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National

1. Union Minister Manohar Lal Launches 'Bharat Bodh Kendra' at India Habitat Centre

On May 10, 2025, Union Minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the 'Bharat Bodh Kendra' at the India Habitat Centre (IHC) in New Delhi. This new resource center aims to deepen understanding of India's cultural heritage through curated collections on art, philosophy, spirituality, and history. The initiative supports cultural literacy and heritage education, providing a space for research and learning. Minister Lal emphasized eco-conscious practices and proposed expanding similar models across the country to promote cultural awareness and interdisciplinary research.

2. Delhi Police Unveils 'Nayi Disha' Initiative to Rehabilitate School Dropouts

The Delhi Police launched the 'Nayi Disha - A Path Back to Learning' initiative to reintegrate school dropouts into formal education. Aimed at disadvantaged children, it involves door-to-door outreach, emotional counselling, and collaboration with NGOs and schools. The initiative addresses financial, domestic, and emotional reasons behind dropouts. It marks a shift in policing—from enforcement to empowerment—promoting education and community trust. Already yielding positive results, the programme could serve as a model for other cities to tackle dropout challenges effectively.

3. Uttar Pradesh Enhances ODOP Scheme by Introducing 12 New Products

The Uttar Pradesh government has added 12 new products to its One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, bringing the total to 74 products. This move, aimed at empowering artisans and boosting exports, supports local craftsmanship and entrepreneurship. The updated scheme includes products like agricultural implements, hosiery, food processing, and handicrafts. Launched in 2018, ODOP aims to enhance employment, promote indigenous products, and contribute to Uttar Pradesh's goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy by 2029.

4. Andhra Pradesh Government Exempts Property Tax on Defence Personnel Homes in Rural Areas

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced a full property tax exemption for homes of active defence personnel in gram panchayat areas. This move, made after the martyrdom of Agniveer Murali Naik, extends a previous benefit limited to veterans and border-posted soldiers. Applicable to personnel from all defence and paramilitary forces, it aims to honour their service, reduce financial burden, and boost morale. The decision reflects the state's commitment to supporting armed forces and sets a precedent for other states.

5. India's Total Fertility Rate Stays Steady at 2.0

India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) remained at 2.0 in 2021, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report. Bihar had the highest TFR at 3.0, while Delhi and West Bengal recorded the lowest at 1.4. Many states reported TFR below replacement level (2.1), indicating demographic shifts. The report also highlighted changes in age structure, with a decline in the 0-14 age group and an increase in the elderly population. The mean age at marriage for females rose to 22.5 years in 2021.

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6. Cabinet Approves Rs. 3,706 Crore HCL-Foxconn Semiconductor Plant in Jewar

The Union Cabinet approved a Rs. 3,706 crore joint venture between HCL and Foxconn to set up a semiconductor assembly and packaging plant in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh. Slated to begin production by 2027, the project is part of India's Rs. 76,000 crore Semiconductor Mission and aims to meet 40% of domestic chip demand. It will create 2,000 jobs, boost self-reliance in electronics, and strengthen India's chip ecosystem. This is UP's first such plant and marks Foxconn's second major attempt in India's semiconductor sector.

7. The Centre has approved an additional allocation of 2.8 million tonnes of rice from the FCI for ethanol production

The Government of India has approved an additional 2.8 million tonnes of FCI rice for ethanol production under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme for ESY 2024-25, bringing the total allocation to 5.2 million tonnes. This move supports India's 20% ethanol blending target by 2025-26. However, it raises concerns over food security, as food grains are diverted for fuel production. The initiative aims to reduce

fossil fuel dependence, cut carbon emissions, and provide farmers with alternative income sources.

8. IWA opens Srinagar Office to Boost Inland Waterways in Jammu & Kashmir

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA) has inaugurated a regional office in Srinagar to boost the Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative focuses on developing navigation infrastructure on the Chenab, Jhelum, and Ravi rivers, to promote eco-tourism, enhance regional connectivity, and create local employment. The project includes installing floating jetties, dredging, and providing night navigation aids. This step aligns with India's goal of using rivers for sustainable transport and economic development.

