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Weekly Current Affairs

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## National

### 1. DFCC Bank Becomes First Overseas Institution to List Bond on NSE International Exchange at GIFT City

In a landmark move, Sri Lanka's DFCC Bank became the first foreign corporation to list a bond on India's NSE International Exchange at GIFT City, Gujarat, on June 9, 2025. The LKR 2.5 billion green bond aims to finance solar projects, aligning with UN SDGs and Sri Lanka's renewable energy goals. This dual listing enhances regional financial integration, strengthens India-Sri Lanka market ties, and supports GIFT City's vision as a global financial hub for sustainable finance.

### 2. Punjab Unveils 'Udyog Kranti' Initiative to Boost Industrial Development

Launched on June 10, 2025, the Punjab Udyog Kranti initiative is India's first comprehensive state-level industrial reform, introduced by the AAP-led Punjab government. It features 12 key reforms, including a 45-day deemed approval system, a digital single-window FastTrack portal, and a colour-coded stamp paper system to streamline industrial clearances. Aimed at boosting investments, enhancing transparency, and reducing bureaucratic delays, the initiative positions Punjab as a leading industrial hub, supporting Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat objectives.



### 3. ADB Sanctions USD 109.97 Million Loan to Enhance Skills Development in Gujarat

On June 13, 2025, the Asian Development Bank approved a USD 109.97 million results-based loan to support Gujarat's Skills Development Program. Partnering with Kaushalya: The Skill University, the initiative aims to upgrade 11 mega ITIs, establish Centres of Excellence, and create industry-aligned courses in key sectors like IT, logistics, and renewable energy. The program targets training 175,000 individuals, especially women and disadvantaged groups, by 2030. It aligns with NEP 2020 and promotes inclusive, future-ready, and climate-resilient workforce development in Gujarat.

### 4. Centre approves setting up of FRA cells to boost Forest Rights Act implementation

The Central government, under the Dharti Aba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA), has approved the creation of 324 districtlevel and 17 statelevel FRA (Forest Rights Act) cells to expedite recognition and processing of forest rights claims. These administrative units, funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, will support Gram Sabhas and claimants in documentation, evidence collection, digital tracking, and liaising with statutory committees. With ~14.45% of 51 lakh claims pending, the cells aim to reduce delays, but activists caution against creating parallel mechanisms that may undermine the original statutory framework.

### 5. Finance Ministry unveils norms for direct fund disbursement under Central Sector Schemes

The Finance Ministry has introduced standardized guidelines for direct disbursement of funds under fully central-funded schemes (Central Sector Schemes or CSS). The norms, issued by the Department of Expenditure, mandate seamless, uninterrupted fund flows via the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), aiming to eliminate delays and ensure real-time tracking of spending. These rules complement a broader exercise launched in May to appraise and renew CSS and Centrally

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Sponsored Schemes (CS) for FY 2026–31, ensuring timely fund deployment and improving public expenditure efficiency.

## 6. Agriculture Ministry commits ₹6,000 crore for enhancing AgriStack via Digital Agriculture Mission

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare announced an allocation of ₹6,000 crore under the Digital Agriculture Mission to strengthen the Agri Stack ecosystem. Funds are earmarked on a first-come-first-served basis: ₹4,000 crore for building state-level Farmer Registries (including legal hiring systems), and ₹2,000 crore for Digital Crop Surveys. During the National Conference "Agri Stack: Turning Data into Delivery" in New Delhi, MoUs were signed with Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, and Odisha to facilitate digital access to credit, AI tools, georeferencing, and Digitally Verifiable Certificates for farmers.

## 7. Massive blaze engulfs forests in Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir

A massive forest fire erupted near Bhaga village in Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir, close to NH-144A, devastating hundreds of hectares of forest over several days. Dry weather conditions, combined with gusty winds, accelerated the spread of the blaze. Fire and Emergency Services, Forest Department teams, and local villagers worked together to contain the fire and protect nearby habitations, the national highway, and key railway infrastructure. As of June 15, most of the fire has been brought under control, but efforts continue.

## 8. CBI cracks India's first silver fraud case linked to INTERPOL, involving French Embassy

The CBI has filed chargesheets against eight individuals, including a former Local Law Officer and his family members at the French Embassy in New Delhi, in a major Schengen visa fraud that ran from January 2021 to May 2022. Applicants

—mostly from Punjab—were charged ₹13–45 lakh each in exchange for expedited visas. The agency also secured India's first-ever Interpol Silver Notice to trace proceeds and assets overseas. The case exposes serious flaws in diplomatic mission vetting and visa processes.

