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National

1. Madhya Pradesh Launches Monthly Financial Aid Scheme for Jobless Youth

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has rolled out a new monthly financial assistance programme for unemployed youth—6,000 rupees for women and 5,000 rupees for men—linked to internships in registered industries. Designed to support skill development and boost job creation in emerging industrial areas like Acharpura, it builds on the Ladli Behna Yojana framework and promotes gender inclusion. Initially set to generate over 1,600 internships, the scheme aims to blend social welfare with economic empowerment and local job ecosystem expansion in the state.

2. Parliamentary Committee Recommends Boosting Natural and Organic Farming Practices

A recent report by the Parliamentary Estimates Committee (2024–25) outlined a comprehensive roadmap to promote climate-resilient, natural, and organic farming in India. It calls for higher MSPs for organic crops—20–30% above conventional rates—to offset lower yields and transition costs. The Committee flagged funding gaps, staff shortages at KVKs, insufficient bio-fertiliser availability, and outdated certification systems. It stressed stronger support schemes, decentralized seed hubs, digitized certification, and enhanced infrastructure to scale up sustainable agriculture nationwide.

3. Telecom Department Unveils Draft of National Telecom Policy 2025

On July 23, 2025, India's Department of Telecommunications released the Draft National Telecom Policy 2025 (NTP25) for public consultation. The policy sets ambitious targets by 2030: 100% 4G coverage, 90% of population under 5G, 1 million new jobs, and annual Rupees

1 lakh crore investment in the telecom sector. Key elements include boosting domestic manufacturing, skilling a million workers, expanding fibre to 80% of towers, launching 1 million public WiFi hotspots, and fostering innovation in 6G, AI, IoT, quantum communications, and cybersecurity.

4. Govt Cracks Down on Obscene Content: 25 Websites Ordered Blocked

On July 23–25, 2025, India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting directed Internet Service Providers to block access to 25 OTT platforms—including Ullu, ALTT (ALTBalaji), Desiflix, Mojflix, Gulab, MoodX, and similar services—for distributing content deemed obscene, vulgar, or pornographic. The move came after repeated warnings and consultations with ministries (Home Affairs, Women and Child Development, Electronics and IT), legal bodies, industry groups like FICCI/CII, and rights experts. Platforms were found violating multiple laws such as Sections 67/67A of the IT Act 2000, Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986.

5. Monsoon Session Faces Turmoil: First Week Sees No Legislative Business

The first week of India's Monsoon Session (starting July 21, 2025) was virtually a washout, with both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha unable to transact any substantive legislative business due to sustained disruptions by opposition MPs. Protests focused on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Bihar electoral rolls and demands for a debate on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor. Repeated adjournments and sloganeering blocked all scheduled bills and questions. Parliament now braces for intense and marathon discussions set to begin July 28.

6. Guidelines Issued by SC to Tackle Campus

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Suicides and Promote Mental Health

On July 25, 2025, India's Supreme Court issued 15 binding nationwide guidelines to curb student suicides and bolster mental health in educational institutions, following the tragic death of a 17-year-old NEET aspirant in Visakhapatnam. The directives mandate uniform mental health policies, mandatory counsellors (or referral linkages), safe infrastructure in hostels, display of helpline numbers, and grievance redressal systems. States must notify rules for coaching centres within two months, and the Union must file compliance affidavits within 90 days. These interim measures apply until formal legislation is passed.

7. Manipur Continues Under President's Rule Amidst Ongoing Crisis

The Union government has extended President's Rule in Manipur for another six months, effective from August 13, 2025, following parliamentary approval of a statutory resolution by Home Minister Amit Shah. The state has been under direct rule since February 13, 2025, after Chief Minister N. Biren Singh resigned amid worsening ethnic violence between Meitei and KukiZo communities, which has resulted in over 250 deaths and displacement of tens of thousands. Despite reduced conflict, insecurity persists and a political solution remains elusive.

8. Centre Rolls Out New Cooperative Policy – NCP 2025

On 24 July 2025, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled India's much-anticipated National Cooperative Policy 2025 in New Delhi. The policy replaces the 2002 framework, setting a bold roadmap to modernise cooperatives by expanding into new sectors—tourism, insurance, taxis, real estate, renewable energy—anchored by six strategic pillars. With a mission to establish 2 lakh multipurpose PACS by February 2026, triple the sector's GDP share by 2034, and bring 50 crore

active members, the policy emphasizes digital tools, inclusivity (women, youth, tribals), transparency, and grassroots reach.

