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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. Nagshankar Temple in Assam Transformed into a Modern Hub for Turtle Conservation

Nagshankar Temple in Assam's Biswanath district was named a model temple for turtle conservation on May 23, 2025, during World Turtle Day. The event, supported by conservation groups like the Turtle Survival Alliance, honored the temple's role in protecting 13 freshwater turtle species, many endangered or vulnerable. Turtles are culturally sacred in Assam, linked to Lord Vishnu. Local "Kaso Mitras" help safeguard turtles, while community efforts raise awareness through art and education, highlighting the temple's vital conservation work.

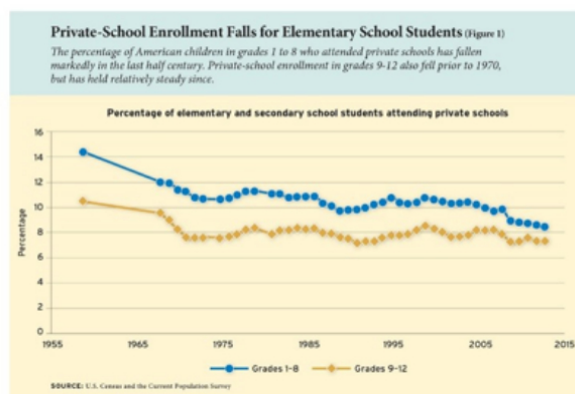
2. Odisha Introduces ANKUR Initiative

The Government of Odisha launched ANKUR (Atal Network for Knowledge, Urbanisation and Reforms), a decade-long initiative to drive smart, sustainable, and citizen-centric urban development. Led by the Housing and Urban Development Department, ANKUR focuses on capacity building, knowledge sharing, implementation support, and innovation. It aims to address Odisha's growing urban population by fostering collaboration among government, academia, and private sectors. Aligned with India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, ANKUR seeks to build resilient, livable, and future-ready cities.



3. Private School Enrollment on the Rise in Government and Aided Institutions, Says Education Ministry

According to the Ministry of Education's UDISE+ 2023-24 data, private school enrolment in India has risen to 36% of total enrolment, up from 33% in 2022-23. This increase is particularly notable in junior classes, reflecting a growing preference among parents for private education. Conversely, government school enrolment has declined in 23 states, prompting the Ministry to request investigations and remedial plans from the affected states. Factors contributing to this trend include aspirations for better education quality and the removal of 'ghost' entries from school records.



4. Karnataka Passes Landmark Ordinance for Platform-Based Gig Workers in 2025

The Karnataka government has enacted the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Ordinance, 2025, establishing a welfare framework for approximately 5 lakh gig workers across the state. The ordinance mandates a welfare fee ranging from 1% to 5% per transaction, to be collected from digital platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, and Amazon. This fee will fund social security benefits, including health insurance, income support during unemployment, and protection against arbitrary

termination. A dedicated welfare board will oversee implementation, with draft rules expected within two weeks. While the move is lauded for formalizing gig workers' rights, concerns persist about potential cost increases for consumers and enforcement challenges.

5. Telangana Declares Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve to Strengthen Tiger Corridor

On May 30, 2025, Telangana designated the Kawal-Tadoba tiger corridor as the Kumram Bheem Conservation Reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Spanning 1,492.88 sq. km in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, the reserve strengthens tiger movement between Telangana, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. It protects vital biodiversity, including over 45 tigers and several carnivores and prey species. Managed by a multi-stakeholder committee, this move enhances habitat connectivity and supports long-term conservation efforts in the central Indian landscape.



6. Canara Bank Abolishes Minimum Balance Requirement for All Savings Bank Accounts

Canara Bank has waived the minimum balance requirement for all its savings accounts, including regular, salary, and NRI accounts, eliminating penalties for non-maintenance. This customer-friendly reform promotes financial

inclusion and digital banking, benefiting low-income, rural, and diverse customer groups. Canara Bank, one of India's major public sector banks with over 9,800 branches, aims to enhance accessibility and support government initiatives like Jan Dhan Yojana. The move marks a significant shift in traditional banking practices.

7. IEPFA and SEBI Introduce "Niveshak Shivir" to Strengthen Investor Awareness in Pune

On June 1, 2025, IEPFA and SEBI launched the first "Niveshak Shivir" in Pune to enhance financial literacy and investor protection. The event addressed unclaimed dividends and shares, offering a single-window grievance redressal for KYC updates and claim settlements. Over 450 participants received personalised support through 19 service desks. The initiative aims to empower investors nationwide by simplifying claim processes, raising awareness, and promoting transparency, marking a key step in India's investor-friendly governance efforts.