## 9. Kamlesh Paswan inaugurates India's inaugural indigenous Agri-Drone Hub in Chennai

On June 14, 2025, Union Minister Kamlesh Paswan inaugurated Garuda Aerospace's Agri-Drone Indigenisation Facility in Chennai and launched 300 Centres of Excellence and a DGCA-approved Train the Trainer programme. These initiatives aim to boost indigenous drone manufacturing, skill development, and rural empowerment, especially through women-led Drone Didis. With a target of producing 1 lakh drones by 2026, this marks a significant step toward PM Modi's vision of making India a Global Drone Hub and promoting self-reliance in advanced technology.



## 10. Wholesale Inflation Eases to 0.39% in May Amid Decline in Food Prices

India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) fell to 0.39% in May 2025 from 0.85% in April, mainly due to sharp deflation in vegetables (-21.62%), food articles (-1.56%), and fuel (-2.27%). Manufactured product inflation also eased to 2.04%. This disinflation trend, mirrored by a six-year low in retail inflation (2.82%), reflects cooling supply-side pressures. The moderation benefits manufacturers through lower input



costs and gives the RBI more policy flexibility, signaling a stable price environment supportive of economic growth in the second half of 2025.

#### **11. RBI Shifts Andhra Pradesh Regional Office to Vijayawada**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relocated its Andhra Pradesh regional office to Vijayawada, inaugurated on June 16, 2025, by Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar. This strategic move aims to enhance regional financial governance and reflects Vijayawada's growing economic significance. The new office, located at Stalin Central, houses key departments like Foreign Exchange, Supervision, and Financial Inclusion. However, currency management will continue from Hyderabad. Attah Omar Basheer will serve as the Regional Director at the new Vijayawada office.

#### **12. India Rolls Out Its Most Extensive Tribal Empowerment Initiative**

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the DhartiAaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan on June 15, 2025, India's largest tribal empowerment campaign. Aimed at saturating government benefits across nearly 1 lakh villages, it covers 549 tribal districts and 207 PVTG-dominated areas. Running till June 30, it delivers services like Aadhaar, health cards, pensions, and scholarships through village camps. The campaign promotes inclusive governance, aligns with Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, and supports PM-JANMAN and DAJGUA initiatives to ensure last-mile service delivery to tribal communities.

#### **13. Government Introduces Rs. 3000 FASTag Yearly Pass for Private Cars**

The Government of India has launched a FASTag-based Annual Pass for Rs. 3,000, effective August 15, 2025, for private vehicles like cars, jeeps, and vans. Valid for 200 trips or one year, it aims to simplify toll payments, reduce

congestion, and eliminate disputes at plazas under 60 km apart. Available via the Rajmarg Yatra App and NHAI websites, the pass promotes digital mobility and cost-effective travel on National Highways, aligning with India's push toward a seamless, cashless tolling system.

#### **14. Maruti Suzuki Unveils Nation's Largest In-Plant Rail Facility at Manesar**

Maruti Suzuki inaugurated India's largest in-plant automobile railway siding at its Manesar facility on June 17, 2025, aligning with the PM Gati Shakti plan. Built with Rs. 452 crore, it aims to dispatch 4.5 lakh vehicles annually, reducing 1.75 lakh tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions and saving 60 million litres of fuel yearly. The project enhances green logistics by targeting 35% rail-based dispatches by FY2030–31. This is MSIL's second such facility, after Gujarat, showcasing its commitment to sustainable transportation.

#### **15. Bihar Launches India's First Mobile e-Voting System**

In a pioneering move, Bihar has become the first Indian state to launch a mobile-based e-voting system, set to debut in the municipal polls on June 28, 2025. Developed by C-DAC and the State Election Commission, this Android-based system enables remote voting for groups like migrants, the elderly, and the disabled. Featuring blockchain security, facial recognition, and audit trails, it ensures transparency and safety. Bihar's innovation aligns with global practices, positioning it as a leader in inclusive, tech-driven electoral reforms.

#### **16. Centre Allocates Rupees 2,006.40 Crore for Himachal's Post-Disaster Rebuilding Efforts in 2023**

A HighLevel Committee chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved 2,006.40 crore rupees in central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for Himachal Pradesh's post2023 monsoon recovery and

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rebuilding effort. Of this, 1,504.80 crore rupees comes from the NDRF's recovery and reconstruction window, with an earlier 633.73 crore rupees approved in December 2023. The funds will support state efforts to rebuild infrastructure damaged by floods, landslides, and cloudbursts. The Centre has also sanctioned large-scale mitigation projects across various hazards nationwide.

## 17. EPIC Cards to Be Delivered in 15 Days: ECI Rolls Out New Standard Operating Procedure

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a new Standard Operating Procedure ensuring Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) are delivered within 15 days of voter registration or updates. Integrated with the ECINet platform and aligned with the Department of Posts via API, the system provides real-time tracking and SMS alerts at each stage—from card generation by the Electoral Registration Officer to dispatch and delivery. The move aims to enhance voter convenience, reduce delays, and bolster transparency in electoral services.

