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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. FTII Granted 'Deemed-to-be-University' Status

The Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, has been granted 'Deemed University' status by the Union Education Ministry, enhancing its academic autonomy. This allows FTII to award formal degrees, design flexible curricula, and expand research in film and TV studies. Known for producing legends like Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi, FTII has faced past controversies but remains a premier institute. The upgrade aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), boosting its global standing in cinematic education.



2. Similipal Officially Declared a National Park

Similipal in Odisha has officially been declared a national park, becoming India's 107th and Odisha's second after Bhitarkanika. Spanning 845.7 sq km, it is a biodiversity hotspot with tigers, rare species, and rich flora. The move follows decades of efforts, requiring relocation of villages to ensure an inviolate core. The upgrade enhances conservation funding and legal protections, aligning with Odisha's sustainable development goals. Chief Minister Mohan Majhi hailed it as a milestone for 'Viksit Odisha.'

3. Pakistan Suspends Simla Pact

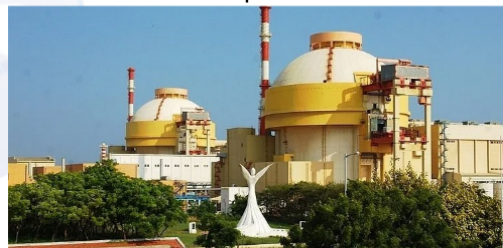
Pakistan escalates tensions with India by suspending the 1972 Simla Agreement, closing the Wagah border, halting all trade, and banning Indian airlines from its airspace. This follows India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty after the Pahalgam terror attack (26 killed). Pakistan warns that water diversion would be an 'Act of War', while India has downgraded diplomatic ties and cancelled visas. With bilateral mechanisms frozen, the crisis between the nuclear rivals deepens, raising regional security concerns.

4. IMF Revises India's FY26 Growth Projection Downward to 6.2% Citing Trade Policy

IMF cuts India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 6.2% (from 6.5%) citing US tariffs (26% on Indian imports) and global trade tensions. While still outperforming major economies, India's FY27 projection also drops to 6.3%. Global growth slumps to 2.8% (from 3.3%) with China downgraded to 4% and US to 1.8%. Despite challenges, India's domestic consumption, especially rural demand, provides resilience against the slowdown. Tariffs worsen global inflation, disproportionately affecting trade-dependent economies.

5. India Approves 49% Foreign Investment in Nuclear Energy Sector

India plans to allow foreign investors to own up to 49% stakes in its nuclear energy companies, a landmark move aiming to accelerate clean energy production. The government intends to amend the Atomic Energy Act to attract global investment while maintaining regulatory oversight. This policy shift is crucial to meeting India's ambitious target of achieving 100 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2047. Enhanced foreign participation is expected to bolster technological advancements and infrastructure development.



6. India Sets New Record in Inland Waterways Cargo Movement for FY 2024-25

India's cargo movement on inland waterways reached record levels during FY 2024-25, reflecting the government's successful push for multi-modal transport development. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways reported significant growth in cargo volumes on rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra. Enhanced infrastructure, dredging operations, and private sector participation contributed to this achievement. Inland water transport offers a cost-effective, eco-friendly alternative to traditional logistics modes, boosting regional trade connectivity and reducing carbon footprints.

7. Fitch Reduces India's Growth Forecast Due to Global Trade Tensions

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Fitch Ratings has downgraded India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 6.4%, down from the previous projection, citing global trade tensions, particularly the ongoing US-China trade war. This adjustment reflects broader economic slowdowns affecting investments and trade dynamics. Fitch also lowered its global growth forecast for 2025, predicting the weakest growth since 2009. Despite these challenges, India's economic fundamentals remain resilient, though global uncertainties pose risks to sustained growth.



8. MP Receives Approval for Rs. 2,100 Crore India's First PM MITRA Textile Park Project

In April 2025, Madhya Pradesh received approval from the Ministry of Textiles for the Rs 2,100 crore Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM-MITRA) Park project. Located in Bhainsola village, Dhar district, the 21,000-acre park will feature modern facilities like a Zero Liquid Discharge plant, solar-powered energy, and residential complexes for workers. This project, part of a national scheme, aims to enhance the state's industrial landscape and strengthen India's textile sector globally.

9. India Unveils First Indigenous HPV Test Kits for Cervical Cancer Screening

In April 2025, Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched India's first Made-in-India Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test kits for cervical cancer screening. Developed under the Grand Challenges India initiative, the kits—Truenat HPV-HR Plus and Patho Detect—are designed for rapid, cost-effective, and point-of-care testing. Targeting high-risk HPV strains, they use RT-PCR technology and address challenges of traditional methods. Validated by institutions like AIIMS and WHO, these kits aim to reduce India's cervical cancer burden, with global health implications.



