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National**1. Uttarakhand Approves First-Ever Geo-Thermal Energy Policy for 2025**

On July 9, 2025, the Uttarakhand cabinet approved its landmark Geothermal Energy Policy 2025, marking the state's first formal effort to harness Himalayan geothermal springs. The policy, overseen by the Energy Department in collaboration with UREDA and UJVNL, enables scientific exploration and development of geothermal power, heating/cooling, and water purification. It allows projects up to 30 years, with incentives like up to Rupees 3 crore or 50% support for feasibility studies. The move aims to accelerate clean energy initiatives, bolster power security, and cut carbon emissions in the fragile Himalayan region.

2. India Introduces Groundbreaking Incentive Scheme for Electric Trucks

On July 11, 2025, India unveiled its first-ever customer-facing electric truck incentive program under the PMEDRIVE initiative, allocating 500 crore rupees to support up to 5,600 vehicles in FY 2026. The scheme offers between Rupees 2.7 lakh and Rupees 9.6 lakh per truck (N2/N3 categories, 3.5–55 t GVW), either Rupees 5,000/kWh or 10% of ex-factory price (whichever is lower), provided an old diesel truck is scrapped. Manufacturers must back batteries (5 yr/5 lakh km) and motors (5 yr/2.5 lakh km). A special 100 crore rupees allocation supports 1,100 trucks in Delhi. Sectors like steel, cement, ports, and logistics will benefit directly.

3. Gharial and Sloth Bear Recommended for Recovery Under Key Wildlife Conservation Scheme

On July 10, 2025, India's Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL), chaired by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, recommended including the gharial and

sloth bear under the Species Recovery Programme of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Wildlife Habitats. While the gharial remains critically endangered, select sloth bear populations are highly threatened and face serious human-wildlife conflict. The decision includes comprehensive conservation strategies from the Wildlife Institute of India and ensures focused financial and technical support to states and UTs for habitat restoration, breeding, monitoring, and conflict mitigation.

4. Indian Army Initiates Operation SHIVA 2025 to Safeguard Amarnath Pilgrimage

On July 11, 2025, the Indian Army initiated Operation SHIVA 2025, deploying over 8,500 troops alongside Central Armed Police Forces, CAPFs, and civil authorities to secure the 38-day Amarnath Yatra taking place July 3–August 9. A layered security umbrella includes dynamic counterterror grids, more than 50 counter-UAS and electronic warfare systems, UAV surveillance, live convoy tracking, and high-resolution PTZ cameras. Supplementing these are disaster response teams, engineering units, bomb disposal squads, extensive medical support (100-bed hospital, oxygen booths), tent cities, and helicopters on standby, ensuring pilgrim safety amid heightened threat levels.

5. India Urges Global Maritime Body for In-Depth Probe into Shipping Accidents

On July 9, 2025, during its address at the 134th session of the International Maritime Organization in London, India called for an in-depth IMO-led investigation into recent shipping accidents in its waters involving foreign-flagged container vessels. The plea was prompted by the sinking of MSC ELSA 3 in May and a fire aboard WAN HAI 503 in June, both tied to undeclared hazardous cargo, structural issues, and lithium-ion battery blazes. India urged global improvements in packaging, stowage, monitoring, and stricter safety protocols to safeguard maritime operations.

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6. India's Forest Land Diversion Sparks Legal Controversy

The Government of India has approved the diversion of over 8,500 hectares of forest land in the first half of 2025, a move that has ignited significant legal controversy and raised concerns among environmental activists. This large-scale diversion highlights ongoing debates about balancing developmental needs with environmental protection and adherence to forest conservation laws in the country.

7. India Launches Incentives Scheme For Electric Trucks

The Government of India has introduced a pioneering scheme under the PM E-DRIVE initiative to promote electric trucks (e-trucks). This marks the first time direct financial support is being targeted specifically at encouraging the adoption of electric heavy vehicles in the country. The initiative aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable logistics.

8. Genetic Analysis of Rhino in Assam

Recent efforts in Assam have focused on the genetic analysis of rhino horn samples. These samples were collected from thousands of horns that were destroyed in 2021 as part of an anti-poaching and wildlife conservation effort. A specialized team was involved in verifying and repackaging these samples to facilitate detailed genetic studies.



