ) for 2025–2027. CIFEJ, supported by UNESCO, promotes culturally diverse and educational films for young audiences globally. Under Mishra's leadership, the organisation will continue advocating for films that inspire creativity, foster social change, and empower youth, while promoting cultural diversity and global collaboration in youth-centric cinema.



### 21. IISc Ranks First in the Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025, released on April 23, saw 853 universities from 35 countries. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) remains India's top-ranked university at 38th overall, despite a drop from 32nd in 2024. Other notable Indian universities like Anna University, IIT Indore, and Mahatma Gandhi University also saw a decline in rankings. China continues to lead, with Tsinghua and Peking University in the top spots. Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong universities also perform well.