9. National Sports Governance Bill Introduced to Reform Sports Administration

On 23 July 2025, the Indian government introduced the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 in Lok Sabha. The Bill paves the way for creating a statutory National Sports Board (NSB) empowered to grant and revoke recognition of sports federations, including the BCCI. A National Sports Tribunal will fast-track dispute resolution. Governance reforms include limits on tenure and age, mandatory athlete and women representation, codes of ethics, transparency measures and financial oversight aligned with international charters. It aims to professionalize sports administration ahead of India's 2036 Olympic ambitions.

10. PM Modi's Visit to Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple in Tamil Nadu, bringing renewed attention to the grandeur of the Chola Empire. The visit highlighted the historical and cultural significance of the temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the legacy of the Chola dynasty.

11. India's Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy in 2025

India's inflation rate is projected to remain below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4 per cent target in 2025, according to the Finance Ministry's June Economic Review. This undershooting of the inflation target suggests a stable economic environment with potential implications for the RBI's monetary policy decisions, possibly leading to a more accommodative stance to support growth, while carefully monitoring global economic trends and domestic demand-supply dynamics.

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12. Syria Sets September Parliamentary Elections

Syria is preparing to hold parliamentary elections from 15 to 20 September 2025. These will be the first elections since the fall of former President Bashar al-Assad, marking a significant transition in the country's political landscape. The upcoming elections are expected to shape the future governance and potentially lead to a new era for Syria after years of conflict and instability, with international observers likely closely monitoring the process for fairness and transparency.

13. Shiksha Samagam 2025 Celebrates NEP Five-Year Anniversary

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2025, celebrating five years since the launch of NEP 2020. The event saw the rollout of educational initiatives worth ₹4,000 crore, including enhanced school infrastructure and digital platforms like TARA and ViBe. Foreign universities expressed interest in establishing campuses in India. The summit highlighted progress in curriculum reforms, foundational learning, teacher development, and digital integration. However, challenges such as state-level policy disagreements and delays in institutional reforms like HECI and teacher education frameworks persist.

14. Jabalpur to Host Nation's First Hindi MBBS College

Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh is set to become home to India's first Hindi-medium MBBS college, beginning in the 2027-28 academic year with an initial intake of 50 students. Approved by the Madhya Pradesh Medical University, the college will conduct teaching, examinations, and clinical training entirely in Hindi. Building on the state's earlier efforts to translate medical textbooks, this initiative aims to make medical education more accessible for Hindi-speaking students and could pave the way for Hindi-medium

postgraduate medical courses in the future.

15. Bhil community revives ancient Gavri dance tradition

Each year, the Bhil community of Mewar observes the 40-day Gavri festival, a lively dance-drama that portrays the battle between Goddess Amba and Demon Bhiamwal, representing the triumph of good over evil. Exclusively performed by men, groups travel to villages where their married sisters and daughters reside, presenting scenes known as khels accompanied by music and vibrant costumes. This age-old tradition pays tribute to Gorkhiya Mata and supports family welfare. For the first time, Bhil rituals and oral heritage are being exhibited at the India International Centre.

16. CIAL Launches World's First Airport-Based Green Hydrogen Plant

Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) is pioneering sustainable aviation through a comprehensive green and digital expansion. Plans include establishing the world's first airport-based green hydrogen plant in collaboration with BPCL, scaling solar power capacity to 50 MWp, and developing an aerotropolis model featuring IT parks and lifestyle zones. These initiatives align with India's carbon neutrality goals and enhance regional economic integration under the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat visions.

17. PM Modi honors martyr Udham Singh's immortal sacrifice

On Shaheedi Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured freedom fighter Udham Singh, referring to him as a timeless hero of India whose deep patriotism and fearless actions continue to inspire the nation. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also remembered Udham Singh, praising his remarkable courage and the ultimate sacrifice he made for the country's freedom, which remains influential across

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generations. Born in Punjab in 1899, Udham Singh was executed in London on July 31, 1940, for assassinating Michael O'Dwyer. His act was in retaliation for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, which officially killed 379 but likely claimed over 1,000 lives.

