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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. MoEFCC Announces Winners of 'Ideas4LiFE' as Part of Mission LiFE

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the top 21 winners of 'Ideas4LiFE,' a citizen-driven initiative under Mission LiFE promoting sustainable living. Selected from 1,384 entries across seven themes—such as saving energy, water, and reducing waste—the ideas were evaluated on innovation, feasibility, impact, scalability, and sustainability. Launched with UNICEF YuWaah, the initiative encourages youth and community involvement to support India's climate goals and the Prime Minister's vision of mindful resource use.



2. RBI Remits Record Surplus of Rs. 2.69 Lakh Crore to the Government for FY25

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved a record surplus transfer of Rs. 2.69 lakh crore to the Central Government for FY 2024-25 during its 616th Board meeting, chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra. This reflects strong financial health and macroeconomic stability. The transfer follows a hike in the Contingent Risk Buffer to 7.5%, under the revised Economic Capital Framework. The surplus arises from the RBI's earnings after provisions, balancing fiscal

support with financial prudence.

3. Supreme Court Upholds Women's Representation by Reinstating Female Judge

The Supreme Court reaffirmed its commitment to gender representation by reinstating a female judge whose appointment was previously stalled. The ruling emphasizes constitutional principles of equality and diversity in the judiciary, addressing systemic biases. Legal experts hail the decision as a milestone for women's empowerment, while critics argue it could spark debates on merit versus representation. The verdict aligns with global trends promoting inclusive judicial systems.



4. Supreme Court Recognizes Maternity Leave as an Essential Reproductive Right

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court declared maternity leave a fundamental reproductive right under Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Indian Constitution. The ruling mandates paid maternity leave for all working women, including informal sector workers, reinforcing gender equality in workplaces. The decision

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aligns with global labor standards but faces challenges in enforcement, particularly in unorganized sectors. Activists hail it as a progressive step for women's rights.

5. Election Commission Rolls Out Mobile Facility to Simplify Voting Process

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a mobile voting facility to simplify the electoral process, especially for marginalized and remote communities. The initiative includes specially designed vans equipped with EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and voter verification systems, ensuring accessibility for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and tribal populations. While praised for inclusivity, critics raise concerns over security and logistical challenges in rugged terrains.

6. Government Initiates Pan-India Campaign to Make Campuses Free from Tobacco Use

The Union Health Ministry has launched a nationwide campaign to enforce tobacco-free educational campuses, directing schools and colleges to strictly comply with existing anti-tobacco laws. The drive includes awareness programs, stricter monitoring, and penalties for violations. While health experts welcome the move, critics question its enforcement feasibility, citing poor past compliance. The initiative aligns with the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

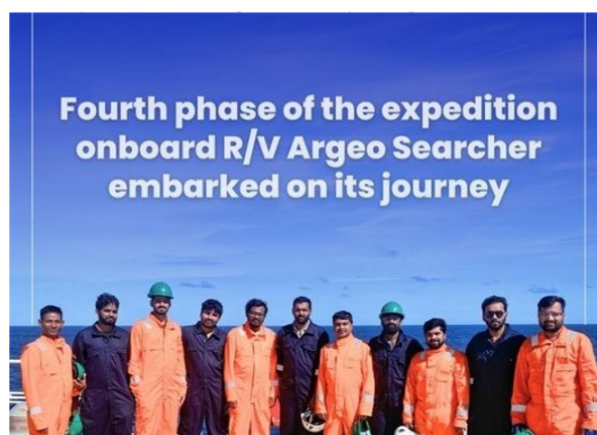
7. Railway Ministry Approves New Agartala-Guwahati Train Service

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 in New Delhi, focusing on boosting investments and economic growth in India's North Eastern region.

The two-day event highlights sectors like tourism, textiles, agro-food processing, and energy, fostering collaboration between governments and investors. The summit supports India's Act East Policy, promoting sustainable development, job creation, and infrastructure enhancement. It aims to transform the Northeast into a key growth engine, leveraging its cultural and natural strengths for regional prosperity.

8. India Enhances Polar and Ocean Studies with Advanced Research Facilities in Goa

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated two advanced facilities, Sagar Bhavan and Polar Bhavan, at the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa, enhancing India's polar and ocean research capabilities. These hubs feature cutting-edge labs, accommodation for scientists, and a 3D climate visualisation platform. The development supports India's Blue Economy, climate action, and global ocean governance goals. It aligns with India's Antarctic and Arctic policies, reinforcing its scientific presence and strategic interests in polar regions amid climate challenges.