8. IICA Expands to Northeast with Inaugural Regional Campus in Shillong

On June 3, 2025, the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) announced its first regional campus in New Shillong Township, Meghalaya, backed by Rs. 100.95 crore under the PM-DevINE scheme. This campus will focus on training,

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research, and policy advisory services in corporate governance, ESG, CSR, and insolvency. Located within a growing academic cluster, it reflects efforts to integrate the Northeast into India's development strategy. The initiative supports decentralisation, promotes inclusive growth, and strengthens the region's role in national policymaking and capacity building.



9. Uttar Pradesh Sanctions 20% Police Reservation for Former Agniveers

On June 3, 2025, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in direct recruitment for police posts, including Constable, PAC, Mounted Constable, and Fireman. This reservation applies within all categories (General, SC, ST, OBC) and includes a 3-year age relaxation. The policy aims to provide post-service employment to Agniveers from the Agneepath scheme, enhancing police discipline and efficiency. Implementation begins in 2026, marking a socio-economic boost and a model for other states.



10. Flipkart Obtains NBFC License from RBI, Steps into Direct Lending Sector

Walmart-owned Flipkart has received RBI approval to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), enabling it to directly offer loans to customers and sellers without relying on partner banks. This marks the first time an Indian e-commerce giant has obtained such a licence, allowing Flipkart's fintech arm, super.money, to expand its credit services independently. The approval, granted on March 13, 2025, positions Flipkart to deepen its fintech integration and enhance financial offerings in the online retail sector.

11. Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana Introduced to Enhance Green Cover in Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana on June 2, 2025, aiming to increase green cover by planting fruit-bearing trees on degraded forest lands. The scheme promotes community involvement through Mahila Mandals, Yuvak Mandals, and self-help groups, providing employment for five years. The Green Adoption Scheme encourages corporate afforestation participation. New Van Mitras, many women, were appointed to address forest staff shortages, reflecting a broader focus on

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women's empowerment and inclusive governance in the state.



12. PM Modi Inaugurates Chenab Rail Bridge, Finalising Kashmir's Rail Connectivity with India

On June 6, 2025, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chenab Rail Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir, completing the 42-year-old Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL). The bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge at 359 meters, connects Kashmir to India's national railway network with an electrified 272-km corridor. It boosts trade, tourism, and regional development while showcasing India's engineering skills. The project enhances all-weather connectivity, reduces travel time, and supports security and economic growth in the region.

13. Aadhaar authentications surpassed 211 crore in May 2025

In May 2025, UIDAI recorded over 211 crore Aadhaar authentication transactions, marking a significant rise from previous months. Face authentication alone reached 15.49 crore, showcasing the growing adoption of AI-powered biometric verification. Aadhaar supports real-time identity verification for welfare schemes, e-KYC, and financial services, enhancing transparency and efficiency. Launched in 2009, Aadhaar remains India's largest biometric ID system, playing a vital role in digital governance, financial inclusion, and streamlining public and

private sector services nationwide.

International

1. International Day of Potato 2025

On 30 May 2025, the world observed the second International Day of Potato, highlighting the crop's global significance. The theme, "Shaping history, feeding the future," celebrates the potato's rich heritage, nutritional value, and role in sustainable food systems. Originating over 7,000 years ago in South America, the potato spread worldwide, becoming vital for food security. Coinciding with FAO's 80th anniversary, the day emphasizes small farmers' roles, innovation in potato value chains, and the crop's contribution to global nutrition and livelihoods.

2. China Unveils IOMed Platform in Hong Kong for Global Health Collaboration

On May 30, 2025, China, along with over 30 countries, inaugurated the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed) in Hong Kong. This intergovernmental body aims to provide a structured platform for resolving international disputes through mediation, offering an alternative to traditional judicial bodies like the International Court of Justice. IOMed will address disputes between states, between states and foreign individuals, and in international commercial contexts. Headquartered in Hong Kong, the organization is expected to commence operations by the end of 2025, enhancing China's role in global governance and promoting peaceful conflict resolution.

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3. Russia Urges Renewal of RIC (Russia-India-China) Strategic Dialogue Format

Russia is advocating for the revival of the Russia-India-China (RIC) trilateral dialogue, which has been largely inactive since the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov emphasized that recent de-escalation in India-China border tensions presents an opportunity to reinvigorate the RIC framework. Moscow views this initiative as a means to promote a multipolar world order and counterbalance Western-led alliances like NATO and the Quad. The RIC platform aims to enhance cooperation among the three nations on issues such as trade, energy security, and regional stability.



4. Hawaii Becomes First U.S. State to Introduce Climate Impact Fee

Hawaii became the first U.S. state to introduce a climate impact fee, called the 'Green Fee,' effective January 1, 2026. Signed by Governor Josh Green, it adds 0.75% to the transient accommodations tax, increasing it to 11%. This surcharge applies to hotels, short-term rentals, and cruise ship passengers. The estimated 100 million USD annual revenue will fund climate resilience projects like beach restoration, invasive species control, and wildlife conservation, supporting Hawaii's environmental sustainability efforts.



5. Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri was crowned Miss World 2025

Opal Suchata Chuangsri of Thailand was crowned Miss World 2025 on May 31 in Hyderabad, becoming the first Thai winner in the pageant's history. She triumphed over 107 contestants, with Ethiopia's Hasset Dereje Admassu as runner-up. Wearing a symbolic white gown, Chuangsri was crowned by Miss World 2024 Krystyna Pyszkova. India's Nandini Gupta did not reach the Top 8. This marks the second consecutive year India has hosted the event. Chuangsri will promote humanitarian causes through "Beauty With A Purpose."

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6. Luís Montenegro has been reappointed as the Prime Minister of Portugal

Luís Montenegro has been reappointed Prime Minister of Portugal following the recent general elections, leading a minority government under the centre-right Democratic Alliance (AD) with 91 seats. The far-right Chega party emerged as the second-largest with 60 seats, but Montenegro rejected their call for constitutional reforms. His focus remains on economic growth, public service reforms, and improving the health system. This election marks a significant shift in Portugal's political landscape, with Chega gaining unprecedented influence.



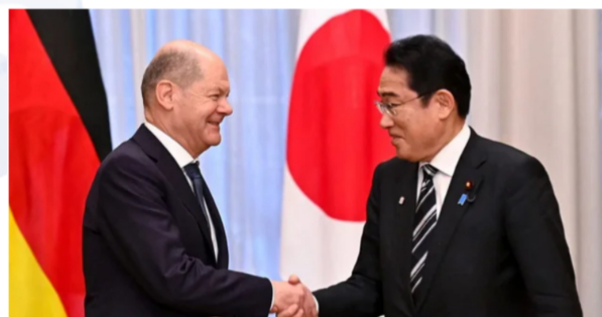
7. Elon Musk Unveils XChat Platform

On June 2, 2025, Elon Musk's X (formerly Twitter) launched XChat, a secure messaging platform designed to rival WhatsApp, Telegram, and WeChat. Available in beta for premium users, XChat offers end-to-end encryption, disappearing messages, cross-platform audio/video calling, and file sharing. Built using

the Rust language with Bitcoin-style encryption, it supports Musk's goal of transforming X into a super app. The launch underscores a push for tech independence and innovation in cybersecurity, positioning X as a serious contender in the global messaging space.

8. Germany has surpassed Japan to become the world's leading creditor nation

In 2024, Germany surpassed Japan as the world's largest net creditor, ending Japan's 34-year lead. Germany's strong current account surplus of €240 billion and a 5% euro appreciation against the yen boosted its foreign asset value. Despite Japan's record net assets of USD 3.7 trillion, Germany's assets reached USD 3.9 trillion. Japan faces challenges like an ageing population and cautious investments, while Germany benefits from Eurozone stability, but risks remain from its export reliance and potential US tariffs.



9. Lee Jae-myung Becomes President of South Korea Amidst Political Turmoil

Lee Jae-myung of South Korea's Democratic Party was elected president on June 4, 2025, following the ouster of conservative Yoon Suk Yeol after martial law unrest. Lee, known for his reformist background and humble origins, won with around 49% votes, promising economic revival, reduced inequality, and pragmatic diplomacy. He aims to balance relations with the U.S., Japan, China, and North Korea, promoting

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peaceful engagement without major concessions. His victory marks a shift toward democracy and a left-liberal resurgence amid regional tensions.



10. Karol Nawrocki Wins Polish Presidency Following a Close Contest

Karol Nawrocki, a 42-year-old historian and former boxer, was elected Poland's president with 50.89% of the vote, narrowly defeating liberal Rafal Trzaskowski. Backed by Donald Trump and the Law and Justice Party, Nawrocki represents a nationalist and traditionalist agenda, succeeding Andrzej Duda in August 2025. Known for promoting patriotic values and opposing secular trends, his presidency is expected to strengthen conservative policies, deepen ties with the U.S., and potentially create tensions with the EU over judicial and minority issues.



11. Bangladesh Introduces New Banknotes Without Mujibur Rahman's Portrait

Bangladesh's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, introduced new banknotes without Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait, replacing it with natural landscapes, archaeological sites, and religious landmarks to promote a neutral, inclusive national identity. The redesigned Taka notes in denominations of 1000, 50, and 20 highlight the country's cultural heritage amid political unrest following former PM Sheikh Hasina's 2024 ouster and ongoing legal proceedings. Existing currency with Mujibur Rahman's image will continue circulating during this phased transition.

