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National

1. Karnataka Raises Minority Housing Quota to 15%

On June 19, Karnataka's state cabinet increased the housing reservation for minorities—Muslims, Christians, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs—from 10% to 15% under its urban and rural housing schemes. Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan clarified the policy stemmed from a 2019 cabinet subcommittee report and aligns with central guidelines. The move aims to address housing shortages among minority communities, especially in vacant statebuilt homes. The decision has triggered strong criticism from the BJP, accusing the government of religious appeasement and planning legal challenges.



2. UPSC Rolls Out 'Pratibha Setu' Initiative to Link Toppers with Private Sector Jobs

The UPSC has launched the Pratibha Setu initiative to offer a second career pathway for over 10,000 highperforming candidates who narrowly missed the final merit list. Through a dedicated online portal, verified employers—both central/state government bodies and private-sector firms—can access profiles of these candidates and offer relevant job opportunities. This program acknowledges their UPSC readiness and potential, aiming to channel talent into impactful roles across sectors, while providing both aspirants and employers a streamlined bridge between aptitude and employment.



3. Finance Minister Urges Fintech Sector to Explore Agri and Rural Market Opportunities

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged fintech firms to tap into India's vast rural and agricultural markets, describing them as fertile ground for new business opportunities—not just social responsibility. She emphasized expanding credit access to MSMEs in villages and integrating digital tools like UPI, account aggregators, and prepaid instruments into rural banking infrastructures. The PMGKY-aligned push aims to deepen financial inclusion, support unified payment ecosystems, and position fintechs as critical partners in rural economic transformation.

4. Indian deposits in Swiss banks tripled in 2024, largely fueled by financial institutions

In 2024, Indian funds in Swiss banks surged over threefold to CHF 3.5 billion (Rs. 37,600 crore), mainly due to a sharp rise in holdings via financial institutions. Swiss National Bank data shows customer deposits rose modestly, while funds through other banks skyrocketed. Despite past declines, this marks the highest level since 2021. India now ranks 48th among foreign clients. Most growth is institutional, not individual. India receives data under global tax pacts, though third-country holdings are excluded.

5. Centre Unveils Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub to Promote Inclusive Governance

On June 20, 2025, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub to strengthen

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gender-responsive governance. The portal offers tools, training manuals, and best practices to aid ministries and states in effective gender budgeting. Coinciding with a Rs. On June 20, 2025, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the **Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub**, aimed at strengthening gender-responsive governance through tools, training manuals, best practices, and budgeting templates.

6. MDNIY Unveils 'Yoga Bandhan' Initiative to Promote Global Unity Ahead of IDY 2025

The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) launched 'Yoga Bandhan' as a flagship event for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, promoting global unity through yoga. Hosting delegates from 15 countries, the program focused on cultural exchange, yoga education, and diplomacy. Key themes included sustainability, certification upgrades, and short-term courses for tourists. Aligned with the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," the initiative reinforced India's leadership in wellness, fostering international partnerships and showcasing yoga's role in cultural diplomacy and global cooperation.

7. India Advances Toward 'One Nation, One Time' Initiative

India will soon enforce the Legal Metrology (Indian Standard Time) Rules, 2025, mandating IST as the sole legal time across all sectors to boost digital sovereignty and security. Announced by Minister Pralhad Joshi, the move aims to eliminate dependence on foreign time sources like GPS. Backed by atomic clocks and secure protocols via CSIR-NPL and ISRO, IST will ensure synchronized, accurate timekeeping for telecom, finance, transport, and utilities, enhancing cybersecurity, billing accuracy, and national digital infrastructure under Digital India.

8. Boudh District Gets Rail Connectivity for the

First Time

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Odisha marked a major boost in railway infrastructure, including the inauguration of the Sonapur-Purunakatak rail line, connecting Boudh district to the rail network for the first time. Key projects worth over Rs. 1,990 crore were launched or dedicated, enhancing connectivity, freight movement, and regional development. These initiatives support economic growth, better access to healthcare and education, and agricultural outreach, aligning with 11 years of Good Governance and Garib Kalyan and promoting inclusive national integration.



