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## National

### 1. India Imposes Complete Ban on Imports from Pakistan

In response to a deadly militant attack in Kashmir that killed 26 tourists, India has imposed a total ban on all imports from Pakistan and barred Pakistani vessels from docking at Indian ports. This move, announced by India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade and the Directorate General of Shipping, escalates tensions between the two nations. Pakistan has retaliated by halting trade, closing its airspace to Indian aircraft, and expelling Indian diplomats, marking a significant deterioration in bilateral relations.

### 2. Government Approves Greenfield Airports in Kota and Puri to Boost Regional Connectivity

On May 5, 2025, Union Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu Kinjarapu approved Greenfield airports in Kota (Rajasthan) and Puri (Odisha), aiming to boost regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme. The Kota airport will support the city's educational and industrial sectors, while Puri airport will enhance religious tourism linked to the Jagannath Temple. Both projects are expected to drive local economic growth, improve mobility, and promote tourism by developing new aviation infrastructure in underserved regions of India.

### 3. Andhra Pradesh Unveils India's First Transmedia Entertainment City, 'Creator Land'

On May 4, 2025, Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched 'Creator Land,' India's first transmedia entertainment city, at the WAVES Summit in Mumbai. The Rs. 10,000 crore initiative aims to create 25,000 jobs, attract FDI, and position Amaravati as a global hub for digital media, gaming, AI content, and filmmaking. The project includes the Creator Land Academy for skill development, fostering innovation, employment, and cultural advancement. It aligns with global trends in digital and AI-driven content creation.

### 4. Supreme Court Releases Asset Details of 21 Judges to Enhance Public Accountability

The Supreme Court of India has published the asset details of 21 out of 33 serving judges, as part of an effort to promote transparency and accountability within the judiciary. This move, ahead of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna's retirement, aims to boost public trust. The court also disclosed its judicial appointment process, including recommendations for High Court judges. This initiative is set to continue, to enhance public access to judicial assets and clarify the selection criteria for judges.

### 5. India Prepares for Nationwide Civil Defence Drills in Response to Growing Tensions with Pakistan

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is conducting a nationwide civil defence drill from May 7-9, 2025, involving over 4 lakh volunteers across 244 vulnerable districts. The exercise, the largest since the 1971 India-Pakistan war, aims to evaluate readiness for cross-border threats following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack. It includes air-raid sirens, blackout drills, evacuation planning, and testing of emergency communication systems. The drill also involves civilian and student training in survival techniques and passive defence strategies, particularly in border areas.

### 6. Moody's Revises India's 2025 GDP Growth Estimate to 6.3% Citing Global Trade Woes

Moody's has cut India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 from 6.8% to 6.3%, citing global trade uncertainties, U.S. policy shifts, and geopolitical tensions. The slowdown in world trade and

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challenges in manufacturing and exports have influenced the downward revision. However, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, with Moody's projecting a rebound to 6.5% growth in 2026. The agency emphasized India's economic resilience but warned of risks related to inflation, global demand, and fluctuating commodity prices.

### 7. India Unveils Non-Ferrous Metal Recycling Portal to Promote Circular Economy

On May 7, 2025, Union Minister Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched the Non-Ferrous Metal Recycling Website and Stakeholders' Portal to promote a sustainable circular economy in India. The portal, part of the National Non-Ferrous Metal Scrap Recycling Framework, aims to create a transparent, data-driven recycling ecosystem for metals like aluminium, copper, and zinc. It focuses on enhancing industry participation, infrastructure, and workforce development, while supporting policy formulation and reducing dependence on imported materials, aligning with the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

### 8. Bengaluru Carries Out Civil Defence Mock Drill in Response to Escalating Tensions

On May 7, 2025, Bengaluru conducted a major civil defence mock drill, 'Operation Abhyas', in Halasuru under MHA directives to boost emergency preparedness amid rising India-Pakistan tensions. Organised by Karnataka's Fire and Emergency Services, the drill included fire simulations, high-rise evacuations, and debris rescues. It aimed to enhance public awareness and inter-agency coordination. Home Minister G Parameshwara emphasised its importance following the Pahalgam terror attack, urging citizens to remain vigilant as India strengthens internal security readiness.

