

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST

NEW

UPDATE

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MONTHLY GK DIGEST ONE LINER : APRIL 2025

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MAURITIUS BECOMES THE 1ST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO SIGN ISA'S PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

- This makes **Mauritius the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba**, to adopt the CPF.
- Key Highlights
- Objective: The CPF aims to **accelerate the clean energy transition through** joint solar energy projects and structured collaboration.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Development of solar roadmaps.
 - Promotion of solar technologies like floating solar, rooftop solar, and solar water pumping systems

UAE ASSUMES CHAIR OF INTERPOL'S COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE

- **Lieutenant Colonel Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi**, Director General of the International Affairs Office, secured 67% of votes from INTERPOL member states during the session held at INTERPOL's headquarters in Lyon, France.
- **Highlights:**
 - The UAE is the first country to chair this newly established standing committee, formed at the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly in Glasgow in late 2024.
 - The committee focuses on enhancing INTERPOL's governance structure, including reviewing statutes and regulations.
 - The UAE will lead discussions, facilitate decision-making, and coordinate between member states during its two-year term.

WEF 2025 YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS

- Among the honorees, **seven Indians stood out for their remarkable contributions:**
- **Ram Mohan Naidu** – Union Minister, recognized for his leadership in governance and policymaking.
- **Ritesh Agarwal** – Founder of OYO, honored for transforming the hospitality sector and driving innovation.
- **Nipun Malhotra** – Founder of Nipman Foundation, celebrated for his advocacy in disability inclusion and accessibility.
- **Alok Medikepura Anil** – Innovator at Next Big Innovation Labs, focused on advancements in biotechnology and lab-grown solutions.

- **Natarajan Sankar** – Consultant with Boston Consulting Group, known for his expertise in business sustainability and strategy.
- **Manasi Subramaniam** – Editorial lead at Penguin Random House, for her contributions to publishing and intellectual culture.
- **Anurag Maloo** – Founder of Climbing4SDGs, recognized for his global efforts in promoting sustainable development through adventure sports.

INDIA TOOK PART IN GITEX AFRICA 2025, THE LARGEST TECH AND STARTUP EVENT IN AFRICA

- **Key Details & Organizers:**
 - **Organizer:** Hosted by Kaoun International, the event arm of Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC).
 - **Chairperson:** Moroccan Minister of Digital Transition Ghita Mezzour led the discussions.
 - **Theme:** Digital Africa – Innovation, Inclusion, Transformation.
- **India's Participation:**
- **Delegation Head:** Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary led India's delegation.
- **Technological Showcase:** India highlighted Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, and AI-driven skilling initiatives.
- **AI Leadership:** India emphasized its 33.39% YoY growth in AI talent, reinforcing its position as a global AI hub.
- **Collaborations:** India engaged with African ministers to discuss AI expansion, digital inclusion, and tech transfer opportunities.

CHINA INTRODUCES GOLD ATMS IN SHANGHAI FOR INSTANT GOLD-TO-CASH CONVERSION

- These machines, **developed by the Kinghood Group**, analyze, weigh, melt, and assess the purity of gold items, such as jewelry, on the spot.
- After evaluation, **the equivalent cash value is transferred directly to the user's bank account** within 30 minutes.
- The ATMs accept **gold items with a minimum weight of 3 grams and at least 50% purity**, ensuring both accuracy and user accessibility.

- This initiative has become popular **amid soaring gold prices, offering a fast and secure option** for those looking to liquidate their gold assets.

ON APRIL 17, 2024, UNESCO ADDED 16 NEW SITES TO ITS GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

- **Number of New Sites:** 16 geoparks added, bringing the total to 229 sites across 50 countries.
- **Participating Countries:** Included China, North Korea, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, the UK, and Vietnam.
- **New Members:** Saudi Arabia and North Korea joined the network for the first time.
- **Purpose:** Recognizes areas with significant geological heritage to promote conservation, education, and sustainable tourism.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS-ONE LINER

- Russia unveiled **the Zircon hypersonic missile** on April 1, 2025, emphasizing its capability of reaching speeds up to Mach 9. Designed for precision strikes, it can target naval and land assets, making interception nearly impossible. Integrated into platforms like Yasen-M submarines, it boosts Russia's naval dominance.
- On April 2, 2025, **the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement** (Ind-Aus ECTA) marked its third anniversary. It boosted bilateral trade to USD 24 billion in 2023-24, with a 14% rise in India's exports to Australia. Key beneficiaries include sectors like textiles, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals, alongside emerging exports such as Calcined Petroleum Coke.
- On April 3, 2025, **India and Thailand signed six agreements across sectors** like digital technology, maritime heritage, MSMEs, and handlooms. These agreements aim to enhance cultural ties, strategic partnerships, and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- India was elected **to the United Nations Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting** (UN ISAR) for the 2025–2027 term on April 6, 2025. This appointment under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) focuses on improving transparency and uniformity in global accounting and reporting practices.

- Brazil proposed **the creation of a UN-backed Global Climate Action Council on April 6, 2025**, under the UNFCCC framework. The council aims to accelerate climate action and improve decision-making ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- Hungary **announced its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC) on April 3, 2025**, during Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Budapest. PM Viktor Orbán cited the ICC's alleged politicization as the reason for this decision.
- On April 3, **2025, FIFA announced that the USA will host the 2031 Women's World Cup**, with the UK hosting in 2035. The USA's event marks its third time as host, while it will be the UK's first. Both nations were sole bidders, ensuring smooth approval for their roles.
- India and Russia have **agreed on six new strategic initiatives to enhance bilateral investment cooperation**. This decision was made during the 8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP), held in New Delhi on April 9, 2025. The initiatives aim to strengthen economic ties and foster collaboration across sectors of mutual interest.
- **India and Israel signed an Agriculture Cooperation Agreement** on April 8, 2025, in New Delhi to boost agricultural productivity. It focuses on soil and water management, post-harvest technology, and farm mechanization. Key initiatives include expanding Centers of Excellence and introducing Villages of Excellence.
- On April 10, 2025, **Syria and South Korea established formal diplomatic relations in Damascus**. The agreement aims to strengthen ties, promote Syrian reconstruction, and ease international sanctions. This milestone supports Syria's global reintegration under its transitional government. Notably, South Korea now has diplomatic relations with all 191 UN member states, excluding North Korea.
- **Bangladesh signed the Artemis Accords with NASA on April 8, 2025, in Dhaka**, becoming the 54th nation to join the initiative for peaceful space exploration. The accords promote transparent, sustainable, and non-military use of outer space resources. Bangladesh aims to leverage advanced space technologies for disaster management and scientific research.
- The **8th Session of the India-Russia Working Group on Priority Investment Projects (IRWG-PIP)** took place in New Delhi on April 9, 2025, under the Intergovernmental Commission framework. Its aim was to boost bilateral investment, focusing on trade, technology, and cultural collaboration.
- India **participated in the Mission Innovation Annual Gathering 2025** held in Seoul, South Korea from April 9 to 11, 2025. India showcased its BioE3 Policy and Integrated Biorefinery Mission, co-led with the Netherlands, focusing on clean energy innovation. Discussions highlighted sustainable biomanufacturing, carbon capture, and bioenergy technologies.
- **WHO member states finalized a historic pandemic agreement on April 16, 2025**, after over three years of negotiations. This draft agreement, aimed at strengthening global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, will be presented at the 78th World Health Assembly in May for adoption.
- The **2028 Los Angeles Olympics cricket competition will be held at the Fairgrounds in Pomona**, California, approximately 50 km east of Los Angeles. This temporary venue, known as Fairplex, will host T20 matches with six men's and six women's teams.
- India and G4 nations (**Brazil, Germany, Japan**) **opposed religion-based seat allocation** in a reformed UN Security Council during discussions on April 16, 2025. India emphasized regional representation over religious affiliation, countering suggestions like the Islamic Ummah proposal by OIC and Turkey.
- On April 17, 2025, India **signed the Headquarters Agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to host its Secretariat permanently. India committed ₹150 crore for infrastructure and operational costs over five years. The agreement includes provisions for visas and privileges for IBCA staff.
- On April 17, 2025, **the United States informed the WTO that its steel and aluminum tariffs** were imposed under Section 232 for national security reasons. It rejected India's claim that these tariffs act as safeguard measures requiring WTO consultations.
- The **2025 TIME 100 Most Influential People list, released on April 17, 2025**, features global icons like Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Muhammad Yunus, but no Indian nationals were included. However,

Indian-origin Reshma Kewalramani was recognized for her achievements in biotechnology.

- India and 62 other **nations agreed on the world's first global carbon tax for the shipping industry** at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in London on April 12, 2025. The tax aims to reduce shipping's 3% global emissions by promoting cleaner fuels, effective from 2028. It could generate \$40 billion by 2030 for decarbonizing shipping.
- India **announced USD 990,000 funding for Sierra Leone's disability empowerment project** on April 11, 2025. The initiative aims to promote sustainable livelihoods through training, work cooperatives, and technology adoption. The project is part of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, implemented with UNDP support.
- A parliamentary **investigation in Nepal revealed massive corruption** in the China-financed Pokhara International Airport project on April 20, 2025, with embezzlement totaling Rs. 14 billion. Irregularities included inflated costs and tax exemptions, raising concerns about China's infrastructure model. Built with a Rs. 22 billion loan, the airport struggles to attract international flights.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) **joined the Santiago Network on April 23, 2025**, under the UNFCCC, to address climate-related loss and damage. This move enhances global cooperation by providing technical assistance and boosting disaster resilience in vulnerable nations. It aligns with mechanisms like the Warsaw International Mechanism and the Loss and Damage Fund.
- Iran has **declared April 28, 2025, as a national day of mourning after the Shahid Rajaei Port explosion** on April 26 in Bandar Abbas. The tragedy claimed over 65 lives and injured 1,200 people, prompting international condolences. Rescue efforts are ongoing, and investigations into the cause are underway.
- On April 30, **2025, the United States and Ukraine signed a new economic partnership agreement** to support Ukraine's reconstruction. The U.S. will receive preferential access to Ukraine's rare earth minerals vital for clean energy and defense technologies. A joint investment fund will be created, with 50% of profits from new mineral licenses supporting Ukraine's recovery.

NATIONAL NEWS

INDIA BOOSTS CHIP MANUFACTURING WITH FISCAL AID, GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS, AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT"

- **Key highlights of the initiative include:**
 - **Fiscal Support:** Up to 50% of project costs covered for setting up semiconductor fabs, display fabs, and other facilities.
 - **Global Collaborations:** MoUs signed with countries like the USA, European Union, Japan, and Singapore to bolster India's semiconductor ecosystem.
 - **Talent Development:** Programs like Chips to Startup (C2S) aim to train 85,000 professionals, introducing new curricula for semiconductor technology in B.Tech and diploma courses.
- The **programme's goal is to establish India as a global hub for semiconductor** innovation and manufacturing, boosting economic resilience and technological advancement.

IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGNERS BILL, 2025 BECOMES LAW WITH PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT

- **Key Features:**
 - **Bureau of Immigration:** Establishes a centralized body to oversee visa issuance, entry, stay, and exit of foreigners.
 - **Stricter Penalties:** Violations like using fake passports or overstaying visas can result in fines up to ₹10 lakh and imprisonment.
 - **Enhanced Monitoring:** Hotels, universities, and hospitals must report details of foreigners to authorities.
 - **Streamlined Visa Processes:** E-visas remain available for citizens of 167 countries, with visa-on-arrival options for Japan, South Korea, and UAE nationals.
 - **National Security Focus:** Empowers authorities to restrict access to sensitive areas and enforce compliance.

IEPFA & IPPB LAUNCH PHASE 2 OF 'NIVESHAK DIDI' FOR RURAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

- This **program aims to enhance financial literacy among rural women by training 40,000 women postal workers as financial educators.**
- **Key Highlights:**
- **Phase 1 Success:** Over 55,000 beneficiaries were reached, with 60% being women from rural areas.
- **Phase 2 Goals:** Conduct 4,000 financial literacy camps across India, focusing on responsible investing, fraud awareness, savings habits, and digital banking tools.
- **Empowerment Focus:** The initiative emphasizes grassroots mobilization to empower women and transform communities.

PM MODI LAUNCHES ₹10,000 CRORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN HARYANA

- The **event marked the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar**, adding special significance.
- **Key projects include:**
 - **Third thermal unit of 800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, Yamunanagar:** Enhancing Haryana's power generation capacity.
 - **Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant** under the GOBARdhan Yojana: Promoting clean energy and waste-to-wealth initiatives.
 - **Rewari Bypass:** Improving regional connectivity and easing traffic congestion.
- These projects aim to **boost clean energy, power infrastructure**, and transport facilities in the state, fostering overall economic growth and sustainability.