## 18. Election Commission Launches New SOP to Guarantee EPIC Card Delivery in 15 Days

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced a new Standard Operating Procedure to ensure Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) are now delivered within 15 days of fresh enrolment or any update. The system leverages a dedicated ECINet IT module integrated with the Department of Posts via API, enabling realtime tracking of the EPIC's journey—from generation by the Electoral Registration Officer to doorstep delivery. Voters will receive SMS updates at each stage. The initiative aims to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and significantly reduce wait times.

## 19. Electoral Advancements Unveiled in Bye-Elections Reflect India's Reform Agenda

The Election Commission of India (ECI), under Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, has unveiled a series of "electoral advancements" tied to upcoming bye-elections as part of its broader democratic reform agenda. Key measures include reduced elector limits per booth, more urban polling sites, redesigned voter slips, and the rollout of the ECINET dashboard to streamline processes. Automatic removal of deceased voters and extensive training for booth-level staff also feature prominently. These initiatives aim to improve voter access, transparency, and electoral integrity.

## 20. India Dispatches First Ever Locomotive Shipment to Guinea, PM Flags Off From Bihar

India has dispatched its first Made in India diesel locomotive for export to Guinea, flagged off by PM Modi from the Marhowrah Diesel Locomotive Factory in Bihar. Part of a ₹3,000 crore deal, this shipment is the inaugural entry in a 150-unit export programme supporting Guinea's Simandou iron ore project. These 4,500 HP ES43ACmi locomotives feature AC propulsion, regenerative braking, microprocessor controls, and ergonomic cabins equipped with AC, refrigerator, microwave, and waterless toilets. The export underlines India's growing global manufacturing footprint and deepening India-Africa economic ties.

## 21. World Sickle Cell Day Marked with Awareness Drive by AIIMS Mangalagiri

AIIMS Mangalagiri, in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh's Health and Tribal Welfare Departments, organized a large awareness rally on June 19, 2025, marking World Sickle Cell Day. The event engaged students, healthcare professionals, and tribal community members to promote public understanding, early diagnosis, and solidarity in combating sickle cell disease, especially among vulnerable tribal groups. It aligned with India's National Sickle Cell Elimination Mission targeting eradication by



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2047. This outreach underscores AIIMS's commitment to community health, inclusive engagement, and strengthening tribal healthcare outreach.

International

## 1. India Suspends Rare Earth Exports to Japan to Strengthen Domestic Production Capacity

India has directed IREL to suspend a 2012 rare earth export deal with Japan's Toyotsu Rare Earths India to prioritise domestic needs amid rising global supply chain tensions and China's export restrictions. The move aims to reduce import dependence, especially on magnets, and strengthen India's rare earth industry. Despite holding significant reserves, India lacks processing capacity. Plans are underway to boost extraction, establish magnet manufacturing, and offer incentives, aligning with India's goal of self-reliance in critical green economy materials.

## 2. IAEA accuses Iran of violating nuclear obligations after two decade

On June 12, 2025, the IAEA Board of Governors formally declared Iran in violation of its nuclear safeguards obligations—the first such declaration since 2005. The resolution, backed by 19 of 35 member states, cited Iran's failure to provide credible explanations for uranium traces at undeclared sites dating to the early 2000s, and its lack of full cooperation. Tehran rejected the move as politically motivated, responded by announcing a new enrichment facility and advanced centrifuge upgrades, and signaled intent to expand its uranium stockpile. The escalation strains nuclear diplomacy and raises the possibility of UN sanctions.

## 3. Solar Orbiter captures unprecedented images of Sun's polar regions

ESA-NASA's Solar Orbiter mission has provided humanity's first-ever images of the Sun's poles, specifically the south pole, captured in March 2025 from a 15–17° inclined orbit. Utilizing its PHI, EU, and SPICE instruments, the spacecraft mapped a chaotic, mixed-polarity magnetic field—confirming theories of turbulence during solar maximum—and recorded Doppler shifts of carbon ions, offering unprecedented insights into solar wind formation. The data marks a new phase in solar science as the orbit gradually tilts up to 33° by 2029.

## 4. Blaise Metreweli Appointed as MI6's First-Ever Female Chief in Historic Milestone

On June 15, 2025, Blaise Metreweli was appointed as the first female Chief of MI6, marking a historic moment in the agency's 116-year history. Announced by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer during the G7 summit in Canada, her appointment reflects a shift towards greater inclusivity in intelligence leadership. With 25 years of experience and expertise in cybersecurity, Metreweli is well-positioned to lead MI6 through evolving threats like cyber warfare, espionage, and AI-driven surveillance. She will assume office in autumn 2025.

## 5. United Nations Proclaims 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer

The UN General Assembly has declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer to recognize women's critical role in agriculture and address gender disparities in land ownership, resources, and policy access. Women produce nearly 50% of the world's food but face limited ownership, digital access, and climate vulnerability. The initiative encourages gender-sensitive policies, improved access to resources, and support for women-led agri value chains. It aims to promote inclusive growth, rural empowerment, and global food security.