### 9. India Introduces Chip-Embedded E-Passports to Strengthen Travel Security

India has launched chip-based e-passports, embedded with RFID chips and biometric data, as part of its digital transformation of travel documentation. This move enhances passport security, streamlines immigration, and aligns India with countries like the USA and the UK. The e-passports, part of the Passport Seva Programme Version 2.0, began rolling out on April 1, 2024, in select cities. New passport rules for 2025 include a mandatory birth certificate for those born after October 2023, and the digital embedding of residential addresses.

### 10. The Cabinet has approved an expansion plan worth ₹11,828 crore for five IITs

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs. 11,828.79 crore expansion plan for five newly established IITs in Tirupati, Palakkad, Bhilai, Jammu, and Dharwad. The Phase-B expansion aims to increase student intake by 6,576, create 130 faculty posts, and establish research parks to enhance industry-academia collaboration. This initiative will strengthen India's position in STEM education, promote regional development, and generate employment. The expansion is part of efforts to boost innovation, educational quality, and infrastructure across India's higher education system.

### 11. IPL 2025 Put on Hold Due to Escalating India-Pakistan Tensions

On May 9, 2025, the BCCI temporarily suspended IPL 2025 for one week due to rising Indo-Pak border tensions, prioritising player and



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stakeholder safety. The suspension followed security concerns after the cancellation of the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals match in Dharamsala. Franchises raised alarms over safe logistics and team movements. This marks the IPL's first major disruption since 2021, reflecting the BCCI's commitment to security and crisis management amid volatile geopolitical conditions.

## 12. Kozhikode Becomes Part of WHO's Global Age-Friendly Cities Network

Kozhikode has been inducted into the WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) on May 2, 2025, recognising its efforts to create an inclusive environment for its ageing population. The city's initiatives include senior citizen-friendly parks, healthcare accessibility, and digital platforms for support. Kozhikode focuses on accessible public spaces, affordable housing, and community participation, aligning with global best practices in elderly care. This honour highlights the city's commitment to enhancing the quality of life for older adults.

### International

## 1. India and Denmark Extend Energy Partnership with Fresh Agreement

India and Denmark have renewed their energy sector cooperation agreement, broadening the partnership to include advanced areas such as power system modeling, integration of variable renewable energy, cross-border electricity trading, and development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This collaboration supports India's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and underscores the shared commitment to clean energy transition.

## 2. Understanding the FATF Grey List and Its Global Implications

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) maintains a 'grey list' of countries identified as having

strategic deficiencies in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures. Countries on this list are subject to increased monitoring and must implement action plans to address these gaps. Recent policy updates have refined listing criteria with a risk-based approach, reducing undue burden on Least Developed Countries. Exiting the grey list requires significant legal and regulatory reforms, ensuring compliance with global financial integrity standards.

## 3. India and UK Finalize Landmark Free Trade Deal

India and the United Kingdom have finalized a historic free trade agreement, aiming to bolster bilateral trade by £25.5 billion annually by 2040. The deal includes major tariff reductions on key goods, such as British whisky and Indian automobiles, fostering greater economic cooperation. Additionally, provisions have been made for easier business travel for Indian professionals to the UK. This agreement is seen as a significant step toward enhancing economic ties and opening new avenues for businesses in both nations to expand their global reach.

## 4. Robert Francis Prevost Elected as the Next Pope

On May 8, 2025, American Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost was elected as Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first U.S. pontiff and the 267th pope of the Catholic Church. His election followed the death of Pope Francis on April 21. A moderate aligned with Francis's progressive values, Pope Leo XIV aims to address internal Church divisions, clerical abuse scandals, and global issues. Chosen during the most international conclave in history, his leadership marks a pivotal moment for 1.4 billion Catholics worldwide.