CENTRE HAS INTRODUCED NEW RULES FOR MEASURING RADAR SPEED TO INCREASE ROAD SAFETY

- **Mandatory Verification:** All radar devices used for measuring vehicle speeds must be verified and stamped by Legal Metrology authorities before use, ensuring their accuracy and calibration.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The new rules will come into effect from July 1, 2025, giving enforcement agencies time to comply with the guidelines.
- **Objective:** These rules aim to prevent false speed readings, which often result in erroneous fines, and to promote public trust in traffic enforcement measures.
- **Promoting Safety:** This initiative will help curb speeding, reduce traffic violations, and strengthen

legal accountability, aligning with India's broader road safety goals.

THE NUMBER OF PAN CARDS ISSUED TO INDIVIDUALS UNDER 30 YEARS OLD GREW BY 69%

- **Key Factors Behind the Growth:**
 - **Increase in Digital Transactions:** The rise of UPI, fintech services, and e-commerce has made PAN cards essential for financial activities.
 - **Government Initiatives:** Programs like Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) encouraged more young people to enter the formal banking system.
 - **Mandatory PAN-Aadhaar Linking:** Regulatory changes made PAN cards a necessity for tax filing, investments, and employment verification.
 - **Gender Inclusion:** The male-to-female PAN allotment ratio improved from 1.96 in FY14 to 1.31 in FY25, reflecting higher financial participation by women.

INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST INDIGENOUS HPV TEST KITS FOR CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

- Developed **under the Department of Biotechnology's (DBT) initiative**, these kits are part of the Grand Challenges India (GCI) program at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- **Key highlights include:**
 - Rapid, point-of-care testing using RT-PCR technology.
 - Targeting the 7–8 most common cancer-causing HPV types for efficient and cost-effective screening.
 - Validation through multicentric clinical studies conducted by institutions like AIIMS Delhi, NICPR Noida, and NIRRCH Mumbai, in collaboration with WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

MP BECOMES 1ST STATE IN INDIA TO LAUNCH AI-BASED REAL-TIME FOREST ALERT SYSTEM

- **Key Features:**

- **AI & Satellite Integration:** Uses Google Earth Engine and machine learning to detect land encroachment, deforestation, and unauthorized land use changes.
- **Real-Time Alerts:** Automatically sends alerts to forest officials via a mobile app, enabling quick verification and response.
- **Pilot Implementation:** Initially deployed in five forest divisions—Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Burhanpur, and Khandwa—before statewide expansion.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Each alert includes GPS-tagged images, voice recordings, and vegetation indices (NDVI, SAVI, EVI, SAR) to improve accuracy.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- The Telangana **government launched a program to provide fine rice free of cost** through ration shops under the PDS starting April 1, 2025. Benefiting over 3.10 crore people, eligible cardholders receive 6 kg fine rice per person per month.
- **Rajgir, Bihar, will host the Hero Asia Cup Hockey 2025** from August 29 to September 7, 2025, at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium. The tournament will feature eight teams, including India, Pakistan, and Japan, serving as a qualifier for the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.
- On **April 1, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu released a commemorative stamp to celebrate RBI's 90th** anniversary at Mumbai's NCPA. The stamp depicts RBI's journey from its Kolkata headquarters to its present Mumbai headquarters. It highlights RBI's theme, "Stability. Trust. Growth."
- On 1st April 2025, The **ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (ICAR-CTCRI) developed a new biofortified** sweet potato variety, SP-95/4, to enhance tribal food security. This orange-fleshed, pink-skinned sweet potato is rich in beta-carotene (8 mg/100g), addressing Vitamin A deficiency prevalent in tribal regions.
- On **April 2, 2025, the Rajya Sabha considered and passed the Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025**, following its approval by the Lok Sabha on March 27, 2025. This Bill replaces outdated laws like the Foreigners Act, 1946, introducing provisions for mandatory registration, visa regulations, and

penalties. It aims to streamline immigration processes and ensure national security.

- On April 2, 2025, **the DoT intensified anti-spam efforts under the Jan Bhagidari initiative, disconnecting** 1.75 lakh unauthorized DID numbers linked to spam. Citizens can report Unsolicited Commercial Communications (UCC) through the Chakshu module in Sanchar Saathi.
- Union Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the second edition of Startup Mahakumbh** on April 3, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organized by DPIIT, it hosts 3,000 startups and 1,000 investors, fostering innovation in AI, HealthTech, and other sectors. The event emphasizes tribal entrepreneurship, showcasing over 45 tribal startups. It aims to strengthen India's global startup ecosystem.
- The Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that January 2025 was the hottest January globally, with an average temperature of 13.23°C, 0.79°C above the 1991-2020 average. This marked 18 of 19 months exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, the Arctic sea ice extent was the lowest on record for January.
- On April 3, 2025, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) announced a record addition of 25 GW renewable energy capacity in FY25. This marks a 35% growth from the previous year, with solar energy contributing 21 GW. India's total installed solar capacity also crossed the 100 GW milestone.
- On April 2, 2025, **Paradip Port retained its No. 1 position in cargo handling among** Indian ports, achieving a record 150.41 million metric tonnes. It joined the prestigious 150 MMT Club, showcasing 3.5% growth from FY 2023-24. Coastal cargo accounted for 42.36%, and containerized cargo grew by 111%.
- On April 2, 2025, the Ministry of Railways announced that India produced 1,681 locomotives in FY25, surpassing the combined output of the USA and Europe. This marked a 19% growth compared to FY24's production of 1,472 locomotives. Major contributors included Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (700 units) and Banaras Locomotive Works (477 units).
- On April 4, 2025, **the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was passed by Parliament** after approval in the Rajya Sabha. The Bill received 128 votes in favor and

95 against and focuses on enhancing the governance of Waqf properties. It introduces technology-driven management and better coordination with local authorities to ensure transparency and heritage protection.

- On April 3, **2025, India finalized the concept design for its first Bharat Small Modular Reactor (BSMR-200)**, a 200 MWe pressurized water reactor. Developed by BARC and NPCIL, it is designed for energy-intensive industries and remote areas with advanced safety features.
- On April 3, 2025, **Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched expeditions to Mount Everest** and Mount Kangchenjunga in New Delhi. The Indian Army teams, including Lt. Col. Manoj Joshi for Everest and Col. Sarfaraz Singh for Kangchenjunga, aim to inspire youth through mountaineering. A joint NCC Everest expedition also includes 5 girl cadets and 5 boy cadets, showcasing India's leadership in high-altitude exploration.
- Union **Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament Festival 2025** in New Delhi on April 2, 2025. This national event featured debates on critical topics like One Nation, One Election, with 105 finalists participating. It aimed to inspire leadership among youth while strengthening democratic engagement. The festival concluded with the National Youth Awards and Youth Parliament Awards 2025.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Railway Protection Force (RPF)** have teamed up to improve mobile phone security for train passengers in India. Announced around April 3, 2025, the collaboration integrates the DoT's Sanchar Saathi CEIR portal with RPF's efforts to track and recover lost or stolen phones reported via Rail Madad or helpline 139.
- On April 3, **2025, HIL Ltd, part of the CK Birla Group, rebranded itself as BirlaNu Ltd** to emphasize innovation and sustainability. With 32 manufacturing facilities across India and Europe, it aims to strengthen its global presence. The company focuses on advanced solutions like Organic Based Stabilizers (OBS) and significant capacity expansion.
- The Coastal Shipping Bill, **2024 was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 3, 2025, aiming to enhance coastal trade and green transport**. Introduced by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the bill includes provisions for licensing foreign vessels and

developing a National Coastal Shipping Strategic Plan.

- On April 3, **2025, Parliament passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025**, aligning Indian aviation laws with the Cape Town Convention of 2001. The bill reduces aircraft leasing costs, boosts investor confidence, and ensures legal clarity for aviation financing.
- The Protection of **Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 was passed by Parliament** on April 3, 2025, aligning India's aviation ecosystem with the Cape Town Convention. Introduced by Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, the bill aims to reduce aircraft leasing costs, **boost investor confidence, and streamline leasing processes**.
- **On April 2, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved four railway projects with an investment of ₹18,658 crore**, covering 15 districts in Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. These projects will add 1,247 km to the railway network, reducing congestion and boosting freight capacity. Part of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan, they aim to improve connectivity and drive economic growth.
- On April 6, **2025, seven West Bengal products earned GI tags, bringing the state's total to 39**. Highlights include Nolen Gurer Sandesh (a jaggery-based sweet), Baruipur Guavas, and Malda's Nistari Silk Yarn. This recognition boosts their market value, supports artisans, and preserves cultural heritage.
- Rama Navami, **celebrated on April 6, 2025, marks the birth anniversary of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu**. This auspicious day coincides with the ninth day of Chaitra Navratri and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.
- On April 4, 2025, India **launched a study titled "Building a Surveillance Model for Detecting Zoonotic Spillover Using the One Health Approach"** at ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi. The study targets zoonotic diseases in bird sanctuaries and wetlands across Sikkim, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.
- On April 4, 2025, **the Haryana government declared Harappan sites in Tighrana and Mitathal villages as protected monuments**. These sites, dating back over 4,400 years, are part of the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization, showcasing ancient artifacts and settlement remains.
- On April 4, 2025, **Meghalaya CM Conrad Kongkal Sangma launched the Disaster and Relief Monitoring System (DRMS) in Shillong**. Developed by

the Revenue and Disaster Management Department and NIC Meghalaya, it enables real-time disaster reporting, automated relief workflows, and transparent fund disbursement integrated with PFMS.

- On April 4, 2025, a **Chola inscription dating back to Rajaraja Chola I was discovered atop Somagiri Hills**, near Madurai. It mentions Viranarana Pallavarayan, a commander who captured the region, and Malaiyappa Sambu, who built steps to a hill temple.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Pamban Rail Bridge on April 6, 2025, in Tamil Nadu. This 2.08-km vertical-lift sea bridge, India's first of its kind, connects Rameswaram Island to the mainland. Built at a cost of ₹531 crore, it enhances rail connectivity, supports maritime navigation, and boosts trade and tourism.
- On April 5, 2025, **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off INS Sunayna as the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR** at Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka. The mission, under the SAGAR initiative (Security and Growth for All in the Region), aims to enhance regional maritime security and cooperation. It includes visits to ports like Dar-es-Salaam, Nacala, Port Louis, and Port Victoria.
- The US Supreme **Court rejected Tahawwur Rana's plea to halt his extradition to India on April 7, 2025**. Rana, accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, is a Canadian national of Pakistani origin.
- On April 8, 2025, **PM Narendra Modi celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** by interacting with beneficiaries in New Delhi. The scheme has disbursed over ₹33 lakh crore in collateral-free loans, benefiting 52 crore people, with 70% being women.
- On April 7, 2025, **Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated the renovated tribal museum at ITDA headquarters, Bhadrachalam**. Showcasing over 200 artefacts, the museum reflects Adivasi cultural heritage through tools, instruments, and handicrafts. Renovated at a cost of ₹50 lakhs, it now features spaces resembling a tribal hamlet.
- Starting 2025-26 for class 9 and 2026-27 for class 10, the Haryana School Education Board, Bhiwani introduces the three-language formula. Students must study Hindi and English as compulsory languages, plus a third language (Sanskrit, Urdu, or Punjabi). This initiative, aligned with NEP 2020, aims to enhance linguistic skills and cultural awareness.

- As of April 7, 2025, **over 1,700 Anganwadi-cum-Crèches are operational across India** under the Palna Scheme, benefiting children aged 6 months to 6 years. The scheme supports working mothers with childcare, nutrition, health monitoring, and cognitive development. It operates on a 60:40 funding ratio (Centre to States), except for special category states, which follow a 90:10 ratio.
- **Exercise SARVSHAKTI was conducted on April 5, 2025, in the Northeastern** sector of India by the Indian Army's Trishakti Corps. Its aim was to showcase Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) capabilities, focusing on interoperability, advanced reconnaissance, and battlefield decision-making. The highlights included the use of AI-enabled platforms, drones, and autonomous systems, paving the way for future Multi-Domain Operations (MDO).
- On April 5, 2025, **the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) held a webinar** and launched initiatives for rural women empowerment. Key efforts included the Entrepreneurship Planning Digital Tool (EPDT) and a helpline for women entrepreneurs (0120-5202521). Infrastructure projects under PM-JANMAN Mission were also announced to boost connectivity in Tripura and Odisha.
- On April 8, 2025, **Union Minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Himalayan High Altitude Atmospheric & Climate Research Centre** in Nathatop, Udhampur, J&K. The centre will focus on studying climate phenomena and advancing understanding of climate change. It also launched the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Project ICE-CRUNCH, in collaboration with ETH Zürich, Switzerland.
- The Palna Scheme **under Mission Shakti, highlighted on April 7, 2025, focuses on** women empowerment and child care. It provides day-care services for children aged 6 months to 6 years, ensuring nutrition, safety, and cognitive development. The scheme supports working mothers, enabling them to pursue employment. It was reorganized from the National Creche Scheme in 2022.
- On April 8, 2025, **IIT Kharagpur released a study highlighting the impact of surface ozone** pollution on India's key food crops like wheat, rice, and maize. The Indo-Gangetic Plain and Central India are particularly vulnerable. Under high-emission scenarios, wheat yields could decline by 20%, and rice and maize by around 7%.