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9. India Unveils World's Most Advanced High-Resolution Weather Forecast System

The Government of India launched the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS) on May 26, 2025, developed by IITM Pune and powered by the Arka supercomputer. BFS offers the world's highest weather forecast resolution at 6 km x 6 km, improving accuracy over the previous 12 km model. It processes data faster, integrates Doppler radar inputs, and provides ultra-local nowcasting. BFS enhances disaster management, agriculture, and public safety, positioning India as a leader in advanced meteorological science and localised weather prediction.

10. Prime Minister Modi presides over the 10th meeting of NITI Aayog

On May 24, 2025, PM Modi chaired the 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting focused on "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat @2047." Attended by 24 states and 7 UTs, it emphasised cooperative federalism, economic growth, skill development, urban planning, and women's empowerment. Key initiatives included a Rs. 60,000 crore skilling scheme, Rs. 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund, investment charters, and river interlinking projects. The meeting highlighted India's development strides and stressed sustainable growth, tourism promotion, civil preparedness, and agricultural innovation.

11. India's first Vistadome Jungle Safari train was launched in Uttar Pradesh

On May 26, 2025, Uttar Pradesh launched India's first Vistadome Jungle Safari Train, linking Dudhwa Tiger Reserve and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. This eco-tourism initiative, under the "One Destination, Three Forests" scheme, blends

conservation with panoramic train travel. Featuring glass roofs and rotating seats, the Rs. 275 journey spans 107 km in 4.5 hours. It promotes biodiversity awareness, student tours, influencer outreach, and local employment. The train offers year-round scenic experiences while supporting sustainable tourism and wildlife education.

12. National Writeshop in Delhi Unveils Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

On May 26–27, 2025, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 at a National Writeshop in New Delhi to promote data-driven rural development. Upgraded from PAI 1.0, it reduces indicators from 516 to 147, improves data integration, and offers real-time dashboards and validation tools. The index supports planning aligned with Localised Sustainable Development Goals across nine themes. The event featured hands-on training, technical sessions, and multilingual livestreaming to ensure inclusivity and effective governance at the grassroots level.

13. Indian Mountaineering Team Successfully Summits Mount Everest

On May 23, 2025, a Joint National Mountaineering Team from India successfully summited Mount Everest, showcasing unity among India's top mountaineering institutes—JIM&WS, NIM, and HMI. Supported by the Ministry of Defence, the expedition aimed to promote national integration and leadership in adventure sports. Led by experienced instructors, the team began their journey on March 26 and completed acclimatisation on Mt. Lobuche. The feat underscores India's growing expertise in high-altitude climbing and inspires youth participation

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in mountaineering and defense training.

14. NLC India Limited introduced its new mascot

In May 2025, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) celebrated its 69th Raising Day in Tamil Nadu, unveiling its new mascot 'Neyon' and setting a target to triple lignite production to over 100 MT by 2030. The event featured innovations like a smart sliding glass door and the release of an ethics book. Meanwhile, National Institute of Technology Calicut (NITC) joined the HERITAGE Network and signed MoUs with European universities NTNU and TU Berlin, focusing on dual degrees and advanced research in semiconductor packaging.

15. Understanding India's Revised Coastal Length

In December 2024, the Government of India revised its official coastline length from 7,516.6 km to 11,098.8 km, utilising advanced technologies such as GIS, LIDAR-GPS, and satellite imaging. This update, announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, reflects improved measurement accuracy, not territorial changes. The revision aids maritime security, disaster planning, EEZ management, and climate modelling. Based on fractal geometry, finer scales reveal more coastal detail. India's 11 coastal states and 2 UTs, including Goa (last to join in 1961), are affected.

16. PM Modi inaugurated development projects valued at more than Rs. 24,000 crore in Dahod

On May 26, 2025, PM Narendra Modi visited Dahod, Gujarat, to inaugurate and lay foundations for development projects worth over Rs. 24,000 crore, marking 11 years since his first swearing-in. Key highlights include India's first

9,000-horsepower electric locomotive, 100% railway electrification in Gujarat, new train services, and tribal welfare schemes like the Dharti Aaba Abhiyan. Modi praised Operation Sindoor, emphasised self-reliance, and highlighted Gujarat's role in manufacturing, education, and infrastructure development toward a Viksit Bharat.