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## Sports

### 1.FIFA Reveals Host Cities for 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil

FIFA announced the eight Brazilian cities selected to host the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup, scheduled from June 24 to July 25, 2027. The cities, all of which hosted matches in the 2014 Men's World Cup, include Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Fortaleza, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Sao Paulo. The tournament will feature 32 teams, promoting women's football globally and boosting tourism and local economies. The final venue is yet to be confirmed, with Maracanã a likely candidate.

### 2. ECB Prohibits Transgender Women from Competing in Women's Cricket

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has announced a policy change, effective May 2, 2025, excluding transgender women from competing in women's cricket at all levels. This move follows a UK Supreme Court ruling in April 2025 that legally defines women based on biological sex. While transgender women are banned from women's cricket, they can still

participate in mixed or open categories. This shift aligns with broader trends across UK sports and aims to maintain fairness and safety in women's competitions.

## Ranks/Reports/Indices

### 1.India-Italy Strategic Plan 2025–29 Advances at ADB Summit

At the 58th Annual ADB Meeting in Milan, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met Italian Finance Minister Giancarlo Giorgetti to strengthen India-Italy ties, focusing on green energy, fintech, and sustainable development. They discussed implementing the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–2029, enhancing bilateral trade (over USD 14.5 billion in FY2023–24), and collaboration in emerging sectors like green hydrogen and digital infrastructure. The meeting also addressed reforms in Multilateral Development Banks and climate cooperation, aligning with India's development goals for 2047.

### 2. India and Vietnam signed an agreement to strengthen Buddhist Ties

India and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Understanding on May 7, 2025, during the United Nations Day of Vesak celebrations, to strengthen cooperation based on Buddhist teachings of compassion, wisdom, and peace. The Mou established the Vietnam Chapter of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), aiming to deepen bilateral cultural and spiritual ties. It promotes Buddhist values, inter-tradition harmony, and sustainable development. This initiative enhances India-Vietnam relations and



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reinforces India's cultural diplomacy through Buddhist ideals and global peace efforts.

## Science and tech/Space/Defence

### 1. India Contributes Crucial Magnetic Component to Global ITER Project

India has played a pivotal role in the ITER nuclear fusion project by contributing key components to its central magnet system. This collaboration aims to replicate the sun's energy production process, offering a potential source of clean, carbon-free power. India's involvement underscores its commitment to advancing global clean energy initiatives and showcases its capabilities in high-end scientific research and development.

### 2. FAO Introduces AIM4NatuRe to Enhance Global Ecosystem Tracking

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched the AIM4NatuRe initiative to improve monitoring of global ecosystem restoration efforts. Funded by the UK government and aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework, the program aims to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. It leverages advanced technology and data to bring transparency and accountability to restoration commitments worldwide.

### 3. Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari Named New Vice Chief of Indian Air Force

Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Marshal SP Dharkar. With a distinguished career encompassing operational roles, instructional duties, and strategic leadership, Air Marshal Tiwari's appointment is expected to further strengthen the IAF's capabilities and readiness.

### 4. Impact of Increasing Heat on Death Rates Across India

Extreme temperatures have claimed nearly 35,000 lives in India over the past two decades, with heatwaves being the leading cause of weather-related deaths. Urban centers like Ahmedabad are piloting innovative interventions such as cool roofs, tree plantation drives, and wearable health monitors to address rising heat risks. Men and outdoor laborers are among the most vulnerable. Scientists warn that climate change is intensifying these patterns, urging governments to adopt robust adaptation strategies and public health frameworks to protect at-risk populations.

### 5. Neuralink Develops Technology to Help Restore Human Speech

Neuralink, a neurotechnology company co-founded by Elon Musk, has received a 'breakthrough device' designation from the FDA for its brain implant designed to restore speech in individuals with severe neurological impairments. The implant enables users to control devices using brain signals, as demonstrated by a paralyzed ALS patient who can now type by thought. This technology opens new avenues for treating communication disorders and paralysis, offering hope for enhanced autonomy and improved quality of life for millions globally.