9. Indian Railways Provides Rs. 1 Crore Accident Compensation to Employees Without Charging Any Premium

Indian Railways has launched a welfare scheme offering Rs. 1 crore compensation to families of employees in case of accidental death, without any premium payment. The scheme gained attention when Sushil Lal's family became its first beneficiary after his on-duty death. Employees must have a Salary Package Account with a partner bank like SBI to be eligible. This initiative boosts morale, ensures financial security for families, and highlights Indian Railways' commitment to employee welfare, especially for those in high-risk roles.

10. JCB Prize for Literature Discontinued After Seven Editions

The sudden discontinuation of the JCB Prize for Literature in June 2025 has shocked India's literary community. Launched in 2018, the prize honored excellence in Indian fiction and

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translations, offering Rs. 25 lakh to winners and substantial rewards to translators. With seven successful editions, it significantly boosted regional literature and translation visibility. The foundation's license cancellation and shift to a private limited company suggest a move away from literary philanthropy, leaving a void in India's cultural and literary recognition landscape.

11. Assam Grants OBC Status to Transgender Community and Announces Reservations for Anganwadi Workers

On June 23, 2025, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced OBC status for the transgender community and 50% reservation in supervisor posts for Anganwadi workers under the Women and Child Development Department. This move promotes social inclusion and career growth for marginalized groups. The OBC status grants trans individuals access to education, jobs, and welfare schemes, while the reservation recognizes Anganwadi workers' vital role in rural development. Both reforms will be implemented in the upcoming recruitment cycle.

12. Tripura Declared Completely Literate Under ULLAS Initiative

Tripura has become the third Indian state to achieve full functional literacy, surpassing the 95% benchmark among individuals aged 15 and above. Announced on June 23, 2025, under the ULLAS programme, this milestone highlights successful community-driven efforts and aligns with NEP 2020 goals. Tripura's literacy rose from 20.24% in 1961 to 95.6% in 2025, driven by door-to-door surveys, volunteer engagement, and digital tools. The achievement showcases people's participation and sets a national example for inclusive, knowledge-based development.

13. India to Conduct First Nationwide Household Income Survey in 2026

In a major policy move, MoSPI will conduct India's first-ever All-India Household Income Survey in 2026 to gather accurate data on income distribution, wage trends, and technology's impact on earnings. Guided by a Technical Expert Group led by Surjit Bhalla, the survey will follow global best practices and be executed by the NSO. It aims to improve welfare targeting, address income inequality, and inform policy reforms. This marks India's first dedicated income survey, filling critical data gaps in economic planning.

14. Bihar to Set Up Its First Nuclear Power Plant Under India's New Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Mission

On June 25, 2025, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced Bihar's first Small Modular Reactor (SMR)-based nuclear power plant, marking a major energy milestone. Part of the Rs. 20,000 crore Nuclear Energy Mission, this project aims to address Bihar's chronic power deficit. Complementing this, a 1,000 MW battery storage system has also been approved. These initiatives, supported by Bihar's energy reforms, will enhance grid stability, promote industrial growth, and align with India's Power Vision 2035 for sustainable multi-source energy development.

15. Andhra Pradesh Launches Digital Initiative to Support Slow Learners

Launched on June 25, 2025, Andhra Pradesh's 'Vidya Shakti' is a remedial education initiative targeting slow learners in government schools. Focused on Mathematics, Science, and English, it offers after-school sessions using technology-based tools. Implemented across 4,424 schools and 576 KGBVs, the programme aims to improve academic outcomes, reduce dropouts, and boost enrolment. Backed by IIT-Madras Pravartak for teacher training, 'Vidya Shakti' promotes personalized learning, mentorship, and a student-first culture to strengthen foundational education across the state.