10. African Swine Fever Hits Mizoram

Mizoram is battling a severe African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak, causing over 3,000 pig deaths within a month across Siaha, Lawngtlai, Lunglei, and Mamit districts. Siaha is the worst-affected, prompting the culling of nearly 1,000 pigs to control the spread. The outbreak has led to significant economic losses, adding to past years' damages, exceeding Rs 336 crore in 2024 alone. Authorities are enforcing quarantine zones and compensating affected farmers to support the struggling pig farming community.



11. CSR Spending Rose by 16% in FY 2023-24

CSR spending by listed Indian companies rose by 16% to Rs. 17,967 crore in FY 2023-24, reflecting increased corporate profits. The CSR law mandates that firms meeting specified financial criteria spend 2% of their average profits on social causes. Top spenders included HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, TCS, and ONGC. Education and healthcare received the most funds, while allocations to slum and rural development declined. With corporate profits doubling since 2014, experts suggest revisiting CSR thresholds to exclude smaller firms and reflect economic changes.

12. WAVES 2025 India's Major Stride Toward Becoming a Global Media & Entertainment Powerhouse

WAVES 2025, the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit, launched on May 1, 2025, in Mumbai, aims to

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position India as a global leader in digital content, animation, and cinematic arts. Organised by the Indian government, it attracted over 100,000 registrations from 60+ countries. The summit highlights innovation, featuring contests, global speakers, esports tournaments, cultural events, and startup exhibitions. It fosters the creator economy, enhances India's soft power, and integrates cutting-edge technologies like AI, XR, and VFX into creative storytelling.



13. GOI has established an interministerial committee

In April 2025, the Government of India formed an inter-ministerial committee to design the National Manufacturing Mission (NMM), aimed at boosting the Make in India initiative. Led by BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, the mission focuses on five key areas: improving ease of business, developing a future-ready workforce, supporting MSMEs, ensuring technology access, and enhancing product quality. It will promote clean tech manufacturing, including solar, EV batteries, and wind turbines, while also supporting footwear manufacturing and related industries.



14. The 2025 Draft Rules for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity (GEI) Targets

India has proposed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Intensity (GEI) Target Rules, 2025, to regulate emissions

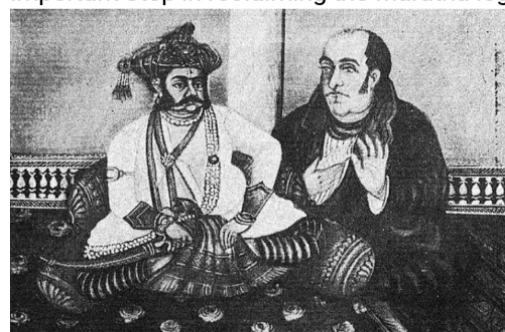
intensity across key energy-intensive industries, supporting its climate goals under the Paris Agreement. These rules, linked to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), set reduction targets for industries like cement, aluminium, and paper. Industries exceeding targets can earn carbon credits, which are tradable on the Indian Carbon Market. The rules aim to reduce India's GHG emissions intensity by 45% by 2030.

15. Centre Approves Greenfield NH-6 Corridor Connecting Meghalaya and Assam

The Shillong–Silchar Greenfield Corridor is a 166.80 km high-speed, 4-lane project approved by the Union Cabinet to boost connectivity between Meghalaya and Assam. Implemented under the Hybrid Annuity Mode for Rs. 22,864 crore, it passes through hilly terrain and connects key highways and towns. The project aims to reduce travel time, improve logistics, and support regional trade, tourism, and industry. It will generate over 1.6 crore man-days of employment and decongest the existing NH-06 corridor.

16. The Legendary Sword of Raghuji Bhosale Returned to India

On April 29, 2025, the Maharashtra government purchased Raghuji Bhosale I's historic firangi-style sword for Rs 47.15 lakh at a London auction. Featuring a Mulheri hilt, gold inlays, and Devanagari inscriptions, the sword symbolises Maratha valour and heritage. Raghuji Bhosale I, founder of the Nagpur Bhosale dynasty, expanded Maratha influence across eastern India. The sword, likely taken after the 1817 Battle of Sitabuldi, holds great historical and cultural significance and marks an important step in reclaiming the Maratha legacy.



17. India Opens Access to National Genetic Resources for Research and Innovation

On April 30, 2025, the Indian government announced open access to the GenomeIndia Project data for researchers, following its dedication by the Prime

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Minister in January. Led by the Department of Biotechnology, the project has completed whole genome sequencing of over 10,000 individuals, with data stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre. It aims to support precision medicine, health research, and policy development. The dataset includes genomic and phenotypic data, fostering scientific innovation while aligning with global standards and sustainable development goals.