17. Rashtrapati Bhavan Launches Artists-in-Residence Programme to Celebrate Folk Art

At Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Kala Utsav Artists-in-Residence programme showcases traditional Madhubani and Gond art, celebrating India's rich folk and tribal heritage. Beginning May 20, 2025, the event features renowned artists from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. President Droupadi Murmu interacted with the artists on May 26, praising their role in preserving indigenous art. The initiative promotes cultural inclusivity, national recognition for local artisans, and encourages younger generations to value India's traditional visual arts.

18. Gujarat Completes Full Railway Electrification

Gujarat has become the 24th State/UT to achieve 100% railway electrification, as announced by PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the Dahod Electric Locomotive Factory. This aligns with India's goal to modernize railways and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The factory will produce India's first 9000 HP electric freight locomotives with Siemens. This milestone reduces fossil fuel dependence, lowers costs, and boosts green infrastructure, marking a major step toward sustainable and energy-efficient rail transport in India.

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19. Aizawl becomes the fourth northeastern capital connected to the national railway network

Aizawl, Mizoram's capital, is now connected to India's national railway network via the 51.38 km Bairabi-Sairang New Line, making it the fourth Northeast capital with rail access. The project, costing Rs. 5,021.45 crore, features 48 tunnels, 55 major bridges, and the iconic 104-meter-tall Bridge No. 196. Nearly complete, it supports India's Act East policy and PM Gati Shakti plan, enhancing regional connectivity, boosting economic growth, and improving access to services in Mizoram's challenging terrain.

International

1. Saudi Arabia Unveils TOURISE Initiative to Shape the Future of Global Tourism

On May 22, 2025, Saudi Arabia launched TOURISE, a global platform to unite leaders in tourism, technology, investment, and sustainability. Spearheaded by Minister Ahmed Al-Khateeb, it aims to foster collaboration, unlock investments, and address tourism sector challenges. Launched after surpassing its Vision 2030 visitor target, TOURISE supports inclusive, tech-driven, and sustainable tourism. It will host its first summit in Riyadh in November 2025 and feature awards, innovation showcases, and policy-shaping initiatives to position Saudi Arabia as a global tourism leader.

2. Algeria Joins BRICS' New Development Bank as a New Member

Algeria joined the New Development Bank (NDB) on May 19, 2025, marking a key step in expanding the bank's global reach beyond BRICS

members. Established in 2015 by BRICS nations, NDB finances infrastructure and sustainable development projects, promoting South-South cooperation. Algeria's strategic location and resource wealth add significant value to the bank. The move underscores Algeria's commitment to economic resilience and sustainable growth while supporting NDB's mission to offer alternatives to traditional Western financial institutions.

3. Saudi Arabia Introduces TOURISE to Revolutionize Global Travel Landscape

Saudi Arabia has launched 'TOURISE', a bold new initiative aimed at transforming the global tourism industry. The program focuses on sustainable travel, luxury experiences, and cutting-edge technology to position the Kingdom as a leading destination. Part of Vision 2030, it includes mega-projects like NEOM and the Red Sea Project. Analysts predict it could boost Saudi GDP significantly while critics question its environmental impact.

4. US House Passes One Big Beautiful Bill Featuring 3.5% Tax on Foreign Remittances

The US House of Representatives passed the 'One Big Beautiful' bill, introducing a 3.5% tax on foreign remittances to fund domestic infrastructure projects. The move aims to curb capital outflows and boost federal revenue, but critics warn it could burden immigrant families reliant on cross-border money transfers. Supporters argue it aligns with economic nationalism, while opponents call it regressive. The bill now heads to the Senate for approval.

5. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Uncover Oil in Neutral Zone After Five-Year Hiatus

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On May 26, 2025, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait announced a major oil discovery in the North Wafra Wara-Burgan field within their shared neutral zone, yielding over 500 barrels per day. This is the first discovery since production resumed in 2020 after a five-year pause. The find strengthens Gulf energy security, boosts oil output, and reinforces both countries as reliable exporters. It also supports global oil market stability amid geopolitical uncertainties and enhances OPEC+ leadership in energy supply management.

6. Harvard's SEVP Ban Sparks Concern Among Indian Students Preparing for US Education in Fall 2025

The US Department of Homeland Security revoked Harvard University's SEVP certification, banning it from enrolling international students for 2025-26. This follows pro-Palestine protests and alleged non-cooperation in investigations. Over 7,000 international students, including 800 Indians, face visa and status uncertainty. Harvard has sought a temporary restraining order, calling the action retaliation. Affected students risk deferrals or visa issues, while immigration experts advise waiting for legal outcomes. Faculty and online communities support the students amid the crisis.