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The IAEA has confirmed that an Israeli strike directly hit the underground uranium enrichment halls at Iran's Natanz site, based on high-resolution satellite imagery. While the above-ground pilot enrichment facility was destroyed, this new assessment marks the first official acknowledgement of underground impact. The IAEA noted no external radiological release, though internal contamination of uranium compounds poses chemical hazards. The agency urges urgent dialogue to mitigate nuclear safety risks amid rising regional tensions.

2. AMOC Breakdown Could Drastically Lower Temperatures in Northern Europe: Study Finds

A new Netherlands-based modeling study shows that a potential collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) could plunge Northern Europe into brutal winters, with temperatures in cities like Edinburgh dropping to -30°C , London to -19°C , and Scandinavia down to -50°C in extreme scenarios. The study also forecasts abrupt seasonal extremes: harsh, long-lasting winters, moderate summers, and reduced rainfall. Experts caution the results rely on a single model, urging more observations. The findings underscore urgent risks and the need to monitor and curb global warming.

3. Gold Emerges as the World's Second-Largest Reserve Asset After the U.S. Dollar

According to the European Central Bank's June 2025 report, gold has overtaken the euro as the world's second-largest reserve asset, now holding a 19% share in global reserves. Central banks, driven by geopolitical tensions, inflation, and currency risks post-Russia-Ukraine war, have doubled their gold demand over the past decade. While the U.S. dollar remains dominant at 47%, emerging economies have led the shift toward gold. However, analysts foresee a slowdown in gold accumulation as central banks

near reserve diversification limits.

4. Operation Midnight Hammer

The U.S. executed Operation Midnight Hammer, a covert military strike targeting Iran's nuclear facilities—Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Using B-2 bombers, Tomahawk missiles, and advanced support tactics, the mission aimed to degrade Iran's nuclear capability while avoiding escalation. Precision, deception, and electronic warfare ensured success without U.S. casualties. The 18-hour operation showcased America's global strike capacity and stealth warfare mastery. Iran's defenses were neutralized, and no immediate retaliation followed. The Pentagon praised the mission's coordination and strategic impact.

5. South Korea Names First Civilian Defence Minister in Over Six Decades

President Lee's new Cabinet, formed after the impeachment of Yoon Suk Yeol, marks a shift towards civilian-led governance in South Korea. Key appointments include Ahn Gyu-back as the first civilian Defence Minister since 1961 and Cho Hyun as Foreign Minister. This reshuffle aims to restore democratic trust, demilitarize leadership roles, and reset foreign policy. Following Yoon's martial law crisis and removal, Lee's administration signals a return to constitutional order, transparency, and diplomacy amid rising global trade tensions.

6. IAEA and Romania Conduct World's Largest Nuclear Emergency Response Drill

On June 24, 2025, the IAEA and Romania launched ConvEx-3, the largest-ever international nuclear emergency drill, simulating a severe accident at the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant. Involving 75+ countries and 10 global agencies, the 36-hour exercise tests real-time decision-making, communication, and cross-border coordination. Guided by key international conventions, it features evacuation,

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iodine distribution, and trade impact assessments. ConvEx-3 underscores global solidarity in nuclear preparedness, aiming to protect lives, build public trust, and strengthen emergency response systems worldwide.

7. IFFCO Establishes Its First International Nano Fertiliser Plant in Brazil

In a landmark move, IFFCO is setting up its first overseas nano fertiliser plant in Brazil, partnering with NANO FERT. Located in Curitiba, the plant will produce 4.5 million litres annually to support crops like corn, soybean, and sugarcane. This joint venture aims to boost sustainable agriculture by improving yields and reducing conventional fertiliser use. With proven success in field trials and growing global demand, the project enhances India's global agri-tech leadership and Indo-Brazil cooperation in eco-friendly farming solutions.