- Mahavir Jayanti, celebrated on April 10, 2025, honors the birth of Lord Mahavir, Jainism's 24th Tirthankara. Devotees reflect on his teachings of non-violence, truth, and non-possessiveness. Rituals, processions, and charitable acts are organized at Jain temples.
- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), has launched the India Skills Accelerator initiative on April 8, 2025. This program aims to address India's skill gaps and prepare a future-ready workforce by fostering collaboration between public and private sectors.
- Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu inaugurated the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) Laboratory at the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) in Udaan Bhawan, New Delhi, on April 9, 2025. This state-of-the-art facility, also known as the "Black Box Lab," was established with an investment of ₹9 crore.
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) partnered with IIT Hyderabad on April 8, 2025, to enhance shipbuilding using AI and Digital Twin Technologies. The collaboration aims to optimize vessel design, improve shipyard security, and deploy advanced surveillance solutions like Geospatial AI.
- The National Tribal Youth Festival is being celebrated at the State Tribal Resource Centre, Kelsih, near Aizawl, Mizoram, from April 8 to April 11, 2025. This festival commemorates the 150th birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda and aims to honor tribal heritage and foster cultural unity.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) announced a ₹61,077 crore investment to build a petrochemical complex in Paradip, Odisha, unveiled on April 8, 2025. The project includes a dual-feed cracker and units for producing petrochemicals like polypropylene and PVC. It aims to reduce import dependence and boost industrial growth. Operations are expected to begin by 2029.
- The Maharashtra Government renamed Khultabad to Ratnapur on April 8, 2025, as part of efforts to revive pre-Mughal names. The historic town, near Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, is home to Aurangzeb's tomb.
- Milkfed launched the 'Veera' mascot on April 10, 2025, in Amritsar to promote its Verka dairy brand nationwide. The mascot, depicting a cheerful Sikh boy, enhances brand visibility and consumer connection. The event also marked the foundation stone-laying for a ₹135 crore production project. Verka aims to expand into e-commerce and introduce new dairy products.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched and laid the foundation for development projects worth ₹3,880 crore in Varanasi on April 11, 2025. These projects span infrastructure, education, rural development, and urban beautification. Key initiatives include new roads, flyovers, drinking water schemes, Anganwadi centers, and libraries, alongside enhancements in power supply and sports facilities.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Badnawar-Ujjain National Highway on April 10, 2025, in Madhya Pradesh. This 69.1 km four-lane highway, built under the Bharatmala Project, cost ₹1,352 crore. It improves connectivity and reduces travel time between Ujjain and Badnawar. The project aims to boost regional economic growth.
- On April 11, 2025, Meghalaya's Ryndia silk and Khasi handloom products received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Known for being handwoven, naturally dyed, and organically produced, they showcase the region's sustainable and traditional craftsmanship. The initiative, led by the Meghalaya Department of Textiles, promotes "Brand Meghalaya" globally.
- Hanuman Jayanti, celebrated on April 12, 2025, marks the birth of Lord Hanuman, a symbol of strength, devotion, and selflessness. This auspicious day falls on the full moon (Purnima) of the Hindu month of Chaitra.
- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced the winners of the Theme Music Competition on April 11, 2025. This contest highlighted the theme, "India's vibrant rhythms," celebrating both classical and contemporary styles. The winners will be honored at the WAVES Summit 2025, scheduled from May 1–4 in Mumbai.
- The Telangana government launched the AI Rising Grand Challenge on April 10, 2025, to address critical public sector issues. Inaugurated by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the initiative aims to foster AI-driven solutions in sectors like education, healthcare, and public transport.
- The Union Health Minister inaugurated the Central Research Laboratory at AIIMS Bhubaneswar on April

12, 2025, to promote advanced medical research and innovation. The event also marked the foundation stone laying for a new Gastronomy Block to enhance campus facilities.

- On April 11, **2025, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) launched STELLAR, a cutting-edge resource adequacy planning tool.** Designed to optimize generation, transmission, storage expansion, and demand response, it aims to ensure zero load shedding and cost-effective power solutions. Developed with support from The Lantau Group and Asian Development Bank.
- The first **AVGC-XR Institute of India will be set up at Dadasaheb Phalke Film City, Mumbai, as announced on April 11, 2025.** It focuses on Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality, with a budget of ₹391.15 crore. The institute is a joint effort by the Government of India, Government of Maharashtra, and industry bodies like FICCI and CII.
- Nagaland **launched the Solar Mission on April 14, 2025, to boost residential rooftop solar power systems adoption.** Aligned with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, it offers subsidies up to 96% for systems up to 2 kW, and 85% for systems up to **3 kW. This initiative aims to tackle power deficits and promote affordable green energy.**
- On April 14, **2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects in Haryana to honor Dr. BR Ambedkar's 134th birth anniversary.** Key initiatives included an 800 MW thermal power unit in Yamuna Nagar, a compressed biogas plant, and Hisar Airport's new terminal building.
- On April 14, **2025, the central government introduced draft regulations for gas meters under the Legal Metrology Rules, 2011.** These regulations mandate testing, verification, and stamping to ensure accurate billing and consumer protection. They also require periodic re-verification to maintain reliability in gas measurement.
- On April 14, 2025, **Telangana became the first Indian state to implement the Scheduled Caste (SC) Categorisation of Reservations Act, 2025.** This Act categorizes 59 SC sub-castes into three groups, ensuring equitable distribution of the 15% reservation in education and employment. It was enacted following the Governor's assent and recommendations by a judicial commission.
- The Ayodhya **Parv 2025, held from April 11 to 13 at IGNCA, New Delhi, celebrates Ayodhya's cultural**

and spiritual heritage. Organized by IGNCA and Shri Ayodhya Nyas, it features exhibitions, performances, and discussions. Highlights include Valmiki Ramayana miniature paintings and temple management symposiums.

- The Central Pollution **Control Board (CPCB) introduced the 'Blue Category' for industries** on April 15, 2025, under its Essential Environmental Services initiative. This classification includes industries like Waste-to-Energy incineration plants despite their high **Pollution Index of 97.6. Blue Category industries benefit from** extended validity for Consent to Operate (CTO) and are evaluated based on their pollution potential.
- The Ministry of Coal (MoC) **signed agreements for the development and production of Marwatola-II and Namchik West coal mines** on April 8, 2025. These projects have a combined capacity of 0.34 MTPA and are expected to generate annual revenue of ₹106.14 crore. They aim to create 460 job opportunities, supporting India's energy independence goals. Successful bidders include Singhal Business Pvt. Ltd. and PRA Nuravi Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd..
- **Pohela Boishakh, celebrated on April 15, marks the Bengali New Year and symbolizes new beginnings.** It is an auspicious occasion for starting ventures, enjoying traditional dishes, and embracing festive joy.
- The Gujarat Police launched **the GP-DRASTI Project on April 5, 2025, to enhance crime response** using drones. Drones will complement PCR vans, reaching crime scenes in under three minutes and providing real-time footage for quick decision-making.
- Madhya Pradesh **declared its 25th wildlife sanctuary as the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary** on April 12, 2025 in Sagar district. It spans 258.64 sq. km across Banda and Shahgarh tehsils in the North Sagar Forest Division.
- The Central **Railway introduced India's first onboard ATM on the Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Express** on April 16, 2025. The ATM, installed in the AC chair car, was developed in collaboration with the Bank of Maharashtra under the INFRIS scheme. This initiative aims to enhance passenger convenience and is part of a pilot project. Future expansion depends on its success.
- **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the Amravati Airport in Belora, Vidarbha, on April**

16, 2025. The airport launched its first commercial flight to Mumbai and is set to host South Asia's largest pilot training school within six months.

- Telangana **classified heatwaves, sunstrokes, and sunburns as "State-Specific Disasters" through a Government Order on April 15, 2025.** Victims' families are now eligible for ₹4 lakh compensation under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The move addresses the growing impact of extreme heat, particularly on vulnerable populations.
- L&T's **indigenous 651 kW Waterjet Propulsion System successfully completed sea trials on April 15, 2025,** aboard the Indian Navy's Fast Interceptor Craft. Developed under the DRDO's TDF scheme, it features over 70% indigenous content and supports speeds above 45 knots.
- On April 14, **2025, Baisakhi was celebrated for the first time at the Washington State Capitol** in Olympia, hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle. Key dignitaries, including Governor Bob Ferguson, attended the event, issuing proclamations to honor the Sikh community's contributions.
- Union Minister Dr. **Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the world's 17th Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU)** on April 17, 2025, at the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) in New Delhi. It aims to promote clean sports and ethical practices globally, especially in the Global South.
- The Delhi Public **School (DPS) wetland in Navi Mumbai was declared a Flamingo Conservation Reserve (FCR)** by the Maharashtra State Board of Wildlife (MSBW) on April 17, 2025, chaired by Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis. This 30-acre wetland is part of the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary (TCFS)'s ecosystem, serving as a vital habitat for migratory flamingos.
- Mission Amrit **Sarovar, launched on April 24, 2022, aims to rejuvenate 75 water bodies per district under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.** By March 2025, over 68,000 Amrit Sarovars have been completed, enhancing water availability and ecological balance.
- On April 18, 2025, **South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) announced using paste fill technology** at the Singhali mine, Chhattisgarh, making it the first coal PSU in India to adopt this eco-friendly method. This technology fills voids with a paste of fly ash, overburden, cement, and water, preventing land subsidence and supporting sustainable mining practices.
- Union Minister **C.R. Patil reviewed key projects of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** on April 16, 2025 in New Delhi. Initiatives included restoring aquatic biodiversity, improving river health, and mobilizing 5,000 Ganga Praharis.
- On April 16, 2025, **Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the Amravati Airport in Vidarbha.** He also announced Southeast Asia's largest pilot training institute, set to train 180 pilots annually using 34 aircraft near the airport.
- New York City has declared April 14 as 'Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day' to honor his birth anniversary. The proclamation was made by Mayor Eric **Adams at the United Nations Headquarters on April 14, 2025.** This move celebrates Ambedkar's contributions to equality, justice, and human rights.
- The Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra have **been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register on April 18, 2025,** recognizing their global cultural significance. These texts are celebrated for shaping India's philosophical and aesthetic heritage. Prime Minister Modi called this a proud moment for India, which now has 14 entries in the register.
- **The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is setting up its 11th CoBRA** battalion for anti-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir, announced on April 17, 2025, during its 86th Raising Day celebrations. This unit specializes in jungle warfare and guerrilla tactics to address rising militancy in regions like Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, and Poonch.
- **Maharashtra announced its new language policy on April 17, 2025, under NEP 2020,** effective from the 2025-26 academic year. Hindi will be a mandatory third language for Classes 1 to 5 in Marathi and English medium schools. The rollout begins with Class 1 in 2025 and will include all grades by 2028.
- Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated VVDN's largest SMT (Surface Mount Technology) Line and Mechanical Innovation Park** on April 18, 2025, in Manesar, Haryana. The SMT line enables high-speed PCB production, supporting AI servers, networking devices, and motherboards.
- India's **first Prototype Fast-Breeder Reactor (PFBR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu** will be commissioned by September 2026, as announced on April 19, 2025. Developed by BHAVINI, it uses plutonium-based mixed oxide fuel with a liquid sodium coolant for efficient energy generation.

- CENJOWS (Centre for Joint Warfare Studies) organized the 2nd Defence Literature Festival, 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0', on April 15, 2025, in New Delhi. The event, themed Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms, featured discussions on future warfare, AI, cyber security, and quantum computing.
- Google unveiled the **Ironwood AI chip on April 9, 2025, at the Google Cloud Next 2025** event. It offers double the efficiency of its predecessor, Trillium, improving AI power consumption and speed. Ironwood can operate in clusters of up to 9,216 chips, delivering 42.5 exaflops of computing power.
- Madhya Pradesh CM **Mohan Yadav released two cheetahs, Prabhas and Pavak, into** Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary on April 20, 2025. The sanctuary, spanning 368.6 sq km, now serves as India's second cheetah habitat after Kuno National Park.
- The US Supreme Court temporarily blocked the Trump administration from using the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to deport Venezuelan migrants on April 19, 2025. The ruling halted the deportation of alleged Tren de Aragua gang members, citing due process concerns.
- Japan announced on April 16, 2025, that it will gift **Shinkansen E5 and E3 series trains to India for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor**. These trains will test operational data under India's conditions, supporting the design of next-generation E10 series trains.
- On April 20, 2025, the **Indian Army launched the 'Voice of Kinnaur' community radio station** in Pooh, Kinnaur district, Himachal Pradesh, under its flagship Operation Sadbhavana. This initiative aims to promote local news, regional culture, educational content, and public interest information, while fostering community engagement.
- Union Minister **Piyush Goyal launched The Bharat Project on April 23, 2025**, in Mumbai to empower 1 million entrepreneurs from rural and Tier 2/3 regions. It includes an AI-powered startup platform, education and upskilling, the Bharat Ideathon, and a ₹10,000 crore seed fund. The initiative aims to foster grassroots innovation and inclusive growth through diverse programs.
- **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) earned the prestigious Level 5 Carbon Accreditation** on April 18, 2025, under ACI's Airport Carbon Accreditation program. It is one of the top four

airports in the ACI Asia-Pacific and Middle East region to achieve this level.