7. Daniel Noboa Takes Oath as Ecuador's New President

In May 2025, Daniel Noboa of the National Democratic Action (ADN) party was sworn in as Ecuador's 48th president, beginning his 2025-2029 term alongside Vice President María José Pinto. At 37, he is Ecuador's youngest president, having first assumed office in 2023 after a snap

election. Noboa, born in Miami in 1987, founded DNA Entertainment Group and worked in his family's Noboa Corporation before entering politics in 2021. He was re-elected in April 2025, defeating Luisa Gonzalez.

8. China's Tianwen-2 Mission Aims for Quasi-Satellite Kamo'oalewa

China's Tianwen-2 mission aims to collect samples from near-Earth quasi-satellite asteroid 469219 Kamo'oalewa, launching soon. This mission will make China the third country to return asteroid material to Earth. Kamo'oalewa's unique orbit and possible lunar origin make it scientifically valuable. Using touch-and-go and anchor-and-attach sampling, the mission will return samples and explore the main asteroid belt. It may reveal insights into quasi-satellites, the Moon's origin, and gravitational dynamics, overcoming challenges posed by the asteroid's small size.

9. LIC Sets Guinness World Record for Record-Breaking Insurance Sales

On January 20, 2025, LIC set a Guinness World Record by selling 588,107 life insurance policies in a single day through its "Mad Million Day" campaign. Recognised on May 25, 2025, this historic feat involved 452,839 agents nationwide. Spearheaded by CEO Siddhartha Mohanty, the achievement highlighted LIC's deep public trust, strong agent network, and organisational capability. Established in 1956, LIC remains India's largest life insurer, playing a vital role in ensuring financial protection across the country.

10. UN Proclaims May 25 as World Football Day

The United Nations General Assembly declared

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25 May as World Football Day to mark 100 years since football's global representation at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Adopted on 7 May 2024 and led by Libya, the resolution was co-sponsored by over 160 countries. It recognizes football's role in promoting peace, health, education, and unity. The date commemorates football's Olympic milestone and coincides with Paris hosting the 2024 Olympics, celebrating the sport's enduring global impact and cultural significance.

11. At 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting, India Pushes for Inclusive Industrial Growth

India took part in the 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting in Brasília on 21 May 2025, promoting innovation, MSME growth, and digital transformation. Under the theme "Strengthening Global South Cooperation," India launched the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub to boost collaboration among member nations. India emphasized the role of its 5.93 crore MSMEs and digital progress under Digital India. The meeting saw the first participation of new BRICS members and concluded with a joint declaration supporting inclusive, fair global governance.

12. BSNL Reports Consecutive Profits After 18-Year Gap

BSNL reported back-to-back quarterly profits for the first time in 18 years, posting Rs. 262 crore in Q3 and Rs. 280 crore in Q4 of FY 2024-25. This marks a major turnaround driven by 4G rollout, cost control, and asset monetisation. Annual loss dropped 58% to Rs. 2,247 crore. Operating revenue grew 7.8% to Rs. 20,841 crore, and EBITDA margin rose to 23.01%. With record capital investment and 27 EBITDA-positive circles, BSNL is set for sustainable growth under Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

13. International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2025 Observed Globally

The International Day of UN Peacekeepers, observed on May 29, honours peacekeepers' sacrifices and service worldwide. The 2024 theme, "The Future of Peacekeeping," reflects the need to adapt to evolving global challenges. India, the fourth largest troop contributor, has over 5,300 personnel deployed. Two Indian peacekeepers received posthumous honours. The UN also celebrated women peacekeepers for gender advocacy. Since 1948, over 2 million peacekeepers have served in 71 missions, with 68,000 personnel currently active in 11 operations globally.

14. Ahmedabad to host the Asian Weightlifting Championships

Ahmedabad will host the 2026 Asian Weightlifting Championships from April 1 to 10, marking the first event under new weight categories by the International Weightlifting Federation. Originally planned for Gandhinagar, the venue shifted to Ahmedabad due to its superior sports facilities. Ahmedabad will also host the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in August 2026. Gujarat is enhancing its sports infrastructure with an eye on hosting the 2036 Olympics. Additionally, India has bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad.

Sports

1.Napoli Secures Serie A Championship in a Thrilling Finish

Napoli clinched the 2024-25 Serie A title with a 2-0 win over Cagliari, finishing one point ahead

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of Inter Milan. Goals from Scott McTominay and Romelu Lukaku secured victory at the Diego Armando Maradona Stadium. Despite Inter's 2-0 win against Como, they fell short. Coach Antonio Conte, suspended during the match, made history as the first manager to win Serie A with three different clubs. This is Napoli's second title in three years, sparking citywide celebrations.