18. Lord Meghnad Desai, Padma Bhushan Awardee, Dies at 85

Lord Meghnad Jagdishchandra Desai, born in Vadodara in July 1940, was a distinguished Indian-origin economist and author. He earned his BA and MA in economics from the University of Mumbai and completed his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1963. Desai taught at the London School of Economics from 1965 to 2003, becoming Professor Emeritus. He was appointed as the first Indian-origin Labour peer in the UK House of Lords in 1991 and awarded India's Padma Bhushan in 2008. Desai passed away at age 85 on July 29, 2025, prompting tributes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who praised his contributions to economics and India-UK ties.

19. NCDC Gets USD 2,000 Cr Boost From Centre

The Union Cabinet has approved a Central Sector Scheme allocating ₹2,000 crore to the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for the period 2025–2029. This funding will help NCDC raise an additional ₹20,000 crore from the open market to provide loans for cooperative project development, expansion, and working capital. The initiative aims to benefit around 2.9 crore members from 13,288 cooperative societies spanning multiple sectors. Loan disbursement and monitoring will be managed by NCDC either directly or through state governments.

20. India Brings Back Sacred Buddha Relics After 127 Years

The sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha, originally excavated in 1898 in Uttar Pradesh,

have been repatriated to India after 127 years. These relics, which include bone fragments and precious artifacts, were discovered by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé. Following colonial-era transfers and a recent auction attempt in Hong Kong, the Indian government intervened to prevent their sale. A public-private partnership facilitated their return, underscoring India's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage. The relics are now housed at the National Museum in Delhi, available for public viewing and academic study.

21. India Launches 1 MW Green Hydrogen Plant

The 1 MW green hydrogen plant, capable of producing around 140 metric tonnes annually, was developed under India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, which aims to establish the country as a global leader in green hydrogen production and export. Green hydrogen is generated by electrolysis using renewable energy and finds applications in sectors such as steel production, refineries, transportation, and energy storage. Despite challenges such as high production costs and storage difficulties, the mission focuses on reducing expenses, providing incentives, and creating markets, targeting 5 MMT production by 2030 through initiatives like SIGHT and hydrogen hubs.

International

1. PM Modi Dedicates Tree to King Charles III Under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Green Initiative

During his UK visit on July 24–25, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted a sapling of the *Davidia involucrata* 'Sonoma'—the ornamental handkerchief or dove tree—to King Charles III at the Sandringham Estate. The gesture is part of the environmental initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", symbolizing tribute to mothers and promoting global sustainability. The sapling is scheduled to be planted this autumn, reflecting India's commitment to climate action and

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crossnational collaboration in environmental stewardship. Discussions also encompassed IndiaUK trade, wellness, and sustainability.

2. India and Maldives Mark Six Decades of Diplomatic Ties With Commemorative Stamp

On July 25, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu unveiled commemorative postage stamps marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties established in 1965. The stamps feature the traditional Indian Uru boat from Kerala's shipyards and the Maldivian Vadhu Dhoni, symbolising centuries-old Indian Ocean maritime heritage. The launch, occurring during PM Modi's two-day state visit, underscored the countries' enduring partnership and reflected warmer ties following recent diplomatic strains.

3. NASA's Arsenic Life Claim Retracted After Fifteen Years

NASA has formally retracted a controversial 2010 NASA-funded study that claimed the discovery of a microbe, GFAJ-1, capable of substituting arsenic for phosphorus in its DNA. This retraction comes fifteen years after the initial publication, following widespread scientific debate and subsequent independent research that refuted the original findings.

4. Exercise Drone Prahar

The Indian Army recently conducted Exercise Drone Prahar in Arunachal Pradesh's East Siang district. This high-tech military drill validated the use of drone technology in tactical battlefield scenarios, demonstrating the armed forces' increasing reliance on advanced unmanned aerial vehicles for reconnaissance, surveillance, and potentially offensive operations. The exercise highlights India's commitment to modernizing its military capabilities and adapting to contemporary warfare strategies, which increasingly involve drone integration for enhanced operational effectiveness.