8. IMF Praises India's UPI Model as a Global Template for Digital Payment Revolution

On June 25, 2025, the IMF praised India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as a global model for digital payment transformation in its paper "Growing Retail Digital Payments: The Value of Interoperability." Highlighting interoperability, low-cost internet, Aadhaar-based digital identity, and Jan Dhan accounts as key enablers, the paper credited UPI's inclusive design for driving massive adoption. It urged other countries to adapt India's ecosystem-based strategy—combining fintech, infrastructure, and regulation—to achieve widespread digital payment growth tailored to local needs.

9. India Refuses to Sign SCO Joint Statement Over Terrorism Omission

India's Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, refused to endorse the joint declaration at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting held in Qingdao, China. India's

decision stemmed from the omission of specific references to recent terror attacks, particularly the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir, from the draft statement. While India strongly advocated for the inclusion of its concerns regarding terrorism, 'one particular country' (widely understood to be Pakistan) blocked the consensus required for the joint statement's adoption. India reiterated its consistent stance of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, emphasizing that peace and prosperity cannot coexist with such acts. This firm diplomatic signal underscores India's unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and maintaining its strategic autonomy on international platforms.

Sports

1. Jasprit Bumrah Becomes First Asian Bowler to Take 150 Test Wickets in SENA Nations

Jasprit Bumrah made history by becoming the first Asian bowler to claim over 150 Test wickets in SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia). The feat was achieved during the June 2025 Headingley Test against England, where he took a five-wicket haul. With 210 career Test wickets and 14 five-wicket hauls in just 87 innings, Bumrah has surpassed legends like Zaheer Khan and Kapil Dev. His success highlights his adaptability and dominance in challenging overseas conditions.

2. Thunder Clinch First-Ever NBA Championship in Oklahoma City

On June 22, 2025, the Oklahoma City Thunder won their first NBA title since relocating from Seattle, defeating the Indiana Pacers 103–91 in Game 7 of the Finals. Led by Finals MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (29 points, 12 assists), the Thunder's young core delivered a stellar third-quarter surge to secure victory. This historic win marks Oklahoma City's first major sports championship and the franchise's second

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overall, validating their remarkable rebuild and thrilling fans with a dramatic, home-court celebration.

3. Pant becomes the first Indian wicketkeeper to score centuries in both innings of a Test match

Rishabh Pant made history in the June 2025 Headingley Test against England by scoring centuries in both innings—134 and 118—becoming only the second wicketkeeper after Andy Flower to achieve this feat. His 252-run match tally is the highest by an Indian wicketkeeper in Tests. India saw five individual centuries in the match, a first in their Test history. Pant also equaled records for most sixes in a Test in England and joined elite company with four Test centuries in England.

4. Neeraj Chopra Clinches 2025 Ostrava Golden Spike Javelin Title with 85.29m Throw

Neeraj Chopra secured gold at the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 in the Czech Republic with a best throw of 85.29m, marking his second title within six days after winning the Paris Diamond League. His consistent performance outshone global competitors, reaffirming his dominance in javelin. This was his fifth outing of the season, and the win held added meaning as the meet director is his coach, Jan Železný. Chopra remains a top contender for upcoming global championships in 2025.

5. Rinku Singh to Be Inducted into UP Education Department Through Sports Quota Scheme

Cricketer Rinku Singh is set to be appointed as a District Basic Education Officer (BSA) in Uttar Pradesh under the International Medal Winner Direct Recruitment Rules, 2022. This policy allows international medal-winning athletes to join government services. Singh, known for his IPL heroics and T20I performances, hails from Aligarh. His appointment recognizes his contributions to Indian cricket. Meanwhile, his

wedding to MP Priya Saroj has been postponed due to cricketing commitments in November 2025, highlighting his continuing focus on the sport.