2. India Overtakes Japan to Emerge as the World's Fourth-Largest Economy

India has surpassed Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy with a nominal GDP of USD 4 trillion, as confirmed by IMF data and announced at NITI Aayog's 10th Governing Council Meeting. The country's strong economic growth, projected at over 6% annually, positions it as the fastest-growing major economy. This milestone aligns with the "Viksit Bharat @2047" vision of transforming India into a developed nation. India is expected to overtake Germany soon, further advancing its global economic standing.

3. India to Hold Khelo India Northeast Games Every Year

Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that the Khelo India Northeast Games will be held annually, rotating among the eight northeastern states. The initiative aims to nurture regional sports talent, promote traditional games, and develop a strong sports ecosystem. With Rs. 439 crore sanctioned for infrastructure, the region hosts 250 Khelo India Centres and multiple Centres of Excellence. The National Sports Repository System helps scout talent, while the ASMITA League boosts women's participation, highlighting the Northeast's

growing role in India's sports landscape.

4. Kush Maini Makes History as First Indian to Win in Formula 2

On May 24, 2025, Kush Maini made history as the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race, triumphing in the Monaco Grand Prix Sprint Race. Driving for Dams Lucas Oil, he led all 30 laps from pole under the reverse-grid rule. A reserve driver for BWT Alpine F1, Maini's victory marks a breakthrough for Indian motorsport. Backed by JK and TVS Racing, his win inspires future Indian racers and highlights India's growing presence in global motorsport.

5. Miao Lijie Appointed Ambassador for FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025

Chinese basketball legend and FIBA Hall of Famer Miao Lijie has been named ambassador for the FIBA Women's Asia Cup 2025, to be held in Shenzhen, China, from July 13-20. A former captain and top scorer for China's national team, Miao led China to multiple Asia Cup golds and played in three Olympics and World Cups. Her appointment celebrates her legacy and aims to inspire young women, highlighting China's prominence in women's basketball as the tournament returns home after a decade.

6. Arsenal Defeats Barcelona to Clinch Women's Champions League 2025 Title

Arsenal won their second UEFA Women's Champions League title on May 24, 2025, defeating defending champions FC Barcelona 1-0 at Lisbon's Estadio Jose Alvalade. Substitute Stina Blackstenius scored the decisive goal in the 75th minute, assisted by Beth Mead. This victory ended Barcelona's bid for a third consecutive

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title and marked the first English women's club to win the trophy since 2007. The win highlights the rising strength of English women's football and challenges Spanish and French dominance in Europe.

7. Hyderabad's 16-year-old Vishwanath Karthikey becomes the youngest Indian to climb the Seven Summits

Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, a 16-year-old from Hyderabad, became the youngest Indian and second youngest globally to complete the 7 Summits challenge by climbing the highest peaks on all seven continents, finishing with Mount Everest on May 27. His passion began during the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite early setbacks, he trained rigorously under expert mentors. Supported by his family, Vishwanath balanced mountaineering with academics and now plans to join the Indian Army, inspired by his remarkable journey and determination.

8. Cristiano Ronaldo Shatters Records by Scoring 800 Club Football Goals

On May 26, 2025, Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 800th club goal for Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League, becoming the first player to reach this milestone. At 40, he remains a top striker, finishing the season as the league's top scorer with 25 goals. Despite his personal success, Al-Nassr placed third and missed AFC Champions League qualification. With his contract ending in June 2025, Ronaldo hinted at a possible exit, aiming to reach 1,000 career goals.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1.First Global Animal Health Report Released to Highlight Species Wellbeing

The first-ever Global Animal Health Report has been released, assessing the wellbeing of species worldwide. Published by leading conservation groups, it highlights threats like habitat loss, climate change, and disease outbreaks while advocating for stronger wildlife protection policies. The report calls for international cooperation to safeguard biodiversity, emphasizing the link between animal health and human ecosystems.

Summit/MoU/Conference/Agreement

1.Wings India 2026 Scheduled to Launch from Hyderabad in January

Wings India 2026, India's premier civil aviation event, will be held from January 28 to 31 at Hyderabad's Begumpet Airport. Organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India, and FICCI, it will unite global aviation stakeholders to promote growth across commercial, general, business aviation, and advanced air mobility sectors. The event will showcase innovations, foster investments, support skill development, and highlight regional aviation initiatives, reinforcing India's position as a leading global aviation hub.