12. India Assumes Presidency of IIAS for the 2025–2028 Term

India has been elected President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for 2025–2028, with V. Srinivas, Secretary of DARPG, leading the body headquartered in Brussels. Winning 87 of 141 votes, India defeated Austria at the Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. This marks recognition of India's public administration reforms and governance leadership. The presidency strengthens India's role in global governance, promoting administrative science, digital governance, and international cooperation in transparency and citizen-centric reforms.

13. Nicaragua Joins as the 101st Member of the WTO to Ratify the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement

On June 2, 2025, Nicaragua became the 101st WTO member to accept the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, moving the deal closer to enforcement with just 10 more acceptances needed. Adopted in 2022, the agreement aims to eliminate subsidies that fuel illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, overfishing, and harmful high-seas practices. It promotes sustainable fishing, supports developing countries through

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capacity-building, and establishes a Fish Fund. Nicaragua's acceptance highlights its commitment to marine conservation and global trade cooperation.



14. Bangladesh Removes 'Father of the Nation' Title for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

On June 3, 2025, Bangladesh's interim government, led by Prof. Mohammed Yunus, removed Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's title as 'Father of the Nation' from the revised Liberation War Act, following new currency notes excluding his image. The changes redefine freedom fighters, excluding the Mujib Bahini and affecting state benefits. The government aims to promote a more inclusive narrative of independence amid political shifts after Sheikh Hasina's 2024 ouster and crackdowns on Awami League symbols, sparking national and international debate.



15. UN Elects Five Countries as Non-Permanent Members of Security Council for 2026-27 Term

On June 3, 2025, the UN General Assembly elected Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Latvia, and Liberia as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2026-2027. Latvia joins the Council for the first time, marking a diplomatic milestone. These five members fill regional seats, strengthening multilateral representation. Their role includes contributing to decisions on international peace, security, sanctions, and peacekeeping. The election reflects global efforts for inclusive and equitable participation in maintaining world stability.

16. Microsoft Expands LinkedIn CEO Roslansky's Responsibilities to Include Oversight of the Office Suite

Microsoft has appointed LinkedIn CEO Ryan Roslansky to also lead its Office suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams, and Microsoft 365 Copilot. This dual role highlights Microsoft's focus on integrating AI and enhancing synergy between LinkedIn and productivity tools. Roslansky, who has driven LinkedIn's growth since 2020, will strengthen AI-driven innovation and unify Microsoft's workplace ecosystem. The move signals a major strategic shift, reflecting CEO Satya Nadella's confidence in Roslansky's leadership for the future of work.

Sports

1. Indian cricketer Shubman Gill named brand ambassador for Oakley

Shubman Gill, India's new Test captain, has become the brand ambassador for Oakley sunglasses, joining its "Artifacts from the Future" campaign. Known for his elegant batting and calm demeanor, Gill represents Oakley's values

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of passion, progress, and performance. He expressed pride in the partnership, saying Oakley has always been part of his cricket journey. The campaign, marking Oakley's 50th anniversary, features futuristic eyewear. Gill joins global athletes like Kylian Mbappe and Patrick Mahomes II in representing the brand.

2. Mahendra Gurjar of India Sets World Record at World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland

India's Mahendra Gurjar set a world record in the men's javelin F42 category at the Nottwil World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Switzerland with a throw of 61.17 meters, surpassing the previous record of 59.19 meters. He also won gold in the long jump T42 event, ranking first in Asia. The F42 category is for athletes with moderate leg movement impairments. Additionally, Sumit Antil won gold in the men's javelin F64 category with a throw of 72.35 meters.

3. D Gukesh Triumphs Over Magnus Carlsen at Norway Chess 2025

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh achieved a historic first classical win over World Champion Magnus Carlsen at Norway Chess 2025. Despite losing the first round to Carlsen, Gukesh showed resilience and precise calculation, capitalising on Carlsen's critical mistakes in the endgame. This victory marks a major milestone in Gukesh's career and signals the rise of India's new chess talent. Gukesh now stands as a strong contender in the tournament, closely trailing leaders Carlsen and Fabiano Caruana.

4. Heinrich Klaasen Announces Retirement from International Cricket Career

South African wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen announced his retirement from international cricket on June 2, 2025, concluding a seven-year career. Having retired from Tests in 2024, his decision follows South Africa's

Champions Trophy semifinal exit. Klaasen, known for his explosive white-ball performances, scored over 2,100 ODI runs and 1,000 in T20Is. He cited family time as a key reason for retiring. Cricket South Africa praised his impact, calling him a match-winner and a vital contributor to the national team's success.