## 6. India Launches 'Operation Sindhu' to Evacuate

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## Citizens Amid Iran Conflict

On June 18, 2025, India launched Operation Sindhu to safely evacuate its citizens from Iran amid the escalating Israel–Iran conflict. The first flight carrying 110 Indian students—mainly from Urmia Medical University—landed in Delhi early June 19 after being escorted overland to Armenia and then flown via Yerevan under embassy coordination. The mission is being carried out via multiple routes (Armenia, Qatar, Turkmenistan, Israel land crossings), with additional evacuation flights and controlroom support active as around 4,000 nationals remain stranded.

## 7. UN Designates December 4 as International Day Opposing Unilateral Sanctions

On June 16, 2025, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring December 4 as the International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures, to be observed annually starting 2025. The resolution passed with 116 votes in favor, 51 against, and 6 abstentions, urging states to refrain from unilateral economic, financial, or trade sanctions that violate international law and hinder development—especially in developing countries. The Day aims to raise global awareness, foster solidarity, and promote multilateralism in addressing the humanitarian impact of such measures.

## 8. June 19 Marked as Global Day to End Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones

Every year on 19th June, the UN recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, established in 2015 to raise awareness of conflict-related gender-based crimes and honour survivors. Originating from UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008), which condemned sexual violence as a tactic of war, the day spotlights the ongoing use of rape and forced pregnancy in conflicts. It also underscores the urgent need for survivor-centered legal, healthcare, and justice systems,

condemning attacks on medical facilities that hinder access to critical support.

## 9. World Refugee Day 2025: Celebrating Resilience and Advocating for Inclusion

World Refugee Day, observed globally on June 20, honours the courage and resilience of over 123 million forcibly displaced people, spotlighting their rights, needs, and dreams. The 2025 theme, “Solidarity with Refugees,” emphasizes translating empathy into tangible support—like inclusive health systems, legal recognition, and economic opportunities. In India, while global benevolence remains high, support dipped from 70% to 56%, with half recognizing refugees’ positive economic contribution despite border concerns. Governments, NGOs, and communities are called upon to shift from temporary aid to sustainable, inclusive refugee integration initiatives.

## Sports

### 1. South Africa Secures First-Ever ICC World Test Championship 2025 Title at Lord's

South Africa clinched their maiden ICC World Test Championship title in 2025 by defeating defending champions Australia by five wickets at Lord's, London. Chasing 282, Aiden Markram's century and captain Temba Bavuma's leadership were pivotal. Kagiso Rabada took five wickets in Australia's first innings, while Markram was named Player of the Match. This victory ended South Africa's 27-year ICC trophy drought and carried strong cultural significance, marking a historic moment under their first Black Test captain.

### 2. Cristiano Ronaldo Appointed Global Ambassador for the 2025 Esports World Cup

Cristiano Ronaldo has been named Global Ambassador for the Esports World Cup 2025, scheduled in Riyadh from July 7 to August 24.



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Announced on June 13, 2025, his role symbolises the fusion of traditional sports and esports, aiming to inspire youth and elevate competitive gaming's global stature. The event will feature 2,000 players, 200 clubs from over 100 countries, and 25 tournaments with a record USD 70 million prize pool. Ronaldo's involvement brings credibility, visibility, and mainstream appeal to esports.

### 3. MCC Prohibits 'Bunny Hop' Boundary Catches in Significant Law Update

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has revised Law 19.5.2, banning the "bunny hop" boundary catch. Effective June 17, 2025, under ICC rules, a fielder jumping from outside the boundary may touch the ball only once mid-air and must land fully in play, or it counts as a boundary. Sparked by controversial catches like Michael Naser's in 2023, the rule aims to ensure fairness, preserve the game's spirit, and align fielding feats with public expectations across all cricket formats.

### 4. Taylor Fritz Clinches Victory in Stuttgart

American tennis star Taylor Fritz won the 2025 Stuttgart Open by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6(0) in the final. This marked his first title of the season, ninth career ATP title, and fourth on grass. Fritz did not drop serve throughout the tournament and now leads Zverev 8-5 in their head-to-head record. The win boosts his confidence ahead of Wimbledon 2025. Zverev, meanwhile, continues to struggle on grass, remaining titleless on the surface despite three final appearances.

### 5. Ankita Raina Secures 32nd Doubles Title Alongside Alice Robbe at Guimaraes ITF Event

Ankita Raina, partnering with France's Alice Robbe, won the doubles title at the USD 40,000 ITF Women's Tournament in Guimaraes, Portugal, on June 15, 2025. The duo staged a stunning

comeback to defeat Japan's Hiromi Abe and Kanako Morisaki. This marked Ankita's third doubles title of 2025 and 32nd overall, highlighting her dominance and longevity in doubles. The win also reflects strong Indo-French collaboration and boosts both players' rankings and confidence ahead of higher-tier tournaments.