6. AICF Introduces Monthly Stipend Program to Support Emerging Chess Talent

The All India Chess Federation (AICF) launched the Top National Players Stipend Scheme (TNPSS) on June 25, 2025, to financially support young chess talents aged Under-7 to Under-19. Aimed at promoting grassroots chess, the scheme offers quarterly stipends ranging from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh. In its first phase, Rs. 42.30 lakh was disbursed to 78 players (39 boys and 39 girls). This merit-based initiative ensures early recognition, gender parity, and aims to build a strong pipeline of future Indian chess champions.

7. Praggnanandhaa Wins UzChess Cup, Becomes India's Top-Ranked Chess Player

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has achieved a significant milestone in his chess career by winning the UzChess Cup Masters 2025 held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This victory not only marks his third major classical chess title this year but also propels him to the position of India's top-ranked chess player. With this achievement, Praggnanandhaa has surpassed his compatriot D. Gukesh in the live ratings, solidifying his standing as a formidable force on the global chess stage and securing the World No. 4 ranking.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance Partners with Equitas Small Finance Bank

Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI) has announced a strategic partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank. This collaboration is a bancassurance agreement, which aims to

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expand the reach and accessibility of life insurance products to a wider customer base. By leveraging Equitas Small Finance Bank's extensive branch network and customer touchpoints, ABSLI will be able to offer its comprehensive range of life insurance solutions to individuals across various regions, enhancing financial inclusion and providing critical protection to more people.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. Investment Shortfalls in Developing Nations Pose Risk to 2030 Sustainable Goals

Foreign direct investment (FDI) and SDG-related investments in developing nations have fallen to critically low levels, with 2023 flows the lowest since 2005, according to the World Bank. UNCTAD estimates that the annual investment gap to meet global Sustainable Development Goals has widened to approximately 4 trillion USD—up from 2.5 trillion USD in 2015. The mismatch disproportionately affects least-developed countries, exacerbated by high capital costs, political risk, and weak financial systems. Without bold reforms—including derisking tools, blended finance, and global cooperation—the 2030 SDG targets are at grave risk.

2. National Time Release Study 2024 Indicates Quicker Import Clearance at Indian Ports

The CBIC published 2024 National Time Release Study (NTRS) shows a marked improvement in import cargo clearance at Indian ports. Covering January–February 2024, nine out of fifteen ports recorded faster release times: integrated check posts saw a 50% reduction, and air cargo complexes improved by 6% compared to 2023. The study also highlights the success of the Prepayment Customs Compliance Verification system, which enables final clearance within 3 minutes post duty payment. These advances reflect effective trade facilitation steps including

automated risk-based clearance and trusted client programs.

3. India Sees Improved Rankings in QS World University Rankings 2026

India achieved record growth in the QS World University Rankings 2026, with 54 universities—up from 46 in 2025 and just 11 in 2014—placing it fourth globally by representation, after the US, UK, and China. IIT Delhi rose to a career-best joint 123rd (from 150th in 2025), powered by strong academic and employer reputation. Mumbai University also improved sharply to 664th, driven by gains in employment outcomes and citations. While India advances, it still lags in internationalization and faculty–student ratios.

4. India Secures 13th Position Globally in Investment Interest

India ranked 13th globally in investment-related online searches, with 2,629 monthly searches per million people, according to BrokerChooser. The report highlights rising interest in stocks, crypto, and forex, driven by tech-savvy youth, SIPs, and social media influencers. Stocks were the most searched category in India, followed by forex and crypto. Despite high volumes, India lags behind top countries like Australia and Singapore. The trend reflects growing digital financial literacy, rising retail investor participation, and a push toward a digitally empowered economy.

5. Tata Group Becomes First Indian Brand to Cross USD 30 Billion in Brand Value

The Tata Group has achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first Indian brand to surpass a brand value of USD 30 billion, reaching an impressive USD 31.6 billion. This significant achievement was highlighted in the Brand Finance 2025 Report, which assesses brand strength and value globally. The report not only recognizes Tata Group's leading position but also identifies Adani Group as the fastest-growing Indian brand due to its rapid expansion in

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for the upcoming 2029 Titan Orbital Port mission, she symbolizes India's growing space presence. An Electronics and Communication Engineering graduate, Jahnavi is also a STEM advocate, ISRO speaker, and asteroid co-discoverer. Her training includes analog missions, deep-sea diving, and geology with Space Iceland. Recognized with NASA's People's Choice Award and ISRO's Young Achiever Award, she inspires future space explorers.