9. Andhra Pradesh's Self-Certification Scheme for Building Permits

The Government of Andhra Pradesh introduced

the Revised Guidelines for Building Permissions under the Self-Certification Scheme (SCS) 2025 on July 13, 2025. This initiative aims to simplify and expedite the process of obtaining building permits, thereby enhancing ease of doing business and promoting transparency in urban development.

10. India's Sulphur Dioxide Emission Norms

India recently extended the deadline for coal-fired power plants to install flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) units, effectively relaxing sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission control norms. This extension has drawn criticism from environmental groups concerned about its potential impact on air quality and public health.

11. NCTE Revises Teacher Training Regulations

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) is currently revising its draft regulations for teacher training institutes, which were initially proposed in 2025. This revision comes after extensive consultations with the Ministry of Education and various stakeholders, aiming to modernize and improve the quality of teacher education in India.



12. India Revises Flue Gas Desulphurisation Policy for Power Plants

The Ministry of Environment and Forests announced changes in the regulation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) units for thermal power plants in India in July 2025. This revision aims to further control sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants, aligning with India's

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commitment to combat air pollution and improve air quality. The new regulations are expected to mandate more stringent emission norms and potentially accelerate the adoption of FGD technology across existing and upcoming thermal power plants.

13. GST Overhaul Discussions

The Union Home Minister of India, Amit Shah, has recently taken charge of initiating talks with all stakeholders to expedite reforms in the Goods and Services Tax (GST). This move signifies a significant push from the government to streamline and improve the efficiency of the GST regime, which has been in effect since 2017. The discussions are expected to address various concerns from businesses and consumers, aiming for a more simplified and effective indirect tax system.

14. Health Ministry Launches Snack Nutrition Awareness Campaign

The Indian Health Ministry has initiated a campaign to display nutritional information about popular snacks. This move aims to raise awareness about hidden sugars, oils, and trans fats in commonly consumed packaged foods. The campaign is part of a larger effort to promote healthier eating habits among the population and combat the rising incidence of lifestyle diseases linked to unhealthy diets.

15. India's First Digital Nomad Village Launch

The village of Yakten in Sikkim's Pakyong district was declared India's first digital nomad village. This initiative was launched to create a sustainable remote work hub in the scenic Himalayan region. The project aims to attract digital nomads from India and abroad, providing them with infrastructure, connectivity, and a conducive environment for remote work, while also boosting local tourism and economy.

16. India Launches First Weather Derivatives Market

India has taken a major step in climate risk management by launching its first weather derivatives market. The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) partnered with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to introduce this innovative financial instrument. Weather derivatives will allow farmers and businesses to hedge against adverse weather conditions, providing financial protection against risks like drought or excessive rainfall and helping to stabilize agricultural incomes.

17. Ministry of Power Launches ADEETIE for MSME Energy Savings

The Ministry of Power's ADEETIE scheme seeks to reduce energy use in MSMEs by 30–50% and enhance power-to-product efficiency, while promoting green energy corridors. Managed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) from 2025 to 2028 with a ₹1000 crore budget, the program focuses on 14 energy-intensive sectors within 160 industrial clusters. It provides interest subsidies, technical assistance, and financial support. BEE, operating under the Energy Conservation Act of 2001, drives energy-saving initiatives including audits and digital platforms for MSMEs.

18. PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana Set to Transform Agriculture

The Union Cabinet, led by PM Narendra Modi, approved the "Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana" for six years starting 2025–26 to boost agriculture in 100 low-productivity districts. Inspired by NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme, it integrates 36 schemes from 11 central departments and state initiatives to improve crop productivity, diversification, irrigation, storage, and credit access. Customized district plans and digital monitoring with 117 indicators ensure effective implementation, overseen by committees and NITI Aayog for progress evaluation.

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19. PM Modi Honors 10 Years of Skill India Success

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 10th anniversary of the Skill India Mission, highlighting its success in equipping millions of young people with job-relevant skills. Initiated in 2015 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the mission focuses on boosting employability and fostering entrepreneurship. To date, more than six crore individuals have been trained, including 1.6 crore through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The program has expanded to include emerging technologies and aims to train 40 crore people by 2022.