5. SOFI Report Flags Rising Global Food Challenges

According to the SOFI 2025 report, around 8.2% of the global population—approximately 720 million people—suffered from chronic hunger in 2024, while 2.3 billion faced moderate or severe food insecurity. Although this marks a slight improvement from previous years, hunger levels remain higher than before the pandemic. Africa has the highest hunger rate, with over 17% of its population undernourished. Projections indicate that 512 million people may still be chronically hungry by 2030. The report stresses the need for targeted fiscal actions, stable policies, and stronger market systems to tackle food insecurity.

6. Klyuchevskoy Volcano Erupts Following Major Seismic Activity

On July 30, 2025, the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia experienced a powerful 8.8-magnitude earthquake, one of the strongest in the region since 1952. The quake triggered tsunami warnings across the Pacific, prompting evacuations in areas including Japan, Hawaii, and Russia. Despite initial fears, the tsunami waves remained smaller than anticipated, and the warnings were lifted within hours. The earthquake also led to the eruption of the Klyuchevskoy volcano, Eurasia's highest active volcano, which began emitting lava and ash. While the eruption was visually dramatic, it posed little immediate threat to populated areas. The region's preparedness and swift response helped prevent significant damage or casualties.

Sports

1. India Bags Maiden Archery Gold at FISU World University Games 2025

On July 26, 2025, India clinched its first-ever gold medal at the RhineRuhr FISU World University Games in Germany when Parneet Kaur and

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Kushal Dalal triumphed in the mixed compound archery event, narrowly defeating South Korea with a score of 157–154. Earlier, the women's compound team—Parneet Kaur, Avneet Kaur, and Madhura Dhamangaonkar—secured bronze by beating Great Britain 232–224. India's men's compound team also won silver, missing gold by just one point to Türkiye. These results mark a strong archery showing with three medals in one day.

2. Tanvi and Vennala Set New Benchmarks, Clinch Historic Badminton Gold for India

At the Badminton Asia Junior Individual Championships held in Solo, Indonesia from July 18–27, 2025, Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla secured bronze medals in the women's singles event. This marked the first time India has claimed two women's singles podium finishes in the same edition. Tanvi, the No. 2 seed and junior world No. 1, reached the semis in straight games, while Vennala, ranked No. 103, overcame tough competition in a three-game quarterfinal. Their breakthrough performance reflects India's rising junior women's badminton strength.

3. Divya Deshmukh Creates History: Wins FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025

India's rising chess star Divya Deshmukh scripted history on July 28, 2025, by defeating veteran Koneru Humpy to win the FIDE Women's Chess World Cup 2025. This victory marks a significant milestone for the 19-year-old and for Indian chess.

4. Divyanshi Bhowmick Wins Historic U-15 Title

Divyanshi Bhowmick made history by winning the U-15 Girls' Singles title at the 29th Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships in Tashkent, ending India's 36-year drought in the category. She defeated top Chinese players and qualified for the World Youth Championships. Trained under the Dani Sports Foundation and Ultimate

Table Tennis, Divyanshi also won the U-19 title at the WTT Youth Contender in Kazakhstan. India secured 11 medals overall at the event, signaling a bright future in youth table tennis.

5. World Athletics Enforces SRY Gene Test Policy

Starting September 1, 2025, World Athletics requires all female-category athletes in world ranking events to undergo a one-time SRY gene test to verify biological sex. Effective from the Tokyo World Championships on September 13, this non-invasive cheek swab or blood test detects the SRY gene, ensuring fairness in women's sports. Athletes testing positive will be barred from female ranking events but can join non-ranking competitions. World Athletics will cover up to \$100 per test, stressing respect for athlete privacy and dignity.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. India and UK Finalize Comprehensive Trade and Economic Pact

On July 24, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a landmark free trade pact concluding over three years of negotiations. The agreement eliminates tariffs on roughly 99% of Indian exports to the UK and reduces average Indian import duties on British goods from ~15% to 3%, with further cuts for whisky and cars over time. It includes provisions for goods, services, innovation, procurement, and limited mobility benefits, aiming to double trade to ~US 120 billion dollars by 2030.