2. PM Modi Launches Rising North East Investors Summit 2025

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rising North East Investors Summit 2025 in New Delhi, focusing on boosting investments and economic growth in India's North Eastern region. The two-day event highlights sectors like tourism, textiles, agro-food processing, and

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energy, fostering collaboration between governments and investors. The summit supports India's Act East Policy, promoting sustainable development, job creation, and infrastructure enhancement. It aims to transform the Northeast into a key growth engine, leveraging its cultural and natural strengths for regional prosperity.

3. Six New Agricultural Sites Added to FAO's Globally Important Heritage System

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has recognized six new agricultural sites under its Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) program. These sites, spanning countries like Peru, South Korea, and Tanzania, showcase sustainable farming practices passed down for generations. The designation aims to preserve biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and climate-resilient techniques. Critics, however, urge stronger funding to protect these ecosystems from modernization threats.

4. India Collaborates with WHO to Promote Ayush Worldwide

On May 24, 2025, India's Ministry of Ayush signed an MoU with the WHO to develop a Traditional Medicine Module under the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI). This module will standardize Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, and Unani practices, enhancing global recognition, billing transparency, insurance coverage, and research. India contributed USD 3 million to support this effort, aligning with its vision to integrate traditional medicine into global healthcare standards. The WHO is headquartered in Geneva and led by Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus.

5. IIT Kharagpur and Singapore's IME sign MoU to enhance semiconductor innovation

IIT Kharagpur and Singapore's Institute of Microelectronics (IME) signed an MoU at SEMICON Southeast Asia 2025 to collaborate on advanced semiconductor research and talent development. The partnership focuses on post-CMOS technologies, AI hardware, quantum devices, and more. It includes researcher exchanges, training, and joint workshops. This collaboration supports India's semiconductor ambitions and Singapore's innovation ecosystem, aiming to boost global competitiveness and foster cutting-edge semiconductor advancements through shared expertise and innovation.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. NCW Introduces Yashoda AI Initiative to Enhance Women's Skills in AI and Cybersecurity

The National Commission for Women (NCW) launched 'Yashoda AI: Your AI SAKHI' on May 22, 2025, to boost AI literacy, cybersecurity knowledge, and digital safety among women, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. This initiative aims to empower women to lead in India's digital future by addressing AI-driven crimes and digital privacy. Collaborating with Future Shift Labs, Yashoda AI promotes community-driven learning and leadership, bridging the gender digital divide and fostering an inclusive, secure tech environment for women nationwide.

2. iGOT Karmayogi Platform Hits 1 Crore Users, Enhancing Digital Training for Civil Servants

The iGOT Karmayogi digital learning platform,

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launched under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (Mission Karmayogi), has crossed 1 crore (10 million) registered users. Designed to upskill government employees, it offers customized courses on governance, technology, and leadership. The milestone reflects growing adoption among civil servants, though some users report technical glitches. Experts highlight its potential to transform bureaucratic efficiency through continuous learning.

3. Broadcasting Services Face Double Taxation, Stirring Industry Concerns

The broadcasting industry is raising alarms over double taxation issues, where services are being taxed both as telecommunication and entertainment under different regulations. This has led to increased operational costs, which may eventually be passed on to consumers. Industry bodies are urging the government for clearer tax classification to avoid overlapping levies. The dispute highlights the need for regulatory harmonization in India's evolving digital economy.

4. Google's Matryoshka AI system

At Google's 2025 I/O conference, the company unveiled its "AI Matryoshka" strategy, making AI central across products using Gemini 2.5 models. Key highlights include enhanced AI reasoning, TPU v7 hardware, and new developer tools like Gemini API and Model Context Protocol. User-focused features include AI-powered Search and Agentic Checkout. Privacy concerns arose over data use, copyright, and a tiered "AI Ultra" access, raising ethical questions about fairness and transparency in AI deployment and user data protection.

5. Google Introduces Beam

Google has launched Google Beam, a 3D AI-powered communication platform evolved from Project Starline, offering lifelike virtual interactions without headsets. Beam uses AI volumetric video, light-field display, and real-time speech translation to simulate face-to-face meetings. Backed by Google Cloud, it enables emotionally rich, multilingual communication. Partnering with Zoom, HP, Deloitte, and others, it targets enterprise collaboration in sectors like business, healthcare, and education. Google Beam redefines remote communication, aligning with Google's vision to "be there from anywhere."