20. Ahmedabad Tops Swachh Survekshan 2024-25

In the Swachh Survekshan 2024-25, Ahmedabad was named the cleanest city among those with populations exceeding 10 lakh. Organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, the survey evaluated 4,589 cities and introduced the Super Swachh League to recognize consistently high-performing cities. The assessment emphasized sustainability, public participation, and innovative sanitation practices. For more equitable comparisons, cities were classified by population size. The initiative seeks to foster healthy competition, advance scientific waste management, and promote lasting urban cleanliness efforts nationwide.

21. ICAR Foundation Day Showcases India's Agricultural Progress

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan marked the 97th Foundation Day of ICAR in New Delhi, commending scientists as "modern-day rishis" for advancing Indian agriculture. He presented the National Agricultural Science Awards, opened the Viksit Krishi Exhibition, and unveiled new publications and MoUs. Emphasizing growth in foodgrain, milk, and horticulture production, he called for greater focus on natural farming, compact machinery

for small farmers, and solutions to falling cotton yields. He also announced a farmer helpline and proposed low-cost fertilizer outlets to prevent exploitation.

22. Accelerated Delivery of Amethi-Made AK-203 Rifles

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL) is poised to complete the delivery of 6.01 lakh AK-203 rifles almost 22 months ahead of its initial schedule. This contract, valued at a substantial amount, signifies a major milestone in India's indigenous defense manufacturing capabilities and its strategic partnership with Russia in the defense sector. The early delivery underscores the efficiency and accelerated production efforts at the Amethi facility.

23. Government of India Increases Reserve Prices for Wheat and Rice

The Government of India has increased the reserve prices of wheat and rice from its strategic foodgrain reserves for the fiscal year 2025-26. This move aims to manage food inflation and ensure fair prices for farmers while maintaining stable supply in the open market. The increase in reserve prices reflects adjustments in the minimum support prices (MSP) and broader economic considerations for food security.

International

1. Maratha Military Heritage Sites Recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Property

During the 47th UNESCO World Heritage Committee session in Paris, India secured its 44th entry with the inscription of the "Maratha Military Landscapes of India." This designation includes twelve strategic forts—eleven in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu—built between the 17th and 19th centuries. Sites such as Raigad, Shivneri, Pratapgad, and Gingee showcase advanced military architecture

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adapted to hills, forests, coastlines, and islands. The collective fort network exemplifies Maratha ingenuity in defense systems and regional planning, reflecting deep cultural and historical significance under UNESCO criteria (iv) and (vi).

2. Tracker for WASH Management in Health-Care Facilities

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF have recently updated their country progress tracker for water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and waste management in health-care facilities. This updated tracker provides a comprehensive overview of how various countries are advancing the practical steps outlined for WASH in healthcare settings, expanding its coverage significantly. The initiative highlights global efforts and ongoing challenges in ensuring adequate WASH standards within health infrastructure.

3. Talisman Sabre 2025

Talisman Sabre 2025, the largest and most complex warfighting exercise held in Australia, commenced on July 13, 2025. This significant military exercise involves approximately 35,000 military personnel from 19 nations, demonstrating multinational cooperation and interoperability in a simulated combat environment. The exercise focuses on enhancing joint readiness, strengthening alliances, and improving capabilities for responding to various security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

4. Israel Launches Advanced Dror-1 Satellite with SpaceX

On July 13, 2025, Israel launched its advanced communications satellite Dror-1 from Cape Canaveral using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Dror-1 will provide secure communication for military, government, and civilian use over the next 15 years. Weighing 4.5 tonnes with large

antennas, it ensures Israel's strategic independence in space communications. This successful launch highlights Israel's growing space capabilities and the important role of private companies like SpaceX in global space collaboration.

5. China's Maglev Trains Push Speed Boundaries Beyond Jets

China has successfully tested cutting-edge Magnetic Levitation (Maglev) technology, which allows trains to hover above tracks using electromagnetic forces, eliminating friction. These trains achieve levitation, guidance, and propulsion through powerful magnets, reaching speeds exceeding 600 km/h—faster than many airplanes. Maglev technology is highly energy-efficient, requires less maintenance, and produces zero direct emissions, making it environmentally friendly. Developed from concepts dating back to the early 1900s, maglev offers a smooth, quiet travel experience and marks a significant advancement in sustainable high-speed transport.