- The press release "**India's Aviation Revolution (April 22, 2025) outlines key reforms, including the** Protection of Interest in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025, and Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 to modernize regulations. Infrastructure expanded with 12 Greenfield airports, ₹91,000 crore investments, and plans for 50 new airports.
- **Karnataka is set to become the first state to finish a village-level survey of antiquities, as announced** on April 18, 2025, during World Heritage Day. Covering 119 taluks, inscriptions and monuments will be geo-tagged for documentation. Plans include adding 1,000 protected sites to expand heritage conservation.
- India took **strict measures against Pakistan after the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives**. Actions included suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, closing the Attari-Wagah border, and expelling Pakistani military advisors. India also canceled the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme for Pakistan and reduced diplomatic staff.
- On April 22, 2025, the **Ministry of Coal announced incentives to boost underground coal mining** in India. These include reducing the floor revenue share to 2%, waiving upfront payment requirements, and a 50% rebate on performance security. The aim is to encourage advanced technologies like AI-based safety mechanisms and longwall systems.
- On April 24, 2025, the **Sikkim government announced a 20% reservation for Agniveer Jawans in state police recruitment**. Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang also declared a 10-year age relaxation for former army personnel in various police categories.
- On April 24, 2025, **Kala Kendra in Jammu inaugurated a two-day rare coin exhibition as part** of World Numismatic Week 2025. Around 1,000 rare coins from the Mughal era, British period, and post-Independence India are on display.
- On April 24, 2025, the Odisha government officially declared Similipal as India's 107th National Park, under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **Located in the Mayurbhanj district, Similipal** spans 845.70 sq km, making it the largest national park in Odisha.
- **India sent \$2 million worth of medical aid to Nepal on April 25, 2025, including medicines and vaccines** for Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease patients. This

highlights India's commitment to regional cooperation under its Neighborhood First policy.

- On April 25, **2025, 16 out of 27 districts in Arunachal Pradesh were declared malaria-free**, marking a major milestone. This success came from collaborative efforts of health workers and community volunteers. Arunachal Pradesh aims to achieve a malaria-free status statewide by 2027.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) **approved its 2025 Action Plan under the River Cities Alliance (RCA)** on April 25, 2025. It focuses on river-sensitive urban planning, with initiatives like capacity-building programs and Urban River Management Plans (URMPs).
- Madhya Pradesh received approval for India's first **PM MITRA Textile Park Project on April 25, 2025**, in Bhainsola village, Dhar district, spanning 2,100 acres. With an investment of ₹2,100 crore, the park features solar-powered facilities and a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) plant. Strategically located near the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, it aims to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments and create lakhs of jobs.
- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) signed two Joint Declarations of Intent with Russia's JSC Giredmet and National University of Science and Technology MISIS (NUST MISIS) on April 24–25, 2025, in Moscow. Co-signed by Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, the agreements aim to advance critical mineral processing and sustainable development.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross ₹10 lakh crore in equity during FY 2024-25. Strong growth in digital services and retail boosted this milestone despite challenges in the energy sector. RIL reported a ₹19,407 crore net profit for the January-March 2025 quarter.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has been granted income tax exemption by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under clause 46A of section 10 of the Income Tax Act, 1961. This notification, issued on April 22, 2025, recognizes NMCG as an authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, effective from the assessment year 2024–25.
- The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and a Sri Lankan delegation have agreed to continue discussions aimed at finalizing a bilateral trade agreement. This decision follows a meeting held on

April 22, 2025, in Washington, D.C., where both sides addressed issues like reducing the trade deficit and lowering tariff and non-tariff barriers.

- Union Minister Giriraj Singh inaugurated the Jute Bailleurs' Association hall at Kolkata Jute House on April 26, 2025. The event marked the renovation of the 170-year-old heritage building, preserving its jute industry legacy. Key issues like declining jute crops and imports were discussed.
- The government has placed the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on April 25, 2025. This allows I4C to share data with law enforcement, strengthening efforts against money laundering tied to cyber fraud. Citizens can report cybercrimes through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal or helpline 1930. The move aims to combat transnational cybercrimes efficiently.
- The Revive Our Ocean initiative, launched in April 2025, aims to protect marine ecosystems globally by establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Led by Dynamic Planet NGO and the National Geographic Society, it seeks to safeguard 30% of oceans by 2030, addressing overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change. Focus areas include seven nations, sustainable economic activities, and ending destructive practices like bottom trawling.
- On April 27, 2025, Bihar set two Guinness World Records. A 201.17 square feet Madhubani painting was created by 50 women artists, led by Baua Devi, in 50 hours using natural colors. At the Mahabodhi Temple, 375 Buddhist monks performed the Largest Singing Bowl Ensemble, showcasing harmony and meditation. Certificates were presented to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to celebrate these achievements.
- On April 28, 2025, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched Gyan Post, an affordable postal service for delivering educational, cultural, and religious books nationwide. Starting May 1, 2025, it offers trackable delivery at concessional rates, ranging from ₹20 to ₹100, aligning with India's New Education Policy to ensure learning resources reach remote areas.
- Under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), India deployed 34 supercomputers with a total capacity of 35 petaflops as announced on April 28, 2025. These systems support over 10,000 researchers and are used in areas like drug discovery

and climate modeling. The mission promotes indigenous manufacturing and has trained 22,000+ individuals in HPC and AI skills.

- On April 28, 2025, the **Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) held a preparatory meeting for 'Niveshak Shivir'** to assist investors in claiming unclaimed dividends and shares. The pilot phase, starting in Mumbai and Ahmedabad in May 2025, will offer services like KYC updates, claims assistance, and grievance resolution, improving financial awareness and accessibility.
- The **Punjab Police set May 31, 2025, as the deadline to arrest all drug traffickers under the 'Yudh Nasheyen Virudh'** campaign. Launched on March 1, 2025, this drive aims to dismantle drug networks and rehabilitate affected individuals. Officers are accountable for action plans to ensure Punjab becomes drug-free.
- The **Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle returned to the Ganga River after three decades under the Namami Gange Mission on April 26, 2025. 20 turtles were released into the Haiderpur Wetland, a UNESCO Ramsar site**, as part of conservation efforts.
- The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW) issued guidelines on April 30, 2025**, for setting up Bio-Input Resource Centres (BRCs) under the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF). BRCs will act as cluster-level hubs, providing bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, and organic formulations to farmers. Each BRC will receive ₹1 lakh in two installments, supporting local customization based on soil conditions and farming needs.
- **Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam issued India's first Certified Green Municipal Bond on April 29, 2025**, raising ₹150 crore to fund a Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP). This initiative supports sustainable urban infrastructure and promotes treated water reuse for industrial applications.
- Under **Operation Hawk 2025, the CBI cracked down on global child sexual exploitation networks**, acting on U.S. intelligence inputs. Major arrests include Sheikh Muizz Ahmed (Mangalore) and Mukul Saini (Delhi), linked to coercing minors via Discord. Raids in Mumbai, Mangalore, and Delhi led to the recovery of electronic devices with CSAM.
- On April 30, 2025, the **Government of India announced that caste-based data collection will be included** in the next national census. The decision, made during a Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs

(CCPA) meeting, aims to ensure transparent caste enumeration at the national level. This move is expected to improve policy planning in education, employment, and welfare.

- The **Forbes India W-Power 2025 event, held on April 30, 2025, in Mumbai, celebrated 20 self-made Indian women**. Honorees included Dr. Gita Gopinath, IMF First Deputy Managing Director; Manu Bhaker, Olympic shooting medalist; and Payal Kapadia, Cannes-winning filmmaker. The list, curated with L'Oréal Paris, recognizes achievements in finance, sports, and entertainment.
- **Rajasthan joined India's first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor with Madhya Pradesh on April 30, 2025**. This corridor covers 17,000 sq. km, linking protected habitats to ensure seamless cheetah movement. Rajasthan contributes 6,500 sq. km, integrating seven districts into the conservation network. This initiative aims to restore grassland ecosystems and strengthen wildlife protection efforts.
- On April 29, 2025, India **officially revised its coastline length to 11,098.81 km, incorporating offshore islands and detailed mapping**. The new measurement replaces the previous 7,561.60 km estimate based on outdated calculations. This update improves coastal management, disaster preparedness, and maritime security.
- On April 30, 2025, **Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma inaugurated Babuji Vanam, the world's first Energy Transmission Garden**, at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad. Developed with the Ministry of Culture, it uses Pranahuti energy transmission, featuring 40 medicinal tree species and eco-friendly infrastructure.
- On April 24, 2025, **India conducted its first human gene therapy trial for haemophilia, led by BRIC-inStem (Bengaluru) and CMC Vellore**. The therapy uses lentiviral vectors to introduce a functional gene, enabling Factor VIII production for blood clotting. It aims to reduce dependency on repeated infusions, improving patients' quality of life.

BANKING

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL COMPLETES AMALGAMATION OF ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE TO FORM UNIFIED NBFC

- This strategic move simplifies the group structure, enhances financial stability, and boosts operational efficiency.
- The amalgamation was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad Bench, on March 24, 2025, and became effective from April 1, 2025.
- ABCL transitioned from a Core Investment Company to an operating NBFC, enabling direct access to capital and efficient utilization of resources.
- **Financial Strength:** ABCL now manages assets worth over ₹5.03 lakh crore, including a consolidated lending book of ₹1.46 lakh crore.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The merger reduces legal entities, streamlines compliance, and consolidates business operations.
- **Leadership:** Vishakha Mulye was appointed as MD & CEO, and Rakesh Singh as Executive Director and CEO of the NBFC.

INDIA & NEPAL SIGN MOUS FOR 10 HICDPS IN NEPAL UNDER NRS. 625 MILLION GRANT

- These projects, funded under a **grant of NRs. 625 million**, aim to enhance education, healthcare, and cultural infrastructure in Nepal.
- Projects include constructing **schools, health posts, a hospital, and an e-library** across various provinces in Nepal.
- The initiative reflects India's commitment to bolstering Nepal's grassroots development and bilateral cooperation.
- Since 2003, India has undertaken over **573 HICDPs in Nepal, with 495 projects** successfully completed.

SBI RESEARCH REPORT: MSMEs IN BIHAR, UP, ODISHA, N-E AVAILING MORE MUDRA LOANS

- **Mudra Loan Growth:** The report highlights a significant increase in Mudra loan disbursements to MSMEs in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and the North-East, addressing regional financial disparities.
- **Inclusive Credit Distribution:** Bihar's share of Mudra loans rose from 5.67% in FY16 to 10.97% in FY25, while Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and the North-East also saw notable growth.
- **Policy Interventions:** The report attributes this shift to targeted policies like digital lending platforms and

the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), improving access to micro-credit.

- **Economic Impact:** Over the past decade, PMMY has sanctioned over ₹33 lakh crore in loans, with the average loan size increasing from ₹38,000 in FY16 to ₹1.02 lakh in FY25.

EPFO INTRODUCED TWO KEY REFORMS TO SIMPLIFY ITS CLAIM SETTLEMENT PROCESS

- **Elimination of Cheque Leaf/Passbook Upload:** EPFO has removed the need for members to upload images of their cheque leaf or attested passbook while filing claims.
- This change benefits over 7.7 crore members, reducing paperwork, minimizing errors, and cutting down the chances of claim rejection due to incorrect uploads.
- **No Employer Approval for Bank Seeding:** Bank accounts linked with the Universal Account Number (UAN) no longer require employer approval once verified by the bank.

This reform addresses 15 lakh pending cases, streamlining the process and offering immediate

SIXTH BIMSTEC SUMMIT IN BANGKOK

- Adoption of the Bangkok Vision 2030, a **strategic roadmap** for regional prosperity.
- Signing of the Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement **to boost trade and connectivity**.
- **Approval of the Rules of Procedure for BIMSTEC** Mechanisms for efficient operations.
- Endorsement of the Eminent Persons Group Report for BIMSTEC's future direction.
- **Focus on disaster response**, with a joint statement addressing recent earthquakes in Myanmar and Thailand.
- **Initiatives to strengthen people-to-people connectivity**, including cultural and tourism exchanges.
- **Bangladesh officially became the new Chair of BIMSTEC** for the next two years. It received the leadership from Thailand, the previous Chair.

RBI RETAINS FPI INVESTMENT LIMITS IN GOVERNMENT & CORPORATE BONDS FOR FY26

- This decision, announced on April 3, 2025, aims to ensure stability in the financial markets and provide

predictability for international investors operating in the Indian debt market.