6. LIMA 2025 Takes Place in Malaysia, India Displays Homegrown Defence Technologies

LIMA 2025, held from May 20-24 in Langkawi, Malaysia, is a premier Asia-Pacific maritime and aerospace exhibition. India, led by Union MoS Sanjay Seth, showcased indigenous defense technologies like BrahMos and INS Kavaratti at its pavilion. The event featured 860 exhibitors from 24 countries and showcased advanced aircraft and naval vessels, including Russia's Su-57M and China's J-10CE. Highlights included aerial demos, new aviation services, and Malaysia's A.T.M.O.S Sphere, with MoUs worth USD 2.34 billion signed for defense collaborations.

7. Tamil Nadu Unveils Space Industry Policy to Drive Investment and Employment

In April 2025, Tamil Nadu launched its Space Industrial Policy to attract Rs. 10,000 crore in investments and create 10,000 jobs over a five-year period. Approved by CM M.K. Stalin, the policy supports startups, R&D, and electronics in the space sector. It includes subsidies,

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infrastructure, and green incentives. With ISRO facilities and a spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu aims to become a space-tech hub, aligning with Indian Space Policy 2023 and boosting India's global competitiveness in the private space economy.

8. India's Breakthrough in Pumped Storage Technology

India plans to expand its pumped storage hydropower capacity from under 5 GW to 51.24 GW by 2032, led mainly by Greenko, Adani Green Energy, and JSW Energy. This expansion supports grid stability amid rising renewable energy use. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra are key states for development. Pumped storage stores energy by moving water between reservoirs at different heights, releasing it during peak demand. Despite long project timelines, it remains crucial for reliable, large-scale energy storage and economic returns.

9. DRDO Inaugurates State-of-the-Art Quantum Technology Research Centre in Delhi

On May 27, 2025, DRDO inaugurated the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) in Delhi to boost indigenous quantum research for defence. The centre focuses on quantum communication, sensing, timekeeping, and cryptography. Equipped with advanced infrastructure, it supports technologies like Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) and atomic magnetometry. Led by DRDO labs SAG and SSPL, QTRC aims to enhance India's strategic autonomy, support the National Quantum Mission, and strengthen India's role in global quantum innovation and secure communication systems.

10. India Launches Its Strongest Single-Unit Electric Engine Yet

On May 27, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian Railways' first 9000 HP single-unit electric locomotive in Dahod, Gujarat. Built in collaboration with Siemens under "Make in India," it is designed to boost freight efficiency, reduce congestion, and cut costs. Equipped with the Kavach safety system and green-certified infrastructure, the locomotive supports high-density corridors. With 89% indigenous components and plans to produce 1,200 units, this initiative enhances logistics, employment, sustainability, and India's global railway manufacturing potential.

11. India Soars Ahead with E-Hansa

India has launched the development of the E-Hansa, a two-seater electric trainer aircraft by CSIR-NAL, costing about Rs. 2 crore, half the price of imported models. Announced by Dr. Jitendra Singh on May 27, 2025, it supports green aviation and indigenous technology goals. The initiative promotes affordable flight training, technology commercialisation through public-private partnerships, and regional innovation hubs. The announcement also highlighted ISRO's SPADEX mission success and India's Whole-of-Government science strategy for enhanced collaboration and global talent mobility.

Miscellaneous

1. Tamannaah Bhatia Appointed as Brand Ambassador for Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited (KSDL) appointed actress Tamannaah Bhatia as brand

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ambassador for two years to boost youth appeal and market reach. Announced on May 22, 2025, the move aligns with KSDL's strategy to modernise branding and expand nationally and globally. Known for Mysore Sandal Soap, KSDL recorded Rs. 1,785.99 crore turnover in FY 2024–25. Tamannaah's digital influence and pan-India popularity are expected to strengthen brand recognition and support KSDL's transformation into a contemporary, competitive public-sector enterprise.

2. Ram Mohan Named as the New Director of MPEDA

Ram Mohan M K has been appointed Director of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), bringing over 20 years of expertise in marketing, quality control, and international trade. An alumnus of CMFRI and Ph.D. holder from ICAR-CIFE, he has also served as Resident Director in Tokyo, strengthening India-Japan seafood trade. His leadership aims to boost India's seafood exports, ensure global quality compliance, and enhance sustainability and innovation in the sector amid growing international market opportunities.