6. New Prime Minister Appointed in Ukraine

Yuliia Svyrydenko has been appointed Ukraine's new Prime Minister, replacing Denys Shmyhal, who becomes Defence Minister. A trusted ally of President Zelenskyy and former Economy Minister, Svyrydenko is known for her leadership in economic reform and diplomacy, including a key mineral deal with the U.S. Her appointment signals stability, continuity, and renewed energy in Ukraine's wartime governance. The reshuffle aims to strengthen leadership, boost domestic and international confidence, and enhance Ukraine's coordination with Western allies during the ongoing conflict with Russia.

7. Britain Proposes Lowering Voting Age to 16

The British government has put forward a proposal to lower the voting age to 16 in all UK elections, seeking to increase voter participation

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and align with Scotland and Wales. Subject to parliamentary approval, the plan also broadens acceptable voter ID to include digital formats and bank cards. With voter turnout at a low in the 2024 general election, studies indicate 16-year-olds tend to vote more than new 18-year-old voters. Additionally, the reforms aim to curb foreign interference by strengthening donation regulations and closing loopholes exploited by shell companies and unincorporated groups.

8. Ninth Volcano Eruption Hits Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula

A volcanic eruption occurred on Iceland's Reykjanes Peninsula on July 16, 2025, marking the ninth eruption since December 2023. The eruption originated from a fissure near Sundhnúkur, approximately 30 miles from Reykjavik. Lava flows prompted the evacuation of about 100 residents from the village of Grindavik and the temporary closure of the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa. Authorities issued health warnings due to elevated toxic gas levels, advising locals to stay indoors. Air travel remained unaffected, though ash cloud risks were being assessed. The region, dormant for over 800 years, has been active since 2021, leading scientists to warn of a new, more frequent volcanic era in Reykjanes.

9. WHO Declares Senegal Trachoma-Free

Senegal has been officially declared free of trachoma by the World Health Organization (WHO) in July 2025. This significant achievement marks a monumental victory in global public health efforts and disease elimination campaigns. The declaration reflects years of dedicated work, including mass drug administration, improved sanitation, and health education initiatives, showcasing the effectiveness of comprehensive public health interventions.

10. China's GDP Growth Exceeds Expectations

Amidst Global Challenges

China's economy expanded by 5.2% in the second quarter of 2025, surpassing global analysts' expectations despite ongoing trade tensions and tariffs imposed by the United States. This robust growth showcases China's economic resilience and the effectiveness of its internal stimulus measures and diversified trade strategies. The performance indicates a continued recovery and expansion, defying a challenging global economic environment.

Sports

1. Iga Swiatek Secures Historic Double Bagel Victory to Win First Wimbledon Title

On July 12, 2025, Iga Swiatek captured her first Wimbledon title with a commanding 6-0, 6-0 victory over Amanda Anisimova in the final. This rare double bagel marked only the third instance in a women's Grand Slam final and the first at Wimbledon in over a century. The win was Swiatek's 100th Grand Slam match triumph. With this, she became one of the few players in the Open Era to win major titles on clay, grass, and hard court surfaces.

2. Praggnanandhaa Triumphs Over Carlsen in Vegas

Indian Grandmaster Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa achieved a significant upset by defeating world number one Magnus Carlsen in Round 4 of the Las Vegas Chess Grand Slam Tour. With three straight wins in Group A, Praggnanandhaa now shares the lead with Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Javokhir Sindarov, all on 4.5 points. Carlsen finished tied for fourth but was eliminated after losing a tiebreak to Levon Aronian, who advanced to the quarterfinals. Qualifiers from Groups A and B will next compete in the knockout stage.