9. Canara Bank and Union Bank Introduce Customized Deposit Schemes to Enhance Fund Mobilization

To address slowing deposit growth, Canara Bank and Union Bank of India launched innovative deposit schemes on May 13, 2025. Canara's "TruEdge" offers personalised banking and charge waivers, while Union Bank's "Wellness Deposit" provides 6.75% interest, health insurance, and lifestyle perks. Aimed at high-value and senior citizen customers, these schemes reflect a strategic shift to enhance resource mobilisation and customer engagement. With deposit growth slowing to 10.3% in FY25, such offerings target profitability and competitiveness amid financial challenges.

10. Cyclone Shakti Develops Over the Andaman Sea

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The IMD has detected a cyclonic circulation over the Andaman Sea, likely developing into Cyclone Shakti between May 23–28. Expected to affect Odisha, West Bengal, and Bangladesh coasts between May 24–26, it may bring strong winds, heavy rain, and storm surges. The system could alter monsoon onset and rainfall patterns across India. Emergency alerts are in place, with coastal areas advised to stay prepared. Widespread rainfall, thunderstorms, and gusty winds are forecast, especially in cyclone-impacted and eastern regions.

11. Maharashtra Introduces Policy to Encourage the Use of Artificial Sand

The Maharashtra government approved a new policy on May 13, 2025, to promote the use of artificial sand (m-sand) in all government and semi-government construction projects. This move aims to curb the environmental damage caused by illegal sand mining and reduce reliance on natural river sand. Key measures include mandatory m-sand usage, incentives for local industries, and MSME recognition for m-sand producers. The policy also promotes environmental sustainability by conserving rivers and coastal ecosystems and reducing sand mining's ecological impact.

12. ReNew Power to Develop India's Largest Renewable Energy Complex in Andhra Pradesh

ReNew Power will inaugurate India's largest single-site renewable energy complex on May 16, 2025, in Bethapalle, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, with an investment of Rs. 22,000 crore. Phase-I includes 587MW solar, 250MW wind, and 415MWh battery storage. This project supports Andhra Pradesh's 72GW clean energy target by 2029 and marks ReNew's return after policy reforms revived investor confidence. It reflects India's push for sustainable energy and grid resilience, with backing from the NDA-led government and new clean energy policies.

13. PNB to Divest Its Holding in India SME ARC

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has agreed to sell

its entire Rs. 34.04 crore stake in India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (ISARC) to Authum Investment and Infrastructure Limited. This move aims to streamline PNB's investment portfolio by exiting non-core businesses and focusing on core banking operations. The transaction, expected to conclude by Q1 FY 2025-26, aligns with RBI's reforms encouraging banks to enhance operational efficiency. PNB's stock rose 1.93% on the BSE following the announcement.

14. Supreme Court Orders Swift Setup of Dedicated POCSO Courts Nationwide

On May 15, 2025, the Supreme Court of India directed the Centre to urgently establish dedicated POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) courts across the country. This move aims to address the backlog of child sexual abuse cases and ensure timely justice. The bench, comprising Justices Bela M Trivedi and P B Varale, highlighted that the lack of exclusive courts hampers adherence to mandated trial timelines under the POCSO Act. The directive underscores the judiciary's commitment to protecting children's rights and expediting legal proceedings in such sensitive cases.

15. India Launches First Cluster of Five Carbon Capture Testbeds for Cement Industry

India has approved the establishment of five carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) testbeds within the cement industry, marking a significant step towards reducing industrial carbon emissions. These testbeds aim to demonstrate effective pathways to achieve 'net zero' emissions through the deployment of CCU technologies. By focusing on the cement sector—a major contributor to industrial carbon output—this initiative seeks to provide scalable and replicable models for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable industrial practices.