3. Six African countries have signed an MoU to jointly work towards the elimination of Kala-Azar

Six East African countries—Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan—signed a memorandum of understanding to eliminate kala-azar (visceral leishmaniasis), a deadly disease transmitted by sandflies. The agreement, supported by WHO and the African Union, aims to boost investment, improve treatment access, and enhance cross-border surveillance. With over 70% of global cases in

East Africa, this coordinated effort focuses on region-specific strategies and innovation to control and ultimately eradicate the disease, benefiting vulnerable populations, especially children.

4. Government Maintains 8.25% EPF Interest Rate for FY 2024–25

The Government of India has approved an 8.25% interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits for FY 2024–25, benefiting over 7 crore salaried employees. Recommended by the EPFO's Central Board of Trustees and approved by the Ministry of Finance, this move ensures stable, tax-free post-retirement earnings. EPF remains a key long-term savings instrument with contributions from both employers and employees. The interest rate is higher than many fixed-income options, reinforcing investor confidence and promoting formal employment and financial security.

5. Ayushman Vay Vandana Health Card

The Government of India launched the Ayushman Vay Vandana Yojana (AVVY) in October 2024, providing free health insurance of up to Rs. 5 lakh annually for citizens aged 70 and above. The Ayushman Vay Vandana Card offers cashless coverage for 1,961 procedures across 27 specialties, usable at over 30,000 hospitals nationwide. With no income limits or medical tests, the scheme ensures senior citizens receive quality care, including pre-existing conditions, promoting healthier aging and financial protection from medical expenses.

6. India Excels in the 2025 Breakthrough Prize for LHC Contributions

Date : 2025-06-02

Weekly Current Affairs

English

India's pivotal role in CERN's Large Hadron Collider experiments has been globally recognised, as the 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded to teams behind ALICE and CMS, including Indian scientists. Indian institutions contributed significantly to detector systems, computing, and particle physics research. As an Associate Member of CERN, India continues to support critical upgrades and innovation. This honour highlights India's scientific expertise, global collaboration, and commitment to understanding the universe's fundamental particles and forces.

7. Kami Rita Sherpa Sets Record with 31st Ascent of Mount Everest

Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa set a new world record by summiting Mount Everest for the 31st time on May 27, 2025. Leading a team including 22 Indian Army members via the southeast ridge, he demonstrated unmatched expertise in high-altitude mountaineering. At 55, Kami Rita continues to inspire with decades of resilience and leadership. His achievement highlights Sherpa contributions, promotes Nepal's mountain tourism, and reinforces his legacy as the most accomplished Everest climber in history.

8. Veteran leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa dies at the age of 89

Senior Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, aged 89, passed away after a prolonged illness. Born in Sangrur, he began as the youngest sarpanch and rose to serve as Punjab MLA, Union Minister, and Rajya Sabha member. Honoured with the Padma Bhushan in

2019, he returned it in solidarity with farmers. His later years saw political splits, including forming SAD (Sanyukt) and clashes with party leadership. Dhindsa's legacy is marked by dedication to Punjab, farmers, and public service.

9. Menstrual Hygiene Day 2025

Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed on May 28, promotes awareness about menstrual health. Initiated by WASH United in 2013, its 2025 theme is "Together for a #PeriodFriendlyWorld," urging collective efforts to remove stigma and ensure access to menstrual products, education, and hygiene infrastructure. While India has made progress, gaps persist in accessibility and awareness. The day emphasises hygiene practices, environmental safety, and the broader impact on health, education, and equality, aiming to empower menstruators and promote dignity and inclusivity worldwide.

10. Sadhguru Honoured with the 'Global Indian of the Year' Award by Canada India Foundation

Sadhguru, founder of the Isha Foundation, received the 'Global Indian of the Year' award from the Canada India Foundation (CIF) on May 22 in Toronto. Honoured for his work on human consciousness and environmental protection, he was awarded CAD 50,000, which he dedicated to the 'Cauvery Calling' project to revive the Cauvery River. CIF praised his efforts on soil health, climate change, and mental well-being. The award celebrates impactful contributions by Indians worldwide.

11. Vogue Eyewear Appoints Shahid Kapoor as Its New Brand Ambassador in India

Date : 2025-06-02**Weekly Current Affairs****English**

Vogue Eyewear has named Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor as its new brand ambassador, joining Taapsee Pannu in the 'No Rules Club' campaign. The campaign promotes individuality, freedom, and personal style, encouraging people to live confidently without following trends or rules. Set in an artistic, modern environment, the film highlights eyewear as an expression of confidence and personality. Since 1973, Vogue Eyewear has been popular for its stylish, affordable designs that help people showcase their unique style.