### 6. A Closer Look at Palamu's Efforts to Protect Its Tiger Population

Palamu Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand, established in 1973, is one of India's first nine tiger reserves. Covering over 1,100 square kilometers, it is home to diverse flora and fauna. Recent conservation initiatives include relocating villages such as Jaigir to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. These relocations help in regenerating core habitat areas for prey and tigers. However, conservation efforts face challenges from Naxalite activities that restrict forest patrols and development projects. Authorities continue working to balance security and ecological preservation.

### 7. Tracking India's Worsening Climate and Rising Temperatures

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India's average temperature has risen by around 0.6°C since the mid-20th century, with more frequent and severe heatwaves recorded across northern and central regions. The warming trend, while slower than global averages, threatens water availability, agriculture, and public health. Rising sea levels also endanger coastal populations. Scientists emphasize the importance of localized adaptation strategies, including green infrastructure and renewable energy adoption. Strengthening climate resilience frameworks is crucial to minimize long-term socio-economic and environmental risks from warming.

## 8. Cheetah Corridor Initiative Aims to Ensure Safe Wildlife Movement

India is launching its first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor, covering 17,000 square kilometers between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The corridor will link Kuno National Park and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, facilitating cheetah movement and genetic exchange. This initiative supports the ambitious cheetah reintroduction project, aimed at reviving extinct populations. The project includes habitat development, prey base enhancement, and community engagement. It represents a landmark step in Indian wildlife conservation, highlighting government commitment to biodiversity and ecosystem restoration.

## 9. India and Maldives Deepen Defence Cooperation with Joint HADR Exercise

On May 4, 2025, INS Sharda reached Maafilaafushi Atoll for a joint HADR exercise with the Maldives National Defence Force, running until May 10. This reflects India's "MAHASAGAR" vision for regional maritime cooperation and disaster readiness. The exercise includes medical aid, rescue drills, and community engagement. Strengthening defence ties, India trains over 70% of MNDF personnel and supports healthcare and infrastructure in the Maldives. This collaboration boosts interoperability,

disaster response, and security in the Indian Ocean Region.

## 10. India's First Inter-State Cheetah Corridor to Connect Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

Rajasthan is set to join Madhya Pradesh in establishing India's first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor, spanning 17,000 sq km. This project connects Palpur Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh with the Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, promoting cheetah reintroduction and conservation. The initiative, part of Project Cheetah, aims to ensure safe migration, enhance genetic diversity, and boost eco-tourism. The MoU between the two states is expected soon, marking a major step in wildlife preservation.

## 11. NMCG Approves Crucial Ganga Revival Projects in 62nd Committee Meet

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in its 62nd Executive Committee meeting, approved several eco-restoration projects to rejuvenate the Ganga River. A key project includes wetland conservation in Nathmalpur Bhagad, Bihar, with a budget of ₹3.51 crore. Other projects focus on biodiversity, wastewater management, and public engagement. These initiatives aim to restore the river's health and ecological balance. NMCG continues to emphasize sustainable practices and local participation in its mission to transform the Ganga basin comprehensively.

## 12. Effects of Microgravity on Human Body Temperature Regulation Explored

Recent research has examined the effects of microgravity on human body temperature regulation, revealing significant changes in the way the body responds to temperature control in space. Astronauts exposed to microgravity experience an increase in core body temperature due to shifts in body fluids and altered thermoregulatory mechanisms. The study emphasizes the need for ongoing research



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to better understand these physiological changes, ensuring astronauts' health during extended missions in space. This research also has potential implications for other space-related medical conditions.

### 13. Ladakh is now home to 477 snow leopards

A recent study under the Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAII) has revealed that Ladakh is home to 477 snow leopards, accounting for about 33% of India's total population. Conducted by various agencies, the study used camera traps and field surveys across 93,000 sq. km. Ladakh's rugged terrain and low human interference support snow leopards. This discovery boosts eco-tourism, offering sustainable income through homestays and treks, but also highlights challenges like climate change and tourism pressure on habitats.

### Miscellaneous

#### 1. Lakkundi Monuments Nominated for UNESCO Tentative Heritage List

The Lakkundi Group of Monuments in Karnataka, renowned for their intricate architecture and historical significance, have been proposed for inclusion in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. This nomination highlights India's rich cultural heritage and the importance of preserving these ancient structures for future generations.