### 6. Chennai Set to Host First-Ever Hockey India Masters Cup

The inaugural Hockey India Masters Cup 2025 will be held in Chennai from June 18 to 27, showcasing veteran Indian hockey players—men aged 40+ and women aged 35+. Organized by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, the tournament features 12 men's and 8 women's teams in group and knockout formats. It celebrates India's hockey legacy, promotes active aging, and offers a national platform for retired athletes. The event also aims to inspire youth by reconnecting them with legendary players and their stories.

### 7. Duplantis Clears 6.28m to Set His 12th Pole Vault World Record

Armand Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record with a 6.28-meter leap at the Stockholm Diamond League on June 15, 2025, marking his 12th world record. This historic jump, his first record set in Sweden, thrilled the home crowd at the 1912 Olympic Stadium. The emotional moment fulfilled a personal dream for Duplantis, who overcame doubts to deliver a flawless performance. His achievement highlights his unmatched consistency and dominance, inspiring global athletes and elevating the prestige of field events.

### Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

### 1. India Poised to Emerge as a Global Hub for Arbitration

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At the Institutional Arbitration Conference held on June 14, 2025, in New Delhi, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal highlighted India's commitment to becoming a global hub for arbitration. Organised by the Department of Legal Affairs, the event emphasised strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to ease court burdens, boost investor confidence, and align with business-friendly reforms. Key stakeholders stressed the need for institutional arbitration, minimal judicial intervention, and a shift towards efficient, time-bound dispute resolution supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

## 2. TCS Collaborates with CEB to Modernise Financial Processes

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) to modernise its reconciliation processes using the AI-powered TCS BaNCSTM for Reconciliations. This collaboration enhances automation, accuracy, and transparency in CEB's financial operations. The solution integrates seamlessly with the bank's core systems, reducing manual work and improving decision-making. The partnership underscores India's role in global financial tech innovation and supports CEB's mission to

## 3. 2025 UN Climate Talks in Bonn

The Bonn Climate Change Conference 2025, held from June 16 in Germany, is a vital UNFCCC meeting that lays technical groundwork for the year-end COP summit. Focused on science, implementation, and climate governance, it gathers over 5,000 experts, officials, and activists. Key issues include operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation, climate finance, and loss and damage mechanisms. Led by the SBI and SBSTA, the conference ensures continuity, accountability, and science-based decision-making in advancing global climate action.

## 4. DPIIT Joins Hands with YourStory to Boost Entrepreneurship for 1 Million Indians

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed an MoU with YourStory Media (under the Bharat Project) to empower 1 million entrepreneurs across Tier II, Tier III, and rural India. This partnership will deploy AI-powered tools, venture launchpads, regional-language storytelling, and participation in startup events to bridge the urban-rural startup divide. The initiative focuses on emerging sectors like GenAI, blockchain, and data, aiming to expand access to mentorship, networks, and capital for underserved founders.

### Ranks/Reports/Indices

## 1. World Bank's State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025 report released

The World Bank released its annual State and Trends of Carbon Pricing 2025 report on June 10, revealing that 80 carbon pricing instruments are now operational globally, covering 28% of greenhouse gas emissions in economies responsible for nearly two-thirds of global output. These mechanisms generated over US \$100 billion in revenues in 2024—more than half allocated to environmental and infrastructure investments. While carbon taxes and emissions trading systems continue expanding, many sectors, including agriculture, remain largely uncovered.

## 2. India ranks 131st among 148 nations in Global Gender Gap Index 2025

In the Global Gender Gap Index 2025, released June 12 by the World Economic Forum, India slipped two places to rank 131st out of 148 countries, with a gender parity score of 64.4%, slightly up by 0.3 points from 2024. While India surpassed the global average of 68.8%, improved educational and health parity were offset by lagging economic and political



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representation. Though economic participation rose by 0.9 points, India remains near the bottom globally. Political empowerment weakened as female parliamentary and ministerial representation declined.

### 3. SIPRI Report Highlights Growth in India's Nuclear Arsenal Amid Worldwide Upgrades

The SIPRI Yearbook 2025 reveals that India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2024 and is developing advanced delivery systems, including canisterised missiles and potential MIRVs. Amidst regional tensions, this aligns with a global trend of nuclear modernisation, with all nine nuclear-armed states enhancing capabilities. China saw the fastest growth, reaching 600 warheads and building new ICBM silos. The global stockpile stands at 12,241 warheads, with 2,100 on high alert. India maintains a No First Use policy and a credible minimum deterrence posture.