5. Glenn Maxwell Announces Retirement from ODI Cricket Following a 13-Year Career

Australian cricketer Glenn Maxwell announced his retirement from One Day Internationals (ODIs) on June 2, 2025, after a 13-year career. Known for his explosive batting and holding the highest ODI strike rate (126.70) among players with over 2,000 runs, Maxwell cited physical fatigue and a desire to make way for younger talent as reasons. A two-time World Cup winner (2015, 2023), he will continue playing T20Is while focusing on recovery after a challenging IPL 2025 season.

6. Oscar Piastri Secures Commanding Win at the 2025 Spanish Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri, the 24-year-old McLaren driver, secured his fifth victory of the 2025 Formula One season by dominating the Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya. Starting from pole with the largest qualifying margin of the year, Piastri led a commanding race, finishing ahead of teammate Lando Norris and Red Bull's Max Verstappen. This crucial win strengthens his championship lead, highlights McLaren's rising dominance, and underscores the intense rivalry between the team's top drivers in the ongoing title battle.

7. Royal Challengers Bangalore Clinch Their Maiden Title

The IPL 2025 final on June 3 saw Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) clinch their maiden title by defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS)

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by 6 runs at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. RCB posted 190/9 batting first, while PBKS scored 184/7 in a thrilling chase. After finishing top in the league and winning Qualifier 1, RCB maintained momentum to secure victory. This historic win ends RCB's 18-year wait and marks a proud moment for the team and its fans.

8. India Secures Second Place at 2025 Asian Athletics Championships with 24 Medals

India excelled at the 2025 Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, winning 24 medals (8 gold, 10 silver, 6 bronze) and finishing second overall behind China. Over 60 athletes competed in 30 events, with standout performances in middle-distance, hurdles, and relays. Notable gold winners included Gulveer Singh (10,000m & 5,000m), Avinash Sable (3000m steeplechase), and Jyothi Yarraji (100m hurdles). Several national records were broken, and the event served as key preparation for the 2026 Paris Olympics.

9. India Set to Begin Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2025 Campaign with Match Against Thailand

The Indian women's hockey team will begin its Asia Cup 2025 campaign on September 5 against Thailand in Hangzhou, China. The tournament, running from September 5-14, is a key qualifier for the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup. India is placed in Pool B with Japan, Thailand, and Singapore. Led by Captain Salima Tete, the team aims to reclaim the title they last won in 2017. A strong performance will secure World Cup qualification and reflect India's growing strength in women's hockey.



Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025 Launched to Enhance Rural Cleanliness Rankings

On May 29, 2025, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025, India's largest rural sanitation survey, covering 21,000 villages across 761 districts. Aligned with Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen Phase II, SSG 2025 aims to assess and rank states and districts based on sanitation parameters, focusing on sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus outcomes. An independent agency will conduct the survey, evaluating service-level progress, sanitation infrastructure, and citizen feedback via a dedicated mobile app. This initiative emphasizes community participation and technological integration to promote sustainable rural cleanliness.

2. India, in partnership with Norway, is set to construct its first-ever Polar Research Vessel (PRV)

On June 3, 2025, India signed an MoU with Norway's Kongsberg to build its first indigenously manufactured Polar Research Vessel (PRV) through GRSE. This marks a major leap in India's

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scientific self-reliance and polar exploration capabilities. The PRV will support deep-sea research, climate studies, and Antarctic missions under NCPOR. Part of the 'Make in India' and MAHASAGAR vision, this initiative strengthens India's global maritime presence, promotes sustainability, and boosts cooperation with Norway in shipbuilding and ocean research.



3. G7 Headquarters, Origins, and Founding Member Countries

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal group of seven wealthy nations—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US—that meet annually to address global issues like the economy, security, climate change, and health crises. Though not a member, India has been invited to several G7 meetings, showing its rising global importance. The group also faces challenges such as the Russia-Ukraine conflict, China's growing influence, and post-COVID economic recovery, while promoting fair partnerships, digital safety, and sustainable development.



Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. Tata-Airbus to Establish India's First Private Helicopter Assembly Line in Karnataka

Tata Advanced Systems and Airbus are partnering to set up India's first private helicopter Final Assembly Line in Karnataka's Kolar district, producing the versatile H125 model. This facility, the fourth globally, supports the 'Make in India' initiative by boosting indigenous aerospace manufacturing and reducing imports. Karnataka was chosen for its strong aerospace ecosystem and incentives. The plant will initially produce 10 helicopters annually, enhancing India's defence and civil aviation sectors while creating skilled jobs and strengthening Indo-European industrial ties.



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2. Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2025

CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP), Dehradun, celebrated Rashtriya Boudhik Sampada Mahotsav 2025 on 29th May to promote awareness about Intellectual Property (IP). The event began with traditional rituals and featured key addresses by Dr. Deepti Agrawal and Director Dr. Harender Singh Bisht. Dr. Kapil Arya from CSIR-IPU delivered an engaging talk on patents and IP rights, followed by an interactive session. Dr. N. Vishwanatham shared insights on innovation, and an online quiz added an interactive element for participants.



Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. Cabinet Approves Increase in MSP for 14 Kharif Crops for 2025–26 Season

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, approved an MSP hike for 14 Kharif crops for the 2025–26 season, with a financial outlay of ₹2.07 lakh crore. The highest MSP increase was for nigerseed and ragi. Crops like bajra and maize offer profit margins over 50%. The hike supports “Shree Anna” and includes a 6% MSP rise for raw jute. Compared to 2004–2014, MSP payments and procurement nearly quadrupled under the Modi government, boosting farmers’ income and welfare.



2. DRDO Chief Dr. Samir Kamat’s Tenure Extended by Another Year

The Central Government has granted a second one-year extension to Dr. Samir V Kamat, Chief of DRDO, extending his tenure till May 31, 2026. Appointed in August 2022, Dr. Kamat is a key figure in India’s defence research. His extension, under Fundamental Rule 56(d), highlights the public interest in his continued leadership. As DRDO Chief, he plays a vital role in advancing indigenous defence technologies, supporting India’s self-reliance goals. His contributions have been crucial for national security and innovation.



3. Dhruva Policy Introduced to Boost Strategic Initiatives

The Indian government has introduced the DHRUVA (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique

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Virtual Address) policy to establish a standardized, interoperable, and consent-based digital address system. This initiative aims to enhance governance, emergency services, e-commerce, logistics, and financial inclusion by providing citizens with ownership and control over their address data. The policy introduces the concept of Address-as-a-Service (AaaS), facilitating secure data sharing across government and private platforms. Stakeholder feedback is being solicited to refine the framework before its final implementation.

4. Zoonotic Disease Detected Through India's Integrated Disease Surveillance Program

India's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has recently detected a rise in zoonotic diseases, which are infections that spread from animals to humans. From 2018 to 2023, 583 zoonotic outbreaks were reported—accounting for 8.3% of total disease outbreaks in India. Diseases like Japanese encephalitis, leptospirosis, and scrub typhus were most common, especially during monsoons and in the northeast, south, and west regions. To counter this, India is strengthening real-time monitoring under the “One Health” approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health systems.



5. Historic Milestone: First Group of 17 Female Cadets Graduates from National Defence

Academy

On May 30, 2025, a historic milestone was achieved as 17 women cadets graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Pune, marking the first time women completed training at this premier tri-service institution. This breakthrough followed a Supreme Court directive in 2021 allowing female candidates to join the NDA. The Passing Out Parade, held at the Khetrapal Parade Ground, was reviewed by General V.K. Singh, Governor of Mizoram and former Army Chief. The event underscored the growing role of women in India's armed forces, symbolizing empowerment and gender inclusivity.

6. China Successfully Launches Tianwen-2 Mission

China launched the Tianwen-2 mission on May 30, 2025, aiming to collect samples from near-Earth asteroid 2016HO3 and explore main-belt comet 311P. Using the Long March-3B rocket, the mission seeks to enhance understanding of the solar system's origins and prepare for future deep-space projects, including Tianwen-4 and manned lunar missions. Sample return is expected by 2027. This mission strengthens China's role in space exploration and advances its sample-return technology, crucial for upcoming cosmic endeavours.

7. Khichan and Menar Wetlands Designated as Ramsar Sites Ahead of World Environment Day

India has added two Rajasthan wetlands, Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur, to the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, raising the total to 91 sites. Announced on June 4, 2025, this move strengthens biodiversity conservation and supports global sustainability goals. Khichan is known for migratory Demoiselle Cranes, while Menar hosts over 150 bird species. Ramsar

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wetlands play vital roles in water filtration, flood control, and climate regulation, highlighting India's commitment to protecting natural ecosystems.

8. PM Modi Launches 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' Initiative on World Environment Day

On World Environment Day 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0' by planting a sapling in New Delhi, aiming to plant 10 crore trees nationwide by September 30. The campaign links environmental action with honouring mothers, encouraging citizen participation. Additionally, Modi flagged off 200 electric buses in Delhi to promote clean urban transport and reduce pollution. These initiatives support India's climate goals, enhance green mobility, and emphasise emotional and cultural engagement in sustainability.



Miscellaneous

1. Raja Kumari Creates History at the 2025 American Music Awards

Raja Kumari made history as the first Indian-origin artist to win an American Music Award, receiving the "Favorite Soundtrack" award on May 27, 2025, for the song *Renegade (We Never Run)* from *Arcane: League of Legends – Season 2*. Collaborating with Stefflon Don and Jarina de

Marco, Kumari brought powerful Indian cultural representation to the global stage. The song's success affirms her vision as a global artist and marks a major milestone for South Asian presence in international music.