- The percentage limits for FPI investments as a proportion of the outstanding stock of securities will remain the same as in the previous financial year:
- ✓ Government Securities (G-Secs): 6%
- ✓ State Government Securities (SGSs): 2%
- ✓ Corporate Bonds: 15%

Rupee-Denominated Limits

- The RBI has also specified the investment limits in Indian Rupees for the two halves of the financial year 2025-26:

Government Bonds:

- April - September 2025: ₹2.79 trillion
- October 2025 - March 2026: ₹2.89 trillion

Corporate Bonds:

- April - September 2025: ₹8.22 trillion
- October 2025 - March 2026: ₹8.80 trillion

Fully Accessible Route (FAR):

- All eligible FPI investments in 'specified securities' will continue to be reckoned under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR).

G-Sec Limit Allocation:

- The incremental changes in the G-Sec limit (in absolute terms) will continue to be allocated equally (50:50) between the 'General' and 'Long-term' sub-categories.

SGS Limit Allocation:

- The entire increase in the limits for SGSs (in absolute terms) has been added to the 'General' sub-category.

Credit Default Swaps (CDS):

- The aggregate limit for the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs will be 5% of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. This translates

to an additional limit of ₹2,93,612 crore for FY 2025-26.

Current Utilization:

- As of the announcement, FPIs had utilized 22.3% of their permitted limit in government bonds and 15.7% in corporate bonds, indicating that there is still significant room for further investment within the existing limits.

IN 2023, INDIA WAS RANKED 10TH GLOBALLY FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN AI

- India ranked **10th globally for private AI investments in 2023**, with a total of **\$1.4 billion**, making it one of only two developing countries, alongside China, in the top 10.
- The United States secured the 1st position, contributing **70% of global AI funding** with investments totaling **\$67 billion**.
- The report reflects India's advancements in AI innovation and infrastructure, driven by initiatives like the India AI Mission and research centers at IITs.
- It also underscores concerns over automation-related job displacement, as the global AI market value is expected to reach **\$4.8 trillion by 2033**.
- Additionally, India improved its rank on the Frontier Technologies Readiness Index, moving from **48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024**, showcasing its steady progress in research and industrial capacity.

INDIA URGES BRICS TO MOBILIZE \$1.3 TRILLION FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

- BRICS originally comprised **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. Recently, **six additional countries joined the group**: Egypt, Ethiopia, UAE, Iran, Indonesia, and Saudi Arabia, expanding its membership to 11 nations.
- The meeting was chaired by Marina Silva, Brazil's Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- **Aim:** Address issues like climate change, desertification, plastic pollution, and ecosystem preservation.
- **Joint Declaration Adopted:** The ministers issued a unified statement committing to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and promote sustainable development across BRICS nations.
- **Climate Finance Push:** India led the call for the **"Baku to Belem Roadmap,"** aiming to mobilize **\$1.3**

trillion to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, emphasizing equitable carbon budget use.

- **Energy Transition Focus:** Brazil's Environment Minister Marina Silva stressed the urgent need to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, advocating for a fair transition that supports developing economies.
- **Sustainable Urban Initiatives:** The meeting highlighted practical steps like waste management, circular economy practices, and the Clean Rivers Programme to enhance urban sustainability.
- **Bilateral Cooperation:** Notable side discussions, such as between Brazil's Marina Silva and Iran's Shina Ansari, showcased deepened collaboration within the group.
- **Preparation for COP30:** Hosted under Brazil's 2025 BRICS presidency, the meeting set the stage for Brazil's leadership at the upcoming COP30 climate conference later in the year.

SBI REPORT PROJECTS INDIA'S INFLATION TO STAY BELOW 4% IN H1 FY26

Inflation Forecast: India's inflation is projected to remain below 4% during the first half of FY26, marking a significant milestone.

- **Core Inflation:** Expected to range between 4.2% and 4.3%, reflecting a stable economic trend.
- **Factors Influencing Inflation:** Includes global tariff changes, reduced crude oil prices, and improved agricultural output.
- **Headline Inflation:** Predicted to decline steadily until September or October 2025.
- **Macroeconomic Stability:** The forecast highlights improved fundamentals, enhancing economic resilience and consumer purchasing power.

SEBI ISSUED FRAMEWORK FOR REGISTRATION OF PERFORMANCE VALIDATION AGENCY

Purpose:

- The initiative ensures transparency and prevents misleading claims about financial product returns and risks made by research analysts, investment advisors, and stock brokers.

Eligibility:

- Only credit rating agencies (CRAs) with:
- A minimum 15 years of experience, and
- A net worth of at least ₹100 crore can register as PaRRVA.

Pilot Phase:

- SEBI has initiated a two-month pilot phase for testing PaRRVA's verification services. During this phase, agencies will verify claims based on historical risk and return metrics.

Disclosure Rules:

- Disclaimers regarding risk-return metrics are mandatory, ensuring compliance with the new framework.
- This structured approach by SEBI aims to empower investors, strengthen market integrity, and enhance accountability among financial service providers.

MEITY LAUNCHED 1ST DIGITAL THREAT REPORT 2024 TO SUPPORT CYBER SECURITY IN BFSI SECTOR

- This initiative, led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), **CERT-In**, **CSIRT-Fin**, and **global cybersecurity firm SISA**, addresses the growing risks in the BFSI ecosystem.
- **Unified Cybersecurity Framework:** The report identifies sector-wide security gaps and provides strategies to mitigate emerging cyber threats.
- **Focus on AI-Driven Risks:** It emphasizes countering sophisticated attacks, including those powered by artificial intelligence.
- **Economic Importance:** With digital payments projected to reach **\$3.1 trillion by 2028**, the report underscores the critical need for robust defenses to ensure financial stability.
- **Collaborative Approach:** It advocates for intelligence-sharing and coordinated efforts among stakeholders to tackle systemic risks.

₹22,919 CRORE ELECTRONICS COMPONENT SCHEME FOR ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- **Incentives:** The scheme offers turnover-linked, capex, and hybrid incentives to encourage domestic manufacturing of electronic components.
- **Employment Generation:** It aims to create over 91,600 direct jobs and many indirect opportunities.

- **Investment and Production Goals:** The scheme is expected to attract investments worth ₹59,350 crore and generate production valued at ₹4,56,500 crore.
- **Focus Areas:** It targets sub-assemblies like camera and display modules, electro-mechanical components, and multi-layer printed circuit boards.

MERGER OF 26 RRBS UNDER "ONE STATE, ONE RRB" INITIATIVE

- This marks the fourth phase of **RRB amalgamation**, aimed at improving operational efficiency and reducing costs.
- **Implementation Date:** The new structure will take effect from May 1, 2025.
- **Reduction in RRBS:** The total number of RRBS will decrease from 43 to 28, covering 26 states and 2 union territories.
- **Branch Network:** Over 22,000 branches will operate across 700 districts, with 92% located in rural and semi-urban areas.
- **Previous Phases:** Earlier phases of amalgamation reduced RRBS from 196 to 82 (Phase I), 82 to 56 (Phase II), and 56 to 43 (Phase III).
- This initiative aims to enhance financial inclusion and streamline service delivery in rural areas.

PLFS 2024: RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS, URBAN LABOUR PARTICIPATION GROWS

- **Rural Unemployment:** Marginally declined from 4.3% to 4.2%, indicating slight improvements in rural employment opportunities.
- **Urban Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Increased from 50.3% to 51.0%, with male participation rising from 74.3% to 75.6% and female participation improving slightly from 25.5% to 25.8%.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Urban WPR rose from 47.0% to 47.6%, reflecting better workforce engagement.
- **Overall Unemployment Rate:** Declined slightly from 5.0% to 4.9%, showcasing minor improvements in employment opportunities.

RBI NAMED MOST INNOVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION GLOBALLY BY GLOBAL FINANCE

- The recognition was announced on **April 8, 2025**, marking the first time a central bank achieved this honor.

- **RBI was awarded for its Unified Lending Interface (ULI)**, a revolutionary initiative simplifying access to credit.
- ULI improves lender access to **borrowers' financial data**, streamlining and enhancing transparency in the lending process.
- This innovation supports financial inclusion, making credit more accessible, especially to underserved communities.
- The recognition highlights RBI's leadership and commitment to fostering innovation in the financial sector worldwide.

TATA STEEL NAMED STEEL SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION 2025 BY WORLDSTEEL

- This marks **Tata Steel's eighth consecutive recognition** since the program's launch in 2018.
- Recognized for its sustainability-driven innovations and responsible steelmaking practices.
- Achievements include introducing biochar in blast furnaces, pioneering hydrogen transport steel pipes, and launching the **Carbon Bank, a virtual CO₂ repository**.
- **Tata Steel remains a leader in environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** excellence, contributing to a greener and more resilient steel industry.

RBI'S MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE HAS REDUCED THE POLICY REPO RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS

- **Repo Rate:** Reduced by 25 basis points to **6.00%**, with the SDF at 5.75% and the MSF/Bank Rate at 6.25%.
- **Policy Stance:** Shifted from neutral to accommodative, signaling potential future rate cuts to support growth.
- **GDP Growth Projection:** Revised downward to 6.5% for FY 2025-26, from the earlier estimate of 6.7%.
- **Inflation Forecast:** Lowered to 4.0%, within the target range of 4% ± 2%.

Developmental Measures:

- Draft frameworks for securitization of stressed assets and co-lending arrangements.
- Review of guidelines for gold loans and non-fund-based facilities.

- Proposed revisions to UPI transaction limits and a theme-neutral Regulatory Sandbox for fintech innovation.

ADB REVISED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST FOR FY26 TO 6.7% AMID USA TARIFF RISKS

- **GDP Growth Forecast:** India's GDP growth for FY26 has been revised to 6.7%, down from the earlier estimate of 7%. Growth for FY27 is projected at 6.8%.
- **Reasons for Revision:** The revision reflects risks from US tariff levies on Indian exports, which could impact trade and investment flows.
- **Resilience Factors:** Despite challenges, India's growth remains supported by:
 - Rising rural incomes.
 - Moderating inflation.
 - Favorable fiscal and monetary policies.

Sectoral Contributions:

- **Services Sector:** Expected to remain a key growth driver, supported by business services exports and demand for education and healthcare.
- **Agriculture:** Anticipated to maintain strong growth, especially with robust winter crop sowing.
- **Manufacturing:** Projected to recover from slower growth in FY25.
- **Inflation Outlook:** Inflation is expected to ease to 4.3% in FY26 and further to 4% in FY27, providing room for potential interest rate cuts.
- **Global Risks:** The report highlights uncertainties from global trade policies, rising commodity prices, and geopolitical tensions.

IEPFA & IPPB LAUNCH PHASE 2 OF 'NIVESHAK DIDI' FOR RURAL FINANCIAL LITERACY

- This program aims to enhance financial literacy among rural women by training 40,000 women postal workers as financial educators.
- **Phase 1 Success:** Over 55,000 beneficiaries were reached, with 60% being women from rural areas.
- **Phase 2 Goals:** Conduct 4,000 financial literacy camps across India, focusing on responsible investing, fraud awareness, savings habits, and digital banking tools.

- **Empowerment Focus:** The initiative emphasizes grassroots mobilization to empower women and transform communities.

FIRST-EVER PAI BASELINE REPORT FOR FY23: GUJARAT AND TELANGANA LEAD AS FRONT RUNNERS

- Evaluates the performance of **over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats** in India.
- Focuses on aligning grassroots development efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Categorizes Panchayats into groups:** Aspirants, Performers, Beginners, and Front Runners.
- **Highlights top-performing states:** Gujarat (346 Gram Panchayats) and Telangana (270 Gram Panchayats).
- Utilizes data validated by **2,16,285 Panchayats**, emphasizing collaboration and evidence-based analysis.

GAIL ESTABLISHES 'GAIL GLOBAL IFSC LIMITED' FOR GLOBAL OPERATIONS

- Operate as a finance company within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- Undertake global and regional corporate treasury activities and ship leasing operations.
- **Capital Structure:** Authorized share capital of **₹17 crore** and initial paid-up capital of **₹8.5 crore**.
- **Strategic Expansion:** Diversifies GAIL's portfolio beyond natural gas and energy infrastructure.
- **Tax-Efficient Environment:** Optimizes treasury functions within GIFT City's financial ecosystem.

SEBI CLARIFIES RS 10 LAKH MINIMUM INVESTMENT FOR SIFS AT PAN LEVEL

- **PAN-Level Aggregation:** The Rs 10 lakh minimum investment requirement applies cumulatively across all SIF strategies under a single Asset Management Company (AMC) at the PAN level. This ensures transparency and prevents investors from splitting investments across schemes to bypass the threshold.
- **Exemptions:** Accredited investors and mandatory investments made by AMC employees under the "skin-in-the-game" rule are exempt from this requirement.