#### 2. Indian Women Featured in Forbes W-Power 2025 for Outstanding Achievements

Forbes India's W-Power 2025 list celebrates 20 exceptional Indian women who have made significant strides across various sectors. Notable figures include economist Dr. Gita Gopinath, sport shooter Manu Bhaker, and filmmaker Payal Kapadia. Their inclusion underscores the growing influence and achievements of Indian women in shaping the nation's socio-economic landscape.

#### 3. India Sees Surge in Coal Production for April 2025, Signaling Growth

India's coal production in April 2025 increased by 3.63% year-on-year, reaching 81.57 million tonnes. The rise is attributed to enhanced output from captive mines and reflects the country's efforts to boost domestic coal production, reduce import dependency, and ensure energy security amid growing demand.

#### 4. NITI Aayog Releases Report to Strengthen India's MSME Sector Competitiveness

NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled 'Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India,' addressing key challenges faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. The report provides data-driven insights and policy recommendations aimed at boosting productivity, fostering innovation, and facilitating access to finance, thereby strengthening the backbone of India's economy.

#### 5. PM Modi Inaugurates ₹8,800 Crore Vizhinjam International Port Project

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala, a ₹8,800 crore project developed in partnership with Adani Ports. As India's first deepwater transshipment hub, the port features advanced infrastructure, including semi-automation and an AI-powered vessel traffic management system. The project aims to boost maritime trade, reduce dependence on foreign ports, and enhance economic development in the region.

#### 6. Jharkhand Initiates OBC Survey to Support Local Reservation Policies

Jharkhand has completed comprehensive data collection on the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) across all its districts as part of fulfilling the Supreme Court's 'triple test' requirement. This initiative aims to enable the implementation of local body reservations for OBCs in 48 urban local bodies. By gathering accurate demographic data, the government hopes to ensure equitable political representation and

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empower marginalized communities. This data will also help in formulating evidence-based policies promoting social justice.

## 7. India Nears Population Stability with Replacement-Level Fertility Rates

India is nearing the population replacement level with 31 of 36 states and union territories achieving a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 2.1 or lower. However, states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand still show higher fertility rates. A declining TFR is expected to reduce India's population growth rate, but may also affect its workforce and demographic dividend. Experts stress the importance of adjusting economic, social, and healthcare policies to manage an ageing population and ensure balanced, sustainable development.

## 8. New 2025 Bill Seeks to Regulate School Fees in Delhi

The Delhi government has introduced the School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fee) Bill, 2025, aimed at curbing arbitrary fee hikes in private unaided schools. The legislation mandates forming School Management Committees, including parents, to ensure a transparent fee-setting process. Schools found violating guidelines may face fines ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹10 lakh. The bill covers over 1,600 institutions in Delhi and seeks to bring affordability, accountability, and parental inclusion into the state's private education system.

## 9. Difficulties Faced in Prosecuting Cases Under the PMLA in India

Despite establishing 100 special courts under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), trials remain sluggish due to legal and procedural delays. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has flagged over 1,700 pending cases nationwide, citing judiciary backlogs and complex investigations. Although the ED boasts a 93.6% conviction rate, critics argue that long trial durations undermine justice and effectiveness.

Legal experts recommend procedural reforms, better infrastructure, and faster adjudication to ensure accountability and efficient resolution in financial crime cases.

## 10. World Asthma Day 2025

World Asthma Day 2025 is observed on May 6 with the theme "Make inhaled treatments accessible for all." Organised by GINA, it raises global awareness about asthma, a chronic respiratory disease affecting over 250 million people. The day emphasises the importance of inhaled therapies in managing asthma and reducing deaths, especially in low-income areas. Activities include free screenings, education programs, and digital campaigns. The goal is to promote early diagnosis, ensure treatment access, and improve the quality of life for asthma patients.