2. Hitachi India Names N Venu as Managing Director

Hitachi India announced N Venu as its new Managing Director from June 2, 2025, succeeding Bharat Kaushal, who becomes Executive Chairman. Venu, currently MD & CEO of Hitachi Energy India and South Asia Region Head, will drive growth under Hitachi's "Inspire 2027" plan, focusing on digital innovation. With nearly 40 years' experience, Venu has led Hitachi Energy's rapid growth since 2019. He holds degrees from NIT Warangal, IIM Ahmedabad, ISB Hyderabad, and IMD Switzerland.



3. Rashtriya Bouddhik Sampada Mahotsav 2025 Kicks Off at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun

The Rashtriya Bouddhik Sampada Mahotsav (RBSM) 2025 began at CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, to raise awareness about Intellectual Property (IP) rights. Part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, it highlights the importance of patents and innovation. Dr. Kapil Arya's keynote on IP fundamentals engaged researchers and scientists, followed by interactive sessions and an online quiz. The event promotes fostering a culture of IP protection and innovation among

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India's scientific community.



4. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport Ranked Among Top 10 Airport Hubs in Asia-Pacific and Middle East

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) ranked among the top 10 hub airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East in the 2024 Air Connectivity Ranking by Airports Council International (ACI) APAC & MID. The only Indian airport on the list, IGIA connects to 153 destinations globally and plays a key role in India's goal to become a global aviation hub. This recognition boosts India's aviation reputation, promotes foreign investment, and supports government plans to develop Delhi as a major transit hub.



5. New Book Explores Indira Gandhi's Legacy as Emergency's 50th Anniversary Nears

TCA Srinivasa Raghavan's book *Indira Gandhi*

and the Years that Transformed India, published on May 23, 2025, revisits the Emergency (1975–77) with scholarly depth. Marking its 50th anniversary, the book analyzes the constitutional struggles among the executive, legislature, and judiciary during Indira Gandhi's tenure. Avoiding sensationalism, it focuses on institutional changes, administrative shifts, and long-term impacts on Indian democracy. Raghavan emphasizes archival research and critiques coercive governance, offering a timely, objective reflection on a critical period in India's political evolution.

6. S. Padmanabhan Named as the New Chairman of Tata Chemicals

S. Padmanabhan, an IIM Bangalore alumnus (PGP 1982), has been appointed Chairman of Tata Chemicals effective 30 May 2025. With over 40 years at the Tata Group, his leadership spans Tata Power, TCS, and Tata Chemicals. A 2008 IIMB Distinguished Alumnus, Padmanabhan's elevation reflects Tata's focus on internal talent and strategic continuity. His appointment comes as Tata Chemicals expands globally in sustainable and speciality chemicals, emphasising innovation and leadership rooted in experience and operational excellence.



7. Asheesh Pandey and Kalyan Kumar have been appointed to key leadership positions in PSU banks

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The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Asheesh Pandey as MD & CEO of Union Bank of India and Kalyan Kumar as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India. Both currently serve as Executive Directors at major public sector banks. Their appointments will succeed the outgoing chiefs in mid-2025, ensuring leadership continuity. Selected through a rigorous process, these appointments emphasise merit and aim to strengthen governance, support financial inclusion, and advance digitisation in India's public sector banking.

8. Annalena Baerbock Elected to Lead 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

On June 2, 2025, Annalena Baerbock, former German Foreign Minister, was elected President of the 80th United Nations General Assembly with 167 votes, becoming the first woman from the Western European group and the fifth woman overall to hold the post. At 44, she is among the youngest presidents. Her presidency focuses on improving UN efficiency, advancing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and promoting inclusivity amid global crises like Ukraine and Gaza, emphasising multilateralism and youth engagement.



9. Tamil filmmaker Vikram Sugumaran dies at the age of 47

Renowned Tamil filmmaker Vikram Sugumaran, known for his debut *Madha Yaanai Kootam* and recent film *Raavana Kottam*, died of a cardiac arrest at 47 while travelling from Madurai to Chennai. Despite hospital efforts, he could not be revived. Sugumaran, praised for his realistic rural storytelling, was working on a new project, *Therum Porum*. His sudden passing shocked the Tamil film industry, with tributes highlighting his impactful vision and contributions. He is survived by his wife and children.



10. Étienne-Émile Baulieu, the pioneer behind the development of the abortion pill

Étienne-Émile Baulieu, French biochemist and pioneer of the abortion pill RU-486 (mifepristone), died at 98 on May 31, 2025. His invention revolutionised non-surgical abortion, advancing women's reproductive rights worldwide amid political and moral debates. Beyond RU-486, Baulieu's research on steroid hormones contributed to understanding ageing and neurodegenerative diseases. A former French Resistance member and scientific leader, he founded the Institut Baulieu and served as president of the French Academy of Sciences, leaving a lasting legacy in medicine and social advocacy.