2. India and UK Chart Roadmap with Vision 2035 Partnership Plan

On 24 July 2025, Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Keir Starmer endorsed the landmark IndiaUK Vision 2035 during a highlevel summit in London. The roadmap, built upon the newly signed IndiaUK Comprehensive Economic and Trade

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Agreement (CETA/FTA), sets a decadelong action plan across trade, tech, education, defence, climate, and migration cooperation. It establishes structured ministerial mechanisms, annual progress reviews, and deepened engagement in nextgeneration technologies, clean energy, critical minerals, and peopletopeople links. The vision aims to elevate bilateral trade to over USD 100 billion by 2030.

3. India Inks Pact to Prevent Tax Duplication With Partner Country

On June 27, 2025, India and Oman signed a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) that redefines 'permanent establishment' to include digital and servicebased activity, reflecting evolving economic realities. The updated pact, effective May 28, 2025, also reduces withholding tax rates on dividends, interest, royalties, and fees for technical services. These changes simplify crossborder tax procedures and offer relief to Indian professionals, business owners, freelancers, and investors earning income in both nations. The amendment aims to boost bilateral trade, investment, and fiscal cooperation.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1.Lakshadweep's Coral Reefs Face 50% Decline Over Two Decades, Says Study

A comprehensive 24year study (1998–2022) across Lakshadweep's atolls reveals a near 50% reduction in live coral cover, falling from roughly 37% to 19%. Although successive bleaching episodes have caused progressively lower mortality, the reefs' ability to recover has sharply declined. Scientists stress that healthy coral recovery requires extended intervals—ideally six years—between heatwaves. The research warns that without urgent global climate action and longer disturbance-free periods, these fragile

reef ecosystems may struggle to survive.

2. RRTS Project Reviewed: Parliamentary Panel Submits Key Recommendations

The Lok Sabha Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, chaired by Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, has submitted its Fifth Report on the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). It urged faster action on stalled corridors (Delhi–GurugramSNB and Delhi–Panipat), integration with IGI and Jewar airports, and deployment of multimodal feeder services including shuttles and e-rickshaws. The panel recommended expanding NCRTC's mandate nationally via legislation, insisting states prepare regional transport plans and adopt transit-oriented development, while calling for studies on vibration impact and sound barriers along corridors.

3. India's Heatstroke Cases Highlight Surveillance Challenges

India has reported 7,192 suspected heatstroke cases and 14 confirmed deaths from March to June 2025. This follows a record-breaking 2024 with nearly 48,000 cases and 159 deaths, highlighting persistent surveillance challenges in monitoring heat-related illnesses across the country.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1.India's First Hydrogen-Based Train Coach Successfully Completes Trial Run

Indian Railways has successfully tested its first hydrogen-powered train coach—the Driving Power Car—at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai on July 25, 2025. This pioneering technology, with an indigenous 1,200horsepower hydrogen locomotive, is part of the "Hydrogen for Heritage" project to retrofit DEMU rakes. The prototype is set to run initially on the Jind–Sonipat route in Haryana. While initial costs are

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high, the fully zeroemission system is expected to significantly advance India's netzero transport ambitions and position the country among global hydrogen-train leaders.

2. Breakthrough Molecular Imaging Technique Reveals Real-Time Motion

Recent advances at the California Institute of Technology have enabled real-time imaging of molecular motion at an unprecedented scale. Using a novel optical technique, scientists can now visualize particles as small as tens of angstroms, opening new avenues in biomedical research and nanotechnology.

3. Operation Mahadev: Indian Security Forces Neutralise Terrorists Of Pahalgam Attack

The Indian Army, in coordination with the CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police, launched a high-intensity counter-terrorism operation, 'Operation Mahadev,' successfully neutralizing three terrorists, including the mastermind behind the recent Pahalgam attack. The operation was conducted in the general area of Lidwas in Jammu and Kashmir.

4. CERT-In Unveils Comprehensive Cyber Security Audit Policy Guidelines

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has introduced a landmark directive requiring all public and private organizations managing digital systems to undergo comprehensive third-party cybersecurity audits annually. These new guidelines aim to enhance the cybersecurity posture of organizations across India.

5. National Medical Commission Guidelines on Live Surgery Broadcasts

The National Medical Commission (NMC) issued comprehensive guidelines to regulate the conduct and broadcast of live surgeries. These rules aim to protect patient safety, maintain

ethical standards, and ensure that live broadcasts are primarily for educational purposes without compromising the patient's well-being or privacy.