16. Government Approves Sixth Semiconductor Plant in Uttar Pradesh Under National Mission

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India's Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of the country's sixth semiconductor manufacturing unit, a ₹3,706 crore joint venture between HCL and Foxconn, to be set up near Jewar Airport in Uttar Pradesh's Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) region. This facility, the first of its kind in the state, will focus on producing display driver chips for devices like smartphones, laptops, and automobiles. Designed to process 20,000 wafers monthly and output 36 million chips, the plant is expected to commence operations by 2027, generating approximately 2,000 jobs and bolstering India's semiconductor ecosystem.

17. Security Forces Launch Largest Anti-Naxal Operation at Chhattisgarh-Telangana Border

In a landmark 21-day counter-insurgency operation named Operation Black Forest, Indian security forces neutralized 31 Maoists, including senior leaders, in the Karreguttalu Hills along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border. This mission, involving over 20,000 personnel from the CRPF, Special Task Force, and District Reserve Guard, targeted the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army's Battalion No. 1, dismantling key insurgent infrastructure such as underground bunkers and arms factories. The operation, lauded by Home Minister Amit Shah as a historic breakthrough, marks a significant stride toward the government's goal of a Naxal-free India by March 2026.

18. BCAS Withdraws Celebi's Security Approval Over National Safety Concerns

On May 15, 2025, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoked the security clearance of Turkish firm Çelebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd, citing national security concerns. This decision follows Turkey's support for Pakistan during India's Operation Sindoor and reports of Turkish drones being used against India. Çelebi, operating at nine major Indian airports, has filed a legal challenge against the revocation, claiming the government's reasoning is vague and threatens jobs and investor confidence. The

Indian government has appointed IndoThai to manage ground handling operations at Mumbai Airport, ensuring continuity of services.

International

1. Taliban Bans Chess in Afghanistan Citing Sharia Law Violations

On May 12, 2025, the Taliban suspended chess in Afghanistan, citing concerns over its compatibility with Islamic law. The temporary ban, pending religious review, has disrupted recreational life in cities like Kabul, where chess was popular in cafés. Critics, including human rights groups, argue it curtails freedom and mental well-being. This move adds to a series of sports and cultural restrictions imposed by the Taliban since 2021, reflecting their continued enforcement of strict religious interpretations in public life.

2. 8th United Nations Global Road Safety Week 2025

The 8th United Nations Global Road Safety Week, observed from May 12-18, 2025, focuses on pedestrian and cyclist safety with the theme #MakeWalkingSafe and #MakeCyclingSafe. Organised by WHO, the campaign urges governments and communities to improve urban infrastructure to reduce road traffic injuries and deaths. It highlights the need for safe walking and cycling spaces, promotes law enforcement, and supports the Global Plan for Road Safety 2021-2030. The campaign aims to protect vulnerable road users and foster sustainable, equitable transportation.

3. US and China Reach Agreement to Reduce Tariffs in Move to Ease Trade War Tensions

The U.S. and China have agreed to cut reciprocal tariffs by 115% during a 90-day truce, aiming to ease trade tensions and restore global economic stability. Finalised in Geneva, the deal includes China reducing tariffs on U.S. goods to 10% and suspending additional duties. This marks a major step toward cooperation after years of

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trade conflict. The truce offers relief to global markets, opens paths for further negotiations, and strengthens India's position as an emerging player in global supply chains.

4. U.S. and Saudi Arabia Ink Landmark USD 142 Billion Arms Agreement During Trump's Visit to Riyadh

During President Donald Trump's 2025 visit to Riyadh, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia signed a historic USD 142 billion arms deal—one of the largest ever. The agreement includes advanced missiles, radar systems, and commercial exports like gas turbines. Aimed at boosting Gulf security and countering Iran, it also enhances U.S. defence manufacturing and job creation. This deal underscores Trump's economic diplomacy and strengthens U.S.-Saudi strategic ties amid rising Middle East tensions and Saudi plans for major investments in the U.S.