RBI HAS ALLOWED NPCI TO INCREASE UPI TRANSACTION LIMIT FOR PERSON-TO-MERCHANT (P2M) PAYMENTS

- **Existing Limits:** Previously, UPI transactions for P2M payments were capped at **₹1 lakh** for most cases, though some categories already had higher limits, like **₹2 lakh or ₹5 lakh**.
- **NPCI's Role:** NPCI can now consult with banks and stakeholders to set new transaction limits based on evolving user needs.
- **Impact on Sectors:** Industries such as healthcare, education, travel, and retail will benefit from higher limits, as they often involve high-value payments.
- **Boost to Digital Economy:** This move is expected to encourage wider adoption of UPI and strengthen India's digital payment ecosystem.
- **Security Measures:** Safeguards will be implemented to mitigate risks associated with higher transaction limits.

INDIA GLOBAL FORUM'S NXT25 SUMMIT 2025 HELD IN MAHARASHTRA

- **Chair:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis chaired the summit, with Union Minister Piyush Goyal leading key sessions.
- **Theme:** "Shaping India's Next 25 Years – Investments, Innovation, and Sustainability"
- **Aim:** To outline India's roadmap for the next 25 years in sectors like infrastructure, technology, global trade, and sustainability.
- Maharashtra signed **MoUs worth \$50 billion** to accelerate infrastructure development.
- Unilever's Magnum announced a **₹900 crore investment in Pune**, expected to generate over **500 jobs by 2029**.
- Participation from **over 100 CEOs**, global investors, policymakers, and industry leaders.
- Sessions focused on India's potential as a global powerhouse and innovation hub.

"AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY: POWERING INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS REPORT RELEASED

- The report highlights India's automotive sector as a cornerstone of the nation's manufacturing and economic growth, contributing **7.1% to GDP and 49% to manufacturing GDP**.
- It outlines India's potential to become a global leader in the automotive value chain, emphasizing opportunities in electric vehicles (EVs), **Industry 4.0 technologies**, and sustainable practices.

- **Global Position:** India is the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, with an annual production of nearly 6 million vehicles.
- **Challenges:** Limited penetration in high-value segments like engine components and steering systems, with only 3% share in global auto component trade.
- **Vision 2030:** Aims to scale auto component production to **\$145 billion**, **triple exports to \$60 billion**, and create 2–2.5 million jobs.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Focus on fiscal and non-fiscal interventions, including R&D, skill development, and adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.

MOE ANNOUNCES 9.5% MATERIAL COST HIKE FOR PM POSHAN SCHEME

- This decision ensures the continued delivery of quality meals to students across India.

Announced by the **Ministry of Education on April 10, 2025**, the new material costs will take effect from May 1, 2025.

- **Hike Details:** A 9.5% increase in material costs under the scheme.
- **Balvatika and Primary Students:** Allocation increased from **₹6.19 to ₹6.78**.
- **Upper Primary Students:** Allocation rose from **₹9.29 to ₹10.17**.
- **Impact:** Covers over **11.2 crore** students across **10.36 lakh schools** in the country.
Government Budget: An additional **₹954 crore** has been allocated for the fiscal year 2025–26 to accommodate this change.

NABFID SIGNS MOU WITH NDB TO STRENGTHEN INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING IN INDIA

- The agreement **aims to facilitate joint funding, risk-sharing**, and knowledge exchange for sustainable projects in sectors like energy, transport, and urban development.
- By leveraging **NDB's multilateral funding and NaBFID's domestic expertise**, the partnership seeks to accelerate India's infrastructure growth while supporting green initiatives and reducing financing gaps.
- This aligns with key government programs like **PM Gati Shakti and the National Infrastructure Pipeline**.

MAURITIUS BECOMES THE 1ST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO SIGN ISA'S PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

- This makes Mauritius the fourth country globally, after Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Cuba, to adopt the CPF.
- **Objective:** The CPF aims to accelerate the clean energy transition through **joint solar energy projects and structured collaboration**.
- Development of solar roadmaps.
- Promotion of solar technologies like **floating solar, rooftop solar, and solar water** pumping systems.
- Establishment of a Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C).

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHED UNLOCKING \$25+ BILLION EXPORT POTENTIAL REPORT

The new classification aims to better align the investment and turnover thresholds with current economic realities.

- It outlines India's potential to significantly expand its global market share in the hand and power tools industry, aiming for \$25 billion in exports by 2035.
- **Global Market Growth:** The global trade market for hand and power tools, currently valued at \$100 billion, is projected to grow to \$190 billion by 2035.
- **India's Current Share:** India exports \$600 million in hand tools (1.8% market share) and \$470 million in power tools (0.7% market share).
- **Export Target:** India aims to capture 25% of the global hand tools market and 10% of the power tools market, achieving \$25 billion in exports.
- **Job Creation:** The initiative is expected to generate approximately 35 lakh jobs.
- **Challenges:** India faces a 14–17% cost disadvantage compared to China due to higher structural costs, raw material expenses, and logistics.
- **Recommendations:** Developing world-class industrial clusters, fostering innovation, empowering MSMEs, and addressing structural cost disadvantages.

TELANGANA & GODREJ CAPITAL SIGNED MOU TO ENHANCE CREDIT ACCESS FOR MSMEs

- This partnership focuses on **providing digital-first lending solutions tailored** to underserved and first-time borrowers.

- Emphasis on financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs through **Godrej Capital's Aarohi** initiative.
- Support aligns with **Telangana's MSME Policy 2024**, aiming to foster inclusive growth and innovation.
- Boosts entrepreneurship while creating a stronger ecosystem for economic growth in the MSME sector.

PM MODI LAUNCHES ₹10,000 CRORE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN HARYANA

- The event marked the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, adding special significance.
- Third thermal unit of **800 MW at Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant**, Yamunanagar: Enhancing Haryana's power generation capacity.
- **Compressed Biogas (CBG) Plant under the GOBARdhan Yojana:** Promoting clean energy and waste-to-wealth initiatives.
- **Rewari Bypass:** Improving regional connectivity and easing traffic congestion.

These projects **aim to boost clean energy, power infrastructure, and transport** facilities in the state, fostering overall economic growth and sustainability.

DELHI'S IGI AIRPORT RANKED 9TH BUSIEST GLOBALLY IN 2024

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi **International (IGI) Airport** secured the **9th position**, handling **77.8 million** passengers, marking a 7.8% increase from 2023.
- The top position was **claimed by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (USA)**, maintaining its title as the busiest airport in the world.
- The rankings **reflect the recovery of the aviation sector post-pandemic**, with **improved** connectivity and infrastructure driving passenger growth.

FIU-IND AND RBI SIGN MOU FOR ENHANCED COORDINATION AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- This MoU aims to enhance coordination and information exchange for effective compliance with the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and related rules.
- **Collaboration Areas:** Sharing intelligence, identifying red flag indicators for suspicious transactions, and assessing money laundering/terror financing risks.

- **Capacity Building:** Conducting outreach and training programs to upgrade Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) skills.
- **Compliance Monitoring:** Supervising reporting entities regulated by RBI to ensure adherence to PMLA and international standards.
- **Signatories:** The MoU was signed by Vivek Aggarwal, Director of FIU-IND, and R.L.K. Rao, Executive Director, RBI.

IN MARCH 2025, CPI INFLATION DECLINED TO 3.34%'

- The inflation rate declined to **3.34%**, marking its **lowest level** since August 2019.
- This drop was driven by a sharp reduction in food inflation, **which fell to 2.69%**, compared to 3.75% in February 2025.
- **Headline Inflation:** Declined by 27 basis points from February 2025's 3.61%.
- **Food Inflation:** Significant reduction in prices of vegetables, eggs, pulses, and other essentials.
- **Rural vs Urban Trends:** Rural inflation fell to 3.25%, while urban inflation slightly increased to 3.43%.
- **Core Inflation:** Marginally rose to 4.10%, driven by global uncertainties.

UNCTAD REPORT PROJECTS INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY 6.5% IN CY25

- **India's Growth Projection:** A projected 6.5% growth rate for the Indian economy in Calendar Year (CY) 2025, driven by public spending and monetary easing.
- **Global Trends:** Analysis of challenges such as inflation, commodity price moderation, and sustainable development financing.
- **Focus Areas:** Emphasizes equitable trade practices, climate-resilient policies, and support for developing nations.

AIIMS, HAS SECURED THE 97TH POSITION IN THE 2024 WORLD'S BEST HOSPITALS RANKING

- The ranking, published on April 15, 2024, evaluated over 2,400 hospitals across 30 countries based on patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes, hygiene standards, and peer recommendations.
- **India's Representation:** Apart from AIIMS, Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon ranked 146th, and PGIMER, Chandigarh ranked 228th.

- **Top Position:** The Mayo Clinic, USA, secured the 1st position, followed by the Cleveland Clinic and Toronto General Hospital.
- **AIIMS Excellence:** Recognized for its affordable treatment, advanced medical research, and state-of-the-art facilities.
- **Global Significance:** Reflects India's growing prominence in healthcare and its potential as a medical tourism hub.

UIICL PARTNERS WITH SIDBI TO DISTRIBUTE INSURANCE PRODUCTS FOR MSMEs

- Through this collaboration, **UIICL aims to provide comprehensive insurance solutions, including home, health, motor, fire, and engineering insurance**, tailored to the unique needs of MSMEs.
- SIDBI, with its extensive presence through **123 branches across the country**, will facilitate the distribution of these insurance products.
- The initiative seeks to address financial risks faced by MSMEs, enhance their economic resilience, and contribute to the broader goal of increasing insurance penetration in India.
- Additionally, **UIICL will analyze specific requirements of MSMEs** and offer customized policies to protect their business assets and operations.
- **Cost Efficiency:** The loan is provided at a highly competitive landed cost, below **7%**, **making it cost-effective for IREDA** and enabling efficient allocation of resources for renewable energy initiatives.
- **Global Presence:** This agreement enhances IREDA's global footprint, demonstrating its ability to secure international funding for clean energy projects while strengthening ties with Japanese financial institutions.

SBI & HDFC BANK RANK AMONG WORLD'S TOP 100 BANKS BY ASSETS IN 2025: S&P GLOBAL

- The ranking is dominated by **Chinese banks, with the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** securing the 1st position, reflecting its large asset base and financial influence.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, ranked **43rd**, climbing 4 spots from last year's ranking.
- **HDFC Bank**, ranked **73rd**, rising 1 spot compared to its previous position.

- India's representation underscores the growing scale and global competitiveness of its financial institutions.

INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY

- Higher Daily Turnover:** The average daily turnover in India's forex market has doubled, from USD 32 billion in 2020 to USD 60 billion in 2024.
- Forex Reserves Expansion:** India's forex reserves reached USD 677.84 billion, marking six consecutive weeks of growth, enhancing economic stability.
- Government Securities Surge:** Daily trading volumes in government bonds increased 40%, touching Rs 66,000 crore, indicating strong investor confidence.
- Onshore-Offshore Market Integration:** The RBI has enabled better alignment between domestic forex markets and international platforms, boosting liquidity.
- Global Factors:** Growth is supported by stable domestic consumption, controlled inflation, and strong capital inflows, despite risks like global tariff changes.

INDIA TOOK PART IN GITEX AFRICA 2025, THE LARGEST TECH AND STARTUP EVENT IN AFRICA

- Organizer:** Hosted by Kaoun International, the event arm of Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC).
- Chairperson:** Moroccan Minister of Digital Transition Ghita Mezzour led the discussions.
- Theme:** Digital Africa – Innovation, Inclusion, Transformation.
- India's Participation:**
- Delegation Head:** Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary led India's delegation.
- Technological Showcase:** India highlighted Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), including Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, and AI-driven skilling initiatives.
- AI Leadership:** India emphasized its 33.39% YoY growth in AI talent, reinforcing its position as a global AI hub.
- Collaborations:** India engaged with African ministers to discuss AI expansion, digital inclusion, and tech transfer opportunities.

WTO PROJECTS 0.2% DECLINE IN GLOBAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR 2025']

- This marks a significant shift from the earlier **forecast of 2.7% growth**, largely attributed to rising tariffs and trade tensions, particularly between the US and China.
- Tariff Impact:** Reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US and China are expected to further reduce trade growth by 0.6%, with broader policy uncertainty potentially leading to a 1.5% decline.
- Regional Effects:** North America is forecasted to experience a steep drop in exports (**12.6%**) and imports (**9.6%**).
- Services Trade:** While not directly subject to tariffs, global commercial services trade growth is revised down to 4%.
- Economic Outlook:** WTO economists predict global **GDP growth at 2.2% in 2025**, down by 0.6 percentage points from earlier estimates.

IMF LOWERED INDIA'S GDP FORECAST TO 6.2% FOR FY26; 6.3% FOR FY27

Revised GDP Growth Forecasts:

- FY26:** Forecast lowered from 6.5% to 6.2%.
- FY27:** Forecast reduced from 6.5% to 6.3%.

Key Reasons for the Downgrade:

- Global Trade Tensions:** Ongoing trade disputes and uncertainties among major economies, such as the U.S. and China, are impacting global trade and economic stability.
- Slower Global Demand:** The world economy is witnessing a moderation in demand due to inflationary pressures and cautious spending.
- Financial Market Volatility:** Unstable financial markets, including fluctuating interest rates, are contributing to a conservative outlook.