6. Chamaegastrodia reiekensis

Scientists from Mizoram University and Manipur University announced the discovery of a new orchid species, *Chamaegastrodia reiekensis*, in the forests of Mizoram. This rare orchid belongs to the genus *Chamaegastrodia* and its discovery highlights the rich biodiversity of Northeast India.

7. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Threaten Himalayan Regions

The Himalayan region witnessed severe Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) in 2025, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and power supply, especially in Nepal and India. Rising temperatures and climate change are accelerating the melting of glaciers, leading to the formation and expansion of glacial lakes, which pose an increasing threat to downstream communities. The frequent occurrence of GLOFs necessitates urgent international collaboration and investment in early warning systems and resilient infrastructure to mitigate future disasters and protect vulnerable populations in these mountainous regions.

8. Turkey Reveals Gazap, the Most Powerful Non-Nuclear Bomb

Turkey unveiled Gazap, the world's most powerful non-nuclear bomb, at IDEF 2025. Weighing 970 kilograms, this thermobaric fragmentation weapon releases nearly 10,000 particles within a one-kilometer radius, generating intense heat and shockwaves that can vaporize targets. Compatible with F-16 and F-4 jets, Gazap surpasses conventional bombs in both precision and destructive power. Alongside Gazap, Turkey also introduced the NEB-2 Ghost, a deep-penetration bomb. These developments highlight Turkey's advancing defense technology,

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amid ongoing humanitarian concerns.

9. DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous Pralay Missile's Range Capabilities

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted range tests of the indigenous quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay' over two days from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The missile precisely struck its targets, confirming its minimum and maximum range capabilities. Developed collaboratively by several DRDO laboratories and industry partners such as Bharat Dynamics and Bharat Electronics, Pralay is equipped with advanced guidance systems and can carry different types of warheads. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and DRDO Chairman Samir Kamat lauded the tests, calling them a significant milestone toward the missile's induction into the Armed Forces.

10. ISRO's GSLV Set to Launch NASA-ISRO NISAR Satellite

The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), developed by ISRO, is a three-stage rocket designed to deliver heavier payloads into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). Measuring 49.13 meters in height, it consists of a solid first stage, a liquid-fueled second stage, and a cryogenic upper stage. Its variants include GSLV Mk I, Mk II—with an indigenous cryogenic engine—and Mk III (LVM-3), India's most powerful launcher. GSLV has successfully carried missions like INSAT, GSAT, NavIC, and Chandrayaan-2, and is now preparing to launch the NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite.

11. India Makes Groundbreaking Discovery of CRIB Blood Group

A previously unknown blood group, named CRIB, has been identified in a 38-year-old woman from Kolar district, Karnataka. Despite her blood type being O Rh+, it was incompatible with all standard blood units, including those from 20

family members. After ten months of research, scientists discovered a new antigen within the Cromer blood group system, officially naming it CRIB. This landmark finding, announced at the ISBT Congress in Milan, underscores India's growing role in rare blood research and transfusion medicine.

12. Rediscovery of Barbados Threadsnake after two decades

The Barbados threadsnake, the world's smallest snake measuring just 4 inches, was feared extinct after nearly two decades without sightings. Rediscovered by Connor Blades and confirmed by experts, this tiny, blind, burrowing snake feeds on termites and ants. First identified in 2008, it had been mistaken for other species. The rediscovery highlights its vital role in the ecosystem and the urgent need for conservation, as Barbados' dwindling forest habitats threaten this rare species and other endemic wildlife.

13. Exercise Divya Drishti Showcases AI-Powered Military Innovations

The Indian Army recently carried out 'Exercise Divya Drishti' in the high-altitude areas of East Sikkim to evaluate cutting-edge military technologies. Soldiers from the Trishakti Corps utilized ground equipment, UAVs, and drones to create realistic combat scenarios. A significant aspect was the use of AI-powered sensors connected with advanced communication networks, enabling secure data transmission, improved situational awareness, and quicker decision-making via a robust sensor-to-shooter connection. The exercise tested the army's preparedness to deploy AI and modern technologies in battle.