5. Denmark Launches World's First Commercial-Scale E-Methanol Production Facility

On May 13, 2025, Denmark launched the world's first commercial e-methanol plant in Kasso, marking a breakthrough in green shipping fuel. Developed by European Energy and Mitsui, the plant will produce 42,000 metric tons of e-methanol annually using renewable energy and captured CO₂. Shipping giant Maersk will use the fuel for its dual-fuel vessels. This innovation supports the global push for maritime decarbonization under IMO goals, offering a scalable, low-emission alternative to traditional marine fuels.

6. UN Revises India's GDP Growth Projection for 2025 to 6.3% Due to Global Economic Pressures

The United Nations has revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 downward to 6.3%, citing global economic pressures such as trade tensions and policy uncertainties. Despite this moderation from the previous year's 7.1%, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, bolstered by strong domestic consumption and government spending. The

UN's mid-2025 report emphasizes that while global growth is projected to slow, India's economic fundamentals continue to support robust performance amid external challenges.

Sports

1. Deepika Kumari Secures Bronze Medal at Archery World Cup Stage 2

India's top archer Deepika Kumari won a bronze medal at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai on May 11, 2025, defeating Korea's Kang Chae Young 7-3 after a semifinal loss to world No. 1 Lim Sihyeon. Her resilient performance added to India's total of six medals at the event, with five from compound events. Deepika's victory in the recurve category highlighted her composure under pressure and reinforced India's rising prominence in international archery.

2. Virat Kohli retires from test cricket

Virat Kohli, one of India's greatest Test cricketers, recently retired from the format, leaving behind a remarkable legacy. He scored 30 Test centuries, including centuries in Australia, England, South Africa, and New Zealand. His highest score was 254* against South Africa in 2019. Over 123 matches, Kohli amassed 9,230 runs at an average of 46.85, making him India's fourth-highest Test run scorer. He also recorded 7 double centuries, the most by any Indian captain, solidifying his place in cricket history.

3. India excels at the 2025 Archery World Cup, securing 7 Medals

India excelled at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Shanghai (May 2025), winning seven medals—two gold, one silver, and four bronze. Deepika Kumari earned her 18th World Cup medal, while Parth Salunkhe won his first senior-level bronze. Highlights included golds in women's compound individual (Madhura Dhamangaonkar) and men's compound team. The success reflects India's growing prowess in archery, especially in compound events, and boosts morale ahead of

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key tournaments like the Asian Championships and Paris Olympics.

4. Mehidy Hasan Miraz clinches the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for April 2025

Bangladesh's all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz was named ICC Men's Player of the Month for April 2025 after his outstanding performance in the two-Test series against Zimbabwe. Scoring 116 runs at an average of 38.66 and taking 15 wickets with a bowling average of 11.86, Mehidy became the third Bangladeshi to win this award. His achievement highlights Bangladesh's growing impact in international cricket and underscores the importance of all-rounders in the Test format.

5. Pankaj Advani Wins 2025 CCI Billiards Classic Title in Mumbai

Pankaj Advani clinched his third consecutive CCI Billiards Classic title in Mumbai, defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5-2 in a gripping final. Despite a slow start, Advani capitalized on Sitwala's missed opportunity during a strong 94-point break, turning the match around with a 145-point visit to level at 2-2. He then dominated the remaining frames to secure the victory. The tournament, held at the Cricket Club of India from April 25 to May 4, 2025, awarded Advani ₹2.5 lakh, while Sitwala received ₹1.5 lakh as runner-up.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. India Joins Top Six Countries in 6G Patent Filings

India has ascended into the top six nations globally for 6G patent filings, as announced by Minister of State for Communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani at the BHARAT 6G 2025 conference. This achievement stems from the government's investment of over ₹300 crore in 111 research projects under the Bharat 6G Mission. The initiative focuses on developing indigenous 6G technology leveraging TeraHertz frequency bands, which promise data speeds up to 1

terabit per second—100 times faster than 5G. The adoption of 6G is projected to contribute \$1 trillion to India's economy by 2035, fostering new industries and revolutionizing existing ones.