India's Resilience:

- Despite the downgrade, India's GDP growth remains relatively strong compared to other economies.
- Private consumption and rural economic recovery are expected to support India's growth trajectory.

Inflation Outlook:

- Inflation rates are projected to ease to **4.2% in FY26** and **4.1% in FY27**, promoting price stability and encouraging investments.

CHINA INTRODUCES GOLD ATMS IN SHANGHAI FOR INSTANT GOLD-TO-CASH CONVERSION

- These machines, **developed by the Kinghood Group**, analyze, weigh, melt, and assess the purity of gold items, such as jewelry, on the spot.
- After evaluation, the equivalent cash value is transferred **directly to the user's bank account within 30 minutes**.
- The ATMs accept gold items with a minimum weight of **3 grams and at least 50% purity**, ensuring both accuracy and user accessibility.
- This initiative has become popular amid soaring gold prices, offering a fast and secure option for those looking to liquidate their gold assets.

IISC TOPS TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION ASIA RANKINGS 2025

- **India's Performance:** The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) **ranked 38th in Asia**, maintaining its position as India's top university. Other notable Indian institutions include Anna University (111th), IIT Indore (131st), and Mahatma Gandhi University (140th). In total, 20 Indian universities featured in the top 250.
- **Top Performers:** Tsinghua University, China, secured the **1st position**, followed by Peking University, China, and National University of Singapore (NUS).
- **Global Trends:** China dominated the rankings with five universities in the top 10, while Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong also performed strongly.
- Enhances SPDs' ability to underwrite and trade G-Secs, improving market liquidity and price discovery.
- Strengthens the infrastructure of the G-Sec market, encouraging broader investor participation.

Terms: The RBI will communicate individual limits to SPDs separately. All other terms and conditions of the SLF remain unchanged.

RBI DATA: OUTWARD REMITTANCES UNDER RBI'S LRS DECLINE 8.2% IN APRIL-FEBRUARY

Here's a detailed explanation:

- **Overall Decline:** Remittances fell by 8.2% compared to the same period in the previous year, amounting to \$27.02 billion, down from \$29.43 billion.

Key Categories:

MONTHLY GK DIGEST ONE LINER : APRIL 2025

- **International Travel:** The largest contributor, decreased slightly by 1% to \$15.84 billion, reflecting moderated spending on overseas trips.
- **Education Abroad:** Remittances for studying overseas declined sharply by 16%, dropping to \$2.76 billion, likely due to fewer students opting for international education.
- **Maintenance of Relatives:** Transfers for supporting relatives abroad fell by 22%, reaching \$3.3 billion.
- **Immovable Property Purchases:** Interestingly, this category saw a 28.32% increase, growing to \$277.7 million, showing growing interest in acquiring assets abroad.

RBI MANDATES BANKS TO TRANSITION TO '.BANK.IN' DOMAIN BY OCTOBER 31, 2025

- This exclusive domain is designed to **enhance cybersecurity and combat digital payment fraud**, providing a safer online banking experience for customers.
- The migration process will be facilitated by the **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, under the authorization of the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI).
- Banks have been advised to contact IDRBT for assistance in registering and migrating to the new domain.
- This initiative underscores the **RBI's commitment to strengthening the digital banking infrastructure** and ensuring public trust in secure online transactions.

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE OUTPUT INCREASED BY 3.8 PERCENT IN MARCH 2025

- These industries account for about **40.27% of the weight of items** in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making them critical indicators of economic health.

The report released on April 25, 2025, highlighted the following for March 2025:

- **Year-on-Year Growth:** Infrastructure output grew by 3.8%.
- **Sector Performance:** Cement (11.6%), steel (7.1%), and electricity (6.2%) showed significant growth, while crude oil and natural gas experienced declines.
- **Cumulative FY25 Growth:** The overall growth for FY25 was 4.4%, reflecting progress across core sectors.

ON APRIL 17, 2024, UNESCO ADDED 16 NEW SITES TO ITS GLOBAL GEOPARKS NETWORK

- **Number of New Sites:** 16 geoparks added, bringing the total to 229 sites across 50 countries.
- **Participating Countries:** Included China, North Korea, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, the UK, and Vietnam.
- **New Members:** Saudi Arabia and North Korea joined the network for the first time.
- **Purpose:** Recognizes areas with significant geological heritage to promote conservation, education, and sustainable tourism.

NABARD ACQUIRES 10% STAKE IN 24x7 MONEYWORKS CONSULTING

- This marks **NABARD's first-ever investment** in a bootstrapped startup. ‘
- The company's flagship platform, eKisanCredit (eKCC), streamlines the rural credit lifecycle for institutions like Cooperative Banks, PACS, and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- It leverages **digital tools such as land record integration**, Aadhaar-based eKYC, and core banking systems to ensure faster and more transparent agricultural credit delivery.
- The collaboration aims to benefit small and marginal farmers by simplifying access to credit and promoting financial inclusion in rural areas.

INDIA MOVED 171 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF EXTREME POVERTY BETWEEN 2011-12 AND 2022-23

Extreme Poverty Reduction:

- India lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- Extreme poverty, defined as living on **less than \$2.15/day**, fell from **16.2% to 2.3%**.

Lower-Middle-Income Transition:

- India's poverty at the **\$3.65/day** threshold reduced from 61.8% to 28.1%, lifting 378 million people out of poverty.
- The report emphasized significant progress in rural poverty reduction, narrowing the rural-urban poverty gap.

Contributing Factors:

- Improved employment opportunities, targeted social welfare schemes, and better access to education and healthcare played key roles.
- Focus on gender equity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction added to the success.

Future Challenges:

- The report acknowledged remaining disparities and emphasized the need for sustained efforts in rural and urban areas.

PM NARENDRA MODI PARTICIPATED IN YUGM INNOVATION CONCLAVE IN NEW DELHI

- **Organized by the Ministry of Education**, it brought together leaders from the government, industry, academia, and research sectors.
- **Theme:** Empowering India's innovation ecosystem for achieving Viksit Bharat@2047.
- **Aim:** To boost private investment in innovation, facilitate research commercialization, and enhance collaboration between stakeholders.

Key Highlights:

- Launch of Superhubs at **IIT Kanpur and IIT Bombay**, focusing on artificial intelligence, biosciences, and biotechnology.
- Unveiling of the **Wadhwani Innovation Network** to support research commercialization and entrepreneurship.
- Emphasis on India's role as a global hub for innovation through cross-sector partnerships.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA HAS ISSUED NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO BANKS AND WHITE LABEL ATM OPERATORS

- **Availability of ₹100 and ₹200 Notes:** By September 30, 2025, at least 75% of all ATMs must dispense ₹100 or ₹200 notes from at least one cassette. This requirement will increase to 90% by March 31, 2026.
- **Objective:** The move aims to improve the availability of lower denomination notes, which are in high demand for daily transactions, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.
- **Implementation:** Banks and WLAOs are required to reconfigure their ATM cassettes and upgrade software where necessary to meet these requirements.

- **Compliance Monitoring:** The RBI will closely monitor the implementation of these guidelines, and non-compliance may attract supervisory action.

BANKING- ONE LINER

- On April 3, **2025, Citi and SBI launched a \$295 million Social Loan facility to finance affordable housing, healthcare, education, and green infrastructure projects.** This initiative aligns with ESG standards, ensuring measurable social impact. It aims to foster sustainable development and uplift underserved communities through innovative financing.
- On April 2, 2025, the **Bank of Maharashtra (BOM), in partnership with Customer Capital,** launched the travel platform 'Tripstacc'. It enables BOM cardholders to book travel and earn loyalty rewards via the bank's website and app. This white-label solution also offers insights into travel trends for banks.
- **SEBI has extended the deadline for retail algorithmic trading regulations to August 1, 2025.** This provides additional time for stock exchanges and brokers to finalize implementation standards. The move ensures safer adoption of algo trading for retail investors. It aims to mitigate associated risks effectively.
- On April 2, **2025, IDFC FIRST Bank was authorized by the CPAO to disburse pensions for central government pensioners, including All India Service Officers and retired judges.** Pensioners can receive their pensions in IDFC FIRST Bank accounts with benefits like zero-fee banking and senior citizen perks.
- **Securis Finance, a subsidiary of FirstPay Technologies, secured an RBI NBFC licence** on April 3, 2025, to offer education loans. It plans to disburse ₹100 crore in the first year across major educational hubs, with loan amounts ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh. The company aims to scale its loan book to ₹1,000 crore by 2030, supporting over 100,000 students annually.
- **India Post and Nippon India Mutual Fund launched door-to-door KYC services** on April 3, 2025, to simplify mutual fund onboarding. It targets senior citizens, rural investors, and others with mobility challenges, promoting financial inclusion under the Jan Nivesh initiative.
- **In 2024-25, 4,991 villages were designated as Adarsh Gram under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) scheme.** The initiative focuses on developing Scheduled Caste-dominated villages by improving infrastructure and essential services like education, health, sanitation, and rural roads. It aims to enhance socio-economic conditions and foster holistic development.
- On April 4, 2025, **NABARD announced an assistance of ₹5,830 crore to Jharkhand for FY25** to boost rural infrastructure. Major allocations include ₹1,988 crore for irrigation projects in Giridih and Palamu districts, rural godowns, bridges, and drinking water facilities. Additionally, 244 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) were supported, benefiting over 2 lakh farmers. This initiative aims to enhance livelihoods and strengthen rural development.
- On April 2, 2025, **HDFC Bank, IDFC First Bank, and stock Holding Securities IFSC Ltd (SSIL) were appointed** as corporate agents in GIFT City, Gujarat. This empowers them to sell insurance products globally to NRIs and PIOs, simplifying succession processes under Indian laws. The move enhances accessibility and streamlines insurance services for overseas Indians.
- India's steel **trade deficit hit a 10-year high of 4.5 million tonnes (mt) in FY25, with imports rising to 9.5 mt and exports dropping to 5 mt.** The deficit was fueled by cheaper imports from countries like China and Vietnam. On April 8, 2025, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies recommended a 12% safeguard duty on imports to address this issue.
- The NCLAT **dismissed IDBI Bank's insolvency petition against Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd** on April 7, 2025, citing protection under Section 10A of the IBC. This section shields defaults during the COVID-19 moratorium period (March 25, 2020, to March 25, 2021) from insolvency filings.
- On April 4, 2025, the RBI **granted a Certificate of Registration (CoR) to Piramal Finance** to operate as a Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC). This approval allows Piramal Finance to shift its focus from housing finance to investment and credit operations. The move aims to promote specialized services and strengthen India's financial sector.
- On April 7, **2025, Bank of Baroda (BoB) introduced the 'BoB Square Drive Deposit Scheme' with a tenure of 444 days.** It offers an interest rate of

7.15% for the general public, 7.65% for senior citizens, and 7.75% for super senior citizens. This scheme aims to provide stable and competitive returns.

- On April 7, 2025, **Axis Bank introduced the 'In-App Mobile OTP' feature to enhance cybersecurity.** This generates time-based OTPs directly within its app, eliminating reliance on SMS and reducing risks like phishing and SIM swap attacks. The feature ensures faster, secure authentication for customers.
- Bandhan Bank **launched the 'Elite Plus' Savings Account on April 8, 2025,** for HNIs. It provides unlimited cash deposits, free RTGS/NEFT/IMPS transactions, and ₹15 lakh debit card insurance. Perks include airport lounge access, golf sessions, and global transaction benefits.
- Juspay became India's **first unicorn of 2025 on April 7, 2025, after raising \$60 million in Series D funding,** led by Kedaara Capital. The Bengaluru-based payment infrastructure provider focuses on payment orchestration and expanding into global markets.
- BharatPe's Resilient Payments received RBI approval on **April 9, 2025, to operate as an online payment aggregator (PA).** It will launch under the brand name **BharatPe X,** enabling e-commerce settlements, early merchant payments, and collaboration with NBFCs and banks. This strengthens BharatPe's presence in tier 2 and 3 cities while advancing India's digital payments.
- **Poonawalla Fincorp introduced its Shopkeeper Loan Business on April 8, 2025, to support** small retailers and kirana stores with tailored financial solutions. Initially launched in 44 locations, it addresses cash flow, inventory, and operational needs. The initiative aims to bring small businesses into the formal credit system and empower self-employed individuals.
- On April 11, 2025, **the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced that India's** Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 2.9% in February 2025. This indicates moderate growth, driven by improvements in sectors like manufacturing and electricity, despite lingering challenges.
- On April 8, 2025, **Razorpay partnered with NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL) and Axis Bank to launch** the 'Turbo UPI Plugin' on the BHIM Vega platform. This solution enables businesses to offer seamless in-app UPI payments, allowing customers

to complete transactions instantly without redirecting to third-party apps.