14. Indian Navy Welcomes Advanced Project 17A Frigate Himgiri

INS Himgiri, a Nilgiri-class guided-missile frigate under Project 17A, was handed over to the Indian

Navy by GRSE in Kolkata. This vessel is the modern successor to the decommissioned Leander-class INS Himgiri and represents a significant achievement in India's indigenous warship design and manufacturing. Created by the Warship Design Bureau, it is equipped with advanced combat technology, including BrahMos and Barak 8 missiles, and boasts 75% indigenous content. Himgiri showcases India's defense self-reliance with enhanced stealth, survivability, and multi-role abilities, supporting 200+ MSMEs and thousands of jobs.

15. Toxic Metals Detected in Clouds Over Himalayas

A recent study by the Bose Institute has identified toxic heavy metals—cadmium, chromium, copper, and zinc in clouds over the Eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats, with significantly higher levels in the Eastern region due to vehicular and industrial emissions. These monsoon-season clouds act as carriers, transporting pollutants to higher altitudes and posing notable health risks, especially for children. Published in *Environmental Advances*, the research questions the assumed purity of mountain rainwater and underscores the urgent need for deeper investigation into atmospheric pollution in India.

Miscellaneous

1.NCERT to Introduce Curriculum Modules on Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Operation Sindoor

In a landmark step to make school education more contextual, contemporary, and rooted in national identity, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is set to introduce curriculum modules on Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Operation Sindoor. This initiative aims to educate students about India's defense capabilities and space achievements.

2.New Bush Frog Species Discovered in Meghalaya

Recent research has led to the discovery of two new bush frog species in Meghalaya's Khasi Hills. Named *Raorchestes jadoh* and *Raorchestes jakoid*, these species pay tribute to local culture and dialect. This discovery highlights the rich biodiversity of the Northeastern region of India and the importance of continued ecological surveys and conservation efforts to protect these unique ecosystems and their endemic species from habitat loss and climate change.

3.Kaziranga Biodiversity Crisis

Recent efforts in Kaziranga National Park have focused on a comprehensive bird census to assess the status of grassland bird species. This initiative is crucial as grassland birds are facing a severe crisis due to habitat degradation and encroachment, posing a threat to the park's overall biodiversity. The census aims to provide vital data for developing targeted conservation strategies and restoring the ecological balance within the park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its unique ecosystem.

4. Famine Risk and Food Crisis in Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip faces a severe food crisis in 2025. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reports that a third of Gaza's population is going days without food, highlighting an urgent humanitarian catastrophe. The ongoing conflict, restrictions on aid access, and crippled infrastructure have exacerbated the crisis, necessitating immediate international intervention to prevent widespread famine and ensure the delivery of essential food supplies to the affected population.

5.Environmental Impact of AI

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now deeply embedded in many sectors. Its use spans customer service, logistics, finance, and product development. While AI's capabilities are widely celebrated, its environmental footprint,

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particularly its substantial energy consumption for data processing and training complex models, is a growing concern. This raises questions about the sustainability of AI development and the need for more energy-efficient algorithms and hardware, as well as renewable energy sources for AI infrastructure, to mitigate its ecological impact.

6. Gujarat's Samras Gram Panchayats

Gujarat recently observed a unique electoral phenomenon where 761 out of 4,564 Gram Panchayats bypassed traditional voting processes. These villages, designated as 'Samras Panchayats', chose their leaders through consensus, demonstrating a community-driven approach to local governance. This method promotes unity and reduces electoral friction, potentially leading to more cohesive village development, and serves as an interesting model for democratic participation at the grassroots level.

7. SPARSH Pension System

Since its launch by the Ministry of Defence, the System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH) aims to streamline pension delivery for Indian military veterans. However, many ex-servicemen report ongoing challenges and difficulties in accessing their pensions, indicating that despite the system's intent, practical implementation issues persist. These challenges highlight the need for further refinement and support mechanisms to ensure that the SPARSH system effectively serves its intended beneficiaries and provides timely and hassle-free pension disbursement to veterans.

8. Mangalore Student Sets 170-Hour Bharatanatyam Record

Remona Evette Pereira, a 20-year-old Mangalore student, broke the world record by performing Bharatanatyam nonstop for 170 hours, securing a spot in the Golden Book of World Records. Her

week-long performance, reflecting spiritual dedication and cultural heritage, was honored by religious leaders and the local community. Having trained for 13 years under Guru Sri Vidya, Remona's achievement represents the harmony between different faiths and highlights Indian classical dance as a unifying cultural force.