3. India's Sujeet Kalkal Wins Budapest 65 kg Gold

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Indian wrestler Sujeet Kalkal clinched the gold medal in the 65kg men's freestyle category at the 2025 Polyak Imre & Varga János Memorial in Budapest, Hungary. He defeated four-time European medallist Ali Rahimzade of Azerbaijan with a 5-1 victory, marking India's first gold in a Ranking Series event this year. Earlier, Sujeet secured decisive wins over Olympic bronze medallist Islam Dudaev, European silver medallist Khamzat Arsamerzouev, and Vazgen Tevanyan of Armenia. Additionally, Rahul earned a bronze in the 57kg category by defeating Germany's Niklas Stechele 4-0. The tournament serves as a key qualifier for the World Wrestling Championships in Zagreb, Croatia, later this year.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1.WHO Launches Integrated Guidelines on Arboviral Diseases

The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced its first comprehensive guidelines for the clinical management of arboviral diseases. These new guidelines address a range of vector-borne illnesses, including dengue, chikungunya, Zika, and yellow fever, which pose significant public health challenges globally. The initiative aims to standardize diagnosis, treatment, and patient care protocols, improving outcomes for individuals affected by these diseases and strengthening global preparedness for arboviral outbreaks.

2. US Designates The Resistance Front as Terrorist Entity

The US Department of State officially designated The Resistance Front (TRF) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) in July 2025. This significant move underscores the United States' commitment to countering terrorism and highlights the collaborative efforts with

international partners, particularly India, in addressing threats posed by such groups. The designation aims to disrupt TRF's financial networks and limit its operational capabilities globally.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1.WASH 2025 Tracker Report Identifies Persistent Gaps in Sanitation and Hygiene Access

The updated WASH 2025 Tracker Report, co-hosted by WHO and UNICEF, highlights persistent global gaps in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services—particularly in healthcare facilities across 107 countries. Despite progress, roughly 742 million people use facilities without basic water, 660 million lack sanitation, and 722 million have no hygiene services. Only 17 % of countries have secured sustainable financing for WASH. While many nations have baseline assessments and standards, major shortfalls remain in funding, infrastructure, and implementation—especially in fragile, crisisaffected contexts.

2. UNEP's Frontiers 2025 Highlights Alarming Impacts of Cumulative Environmental Load

On July 10, 2025, UNEP published Frontiers 2025: The Weight of Time, highlighting four emerging environmental threats with cumulative impacts. Melting permafrost could release ancient pathogens and disrupt biodiversity. Dam barriers are being removed globally to restore river ecosystems. Rapid ageing populations face escalating environmental risks such as heatwaves and floods. Heavy floods are remobilizing buried legacy pollutants in sediments, threatening ecosystems and human health. The report urges proactive, integrative policies prioritizing early intervention to prevent localized issues from escalating into global crises.

3. Himachal Pradesh's Progress in National

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Achievement Survey

The National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2025 results show a remarkable improvement for Himachal Pradesh in India's educational landscape. The state has climbed from 21st place in 2021 to secure a position within the top five nationally. This significant leap indicates a marked qualitative improvement in its education system, with Himachal Pradesh ranking 2nd at Grade 3 level, 5th at Grade 6, and 4th at Grade 9. The progress is attributed to key reforms, including the merger of low-enrolment schools, rationalization of teaching staff, expedited recruitment, and the phased rollout of Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding Schools.

4. Africa's Freshwater Fish Face Extinction Crisis

A 2025 report by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) highlights a severe extinction threat to freshwater fish in Africa. The report reveals that 26 per cent of assessed species are facing extinction, primarily due to factors like pollution, overfishing, habitat degradation, and climate change. This crisis poses significant risks to biodiversity, food security, and the livelihoods of communities dependent on these aquatic ecosystems across the African continent.

5. Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 Results Affirm Cleanest Cities

The results of Swachh Survekshan 2024-25 have once again affirmed Indore, Surat, and Navi Mumbai as India's cleanest cities. These cities have notably topped the newly introduced 'Super Swachh League,' a recognition that emphasizes their sustained commitment to cleanliness and sanitation over time. This consistent performance underscores effective urban governance, public participation, and robust waste management systems in these leading cities.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone in its Gaganyaan programme by successfully conducting two hot tests of the Service Module Propulsion System (SMPS) at its Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri. These tests, lasting 30 and 100 seconds respectively, were crucial for validating the current configuration of the SMPS test article. The SMPS is a vital component of the Gaganyaan Orbital Module, designed to support orbital maneuvers and certain abort scenarios for India's first human spaceflight mission.

2. New Dragonfly Species Discovered In Western Ghats

Recent research in the Western Ghats has led to the discovery of a new dragonfly species named *Lyriothemis abrahami*. This species was previously mistaken for *Lyriothemis flava* due to similarities in appearance, but detailed study confirmed its distinct characteristics. This discovery underscores the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and highlights the ongoing need for extensive ecological research and conservation efforts in the region.