## 11. Pulitzer Prize 2025

The 2025 Pulitzer Prizes recognised outstanding journalism, with The New York Times leading with four awards, including Breaking News Photography for Doug Mills' dramatic image of an assassination attempt on Donald Trump. Other major winners included The Washington Post for Breaking News Reporting, Reuters for investigative reporting on fentanyl, and The Wall Street Journal for its investigation into Elon Musk. The New Yorker also won three prizes, including for commentary and feature photography. The awards highlight impactful stories on issues like the Gaza conflict and the fentanyl crisis.

## 12. Biju Patnaik Honoured in Delhi for Role in Battle of Stalingrad

Biju Patnaik, India's legendary freedom fighter and former Odisha Chief Minister, was honoured in Delhi by the Russian Embassy for his significant role in the Battle of Stalingrad during World War II. A commemorative plaque was unveiled, recognizing his efforts in aiding Soviet forces by piloting critical missions. The tribute marks 80 years since Russia's triumph over Nazi



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Germany and highlights India's lesser-known contributions to global wartime efforts, especially through individuals like Patnaik who bridged diplomatic and military ties.

**13. Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Announces May 5 as Traders' Day**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has declared May 5 as 'Traders' Day', acknowledging the vital contributions of traders to the state's economy. The announcement came during a public meeting where he also urged businesses to adopt Tamil names to preserve linguistic heritage. The move has been welcomed by the trader community, who long demanded formal recognition. It aligns with the state's broader initiatives to protect Tamil identity while strengthening its economic foundation through cultural pride and inclusivity.

**14. Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui May Acquire 51% Stake in Yes Bank**

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) is reportedly in talks to acquire a 51% controlling stake in Yes Bank, signaling a major international investment in India's banking sector. The deal may involve purchasing stakes from current shareholders, including SBI, and launching an open offer. If successful, this would mark one of the largest foreign strategic investments in an Indian bank. However, Yes Bank officially denied these reports, calling them speculative, though market observers suggest negotiations are ongoing quietly.

**15. SBI Rolls Out Major Workforce Empowerment Initiative**

The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a large-scale workforce empowerment initiative, focusing on upskilling and internal engagement. This is the bank's most extensive program of its kind, aimed at future-proofing its human resources through continuous learning, leadership development, and digital transformation. By empowering over 250,000

employees, SBI seeks to create a culture of innovation and ownership. The initiative aligns with its long-term vision to remain agile and competitive in a rapidly evolving financial services environment.

**16. FSIB Nominates Sanjay Joshi for CMD Role at Oriental Insurance**

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Sanjay Joshi, a General Manager at United India Insurance, for the top post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) at Oriental Insurance Company. His nomination is pending approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Joshi brings decades of experience in general insurance and strategic planning. This appointment is seen as a step toward strengthening leadership in public sector insurance firms, amid efforts to modernize and enhance efficiency in the industry.

**17. IIFT to Launch New Campus at GIFT City, Gujarat**

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) has secured approval to open a new off-campus centre at GIFT City, Gujarat. The new campus will offer its flagship MBA (International Business) program and specialized training in global finance, trade analytics, and digital economy. Positioned within India's first International Financial Services Centre, this expansion reflects IIFT's aim to align with global trade dynamics. It also supports the government's vision of making GIFT City a hub for high-quality education and innovation.

**18. Kerala Introduces 'Jyothi' Initiative to Provide Education for Migrant Children**

Launched in May 2025, Kerala's 'Jyothi' scheme aims to integrate migrant children into the state's education and welfare systems. Targeting children aged 3-6 for anganwadis and 6+ for schools, the initiative includes a statewide campaign to identify and enrol migrant children. It ensures health check-ups, language support, and cultural inclusion. Backed by SCERT and

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local bodies, it promotes continuous education despite migration. The scheme aligns with Kerala's broader migrant inclusion policies, including the Aadhaar-linked registry and the previous 'Roshni' project.