1.C-DOT and Synergy Quantum Collaborate to Develop Quantum Key Distribution Technology for Drones

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has partnered with Synergy Quantum India to develop drone-based Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) systems using the BB84 protocol. Signed on May 12, 2025, the MoU aims to boost India's quantum-secure communication capabilities, especially for defence and critical infrastructure. This initiative supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission by advancing indigenous R&D and enabling secure, mobile data transmission. The collaboration marks a major step in India's technological advancement in quantum communication and national security.

2. HCLTech partners with European Commission's AI Pact to Champion Responsible AI

HCLTech has signed the European Commission's AI Pact, reinforcing its commitment to ethical and responsible AI development ahead of the EU AI Act's enforcement. This voluntary move reflects HCLTech's focus on transparency, accountability, and privacy in AI systems. The company has established an Office of Responsible AI and Governance to promote fairness and compliance. With this step, HCLTech strengthens global trust, aligns with international AI standards, and positions itself as a leader in ethical AI practices and regulatory readiness.

3. SBI and private lenders have sold a 20% stake in Yes Bank to Japan's SMBC for Rs. 13,482 crore

In a historic move, State Bank of India (SBI) and seven private banks sold a 20% stake in Yes Bank to Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) for Rs. 13,482 crore, marking the largest foreign acquisition in India's banking sector. The deal boosts Yes Bank's recovery since its 2020

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crisis and highlights growing global interest in India's banking system. SMBC's entry strengthens the bank's governance and global linkages, contributing to India's banking reforms and enhancing investor confidence.

4. Inclusive India Summit 2025 Commemorates Global Accessibility Awareness Day

On May 15, 2025, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) will host the 'Inclusive India Summit' in New Delhi to mark Global Accessibility Awareness Day. The hybrid event aims to promote digital accessibility and inclusive development for persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). Key activities include panel discussions, MoU signings with various foundations, the launch of an AI chatbot, and unveiling a digital accessibility curriculum. The summit strengthens collaboration among government, industry, and civil society for digital equity.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. IEA's Global Methane Tracker 2025

The IEA's 2025 Global Methane Tracker highlights abandoned oil and gas wells and coal mines as major methane emitters, releasing more than 120 million metric tons annually—exceeding emissions of entire countries. Despite over 150 nations signing pledges to curb methane, few have implemented concrete strategies. Methane traps more heat than CO₂, accelerating climate change. The report urges stricter global regulations, better monitoring, and rapid mitigation, especially in the energy sector, to meet global climate targets effectively.

2. Lead Transmutation into Gold at CERN's LHC

Researchers at CERN's Large Hadron Collider have achieved a form of nuclear transmutation by converting lead atoms into gold through high-energy collisions. These collisions, conducted at near-light speeds, produced around 86 billion gold nuclei, though they existed

for mere fractions of a second. This groundbreaking experiment demonstrates the LHC's precision and supports advanced nuclear theories. While the process isn't economically viable for producing gold, it reveals valuable insights into subatomic interactions and heavy-ion physics research.

3. Snow Leopards in Ladakh

Ladakh, particularly Hemis National Park, is home to India's highest concentration of snow leopards, with approximately 477 individuals recorded. Conservation strategies involve local communities, eco-tourism, and livestock protection to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Predator-proof enclosures and awareness programs empower locals while protecting these elusive cats. The efforts balance wildlife conservation with sustainable livelihoods, strengthening ecological resilience. Continued funding, research, and community engagement are vital for ensuring the long-term survival of snow leopards in this fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

4. The Himalayan Cleanup (THC) 2024 Report

The Himalayan Cleanup 2024 report highlights severe pollution caused by abandoned infrastructure and waste in Himalayan regions. Methane emissions from these neglected sites contribute significantly to climate change. The report calls for improved waste management, stricter environmental regulations, and community-driven solutions. It urges governments and NGOs to collaborate on restoring ecological balance. Through clean-up drives and policy reforms, THC aims to protect the fragile mountain ecosystem, ensure sustainable tourism, and address the urgent environmental threats in the Himalayas.