### 4. India Secures 71st Spot in WEF's 2025 Energy Transition Index Despite Progress in Efficiency

The World Economic Forum's 2025 Fostering Effective Energy Transition report ranks India 71st out of 118 countries, a drop from its 63rd position in 2024. Despite the decline, India showed notable gains in energy efficiency, investment capacity, rural electrification, and reduced methane intensity. However, its transition readiness score (42.7) lags behind top performers, highlighting persistent infrastructure, innovation, and financing challenges.

### 5. TRAI Q1 2025 Report: India's Telecom Subscriber Base Surpasses 1.2 Billion

The TRAI Q1 2025 report (Jan-Mar) reveals India's telecom subscriber base has surpassed 1.2 billion, rising from 1,189.9 million in December 2024 to 1,200.8 million in March 2025. Urban users number 666.1 million and rural 534.7 million, lifting national tele-density to

85.04%. Wireless (mobile + 5G FWA) connections grew to 1,163.8 million, while wireline dipped to 37.0 million due to category shifts. The sector's gross revenue reached ₹98,250 crore, adjusted by ₹79,226 crore, with ARPU at ₹182.95 and average usage 1,026 minutes per month.

## Science and tech/Space/Defence

### 1. Indian Army Successfully Trials Rudrastra VTOL Drone for Precision Attacks

The Indian Army has successfully tested the indigenous Rudrastra VTOL drone at the Pokhran range, marking a major step in boosting India's defence capabilities. Developed by Solar Aerospace and Defence Limited, Rudrastra features a 170 km range, 1.5-hour endurance, and precision airburst munitions. Designed for cross-border strikes, it enhances India's stand-off attack capacity. The trials highlight India's push for self-reliance in defence, promoting AI-driven, autonomous warfare systems and reducing dependency on foreign military imports.

### 2. Apna.co Unveils AI-Powered Job Prep Tool to Revolutionise Interview Preparation

On June 13, 2025, Apna.co launched AI Job Prep, an AI-driven interview preparation tool aimed at boosting job readiness across India. It simulates real interviews, offers instant feedback, and provides personalised tips using resume-based insights. The platform leverages speech recognition, accent-adaptive AI, and role mapping to enhance user experience. With over 7.6 lakh interviews conducted across 900+ cities, it promotes equitable access to quality preparation, supporting job seekers in both metro and non-metro areas for a tech-driven workforce.

### 3. Rudrastra hybrid UAV completes successful trial at Pokhran, Rajasthan

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On June 11, 2025, Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL) successfully tested its indigenously developed Hybrid VTOL UAV, Rudrastra, at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan. The UAV demonstrated vertical take-off and landing, a mission endurance of about 1.5 hours, and an overall operational range exceeding 170 km (including over 50 km mission radius). It achieved precision targeting using a guided anti-personnel warhead with a low-height airburst detonation, relayed real-time video, and returned safely — marking a milestone in India's Aatmanirbhar defence push.

#### 4. Indian Navy Conducts Bold Mid-Sea Rescue Operation on Burning Vessel MV Wan Hai 503

On June 13, 2025, the Indian Navy executed a daring mid-sea rescue by airlifting a salvage team onto the fire-stricken MV Wan Hai 503 off the Kochi coast. Using a Seaking helicopter from INS Garuda, the team was winched onto the vessel under harsh conditions. Coordinated with the Indian Coast Guard and maritime agencies, the mission aimed to connect the salvage tug Offshore Warrior for towing and safely extract the team. This showcased India's naval capability in critical maritime rescue operations.

#### 5. Operation True Promise 3

Iran's Operation True Promise 3 marks a major escalation in the Iran-Israel conflict, launched in retaliation for Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear sites and military officials. Led by the IRGC, the operation targets Israeli infrastructure in cities like Tel Aviv and Haifa. It introduces advanced missile warfare tactics, including AI-guided trajectory shifts, decoy saturation, and multi-target penetration to bypass defences like the Iron Dome. This shift highlights growing cyber-kinetic warfare risks and redefines urban conflict and missile defence strategy globally.

#### 6. France Hosts India-France Military Exercise

#### 'Shakti 2025'

The eighth edition of the Indo-French military exercise 'Shakti' begins on June 18, 2025, at Camp Larzac, France. A 90-member Indian Army team, led by the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, will train alongside French troops from the elite 13th DBLE. The exercise aims to boost interoperability, focusing on counter-terrorism, urban warfare, and UN Chapter VII peacekeeping operations. Conducted in semi-urban terrain, it includes joint planning, mission execution, and humanitarian tasks, fostering tactical coordination and mutual trust between the two nations.

#### 7. Reliance Infra Partners with Dassault to Manufacture Falcon 2000 Aircraft Domestically

On June 18–19, 2025, Reliance Infrastructure's subsidiary Reliance Aerostructure announced a joint venture with Dassault Aviation to manufacture the Falcon 2000 LXS business jets in India, with the first aircraft expected by 2028. Production will take place at Nagpur's MIHAN SEZ via Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL), marking the first Falcon assembly outside France. The plant will also house a Center of Excellence and aims to produce up to 22 jets annually for both civilian and military customers.