3. India Launches Indigenous Carbon Foot Prosthesis

DRDO and AIIMS Bibinagar have collaboratively introduced ADIDOC, India's first low-cost, indigenously developed carbon fibre foot prosthesis. Created as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, ADIDOC is built for durability, supports up to 125 kg, and comes in three variants suited for different body types. Compared to similar international prosthetics priced around ₹2 lakh, ADIDOC's estimated cost is under ₹20,000, greatly improving affordability.

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for amputees. This breakthrough advances both India's self-reliance and inclusion of people with disabilities.

4. Gujarat Launches India's First Tribal Genome Project

Gujarat has initiated India's first Tribal Genome Sequencing Project to enhance healthcare for tribal populations using genetic research. Managed by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, the project plans to sequence the genomes of 2,000 tribal individuals from 17 districts, focusing on detecting genetic markers for conditions such as sickle cell anemia and cancer. This effort supports personalized treatment, early diagnosis, and reduced health inequalities, while establishing a reference genome database. It represents a major advancement in inclusive healthcare and serves as a model for other states.

5. Akash Prime Strengthens India's Air Defence

The Indian Army successfully conducted a high-altitude test of the Akash Prime air defence missile system at 15,000 feet in Ladakh, demonstrating its advanced seeker technology and precise targeting capabilities. Developed by DRDO, Akash Prime significantly boosts India's medium-range surface-to-air missile defense, crucial for protecting strategic borders. Its effective role in Operation Sindoor against drone attacks underscores its combat readiness. This achievement supports India's push for self-reliant defence and prepares the system for induction into new regiments, enhancing national aerial security.

6. IIT Madras Launches India's Lightest Wheelchair

IIT Madras, partnering with Thryv Mobility, introduced YD One, India's lightest active wheelchair. This precision-engineered, mono-tube rigid-frame wheelchair weighs only nine kilograms and is made from aerospace-grade

materials for durability and efficiency. Tailored to fit each user's body and mobility requirements, it can support up to 120 kg. Its compact design makes it easy to transport in cars and public vehicles, tackling accessibility issues. YD One provides affordable, high-performance mobility, promoting greater independence and dignity for users.

7. HAL Receives First LCA Mk1A Wing Assemblies from Larsen & Toubro

On July 17, 2025, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received the initial batch of wing assemblies for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A from Larsen & Toubro's facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. This handover represents a key milestone in India's drive towards self-reliance in defense manufacturing. Larsen & Toubro intends to deliver four wing sets annually, with plans to increase production to 12 sets per year by adopting advanced assembly techniques and automation. This partnership is part of HAL's broader strategy to collaborate with both large corporations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to build capabilities and minimize reliance on foreign suppliers.

8. India Demonstrates Missile Readiness with Successful Tests

India successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Prithvi-II and Agni-I ballistic missiles on July 17, 2025, from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha. Conducted under the Strategic Forces Command, the tests validated all operational and technical parameters, reaffirming India's strategic deterrence capabilities. Prithvi-II, with a range of approximately 350 km, and Agni-I, ranging between 700–900 km, are integral to India's nuclear deterrent posture, capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear warheads. These successful launches underscore India's commitment to maintaining a credible minimum deterrence strategy.

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9. Ground Penetrating Radar Reveals Buddhist Heritage

A team from IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with the Haryana State Archaeology Department, employed Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) technology to uncover subsurface structures in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. The GPR survey revealed circular formations, wall remnants, and chamber-like rooms approximately six to seven feet below the surface, suggesting the presence of a 2,000-year-old Buddhist stupa site near Topra Kalan. GPR is a non-invasive geophysical method that uses high-frequency electromagnetic pulses to detect subsurface anomalies without excavation.