5. FaceAge the AI Tool Predicts Biological Age and Cancer Outcomes Using Selfies

FaceAge, an AI tool developed using deep learning, estimates a person's biological age from their selfie. It aims to assist in personalised

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medicine, particularly in cancer care, by helping doctors assess patients' tolerance for treatments. Tested on over 6,000 cancer patients, it showed improved survival predictions. However, it raises ethical concerns regarding misuse in insurance and employment, and potential racial biases. Researchers are working on refining the model and ensuring ethical deployment with transparency and regulations.

6. National Technology Day 2025

National Technology Day 2025 was observed on May 11, commemorating the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests and India's growing technological prowess. The theme for 2025, 'Empowering a Sustainable Tomorrow Through Innovation,' focuses on eco-friendly, indigenous, and innovative solutions for future development. The day also highlights India's achievements in science and technology, including the successful tests of nuclear weapons, missiles, and aircraft in 1998. The celebration emphasizes sustainable tech, self-reliance, and encouraging youth to pursue careers in science and innovation.

7. Sarvam AI Unveils Bulbul-v2 Featuring Natural Indian Accents

Sarvam AI, a Bengaluru-based startup, has launched Bulbul-v2, a text-to-speech model supporting 11 Indian languages with regional accents. The model offers real-time synthesis, multi-language support, and customisation options for pitch, pace, and loudness. Designed to cater to India's diverse linguistic needs, Bulbul-v2 aims to democratise AI voice technology and improve accessibility for businesses targeting regional audiences. This launch aligns with Sarvam AI's contribution to India's sovereign AI development under the IndiaAI mission, enhancing the country's digital ecosystem.

8. DST and DRDO Collaborate to Enhance India's Space Surveillance Capabilities

On May 13, 2025, ARIES (DST) and IRDE (DRDO) signed an MoU to enhance India's Space Situational Awareness (SSA). This collaboration aims to jointly develop electro-optical systems, leverage ARIES' advanced observational infrastructure, and apply AI/ML for image processing. The partnership promotes R&D, knowledge exchange, and capacity building. With both institutes located in Uttarakhand, the alliance strengthens India's space surveillance capabilities, crucial for national security and satellite monitoring, showcasing a model of civil-defence scientific cooperation.

9. Operation Nader and Counter-Terrorism Efforts in Jammu and Kashmir

In May 2025, Indian security forces conducted key anti-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir, including Operation Nader in Tral and the Shopian encounter, killing multiple terrorists. These actions followed intelligence inputs and were coordinated by the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and CRPF. Earlier, Operation Sindoor targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pok, eliminating around 100 terrorists. The operations were intensified after the Pahalgam terror attack by the Resistance Front, highlighting India's strong, intelligence-driven response against terror groups like LeT, TRF, and JeM.

10. India Achieves Successful Test of Bhargavastra

India successfully test-fired Bhargavastra, an indigenous advanced weapon system designed to counter drone swarms. Developed by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, it combines hard-kill micro rockets and guided missiles with soft-kill jamming and spoofing technologies. Bhargavastra offers radar and EO/IR detection up to 10 km and is adaptable for diverse terrains, including high altitudes. This system enhances India's defence by protecting critical infrastructure, improving battlefield response, and strengthening self-reliance against evolving drone threats.