International

1. World Immunisation Week 2025

World Immunisation Week 2025 (April 24-30), led by WHO, champions this year's theme: 'Immunisation for All is Humanly Possible.' Highlighting universal vaccine access, the campaign stresses how vaccines prevent 30+ diseases, saving 6 lives per minute since 1974. Despite progress, 22 million children missed measles vaccines in 2023, risking outbreaks. The week mobilises global efforts to counter misinformation and close immunisation gaps, ensuring protection for all ages. Vaccines remain key to eradicating diseases and boosting public health.

2. UNESCO Designates 16 New Global Geoparks

UNESCO adds 16 new Global Geoparks, expanding its network to 229 sites across 50 countries (April 2025). Notable additions include China's Kanbula and Yunyang, Indonesia's Kebumen, Norway's Fjord Coast, and Ecuador's Tungurahua Volcano. These sites showcase volcanic ranges, ancient fossils, and unique rock formations while promoting conservation, education, and indigenous culture. India remains unrepresented. The network now spans 855,000 km², equivalent to Namibia's size. Geoparks undergo reassessment every 4 years to maintain UNESCO's geological and sustainability standards.

3. World Intellectual Property Day 2025

World Intellectual Property Day, observed on April 26, 2025, focuses on the theme "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP," highlighting the role of intellectual property in supporting the music industry. IP rights, such as copyrights, ensure creators like musicians are recognised and rewarded for their work. This day raises awareness about the importance of IP in fostering creativity and innovation, emphasising its economic and cultural contributions, while also addressing challenges like piracy and disparities in global IP laws.

4. Mark Carney Leads Canada's Liberal Party to Fourth Consecutive Term

Prime Minister Mark Carney secured a historic fourth term for Canada's Liberal Party in the federal election, despite potentially falling short of a majority. The election saw a record voter turnout, with foreign policy becoming a central issue due to strained Canada-U.S. relations and trade tensions. Carney, a former global finance leader, faces challenges including repairing ties with the U.S., addressing the cost-of-living crisis, and managing a minority government. His expertise in economic crises positions him to navigate Canada's complex domestic and international issues.



5. International Labour Day 2025

International Labour Day 2025, observed on May 1, celebrates workers' contributions globally while highlighting workers' rights, fair practices, and safe workplaces. Rooted in the 19th-century labour movement, it commemorates struggles for fair work conditions, such as the 1886 U.S. strike. In India, it has been celebrated since 1923. The day also emphasises modern challenges like automation and informal employment. In India, key labour laws have been consolidated into four codes, reinforcing workers' rights to fair wages, social security, and safe conditions.

6. Nepal to Limit Permits for Mount Everest Climbs

Nepal is drafting a new law to limit Mount Everest access to climbers with prior experience, requiring them to have scaled peaks above 7,000 meters. This move aims to reduce fatalities, overcrowding, and environmental degradation. The regulations, introduced on April 18, 2025, also include mandatory health checks, fitness certificates, and a non-refundable garbage fee. The law aligns with global efforts for responsible tourism and supports SDG 12, promoting sustainable practices in high-altitude expeditions and preserving Everest's environment.

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7. Nvidia's USD 500 Billion Investment in AI Expansion

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang announced a historic \$500 billion investment to establish AI chip manufacturing in the U.S., shifting away from reliance on Taiwan. This move, revealed at a White House event, aims to bolster AI innovation and reduce foreign supply chain dependence. The plan includes building over 1 million sq. ft of facilities, generating hundreds of thousands of jobs, and enhancing sectors like healthcare, finance, and defence. Huang highlighted the importance of advanced technology and automation in AI chip production.

Sports

1. Rohit Sharma Achieves Milestone

Rohit Sharma became the second Indian after Virat Kohli to score 12,000 T20 runs, achieving the milestone during the Mumbai Indians' IPL 2025 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad. He is the eighth batter overall to reach this feat, joining legends like Chris Gayle, Virat Kohli, and David Warner. A key player for MI, Rohit's consistent performances have been crucial to the team's success. His latest knock against SRH helped MI secure a seven-wicket victory, further cementing his legacy in T20 cricket.



2. 2025 South Asian Athletics Championships Delayed Yet Again

South Asian Senior Athletics Championships 2025 postponed again due to unresolved visa issues for Pakistani athletes, including Olympic javelin champion

Arshad Nadeem. Originally set for October 2024, then rescheduled to May 3–5, the event may now shift to mid-June 2025 in Ranchi. The delay risks clashing with the Asian Athletics Championships (May 27). Seven nations, including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, await confirmation. No official statement, but visa hurdles remain the primary obstacle.