10. India's First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel

On July 18, 2025, the Indian Navy commissioned INS Nistar, its first indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel, in Visakhapatnam. Built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited with over 80% indigenous content, the 118-meter vessel displacing over 10,000 tons is equipped for deep-sea saturation diving and submarine rescue operations up to 300 meters. Serving as the 'Mother Ship' for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle, INS Nistar enhances India's maritime capabilities and aligns with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

11. Breakthrough in Photocatalytic Hydrogen Peroxide Production

Recent advancements in photocatalysis have led to a groundbreaking method for producing hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) using only sunlight and water. Researchers have developed a novel material called Mo-DHTA COF, which stands for dimolybdenum paddlewheel-embedded covalent organic framework. This innovation offers a cleaner, more efficient, and recyclable route for hydrogen peroxide production, potentially transforming industries such as pharmaceuticals, green chemistry, and materials science.

12. Detection of Largest Black Hole Merger Event

Recent astronomical observations have unveiled the merger of two exceptionally massive black holes, setting a new record for the largest black hole collision detected through gravitational waves. This groundbreaking discovery significantly challenges existing astrophysical models regarding black hole formation and evolution. The event provides invaluable data for refining our understanding of the universe's most extreme phenomena and the dynamics of spacetime.

13. Indian Navy Commissions INS Nistar Diving Support Vessel

The Indian Navy recently commissioned INS Nistar at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This vessel is the first of two indigenously designed diving support vessels (DSVs) built by Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. With over 80% indigenous content, INS Nistar is equipped for complex deep-sea saturation diving and submarine rescue operations, making India a preferred partner for submarine rescue in the region.

Miscellaneous

1. NITI Aayog Releases Strategic Blueprint to Empower State Science and Tech Councils

On July 10, 2025, NITI Aayog released a strategic blueprint titled "A Roadmap for Strengthening State Science and Technology Councils", urging states to allocate at least 0.5% of their GSDP toward state-level S and T bodies. The reform-driven roadmap advocates shifting from core grants to project-based, performance-linked funding, restructuring council leadership for improved governance, boosting scientific staffing ratios, and expanding industry-academic partnerships. The goal is to transform S and T Councils into agile innovation hubs, addressing gaps in resources, manpower, and institutional

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coordination to advance India's vision of technology-led, self-reliant development.

2. Counterfeit Footwear Surge in Indian Market

The Indian market in 2025 is experiencing a significant increase in counterfeit footwear, with many products closely imitating global brands. This surge has led to legal actions, including a recent lawsuit filed by Birkenstock, a German footwear company, in the Delhi High Court against manufacturers and traders of fake sandals.

3. Open Natural Ecosystems

Recent discourse challenges the common view of deserts as barren wastelands needing transformation. Deserts cover nearly one-third of the Earth's land and host unique ecosystems and cultures. Recognizing their ecological importance and the vital role they play in global biodiversity is crucial. This new perspective advocates for conservation and sustainable management strategies that respect the natural resilience and distinct characteristics of these open natural ecosystems, moving away from conversion-focused approaches.

4. India Stands Sixth Globally with Four Medals at 57th IChO

India delivered an outstanding performance at the 57th International Chemistry Olympiad held in Dubai, with all four participating students winning medals—two gold and two silver. Gold medals were awarded to Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya and Sandeep Kuchi, while Debadatta Priyadarshi and Ujjwal Kesari received silver. Competing against 354 students from 90 countries, India secured the sixth position overall. Marking its 26th participation, India's team was expertly mentored by HBCSE and affiliated institutions responsible for training and selection through the National Olympiad Examinations.

5. Zero-Dose Child Numbers Drop Across South Asia

In 2024, South Asia achieved its highest childhood immunisation rates, with 92% of infants receiving the third DTP dose and significant reductions in zero-dose children. Measles vaccination reached 93%, cutting cases by 39%, while HPV immunisation expanded. Globally, 89% of infants received at least one DTP dose. India reduced zero-dose children by 43% through its Universal Immunization Programme (UIP), launched in 1978, offering free vaccines against 12 diseases and driving major successes like polio eradication and neonatal tetanus elimination.

6. Kalinga Ratna Award Highlights India's Linguistic Heritage

President Droupadi Murmu presented the Kalinga Ratna Award 2024 to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the 600th birth anniversary celebrations of Adikabi Sarala Das in Odisha. The event, organized by Sarala Sahitya Sansad, honored literary contributions and promoted linguistic diversity. President Murmu emphasized NEP 2020's focus on mother tongue education. Pradhan was recognized for advancing Indian languages and educational reforms. Renowned author Bijaya Nayak also received the Sarala Samman for his contribution to Odia literature.