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11. Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann has been appointed as the Senior Air Staff Officer of the Western Air Command

Air Marshal Jasvir Singh Mann assumed charge as Senior Air Staff Officer of the Indian Air Force's Western Air Command on June 1, 2025. With over 30 years of service, he is a decorated fighter pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours and key leadership roles, including commanding a fighter squadron and directing international exercises with Singapore and the USA. An alumnus of NDA, DSSC, and Royal College of Defence Studies, he holds prestigious awards like the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal.



12. Shailendra Nath Gupta Named New Director General of Defence Estates

Shailendra Nath Gupta, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Defence Estates Service, has been appointed as the Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE), taking charge on June 1, 2025.

With over 30 years of experience in cantonment administration and defence land management, he will oversee India's 18 lakh acres of defence land across 61 cantonments and 38 estate circles. His leadership is vital amid ongoing digitisation and reforms, aiming to improve land management, prevent encroachments, and enhance transparency in defence land administration.



13. Kumar Mangalam Birla Receives USISPF Global Leadership Award 2025

Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, received the Global Leadership Award 2025 from the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) at its 8th Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. Recognized for strengthening U.S.-India economic ties, Birla's group has invested over USD 15 billion across 15 U.S. states, employing more than 5,400 people. The award honours exceptional leadership in promoting bilateral cooperation, alongside other honorees like IBM's Arvind Krishna and Hitachi's Toshiaki Higashihara.

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14. Lavender Festival 2025 Wraps Up in Bhaderwah, Boosting Rural Aroma Economy

The 3rd Lavender Festival held on June 1–2, 2025, in Bhaderwah, Jammu and Kashmir, celebrated the region's role in India's Purple Revolution under the CSIR-Aroma Mission. Organised by CSIR-IIIM, the event gathered over 1,200 participants, including farmers, scientists, and policymakers. Showcasing lavender's economic impact, the festival highlighted Rs. 10.5 crore turnover, 1,500 kg oil production, and strong women entrepreneurship. It promoted sustainable rural development, boosting livelihoods and India's essential oils industry, aligning with national self-reliance goals.

15. Ashwani Lohani Appointed as Director of Prime Minister's Museum and Library

Ashwani Lohani, former Chairman of Air India and the Railway Board, has been appointed Director of the Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML) in New Delhi for a three-year term from June 4, 2025. A veteran IRSME officer, Lohani is known for revitalising public sector units. His appointment comes amid PMML's restructuring to enhance heritage preservation and public outreach. With leadership experience across aviation, tourism, and railways, Lohani is

expected to modernise the institution and boost its cultural and administrative relevance.



16. World Environment Day 2025

World Environment Day is observed annually on June 5 to raise awareness about global environmental issues. The 2025 theme, "Beat Plastic Pollution," highlights the urgent need to reduce plastic waste, harming ecosystems and human health. Hosted by South Korea in Jeju Province, the day promotes actions like clean-up drives, reducing single-use plastics, and planting trees. In India, initiatives include massive afforestation and water conservation campaigns. The day encourages worldwide participation to foster sustainable alternatives and protect the planet.

17. MS Dhoni Named Brand Ambassador for Dettol's New 'Icy Cool' Personal Care Range

On May 28, 2025, Dettol appointed MS Dhoni as the brand ambassador for its new Icy Cool personal care range, targeting summer-specific hygiene needs. The product line includes soaps, body wash, and hand wash that offer germ protection with a cooling effect. Dhoni's composed image aligns with the campaign's "cool body, cool mind" message. The initiative enhances Dettol's seasonal relevance and connects with diverse consumers. It also reinforces mental wellness and hygiene in India's intense summer conditions through a relatable and trusted icon.

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18. TCL India extends Rohit Sharma's tenure as brand ambassador for a second consecutive year

TCL India renewed its partnership with cricket star Rohit Sharma as brand ambassador for the second consecutive year on June 4, 2025. The collaboration, themed "Master the Moment," aims to strengthen TCL's emotional connection with Indian consumers and promote its AI-powered smart TVs and appliances. Rohit Sharma's leadership and calmness align with TCL's brand values. This partnership supports TCL's expansion in India, boosting brand trust, visibility, and market presence, especially in tier-1 and tier-2 cities.

19. World Food Safety Day 2025

World Food Safety Day, observed on June 7, 2025, focuses on "Food Safety: Science in Action," highlighting science and innovation to reduce foodborne illnesses. It raises awareness about safe food handling from production to consumption and encourages investment in technology like AI and genomic surveillance. In India, food safety challenges include rising adulteration and insufficient safety officers. The day emphasises shared responsibility among producers, regulators, and consumers to ensure food safety, supporting health, economic growth, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.