3. Manush Shah and Diya Chitale Capture Mixed Doubles Title

Manush Shah and Diya Chitale made history by winning the mixed doubles title at the 2025 WTT Contender Tunis, becoming only the second Indian pair to achieve this feat after Batra-Gnanasekaran in 2021. They defeated Japan's Matsushima and Harimoto 3-2, avenging their earlier loss in Doha. Held in Tunis from April 22–27, the event is part of the WTT Contender series. Other winners included Miwa Harimoto (Women's Singles), Felix Leburn (Men's Singles), and the German duo Duda-Bertelsmeier (Men's Doubles).



4. India Secures Record 83 Gold Medals at 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship

India achieved a historic feat at the 2nd Asian Yogasana Sport Championship by winning 83 gold medals, asserting its dominance in the sport. Held at KD Jadhav Arena in New Delhi, the event featured athletes from 21 countries. Japan ranked second, while Nepal impressed with 27 silvers. The closing ceremony included cultural showcases and dignitaries' presence. Leaders of the Asian and World Yogasana Federations praised yogasana's role in health and well-being. India's performance reaffirmed its leadership in the global yogic sports arena.



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5. Liverpool Clinch 2024–25 Premier League Title

Liverpool won the 2024–25 Premier League title under new manager Arne Slot, marking their 20th English top-division championship, equaling Manchester United's record. They secured the title with a dominant 5-1 win over Tottenham Hotspur, with key goals from Salah, Diaz, and Gakpo. With 82 points from 34 matches, Liverpool led second-placed Arsenal by 15 points. This is their second Premier League title in five years, and Slot's first season success mirrors the achievements of former manager Jürgen Klopp.



Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. World Social Report 2025

The UN's World Social Report 2025 highlights growing global disparities in income, employment, and trust in institutions. It reveals that 60% of the world faces economic insecurity, with rising inequality, job precarity, and declining trust in governments. The report also emphasises the impact of climate change and conflict on development. Recommendations include rebuilding social contracts, fair taxation, and strengthening governance. The UN urges global cooperation through platforms like the 2025 World Summit for Social Development to address these challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. India and Bhutan Enhance Customs Cooperation at 6th JGC Meeting

India and Bhutan reinforced their commitment to enhancing customs collaboration at the 6th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting held in Thimphu on 24–25 April 2025. Key discussions focused on digitising customs procedures, improving border infrastructure, and enhancing security in cross-border trade. The two countries emphasised automation, real-time cargo monitoring, and pre-arrival data exchange to streamline

trade. Both nations also discussed strengthening legal cooperation to tackle fraud. The meeting concluded with plans for continued, regular collaboration to promote trade and secure borders.



2. India Post Collaborates with SBI Mutual Fund to Simplify KYC Process

India Post has partnered with SBI Mutual Fund to provide doorstep KYC verification services, targeting rural and underserved areas. Leveraging its vast network of over 1.64 lakh post offices, India Post will collect KYC documents from investors, ensuring secure and convenient onboarding, especially for senior citizens and those with mobility challenges. This initiative supports financial inclusion under Jan Nivesh and Digital India, aiming to boost mutual fund participation. It builds on India Post's past success with large-scale KYC projects and future partnership plans.

3. IEPFA Holds Preparatory Meeting for 'Niveshak Shivir' Event

On April 28, 2025, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) held a virtual meeting to finalise operational details for the 'Niveshak Shivir' initiative, aimed at addressing unclaimed dividends. The pilot phase will launch in Ahmedabad and Mumbai in May 2025. Additionally, IEPFA signed an MOU with Kotak Mahindra Bank for digital investor outreach. Separately, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) granted income tax exemption status to the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to support the Namami Gange Programme.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. China Conducts Test of Pioneering Hydrogen Bomb Technology

Reports suggest China has successfully tested a revolutionary new hydrogen bomb variant, showcasing significant advancements in nuclear weapons technology. This development comes amid rising geopolitical tensions and concerns about a renewed

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arms race. Experts believe this innovation could enhance China's second-strike capability, altering global strategic balances. The international community has called for transparency and renewed diplomatic dialogue to prevent escalation. China's test highlights the need for robust global frameworks governing the proliferation of advanced weaponry.

2. India Achieves Major Milestone in Gene Therapy for Hemophilia

In a groundbreaking achievement, Indian researchers have successfully conducted the nation's first human gene therapy trial for Hemophilia A. Developed by the Department of Biotechnology and the Centre for Stem Cell Research, the therapy showed promising results, with participants exhibiting zero annualized bleeding rates. The approach introduces a corrected gene to enable normal clotting factor production. This breakthrough is poised to dramatically improve treatment options for thousands and signifies India's growing capabilities in advanced genetic medicine.