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11. Innovative Catalyst Enhances Efficiency in Oxygen Electrocatalysis

Researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) in Bengaluru have developed a pioneering catalyst to enhance the efficiency of oxygen electrocatalysis. This innovation addresses the challenges of slow reaction speeds, high energy demands, and the use of expensive precious metals in current technologies. The new catalyst utilizes nickel selenide, enhanced by a small amount of iron, to improve performance and reduce costs. By modulating the catalyst's electronic structure and enhancing conductivity through pyrolysis, this development holds promise for advancing clean energy technologies such as water splitting and hydrogen peroxide production.

Miscellaneous

1. Bhutan's Crypto Tourism Payment System

Bhutan has launched the world's first cryptocurrency-based tourism payment system, enabling international visitors to pay for services using digital currencies. This innovative step aims to boost tourism, enhance economic efficiency, and integrate blockchain into national policy. Developed in partnership with Bitdeer Technologies, the system ensures secure, fast, and transparent transactions. Bhutan's move strengthens its position as a forward-thinking, digital-savvy country, promoting sustainable tourism while preserving its cultural and environmental integrity in a tech-enabled ecosystem.

2. Expanded Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups

The Indian government has expanded its credit guarantee scheme to support startups and SMEs, particularly in manufacturing. The scheme provides collateral-free loans up to ₹10 crore, encouraging investment in machinery and innovation. MUDRA loan caps have also been increased to ₹20 lakh for reliable borrowers. This policy aims to boost entrepreneurship, job

creation, and economic resilience. It strengthens the startup ecosystem by reducing financial barriers and fostering a supportive environment for growth, innovation, and industrial development.

3. RBI's New Digital Lending Regulations

The Reserve Bank of India has launched the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), a new digital infrastructure to streamline the lending process. ULI integrates public databases, like land records and Aadhaar, enabling quicker, transparent loan approvals. The platform aims to enhance credit access, reduce paperwork, and combat fraud. Initially targeting priority sectors and rural borrowers, ULI is part of RBI's broader push for digital financial inclusion. Its success could revolutionize India's lending landscape and improve credit delivery efficiency.

4. Adishakti Abhiyan

Adishakti Abhiyan is a government-led initiative promoting women's empowerment and gender equality across sectors. It focuses on enhancing female leadership, expanding skill development, and increasing workforce participation. Programs include financial inclusion drives, vocational training, and mentorship. By fostering inclusivity, the campaign seeks to address gender disparities and support women's social and economic advancement. The initiative aligns with broader national goals for equality, aiming to build a more just society where women play central roles in development and decision-making.

5. New Subtype of Maturity-Onset Diabetes (MODY)

Researchers have discovered a new subtype of Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), a genetic form of diabetes usually misdiagnosed as Type 1 or 2. MODY results from a single gene mutation that affects insulin production, often appearing in adolescence or early adulthood. Accurate identification allows for targeted treatment and better patient outcomes. The new

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subtype emphasizes the need for routine genetic testing in atypical cases. Early diagnosis helps avoid unnecessary insulin therapy and enables personalized diabetes management strategies.

6. Shuangjiangkou Hydropower Project

China's Shuangjiangkou Dam, under construction in Sichuan Province, is poised to become the world's tallest embankment dam at 312 meters. Located on the Dadu River, it will have a generation capacity of 2,000 MW, producing over 8,300 GWh annually. The project is vital for China's renewable energy goals but has sparked ecological concerns, prompting environmental impact mitigation measures. It demonstrates China's infrastructure prowess and its commitment to balancing energy needs with ecological preservation in the mountainous region.

7. Justice Surya Kant Named Executive Chairman of NALSA

Justice Surya Kant has been appointed Executive Chairman of NALSA, effective May 14, 2025, by the President of India. As the second senior-most Supreme Court judge, his appointment upholds tradition and aligns with the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Known for promoting legal aid and judicial reforms, Justice Kant is expected to enhance access to justice for the underprivileged. NALSA, mandated by Article 39-A, provides free legal services and promotes equality before the law through awareness and Lok Adalats.

8. Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes the First Indian Lawyer to Receive the World Law Congress Honour

Bhuwan Ribhu, a prominent Indian lawyer and child rights activist, became the first Indian to receive the Medal of Honour from the World Jurist Association at the World Law Congress 2025 in the Dominican Republic. The award recognises his two-decade-long efforts in eradicating child exploitation through legal reforms, court interventions, and advocacy. Ribhu's leadership in transforming child

protection into a criminal justice issue and his impact on policy reforms have saved thousands of children and influenced global child justice initiatives.

9. Vice-President Releases Bandaru Dattatraya's Autobiography 'Janta Ki Kahani'

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the autobiography '*Janta Ki Kahani - Meri Aatamkatha*' by Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatraya on May 9, 2025. The book chronicles Dattatraya's personal, political, and social journey, including his roles as Union Minister and Governor. The event also paid tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. Dattatraya highlighted his mother's influence on his public service, while dignitaries praised the book for its inspiring message of dedication, humility, and social welfare.

10. Bhutan Becomes the First Country to Implement Crypto Payments in Tourism

In May 2025, Bhutan launched a cryptocurrency-based payment system for tourism, becoming the first country to integrate crypto payments into its national tourism policy. In partnership with Binance Pay and DK Bank, the system allows international tourists to pay for services like flights, hotels, and entry fees using over 100 cryptocurrencies, simplifying transactions with QR codes. This initiative aims to promote cashless travel, enhance financial inclusion, and position Bhutan as a leader in sustainable, tech-driven tourism.

11. Padma Shri-awarded scientist Subbanna Ayyappan was found dead in the Cauvery River

Dr. Subbanna Ayyappan, a renowned fisheries scientist and Padma Shri awardee, was found dead in the Cauvery River near Srirangapatna, Karnataka, on May 10, 2025, three days after going missing. Known for spearheading India's Blue Revolution, his death has sparked suspicions of foul play, with calls for a CBI investigation. Ayyappan's legacy includes leading significant advancements in

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aquaculture, contributing to rural development and food security. His death has raised concerns about possible corruption and institutional issues within ICAR.

12. Ajay Kumar, the former Defence Secretary, has assumed charge at the UPSC

Ajay Kumar, a retired 1985-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre and former Defence Secretary, was appointed Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on May 14, 2025. Known for his contributions to defence reforms and digital governance, his leadership is expected to impact UPSC's recruitment processes, ensuring merit-based and transparent selection. Kumar's extensive experience in defence, IT, and administration, coupled with his role in key national initiatives like UPI and Aadhaar, promises to bring innovative changes to the civil services exam system.

13. Harvansh Chawla Assumes Role as Chairman of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Harvansh Chawla, Founder of K.R. Chawla & Co. Advocates, has been appointed Chairman of the BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BRICS CCI). With over 30 years in corporate law and trade, his leadership aims to boost economic cooperation among BRICS nations. The Chamber, representing private sector interests of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, will focus on strengthening business-government dialogue, promoting innovation, and driving sustainable growth amid global economic uncertainties, enhancing India's role within the BRICS framework.

14. Neeraj Chopra has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel

Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra has been awarded the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, effective April 16, 2025. This recognition by the Ministry of Defence honours his exceptional achievements in athletics, including Olympic medals and a world

championship. The Territorial Army, a part-time volunteer force, bestows such ranks on distinguished individuals. Chopra's honorary title highlights India's effort to celebrate civilian excellence, inspire youth, and strengthen the bond between the military and sports.

15. Exercise 'Raahat' Raises Bar for Humanitarian Relief Efforts in India

From May 13 to 15, 2025, the Indian Army's Spear Corps and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) conducted 'Exercise Raahat' at Rangapahar Military Station in Nagaland. This joint disaster relief drill aimed to enhance preparedness ahead of the monsoon season. The exercise featured strategic planning sessions, equipment demonstrations, and simulated rescue operations, focusing on improving inter-agency coordination and real-time response capabilities. By integrating military and civilian expertise, 'Exercise Raahat' set a new benchmark for disaster management in India.