7. India-Singapore UPI Payment Network Expands

The UPI-PayNow cross-border payment system connecting India and Singapore is set to expand with the addition of 13 more Indian banks, increasing the total to 19. Operated by NPCI International, this platform facilitates secure, instant, and affordable remittances using mobile numbers or Virtual Payment Addresses (VPAs). Backed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), it particularly benefits the Indian diaspora in

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Singapore. Its cloud-based technology ensures quick transactions and robust data security, strengthening financial ties and serving as a model for future international payment networks.

8. India Advances High-Speed Rail with E10 Launch

India is set to become the first nation outside Japan to introduce the new E10 Shinkansen bullet train on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route in the early 2030s. Prior to this, older E5 trains will arrive in 2026 for testing in Indian conditions such as heat and dust. The E10 train features faster speeds, enhanced safety, and improved energy efficiency. The ₹1.1 lakh crore project is progressing well, with key infrastructure like tunnels, viaducts, bridges, and stations nearing completion, marking a significant advancement in India's high-speed rail journey.

9. First Indian Deepika Sehrawat Bags FIH Skill Award

Deepika Sehrawat made history by becoming the first Indian to win the Poligras Magic Skill Award for her remarkable solo goal against the Netherlands in the 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League. In February 2025, during the Bhubaneswar leg, Deepika's brilliant 35th-minute strike helped India equalize in a 2-2 draw, leading to a shootout victory. Her goal was one of three women's nominations, with the winner chosen by global fan votes. Deepika's achievement underscores India's growing prominence in international women's hockey.

10. INCOIS Honoured with National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025

INCOIS, based in Hyderabad under India's Ministry of Earth Sciences, was awarded the National Geospatial Practitioner Award 2025 during the Open Source GIS Day at IIT Bombay on May 6, 2025. The award honors their groundbreaking integration of open-source

technologies such as QGIS and GeoServer in marine geospatial services. INCOIS's real-time satellite-powered platforms deliver public-facing tools for marine weather updates, Potential Fishing Zone advisories, tsunami alerts, and oil-spill monitoring enhancing India's marine governance, disaster resilience, and sustainable ocean management.

11. Maharashtra Unveils Vidarbha's First Steel Plant

Maharashtra is launching Vidarbha's first integrated steel plant in Gadchiroli, with CM Devendra Fadnavis set to inaugurate Llyods Metals & Energy Ltd's 4.5 MnTPA facility at Konsari on July 22, 2025. The project includes a recordfast 5 MnTPA ironore grinding plant in Hedri and an 85 km, 10 MnTPA slurry pipeline the state's first cutting transport emissions by about 55%. It will generate substantial local employment, catalyse sustainable development, and position Gadchiroli as a green steel and industrial hub.

12. HSBC Becomes First UK Bank to Exit NZBA

HSBC has become the first UK bank to withdraw from the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), a UN-backed initiative aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050. This move aligns with a broader trend of major banks, including several U.S. and Canadian institutions, exiting the alliance due to political and regulatory pressures. HSBC cited the need for an independent net-zero transition plan, despite previously delaying its own emissions target from 2030 to 2050. The decision has faced criticism from climate advocates and investors, raising concerns about the bank's commitment to climate action.

13. Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI)

President Donald Trump, 79, has been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), a common and generally harmless condition in

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older adults, after noticing mild leg swelling and hand bruising. A thorough examination including ultrasound ruled out deep vein thrombosis, arterial problems, heart failure, or kidney issues. CVI arises from weakened vein valves, causing blood pooling, ankle swelling, and potential leg discomfort. Doctors recommend management through lifestyle habits like walking, leg elevation, and compression stockings. His physician confirmed he remains in excellent health.

14. Alien Plant Invasion Poses Threat to Tropical Biodiversity

Recent studies indicate a rapid and alarming proliferation of alien plant species across tropical ecosystems. This ongoing invasion is significantly altering native flora compositions and destabilizing the rich biodiversity that characterizes these vital regions. The primary drivers behind this ecological threat are identified as climate change, which creates favorable conditions for non-native species, and various human actions, including habitat fragmentation and the intentional or accidental introduction of foreign plants.