3. NASA Launches Quantum Gravity Gradiometer Pathfinder for Advanced Gravity Mapping

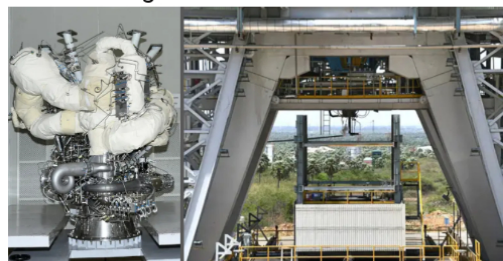
NASA has successfully launched the Quantum Gravity Gradiometer Pathfinder (QGGPf), marking a major leap in precision gravity mapping technology. Utilizing quantum sensors, the mission aims to provide highly accurate measurements of Earth's gravitational variations. The data will be crucial for applications ranging from resource exploration to climate science and natural disaster prediction. The QGGPf project represents a blend of cutting-edge quantum physics and space exploration, setting a new benchmark in geophysical research and Earth monitoring.

4. Kuno National Park Reaches a Major Conservation Milestone

On April 28, 2025, Cheetah Nirva gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, marking a major success for Project Cheetah. This initiative aims to restore cheetahs, which have been extinct in India since 1952, by translocating them from Africa. Kuno now hosts 29 cheetahs and cubs, boosting biodiversity, eco-tourism, and conservation efforts. Despite habitat limitations and health risks, strategies such as habitat expansion, health monitoring, and community involvement aim to ensure the project's long-term success.

5. ISRO Successfully Performs Short-Duration Hot Test of Semicryogenic Engine at IPRC

On April 24, 2025, ISRO successfully conducted a short-duration hot test of its semicryogenic engine at the ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The test, which achieved stable performance at 60% of its rated power, validated critical engine systems, including turbo pumps and control mechanisms. This milestone builds on the first successful test in March 2025. The results are crucial for finalising the engine's operational sequences, with plans for further tests to integrate the engine into upcoming launch vehicles, enhancing payload capacity and reducing costs.



6. Kalaingar Centenary Park

Kalaingar Centenary Park in Chennai, opened in October 2024, commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of the late Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. Developed at Rs. 46 crore, this 6.09-acre park offers attractions like a 500-meter zipline, aviary, glasshouse, orchidarium, and a horticultural museum. It aims to provide recreational, educational, and environmental benefits while promoting awareness about flora. Despite its popularity, challenges such as high entry fees, limited parking, and non-functional features have been noted. The park enhances tourism and serves as a green oasis in the city.

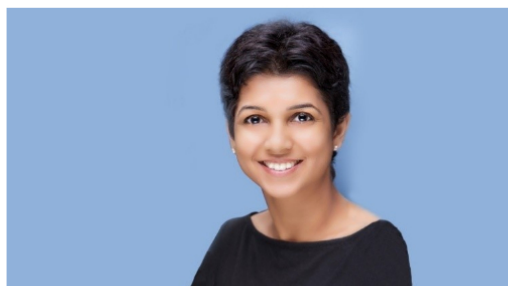
7. Kirthiga Reddy Unveils 'AI Kiran' to Empower Indian Women in Artificial Intelligence

Kirthiga Reddy, former Meta India head and co-founder of Verix, has launched AI Kiran, a women-centric AI platform, on April 21, 2025. The initiative aims to empower Indian women in AI by providing mentorship, funding, and blockchain-verified recognition. Focused on sectors like healthcare, education, and sustainability, AI Kiran seeks to bridge the gender gap in AI, where women occupy only 33% of junior roles and 19% of senior positions. The platform is supported by the Indian government and global organisations.

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8. Amazon Launches Satellite for Project Kuiper Broadband Internet Initiative

On April 28, 2025, Amazon launched 27 satellites as part of its USD 10 billion Project Kuiper, aiming to provide global broadband internet, particularly to underserved areas. The launch, from Cape Canaveral, marks Amazon's challenge to SpaceX's Starlink. Project Kuiper plans to deploy 3,236 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) by 2026. The initiative targets both consumer and enterprise markets, with affordable user terminals and integration with Amazon Web Services (AWS). The project also holds potential defence applications.