#### 8. Air Power Face-Off: A Comparative Look at Israel and Iran's Combat Aircraft and Air Force Strength

A detailed comparison highlights stark contrasts between the air forces and combat aircraft of Israel and Iran. Israel's technologically superior air fleet — featuring ~612 aircraft including F35s, F16s, F15s, and advanced helicopters — grants it clear air superiority. Conversely, Iran's 551-aircraft fleet, largely aging F4s, F5s, F14s, MiG29s, and domestically made jets, remains hampered by sanctions and obsolete hardware. Recent strikes destroyed Iranian launchers and antiquated jets, reinforcing Israeli air dominance.



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across the region involving drones, missiles, and air-defense suppression.

### 9. Global Cybersecurity Breach Exposes 16 Billion Credentials in Record-Breaking Leak

A colossal cybersecurity breach has exposed 16 billion login credentials—fresh data collected from over 30 datasets—affecting platforms like Apple, Google, Facebook, Telegram, GitHub, and even government services. Compiled via “infostealer” malware, these records are not from a single new hack but represent a massive aggregation of existing leaks. Dubbed a “blueprint for mass exploitation,” the breach significantly increases risks of phishing, account takeover, and identity theft. Experts urge users to enable strong passwords, multifactor authentication, password managers, and adopt passkeys.

#### Miscellaneous

#### 1. World Blood Donor Day 2025

World Blood Donor Day 2025, observed on June 14, promotes voluntary blood donation under the theme “Give Blood, Give Hope.” The day honours donors and raises awareness about the urgent need for safe blood. Initiated in 2004 by WHO and partners, it commemorates Karl Landsteiner’s birthday. The event emphasises the emotional impact of blood donation, supports health systems, and encourages community solidarity. Activities include blood drives, awareness campaigns, and government appeals to improve national blood supplies and infrastructure.

#### 2. Sun Pharma Names Kirti Ganorkar as Managing Director

On June 14, 2025, Sun Pharmaceutical announced Kirti Ganorkar’s appointment as Managing Director, effective September 1, 2025.

Ganorkar, with the company since 1996, has led major functions including India business, M&A, and speciality product launches. Founder Dilip Shanghvi transitions to Executive Chairman, focusing on strategic direction and speciality growth. The move reflects Sun Pharma’s commitment to leadership continuity and global expansion. The leadership change also includes Richard Ascroft taking over as CEO–North America, succeeding Abhay Gandhi.

#### 3. PM Modi Awarded Cyprus’s Highest Civilian Honour

During his historic first official visit to Cyprus on June 16, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III, the country’s highest civilian honour, by President Nikos Christodoulides. The award recognises Modi’s contributions to strengthening India–Cyprus ties and global cooperation. The leaders discussed innovation, energy, trade, and strategic partnerships. Modi also interacted with business leaders, promoting investment. The visit marked a new era in bilateral relations, celebrated by both governments and the Indian diaspora.

#### 4. Meta Appoints Arun Srinivas as Head of India to Drive Business Growth

Meta has appointed Arun Srinivas as its new Managing Director and Head of India, effective July 1, 2025, following Shivnath Thukral’s resignation. With 30 years of experience and a background at firms like Unilever and Ola, Srinivas will lead Meta’s business, innovation, and revenue strategy in India. Reporting to Sandhya Devanathan, who now oversees India and Southeast Asia, his role is crucial as Meta strengthens AI, Reels, and Messaging while deepening ties with advertisers, startups, and addressing regulatory challenges.

#### 5. Green Fertiliser Innovation Wins USD 2 Million

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## Food Planet Prize 2025

Swedish startup NitroCapt won the 2025 Food Planet Prize for its green fertiliser innovation using plasma and renewable energy to sustainably produce nitrogen fertilisers. Founded by physicist Gustaf Forsberg, the technology cuts emissions, uses 90% less energy, and allows local production, enhancing food security and resilience. The USD 2 million award will support global scaling, starting in Europe. As fertilisers account for 2.7% of global emissions, NitroCapt's solution offers a vital climate-resilient alternative amid geopolitical and environmental challenges.

## 6. World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025

Observed on June 17, the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought raises awareness on land degradation and promotes sustainable land management. The 2025 theme, "Restore the Land. Unlock the Opportunities," highlights the economic and environmental benefits of land restoration. With 1.5 billion hectares needing revival by 2030, the campaign urges global financial commitment. India, aiming to restore 26 million hectares, faces severe land degradation. Initiatives like NAPCD and international cooperation underscore India's proactive role in combating desertification.