### **19. Maharashtra has introduced the 'Adishakti Abhiyan' initiative to promote women's empowerment**

Launched on Ahilyabai Holkar's 300th birth anniversary, Maharashtra's 'Adishakti Abhiyan' is a women-centric campaign aimed at improving the implementation of welfare schemes. With a Rs. 10.50 crore budget, it addresses malnutrition, maternal and infant mortality, child marriage, and gender-based violence. The campaign promotes women's participation in Panchayati Raj, forms multi-level committees for outreach, and introduces Adishakti Awards for Gram Panchayats. It emphasises community involvement, accountability, and inclusive governance, honouring Holkar's legacy of reform and empowerment.

### **20. World Red Cross Day 2025**

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed on May 8, 2025, commemorates Jean Henry Dunant's birth and honored Red Cross volunteers' humanitarian efforts worldwide. With the theme 'Keeping Humanity Alive,' the day focused on the organisation's commitment to neutrality, compassion, and service in crisis zones. Celebrations included blood donation drives, medical camps, and social media campaigns. The event highlighted the work of Red Cross societies globally and emphasised the importance of humanitarian principles, such as impartiality and voluntary service.

### **21. Arunachal Pradesh Initiates First Geothermal Energy Production Well**

India's first geothermal production well in Northeast India was successfully drilled in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, by the Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS).

Supported by international partners from Norway and Iceland, the project identifies Dirang as a medium-to-high enthalpy geothermal zone. With applications in eco-friendly heating and agro-processing, it marks a breakthrough in clean energy for high-altitude regions. This pioneering initiative may soon make Dirang India's first geothermal-powered city, boosting sustainability and energy self-reliance.

### **22. The new SHAKTI policy grants thermal power plants increased autonomy**

On May 7, 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the revised SHAKTI Policy, aimed at improving coal allocation in India's power sector. The new framework introduces a simplified two-window system for thermal power producers, replacing the previous complex process. It allows coal linkage at both notified and premium prices, enhancing flexibility for short- and long-term needs. The policy aims to boost transparency, energy security, and private sector participation, while also supporting coal import substitution and market participation.

### **23. Actor Sonu Sood Recognised for His Humanitarian Efforts During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Bollywood actor Sonu Sood will receive the Humanitarian Award at the 72nd Miss World Festival on May 31, 2025, at Hyderabad's HITEX Arena, recognising his impactful social work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Honoured by the Miss World Organisation, Sood is celebrated for aiding migrant workers, students, and underserved communities through his Sood Charity Foundation. His initiatives in education, healthcare, and disaster relief gained global acclaim. He will also serve as a grand finale judge at the event, reflecting his continued humanitarian commitment.

### **24. Kotak Bank has launched the Solitaire Credit Card**

Kotak Mahindra Bank launched the Kotak



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Solitaire Credit Card in May 2025, a premium, invite-only metal card designed for high-end travellers. It offers exclusive perks like zero forex mark-up, unlimited lounge access, and transferable airmiles to top airline and hotel partners. Cardholders earn up to 10 airmiles per Rs. 100 spent on travel and enjoy benefits such as fuel surcharge waivers and hotel discounts. The card has an annual fee of Rs. 25,000, waived for Solitaire Program customers, and is available by invitation only.

### **25. Haryana has introduced the 'Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana'**

The Haryana government has launched the 'Pandit Lakhmi Chand Kalakar Samajik Samman Yojana' to provide monthly financial assistance to elderly and economically disadvantaged artistes who have contributed significantly to Haryana's arts. Approved on May 5, 2025, the scheme offers honorariums of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 7,000 based on income levels. Eligible applicants must be 60+, with at least 20 years of artistic contribution. The scheme aims to support senior artists, preserve cultural heritage, and honour long-standing cultural contributions in music, dance, and other arts.

### **26. Ajoy Chawla will take over as Titan's Managing Director, succeeding C.K. Venkataraman**

Titan Company Ltd. has announced the appointment of Ajoy Chawla as its new Managing Director, effective January 1, 2026, succeeding C.K. Venkataraman, who will retire in December 2025. Chawla, currently heading Titan's successful jewellery division, has been with the company since 1991 and has played a key role in its growth. Titan reported a 22% revenue increase for FY25, surpassing Rs. 50,000 crore. Chawla's leadership is expected to maintain the company's growth trajectory and innovation across its diverse product lines.