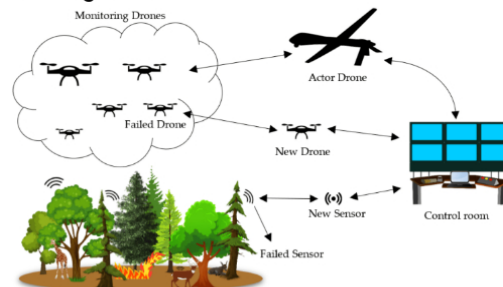
9. India has deployed 34 supercomputers

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) announced the deployment of 34 supercomputers under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), with a combined computing power of 35 Petaflops. These supercomputers, installed at academic and research institutions, serve over 10,000 researchers and start-ups. NSM aims to strengthen India's supercomputing capabilities, with a focus on indigenisation. The initiative has also led to the development of the Trinetra communication system and the Project AIRAWAT AI infrastructure. It is a step towards boosting India's digital and research infrastructure.

10. Madhya Pradesh Unveils India's First AI-Driven Real-Time Forest Alert System

Madhya Pradesh has launched India's first AI-based real-time forest alert system to enhance forest conservation. Using satellite imagery, AI, and mobile-based reporting, the system detects deforestation, encroachment, and land use changes. Piloted in five forest divisions, it provides real-time alerts with GPS-tagged data for quick field action. This initiative sets a national precedent by enabling proactive monitoring and faster responses to environmental threats, contributing to sustainable forest management and combating illegal activities in forest-

rich regions.



Miscellaneous

1. Kriti Sanon Named as Dreame Technology's First Indian Brand Ambassador

Dreame Technology, a leading Chinese smart appliance brand, has appointed Bollywood actress Kriti Sanon as its first Indian brand ambassador to strengthen its market presence. Known for innovative products like robotic vacuums and hair styling tools, Dreame entered India in 2023 via Amazon. Alongside this announcement, the company launched the Mova K10 Pro Wet and Dry Vacuum Cleaner (Rs. 19,999). The move aims to leverage Kriti's appeal and India's growing demand for smart home solutions.

2. Life Insurance Premium Collections Grow 5.13% in FY25

India's life insurance sector grows 5.13% in FY25, with total new business premiums reaching Rs. 3.97 lakh crore. The individual segment surges 11.17% (Rs. 1.67 lakh crore), reflecting strong first-time policyholder uptake. LIC dominates with 57% market share, posting record individual premiums of Rs. 62,404 crore. The growth marks an improvement over FY24's 2% expansion, driven by broader market penetration and enhanced financial protection offerings. March 2025 saw 4.47% monthly growth in individual premiums, signalling sustained industry momentum.

3. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Resume in 2025 After a Five-Year Pause

After a five-year suspension due to the COVID-19 pandemic and border tensions, India and China have agreed to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2025. The decision, made during diplomatic discussions, reflects efforts to rebuild people-to-people ties and foster cultural exchange. India is also working with China to resume direct commercial flights and enhance cooperation in areas like river data sharing. The move

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signals a gradual normalization of relations between the two neighbors.

4. Hubballi Airport Earns Platinum Award for Outstanding Green Practices

Hubballi Airport in Karnataka has been awarded the prestigious Platinum rating for its outstanding green initiatives under the IGBC Green Airports Rating System. This recognition highlights its efforts in energy efficiency, sustainable waste management, rainwater harvesting, and eco-friendly infrastructure development. Hubballi's achievement places it among India's most environmentally responsible airports. Authorities hope the award will inspire other airports to implement greener practices. The airport's commitment strengthens India's broader push for sustainability in the aviation sector.

5. Payal Kapadia Honored with a Prestigious Award from France

Acclaimed Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia has been conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a prestigious French honor recognizing outstanding contributions to the field of arts. Her internationally praised films, which often explore complex human emotions and societal issues, have elevated India's presence on the global cinema map. Kapadia's win symbolizes the growing acknowledgment of Indian independent filmmakers worldwide. It also reflects France's commitment to celebrating cultural diversity and artistic innovation.



6. Anant Ambani Named Executive Director at Reliance Industries Limited

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has appointed Anant Ambani as Executive Director, marking a significant generational transition within the conglomerate. Son of Mukesh Ambani, Anant has been actively involved in RIL's energy and retail sectors. His elevation underscores the

group's strategy of integrating younger leadership into its future roadmap. Along with his siblings Akash and Isha Ambani, Anant's appointment strengthens the company's long-term succession planning, ensuring business continuity and the infusion of fresh perspectives.

7. Veteran Muttayil Govinda Sankara Narayanan Passes Away at 92

Renowned historian and former diplomat M.G.S. Narayanan passed away at the age of 92, leaving behind a rich legacy of scholarship. Best known for his pioneering research on early medieval South Indian history, Narayanan was an eminent figure in academic and cultural circles. He served as chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research and director of the State Archives. His intellectual rigor and contributions to historiography have left an enduring impact on Indian historical studies.