7. India's First Butterfly Sanctuary Opened in Kerala's Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

Kerala has declared Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur as India's first butterfly sanctuary, now named Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary. Spanning 55 sq. km in the Western Ghats, it shelters over 266 butterfly species, including rare and endangered ones. The renaming, announced on June 18, 2025, follows 25 years of conservation efforts. Aimed at protecting butterfly habitats and promoting eco-tourism and research, the sanctuary supports seasonal migrations and contributes to pollination, biodiversity, and environmental awareness through ongoing scientific studies and community involvement.

8. NABARD and NIRCA Launch Post-Harvest Technology Training for Chilli and Turmeric Farmers

On June 25, 2025, NABARD and ICAR-NIRCA launched a training initiative in Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh, to enhance post-harvest practices for chilli and turmeric farmers and FPOs. The program focuses on scientific drying, storage, grading, and packaging to reduce contamination and improve market value. Training includes the use of advanced machinery and certification processes. Aimed at boosting export potential and farmer incomes, the initiative strengthens FPOs and promotes sustainable agricultural practices in one of India's key spice-producing regions.

9. DRDO Developing K-6 Hypersonic Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is currently engaged in the advanced development of the K-6 hypersonic Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM). This strategic weapon system is being developed by DRDO's Advanced Naval Systems Laboratory in Hyderabad. The K-6 missile is envisioned to significantly bolster India's strategic deterrence capabilities and enhance its naval power. Upon completion, this cutting-edge missile will be deployed on the advanced S-5 class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines of the Indian Navy, representing a major leap in the country's underwater strike capabilities.

Miscellaneous

1. Girls Increasingly Choosing Science Over Arts, Reflecting STEM Gender Balance

Recent data from the Ministry of Education reveals a significant rise in Class 12 girls opting for science: 28.13 lakh passed in 2024, up from 25.58 lakh in 2023 and 23.3 lakh in 2022. This marks a broader shift toward STEM among female students and reflects closing gender gaps, especially in states like Kerala and Karnataka. UNESCO, however, warns of persistent barriers—financial constraints, stereotypes, and a leaky pipeline—that hinder women's full participation in STEM careers.

2. Indian Animated Film *Desi Oon* Bags Jury Prize at Annecy 2025

Indian animation gained global recognition as *Desi Oon*, directed by Suresh Eriyat, won the Jury Award for Best Commissioned Film at the Annecy International Animation Festival 2025. Celebrating Indian culture through frame-by-frame animation, the film also won at WAVES 2025 and was archived by MoMA. It topped the Create in India Challenge and was shortlisted at

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Cannes Lions. The achievement highlights India's growing presence in the AVGC-XR sector and showcases the global potential of indigenous storytelling and animation talent.

3. Padma Shri Recipient 'Aranya Rishi' Maruti Chitampalli Dies at 93

Renowned environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee Maruti Chitampalli, fondly known as "Aranya Rishi," passed away at 93 on June 20, 2025. A former forest officer and prolific Marathi author, he dedicated his life to wildlife conservation and ecological literature. Known for his multilingual skills and deep tribal engagement, Chitampalli authored key encyclopedias on birds, animals, and fish. His work bridged traditional knowledge with science. His passing is mourned widely as a profound loss to India's environmental and literary legacy.

4. US FDA Approves Groundbreaking HIV Prevention Injection Administered Biannually

The US FDA has approved Lenacapavir (Yeztugo), a long-acting HIV prevention injection developed by Gilead Sciences. Administered twice yearly, it showed 99.9% efficacy in Phase 3 trials, offering a breakthrough over daily pills and bimonthly injections. Lenacapavir blocks HIV replication and improves adherence while reducing stigma. Though costly (USD 28,218/year), it could ease global HIV prevention if adopted widely. In India, cost limits its inclusion in national programs, but the approval may spur global access through WHO and donor support.