## 7. India Names New Ambassador to North Korea After Four-Year Gap

India has appointed Aliawati Longkumer as its new ambassador to North Korea, restoring full diplomatic presence in Pyongyang after a four-year gap. A 2008-batch IFS officer, Longkumer will take charge following the embassy's reopening in December 2024. This move reflects India's evolving foreign policy in East Asia, balancing regional security concerns with humanitarian engagement. Despite sanctions, India maintains cautious ties, offering aid and

training to North Korean officials. The appointment signals strategic re-engagement amid shifting Indo-Pacific dynamics.

## 8. International Day of Family Remittances 2025

Observed on June 16, the International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) 2025 highlights the vital role of migrant workers' financial support in global development. With the theme "Remittances financing development," the day emphasizes how remittances aid Sustainable Development Goals, especially in low- and middle-income countries. In 2024, India received record remittances, boosting household incomes and national reserves. IDFR also calls for safe, affordable transfer systems and policies that promote financial inclusion, recognising remittances as lifelines for over a billion people worldwide.

## 9. Anuradha Thakur Joins SEBI Board as New Member

Anuradha Thakur, a 1994-batch IAS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed to the SEBI Board, replacing Ajay Seth, and will become India's first woman Economic Affairs Secretary from July 1, 2025. Known for her key roles in Air India's disinvestment and Bharat Bond ETF, she is expected to join the RBI Central Board soon. Her appointment marks a historic moment for gender representation and is crucial for driving fiscal reforms, regulatory oversight, and international credit rating engagement.

## 10. New Coronavirus Strain 'Nimbus' Draws Attention from WHO

The NB.1.8.1 COVID-19 variant, nicknamed "Nimbus," is under WHO monitoring due to its rapid global spread and a distinct symptom described as "razor blade throat." First identified in January 2025, Nimbus is an Omicron descendant now present in 22 countries. Though currently rated low risk, it causes mild to



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moderate illness with symptoms like severe sore throat, cough, and fatigue. India has reported no confirmed cases yet but remains vigilant. A related subvariant, XFG (Stratus), is also spreading but less prevalent.

## 11. UN Designates December 4 as International Day Opposing Unilateral Coercive Measures

On June 17, 2025, the UN General Assembly designated December 4 as the International Day Against Unilateral Coercive Measures through Resolution A/79/L.93. Backed by 116 countries, the resolution aims to raise awareness of the humanitarian and legal concerns posed by sanctions imposed outside UN frameworks. Opposed by 51 nations, including the US and EU, it reflects a growing global divide. The day emphasizes respect for sovereignty, highlights the impact on civilians, and supports multilateralism under the UN Charter's Article 41.

## 12. MIT Names Anantha Chandrakasan as First Indian-Origin Provost

On June 16, 2025, MIT announced the appointment of Anantha P. Chandrakasan—an American engineer of Indian origin—as its 14th Provost, effective July 1. Born in Chennai and educated at UC Berkeley, Chandrakasan has been a faculty member since 1994 and previously served as dean of engineering and MIT's first chief innovation and strategy officer. He leads numerous high-impact initiatives, including the MITIBM Watson AI Lab, Climate and Sustainability Consortium, and AI Hardware Program. As Provost, he will oversee academic programs, faculty recruitment, research support, and budgeting at the institute.

## 13. World Kidney Cancer Day 2025: Raising Awareness About Kidney Health

World Kidney Cancer Day, observed annually on the third Thursday of June, fell on June 19, 2025 this year. The 2025 theme, "Show your kidneys

some love," emphasizes the importance of proactive kidney health—through regular blood pressure, urine, and creatinine/eGFR tests—and raising awareness of kidney cancer's often silent progression. Organized globally by the International Kidney Cancer Coalition, the day included virtual symposiums and public campaigns to educate patients, carers, and healthcare professionals.

## 14. Prof M Satish Kumar Named Founding Dean at Queen's University Belfast's GIFT City Branch

Professor M. Satish Kumar has been appointed as the inaugural Dean of Queen's University Belfast's new international campus at GIFT City, India. He will begin his tenure in July 2025, based full-time in GIFT City, and lead its academic programs. With over 25 years at QUB's School of Natural & Built Environment, he has previously served as Director of Queen's Academy India and Director of Internationalisation. The campus, QUB's first Russell Group presence in India, plans to admit its first student cohort in early 2026.

## 15. RBI Relaxes Project Finance Rules, Cuts Down on Mandatory Provisions

The RBI has finalized its new project finance guidelines, easing mandatory provisioning norms for under-construction and operational projects. Effective October 1, 2025, lenders must now set aside only 1% of loan value for under-construction infrastructure (1.25% for commercial real estate), and 0.4–1% during operation—significantly lower than earlier draft proposals. Additional quarterly provisions—for delayed projects—are capped at 0.375% (infrastructure) and 0.5625% (non-infra). Existing financing falls under old norms. Banks, NBFCs, PFC, REC, and IREDA welcomed the reform, citing reduced capital strain and improved credit flow.