9. Global Tiger Day Highlights India's Environmental Initiatives

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav announced that India's tiger reserves have grown from 46 in 2014 to 58 in 2025 during the Global Tiger Day event. He also launched a nationwide tree-planting campaign, planting over 100,000 saplings across the reserves, and urged citizens to participate in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative. India continues to lead global big cat conservation through the International Big Cat Alliance, involving 24 countries. Efforts like plastic-free reserves and the youth-focused Mission LIFE promote sustainable conservation and environmental responsibility.

10. Anant Ambani named Executive Director of RIL

Anant Mukesh Ambani has been named Executive Director of Reliance Industries Limited for a five-year term beginning May 1, 2025, following board approval on April 25 and ratification by shareholders. Previously a nonexecutive director, he has been serving on the boards of Jio Platforms (since March 2020), Reliance New Energy and Reliance New Solar Energy (since June 2021), Reliance Retail Ventures (since May 2022), and the Reliance Foundation (since September 2022). A Brown University alumnus, he will lead the firm's initiatives in renewable energy, clean fuels, carbon capture, circular materials, and crudetochemicals conversion, aligning with the group's strategic succession planning and sustainability goals.

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11. RBI Reports Significant Digital Payments Index Increase

The Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) rose to 493.22 in March 2025 from 465.33 in September 2024, reflecting growing digital payment adoption. Launched in January 2021 with March 2018 as the base year (score 100), the DPI measures digitisation across the country. It considers five parameters: payment enablers, demand- and supply-side infrastructure, payment performance, and consumer centricity, each with weighted sub-indicators, providing a comprehensive view of digital payment penetration in India.

12. Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh Named Army Vice Chief

Lt Gen Pushpendra Singh, a distinguished officer with over 35 years of service, is set to assume the role of Vice Chief of the Army Staff on August 1, 2025, succeeding Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani. Commissioned into the 4 Para (Special Forces) in 1987, he has participated in major operations including Pawan, Meghdoot, Rakshak, and Orchid. His experience also includes UN peacekeeping missions in Lebanon and Sri Lanka, along with commanding the Rising Star Corps. His appointment highlights his expertise in managing evolving security challenges and modernization efforts.

13. India Post Payments Bank Launches Aadhaar Face Authentication Nationwide

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has introduced Aadhaar-based face authentication across the country to enhance banking accessibility for the elderly, differently-abled, and individuals with biometric challenges. Created in collaboration with UIDAI, this technology enables customers to complete transactions using facial recognition, removing the need for fingerprints or OTPs. It facilitates services such as account opening, fund transfers, and payments, promoting faster, safer, and contactless banking. Supporting

Digital India and financial inclusion initiatives, IPPB reaches over 11 crore customers via its vast postal network in both rural and urban areas.

14. World Lung Cancer Day Stresses Early Detection

World Lung Cancer Day, marked annually on August 1, highlights the vital need for awareness, early detection, and prevention of one of the most lethal forms of cancer worldwide. Lung cancer frequently remains undetected until later stages and affects both smokers and non-smokers due to factors like air pollution, occupational exposure, radon gas, and genetics. Because early symptoms are often mild or overlooked, timely screening is vital. Advances in therapies such as immunotherapy and precision radiotherapy bring new hope, while awareness and myth-busting can greatly enhance survival rates.

15. Sanjay Vatsayan Assumes Role as Naval Vice Chief

Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan took charge as the 47th Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, paying homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. Commissioned in 1988, he is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Systems with over three decades of service. He has commanded multiple warships and led the Eastern Fleet during critical maritime operations following the Galwan incident. Recipient of the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2021, he has also served as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, advancing joint operations and indigenization.

16. PMNDP Expands Dialysis Services to All Districts

The Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) has extended its reach to all 36 States and Union Territories, operating 1,704 centres across 751 districts. Implemented under the National Health Mission, the programme offers free haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis

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services to patients suffering from end-stage kidney failure. Its growth is based on annual gap assessments by States and UTs. Originally centered on district hospitals, the initiative now also includes Community Health Centres in remote and tribal regions, ensuring broader and equitable dialysis access nationwide.