8. Government Approves Rs. 40 Crore for Kallapu-Sajipa Riverfront Road Project in Mangaluru

The Kallapu-Sajipa Riverfront Road project in Mangaluru aims to boost regional connectivity by linking areas like Harekala and Pavor along the Netravathi River. Recently, the Karnataka government sanctioned Rs. 40 crore, raising the total funding to Rs. 55 crore, 25% of the Rs. 160 crore project cost. The road will promote economic growth, improve access to services, and enhance transportation. Timely execution, regular monitoring, and environmental care are crucial to ensuring the project's success and minimising potential ecological impacts.

9. UDAN Scheme: Bridging India with Every Flight

The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS-UDAN), launched in October 2016, aims to make air travel affordable and accessible, connecting Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. The scheme supports airlines with concessions and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to operate regional routes. As of 2025, over 625 routes have been operationalised, benefiting 1.49 crore passengers. UDAN 5.0 and subsequent versions focus on expanding connectivity, including seaplanes and small aircraft, enhancing regional trade, tourism, and healthcare access across India.

10. Renowned Malayalam Filmmaker Shaji N Karun Dies at 73

Renowned Malayalam filmmaker Shaji N Karun passed away at 73, shortly after receiving the J C Daniel Award, Kerala's highest film honour. A pioneer of the Malayalam

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new wave, Karun gained international acclaim with films like Piravi and Swaham, the latter earning a Palme d'Or nomination at Cannes. He won multiple National and State Awards, the Padma Shri, and France's Order of Arts and Letters. Karun also held key roles in Kerala's film institutions, contributing significantly to cinema's growth.



11. RBI Penalises IOB and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited for Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently imposed fines on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) and Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) for regulatory violations. IOB was fined Rs 63.60 lakh for requiring collateral on agricultural and MSME loans, violating RBI's collateral-free loan guidelines. MMFSL faced a Rs 71.30 lakh fine for non-disclosure of fees, inadequate loan agreements, and customer identification issues. These penalties highlight RBI's role in ensuring financial institutions comply with transparency and consumer protection standards.

12. Department of Posts to Release Commemorative Stamp in Honour of Tabla Legend Pandit Chatur Lal

The Department of Posts will release a commemorative stamp to honour the centenary of tabla legend Pandit Chatur Lal. Known for introducing the tabla to global audiences, Chatur Lal collaborated with renowned musicians like Pandit Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin. His contributions to Indo-jazz fusion and his performances on international stages solidified his legacy. Despite his untimely death in 1965, his impact on Indian classical music and global music culture remains profound, and the stamp celebrates his monumental achievements.

13. Launch of the Book Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician

The National Archives of India, in collaboration with Vani Prakashan, will launch the book 'Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician' on April 30, 2025. Authored by Arun

Singhal and Devendra Kumar Sharma, the book delves into the life and legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, exploring his mathematical genius, struggles, and contributions despite limited formal education. The book, based on rare documents and letters, highlights his achievements and the cultural context of his work, showcasing his lasting impact on mathematics.

14. NMCG Approves Action Plan 2025

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved the Action Plan 2025 for the River Cities Alliance (RCA), aiming to integrate river-sensitive urban planning into city development. The plan focuses on capacity-building, technical support, and collaborative governance. It includes the development of Urban River Management Plans (URMPs), training programs, and knowledge-sharing platforms. The initiative, supported by the World Bank, aims to expand to 60 URMPs in 2-3 years, with a special focus on cities like Delhi and international engagement at the World Economic Forum.

15. Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam Issued Certified Green Municipal Bond

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN) has made history by issuing India's first certified Green Municipal Bond, raising Rs. 150 crore to fund a state-of-the-art Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP) under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. The plant, with a 40 MLD capacity, uses advanced filtration technologies like microfiltration, ultrafiltration, and reverse osmosis. This initiative is a significant step in sustainable urban infrastructure and water conservation, with the project being developed under a Public-Private Partnership Hybrid Annuity Model (PPP-HAM). The plant has also earned recognition at the Water Digest World Water Awards 2024-25.

16. President Appoints Justice Gavai as the 52nd Chief Justice of India

Justice B.R. Gavai has been appointed as the 52nd Chief Justice of India by President Droupadi Murmu on April 30, 2025. He will take oath on May 14, 2025, and serve until November 23, 2025. Justice Gavai is the second person from the Scheduled Caste community to hold this position, after Justice K.G. Balakrishnan. He has been part of significant rulings, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the annulment of the Electoral Bonds Scheme, and leads environmental case benches.

17. IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal Takes Charge as the Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar

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IAS officer Vinod Kumar Gunjiyal has been appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Bihar by the Election Commission of India ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections. A 2007-batch officer from the Bihar cadre, Gunjiyal, replaces H R Srinivas. Known for his administrative expertise, he has previously held key roles in the Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department and the Animal Husbandry Department. As CEO, he will oversee electoral operations to ensure free, fair, and efficient elections in Bihar.

18. MNRE Minister Launches Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme

India is positioning itself as a global green hydrogen hub with the launch of the Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme (GHCI) by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) on April 29, 2025. The scheme aims to ensure transparency, traceability, and credibility in green hydrogen production. A national workshop highlighted opportunities for MSMEs in the green hydrogen supply chain, focusing on technology collaboration, business opportunities, and decentralised production. The event emphasised the need for standardised protocols, shared R&D, and long-term policy stability.

19. RBI to Launch PRAVAAH Portal for All Stakeholders Starting May 1

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that from May 1, 2025, all regulated entities must submit applications for licenses, authorisations, and approvals through the PRAVAAH portal. Launched in May 2024, PRAVAAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorisation) aims to streamline, digitise, and enhance transparency in the approval process. The portal covers a wide range of entities, including banks, NBFCs, and payment operators, and offers features like application tracking, user guides, and tutorials to improve compliance and efficiency.

20. IndusInd Bank CEO Sumant Kathpalia Resigns

Sumant Kathpalia, MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank, resigned following accounting discrepancies in the bank's derivatives portfolio, which led to a Rs. 2,000 crore loss. The irregularities were uncovered in March 2025 and confirmed by PwC and Grant Thornton, revealing incorrect accounting of internal derivatives trades. Kathpalia took moral responsibility for the lapses, which also led to the resignation of Deputy CEO Arun Khurana. The RBI is overseeing interim leadership, while the

discrepancies have raised concerns about corporate governance and market confidence.

21. Cabinet Approves Increase in Sugarcane Price for 2025-26 Season

The Union Cabinet has approved a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of Rs. 355 per quintal for sugarcane for the 2025-26 season, effective from October 1, 2025. Based on a 10.25% sugar recovery rate, it includes incentives for higher recovery and protections for lower recovery rates. This 4.41% hike benefits around 5 crore farmers and 5 lakh sugar mill workers. The FRP is 105.2% above the production cost and aims to ensure farmer welfare and stability in the sugar sector.

22. Former RAW Chief Alok Joshi has been appointed as the head of the restructured National Security Board

India has overhauled its National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) following the Pahalgam terror attack and rising tensions with Pakistan. Alok Joshi, former R&AW chief, has been appointed Chairman. The restructuring aims to strengthen national security and improve responses to terrorism. The revamped board includes senior officers from the defence, intelligence, and police sectors. It will advise the government on national security, military strategies, and diplomatic matters, focusing on countering terrorism and enhancing defence frameworks.



23. Supreme Court Orders Revisions to KYC Process for Disabled Individuals

The Supreme Court of India directed the government and public entities like the RBI to revise digital KYC norms to be more inclusive for individuals with disabilities, especially those with visual impairments or facial disfigurements. This ruling emphasises that digital access is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court mandated alternative verification methods and accessibility standards for digital platforms, ensuring equal access to essential services for marginalized communities, aligning with international human rights and the UN's SDG 10 on reducing

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inequalities.

24. RBI Initiates 3 Important Surveys for Monetary Policy Insights

The RBI has launched three surveys—the Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH), Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS), and Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS)—to gather real-time household sentiments on inflation, economic confidence, and consumer behaviour. These surveys, covering urban and rural India, will provide crucial data for the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in June 2025. The surveys aim to assist the MPC in making informed decisions on interest rates and inflation control, and will be conducted bi-monthly.

25. Kamla Persad-Bissessar Makes Historic Comeback as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago

Kamla Persad-Bissessar has reclaimed the role of Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago after leading the United National Congress (UNC) to victory over the long-ruling People's National Movement (PNM). Her return signals a major political shift amid rising economic and crime concerns. As the nation's first female Prime Minister (2010–2015), Persad-Bissessar pledges job creation, healthcare reforms, and improved social services. The snap election followed public dissatisfaction and former PM Keith Rowley's resignation, restoring hope for national reform and stability.



26. India's Coal Sector Records Growth

India's coal sector showed strong performance in April 2025, with production rising 3.63% to 81.57 million tonnes (MT), driven by both public and captive mining. Coal dispatch also increased to 86.64 MT, and coal stock grew to 125.76 MT. The growth reflects India's focus on boosting domestic coal availability, reducing import dependency, and supporting energy security. This performance aligns with the country's goals of self-

reliance, energy stability, and the success of initiatives like Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.