5. Professor Suman Chakraborty Named New Director of IIT Kharagpur

Professor Suman Chakraborty, a renowned mechanical engineer and J.C. Bose National Fellow, has been appointed Director of IIT Kharagpur, succeeding interim Director Prof. Amit Patra. Known for developing affordable diagnostic tools like Covirap and HemoQR, Chakraborty brings a strong focus on

technological inclusivity and innovation. A recipient of the 2026 TWAS Award, he aims to elevate IIT Kharagpur's global academic standing, foster research excellence, and strengthen industry-academia collaboration during his five-year tenure starting in 2025.

6. India Post Payments Bank Bags Digital Payments Award for 2024-25

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% government-owned entity under the Department of Posts, received the Digital Payments Award 2024-25 from the Ministry of Finance for its outstanding role in promoting inclusive digital banking. Ranked 1st in the DFS Performance Index, IPPB was recognised for its services in underserved rural areas through a vast network of postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks. Its tech-driven, doorstep banking model supports financial inclusion, DBT schemes, and the government's Digital India mission.

7. International Olympic Day 2025

International Olympic Day, observed annually on June 23, celebrates the founding of the International Olympic Committee in 1894. Initiated in 1948, the day promotes the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect, encouraging global participation in physical activity. The 2025 theme, "Let's Move?", highlights the importance of movement in daily life. Celebrations include community fitness events, educational programs, and social media campaigns. It serves as a global reminder to embrace sportsmanship, inclusion, and healthier lifestyles for overall well-being and unity.

8. Sivasubramanian Ramann Assumes Role as New Chairperson of PFRDA

Sivasubramanian Ramann assumed charge as Chairperson of PFRDA on June 20, 2025, bringing vast experience in financial regulation and development banking. Formerly CMD of SIDBI and MD of NeSL, Ramann was appointed for a

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five-year term to lead reforms in India's pension sector. His tenure aims to expand coverage through schemes like NPS and the Vatsalya Scheme. With strong academic and regulatory credentials, he is expected to enhance digital integration, financial literacy, and retirement inclusion, especially for informal and self-employed sectors.

9. Veteran spinner Dilip Doshi passes away at the age of 77 in London

Dilip Doshi, a legendary left-arm spinner, passed away on June 23, 2025, in London at 77. Despite debuting at 32, he took 114 wickets in 33 Tests and 22 in 15 ODIs. Known for his classical bowling and intellect, he authored *Spin Punch* and mentored many, including his son Nayan. He was celebrated for his grit, famously bowling with a broken toe in 1981. His death drew tributes from BCCI and fans worldwide, marking the end of a remarkable era.

10. International Widows Day 2025

International Widows Day, observed on June 23, highlights the struggles faced by widows worldwide, including discrimination, poverty, and social exclusion. Initiated by the Loomba Foundation in 2005 and recognized by the UN in 2010, the day promotes widow empowerment through legal rights, economic support, and social inclusion. It pushes for legal reforms, combats stigma, and aligns with key Sustainable Development Goals. Individuals can support widows by advocating for change, volunteering, donating, and fostering inclusive communities to ensure dignity and equality.

11. India to Link Rare Blood Donor Registry with e-Rakt Kosh Platform

To improve access to rare blood groups, the Health Ministry will integrate the Rare Donor Registry with e-Rakt Kosh, India's digital blood management platform. This move, supported by

ICMR and NIIH, allows real-time tracking of rare blood types like Bombay and Rh-null. With over 4,000 screened donors, the registry aids faster, safer transfusions. It will benefit patients with conditions like thalassemia and sickle cell anemia, reduce transfusion delays, and enable PHCs to conduct advanced tests affordably across India.

12. Kirsty Coventry Becomes the First Woman and First African to Lead the IOC

On June 23, 2025, Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe made history by becoming the first female and African President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), succeeding Thomas Bach. A former Olympic gold medallist and sports minister, Coventry pledged inclusive, transparent leadership. Her inauguration in Lausanne marked a new era for the IOC, with key upcoming decisions like selecting the 2036 Olympic host. The ceremony highlighted continuity and global aspirations, including strong support from India, reflecting wider interest in hosting future Games.

13. Adani and Reliance Collaborate to Share Fuel Infrastructure Resources

Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) and Reliance BP Mobility Ltd (Jio-bp) have formed a strategic partnership to dispense each other's fuels at select outlets, announced on June 25, 2025. Under the deal, ATGL will offer Jio-bp petrol and diesel, while Jio-bp will host ATGL's CNG units. This collaboration aims to enhance infrastructure use, improve customer experience, and expand private sector presence in a market where public firms control 90% of fuel outlets. It follows growing cooperation between Adani and Reliance.

14. China Identifies Two New Bat Viruses Capable of Infecting Humans

Scientists have discovered two new henipaviruses in bat kidneys in China's Yunnan province, genetically similar to the deadly Nipah

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and Hendra viruses. Found in organs responsible for urine production, these viruses raise concerns about human infection through contaminated fruit or water. The study, conducted from 2017 to 2021, identified 22 viruses from 142 bats. Experts warn of potential encephalitis and respiratory illness in humans, emphasizing the urgent need for global zoonotic surveillance and public health preparedness amid post-COVID vigilance.

15. Amit Shah Unveils The Emergency Diaries

On June 25, 2025, marking 50 years since the Emergency, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released *The Emergency Diaries*, a book highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's underground resistance as a young RSS Pracharak during the 1975–77 Emergency. Based on first-hand accounts and archives, the book emphasizes Modi's early democratic ideals. It serves to educate younger generations about the suppression of civil liberties during the Emergency and underscores the importance of protecting democracy and constitutional values in contemporary India.

16. Asiatic Wild Dog (Dhole) Spotted Again in Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape

In a significant and encouraging discovery for wildlife conservation in India, the Asiatic wild dog, commonly known as dhole (*Cuon alpinus*), has been confirmed to have returned to Assam's Kaziranga-Karbi Anglong Landscape (KKAL). This elusive carnivore was previously thought to have vanished from the region. Its presence has now been verified through camera trap images, indicating a positive development for the ecosystem. This rediscovery highlights the crucial role of forest corridors in promoting wildlife connectivity and aiding in the recovery of endangered species, underscoring ongoing conservation efforts.

17. Major Credit Card Policy Changes from July 2025 by Indian Banks

Several major Indian banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank, are set to implement significant changes to their credit card policies starting from July 2025. These revisions include the discontinuation of complimentary air accident insurance on certain SBI cards, the introduction of new transaction fees and limits on reward points by HDFC Bank for categories like online gaming and wallet recharges, and the replacement of specific co-branded cards, such as the Myntra Kotak Credit Card, with generic alternatives by Kotak Mahindra Bank. These changes will require cardholders to re-evaluate their usage to optimize benefits.

18. UPI On Track to Surpass Visa in Daily Transactions

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has achieved a monumental milestone, demonstrating its rapid growth and widespread adoption in digital payments. As of June 2025, UPI has successfully surpassed Visa in daily digital transaction volume, recording over 650 million transactions per day. This remarkable achievement underscores UPI's pivotal role in transforming India's payment landscape, making it a leading digital payment system globally and further accelerating financial inclusion and convenience for millions of users across the country.

19. IRDAI Fines Edelweiss Life Rs. 1 Crore for Corporate Governance Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on Edelweiss Life Insurance Company. The fine was levied due to violations of corporate governance standards, particularly regarding improper oversight of outsourcing activities and the failure to obtain mandatory bank account details of policyholders in