- On April 8, 2025, **Piramal Finance and ICICI Bank announced a partnership to improve credit** access for middle- and low-income borrowers in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This collaboration focuses on providing affordable home loans and loans against property, utilizing Piramal Finance's wide reach and ICICI Bank's banking expertise. It aims to support financial inclusion, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
- India's **wholesale inflation dropped to 2.05% in March 2025, reaching a four-month low as reported** on April 13, 2025. This decline was driven by easing prices in food and fuel, with vegetable prices notably deflating by 15.88%.
- India recorded its highest annual power capacity addition in FY25, as reported on April 13, 2025, with a total of 34,054 MW added across all sources. Renewable energy led the growth, contributing **29,520 MW, including 23.83 GW of solar energy.** **This milestone** brought India's total renewable energy capacity to 220.10 GW, advancing its clean energy goals.
- On April 12, 2025, **IRDAI imposed a ₹1.06 crore penalty on Flipkart Internet Private Limited (FIPL) for violating** insurance e-commerce norms and corporate agent regulations. Key issues included redirecting customers to an intermediary's site instead of the insurer's site and selling insurance after the expiration of its registration.
- The International **Finance Corporation (IFC) launched the Catalytic First Loss Guarantee Facility** on April 8, 2025, to address the \$5.7 trillion MSME finance gap. It focuses on financing women-owned businesses, agriculture enterprises, and climate-focused MSMEs.
- On its 131st Foundation Day **on April 12, 2025, PNB launched 34 new products, including** 12 customer-focused deposit schemes and 10 digital transformation initiatives like WhatsApp-based FD bookings. Other highlights include the introduction of the live assistant "Pihu" and enhanced services for MSMEs, NRIs, and students.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **imposed a ₹3.20 lakh penalty on Citibank N.A. on April 9, 2025 for violating** the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The penalty was due to inadequate due diligence in processing inward remittances from a foreign currency account.

- From April 2025, the Index of **Industrial Production (IIP) will be released on the 28th of every month at 4:00 PM** by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This reduces the timeline from 42 days to 28 days for quicker data dissemination. The IIP will first be released as Quick Estimates, followed by Final Estimates.
- RBI cancelled the **licence of Colour Merchants Co-operative Bank, Ahmedabad, on April 16, 2025**, due to inadequate capital and regulatory non-compliance. The bank's liquidation process will be initiated by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Gujarat. Depositors are insured up to ₹5 lakh under Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), covering 98.51% of depositors.
- The RBI approved UK-based Revolut as a **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) issuer on April 16, 2025. This enables Revolut to offer digital wallets, prepaid cards, and UPI-based services in India.** The company aims to merge global fintech innovation with Indian market needs.
- SBI Card and Tata Digital launched **the co-branded 'Tata Neu SBI Card' on April 16, 2025. It offers rewards in NeuCoins, redeemable via the Tata Neu app, with up to 10% NeuCoins for Tata Neu Infinity users and 7% NeuCoins for Tata Neu Plus.**
- The SBI 'Amrit Vrishti' **FD Scheme is back from April 15, 2025, offering a 444-day tenure.** Interest rates are 7.05% for general customers, 7.55% for senior citizens, and 7.65% for super senior citizens. The rates are slightly lower than the previous version of the scheme.
- On April 17, 2025, the **RBI imposed fines on Kotak Mahindra Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Punjab National Bank** for regulatory non-compliance. Kotak Mahindra was fined ₹61.4 lakh, IDFC First ₹38.6 lakh, and PNB ₹29.6 lakh.
- The CCI approved **Patanjali Ayurved and five entities' acquisition of a 98.055% stake in Magma General Insurance Ltd (MGIL) for ₹4,500 crore on April 16, 2025.** The deal, cleared under the green channel route, ensures no competition concerns.
- India's **coal-based power generation grew by 2.8% in FY25, marking its slowest growth** since COVID-19, as reported on April 16, 2025. Meanwhile, renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro saw stronger expansion, meeting rising electricity demand.
- Razorpay became a public **limited company on April 18, 2025, moving closer to its IPO plans.** It changed its name from Razorpay Software Private Limited to Razorpay Software Limited for corporate governance. The company is undergoing reverse flipping, shifting its parent entity from the US to India, following a startup trend.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a Rs. 150 commemorative coin, BSE@150 logo, and BSE 150 Index on April 17, **2025, at Mumbai's Jio World Convention Centre, marking BSE's 150-year legacy.** The coin features the Lion Capital of Ashoka, while the index tracks 150 mid-cap stocks.
- On April 14, 2025, SEBI approved Capitalmind Financial Services to launch Capitalmind Mutual Fund. The Bengaluru-based firm, led by Deepak Shenoy, will offer active equity, debt, and hybrid funds using quantitative strategies. With ₹2,000 crore in PMS/AIF AUM, it aims to tap India's growing mutual fund market.
- Bajaj Allianz Life **Insurance launched the Superwoman Term Plan on April 11, 2025, exclusively for women.** It covers 60 critical illnesses, offers optional child care benefits, and includes health management services worth ₹36,500 annually. It aims to support women across various life stages with holistic coverage.
- On April 17, 2025, **Tata Sons' Agratas secured a £750 million (\$990.79 million) loan from a group of 15 global banks.** This funding will develop the UK's largest battery manufacturing facility in Somerset, projected to meet nearly 50% of the UK's automotive battery demand by the 2030s. The project is part of Tata's £4 billion EV battery investment, supporting sustainable mobility and reducing foreign dependency.
- On April 17, 2025, AU Small Finance Bank launched Concierge Services for its premium clients under AU ivy and AU Eternity programs. These services cater to ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNI), offering assistance in global travel, luxury stays, dining, and more. This initiative aims to redefine luxury banking with lifestyle-focused offerings.
- On April 11, 2025, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the banking licence of Shankarrao Mohite Patil Sahakari Bank Ltd., Akluj, due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects.** These violated provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- The Reserve **Bank of India (RBI)** has capped the **penalty for violations under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** at ₹2 lakh per contravention. This change, announced on April 24, 2025, aims to ease compliance burdens for individuals and corporations.
- On April 22, 2025, **HDFC Bank became the third Indian company to surpass a market capitalization of ₹15 lakh crore**, joining Reliance Industries and TCS. This milestone was achieved as its stock price surged to a record ₹1,970.65. The growth reflects strong financial performance, increased investor confidence, and its leadership in India's banking sector.
- On April 22, 2025, **Ambuja Cements, part of the Adani Group, acquired a 37.8% stake in Orient Cement Limited (OCL)** from the CK Birla Group. This raised Ambuja's total stake in OCL to 46.66%, granting it sole control and promoter status.
- On April 21, 2025, LIC increased its stake in Bank of Baroda (BoB) from 5.03% to 7.05%. This was achieved through the acquisition of 10.45 crore shares via open market purchases over a period of one-and-a-half years, from November 2023 to April 2025.
- The Reserve **Bank of India (RBI)** extended the **deadline for banks to install BIS-certified note sorting machines** to November 1, 2025. This extension, announced on April 24, 2025, followed feedback from banks about timeline challenges. These machines ensure the authenticity and fitness of banknotes, enhancing efficiency.
- Edelweiss Mutual **Fund launched India's first BSE Internet Economy Index Fund on April 25, 2025**, tracking the BSE Internet Economy Total Return Index. It covers 20 companies from India's digital economy across sectors like e-retail, fintech, and telecom infrastructure.
- On April 25, 2025, the **RBI canceled the license of Imperial Urban Co-operative Bank, Jalandhar, due to inadequate capital and poor earning prospects. The bank's winding-up process will be initiated, and depositors are insured up to ₹5 lakh under DICGC, with 97.79% eligible for full repayment.**
- On April 25, 2025, the RBI **imposed penalties of ₹1.61 crore on Indian Bank, ₹63.60 lakh on Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), and ₹71.30 lakh on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Ltd.** The penalties were for violations related to interest rate benchmarks, collateral-free loans, and loan processing disclosures, ensuring stricter compliance with regulations.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced on **April 29, 2025 that it will inject ₹1.25 lakh crore** into the banking system in May 2025. This liquidity infusion will be conducted through Open Market Operations in four tranches, starting on May 6. It aims to address seasonal cash flow needs and stabilize market conditions.
- Foreign Portfolio **Investors (FPIs)** invested a **net amount of ₹17,425 crore in Indian equities** during April 21–25, 2025. This inflow followed a ₹8,500 crore investment the previous week, showcasing strong market confidence. Sectors like capital goods, infrastructure, and banking were preferred.
- Axis **Max Life Insurance launched Bandhan 2.0 on April 24, 2025, to onboard new hires through an AI-enabled platform.** It uses augmented reality, gamification, and virtual leadership engagement for an immersive experience.
- The Reserve **Bank of India (RBI)** has mandated the **use of the PRAVAAH portal for all regulatory applications** starting May 1, 2025. This secure, web-based platform, launched on May 28, 2024, streamlines submissions for authorizations, licenses, and approvals. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and faster processing across banks, financial companies, and other regulated entities.
- The RBI **extended the deadline for banks to deploy BIS-compliant note sorting machines** from May 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025. These machines meet BIS standards to ensure accurate authentication and processing of banknotes.
- Airtel **Payments Bank launched NCMC-enabled RuPay cards on April 25, 2025. These cards, based on the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) protocol, allow seamless payments across various modes of public transport, including metros, buses, and ferries. The initiative aims to enhance convenience and interoperability in India's public transport system.**
- On April 28, 2025, **BookMyForex introduced the Global Forex Card, eliminating cross-currency fees and ATM withdrawal charges.** Accepted in over 200 countries, the lifetime free card also offers up to 2% cashback on forex transactions. It is tailored for students, travelers, and professionals, providing

convenience and savings. The card is denominated in US dollars.

- The Department of Posts (DoP) **partnered with SBI Mutual Fund on April 29, 2025, at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi, to simplify mutual fund investor onboarding.** The initiative provides doorstep KYC verification, ensuring secure and accessible financial services, especially in rural areas.
- On April 28, 2025, Bajaj **Allianz General Insurance launched ClimateSafe, a parametric insurance** product for climate-related risks. It offers automatic claim settlements within seven days based on predefined weather triggers like extreme heat or rainfall. Customers can select their risk location, period (1-30 days), and sum insured for customized coverage.
- On April 29, 2025, SEBI **warned against opinion trading platforms, highlighting lack of regulation and high investor risks.** These platforms allow users to bet on real-world events, using misleading financial terms to appear like legitimate investments. SEBI clarified that opinion trading is not a security, meaning such platforms are unregulated and lack investor protection.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Salila Pande	MD & CEO of SBI Card
Poonam Gupta	RBI Deputy Governor
Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey	Commonwealth Secretary-General
Shri H. Shankar	Managing Director of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
SC Ralhan	President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations
Sivasubramanian Ramann	Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority
Kamal Haasan	Chairperson of the FICCI Media and Entertainment Committee South
Sohini Rajola	Executive Director – Growth at NPCI
Debmalya Sen	President of the India Energy Storage Alliance
Ravneet Kaur	Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India

Mohsin Naqvi	President of the Asian Cricket Council
Seema Agrawal	DGP/Director of Fire and Rescue Services.
Justice Arun Palli	Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court
Satish Chavva	CEO of Oman India Joint Investment Fund
Viral Davda	Deputy Chief Information Officer at the Bombay Stock Exchange
Dr. Mohan Rajan	Vice-President of the All India Ophthalmological Society
President Daniel Noboa	President of Ecuador
Sourav Ganguly	Chairperson of the ICC Men's Cricket Committee
Mirabai Chanu	Chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation
Brice Oligui Nguema	Gabon's President
Justice Dinesh Maheshwari	Chairperson of the 23rd Law Commission of India
Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gava	52nd Chief Justice of India
Santosh Kumar	Deputy Chief Financial Officer (Deputy CFO) of IndusInd Bank.
Dr. Mangi Lal Jat	Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Djuro Macut	Serbia's new Prime Minister
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Vice President of Investment Solutions at AIIB
Judge Kaveri Baweja	Registrar (Vigilance) of the Delhi High Court
Five Special Directors	Enforcement Directorate
T. Rabi Sankar	RBI Deputy Governor
Jitendra Mishra	President of Centre of Films for Children and Young People
Captain (Retd.) Jagmohan	President of Centre of Films for Children and Young People
Sandeep Singh	CEO of TrillionLoans Fintech
Stacie Sire	Vice President and Managing Director of Boeing India Engineering & Technology Center
Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh	Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh

Sunil Bharti Mittal	Chairman of Bharti Enterprises
K.K. Pathak	Additional Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat
Jitendra Srivastava	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC Ltd
Anant Ambani	Executive Director of Reliance Industries Ltd
Dr. A. Jayathilak	50th Chief Secretary of Kerala
K. Ramakrishna Rao	Chief Secretary
Neeraj Kumar Gupta	Chairman and Public Interest Director of NSE IX
Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul	Badminton World Federation President
IAS Vinod Kumar Gunjyal	Chief Electoral Officer of Bihar
Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai	CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission
Tejpaul Bhatia	CEO of Axiom Space
Gunjan Soni	Country Managing Director of YouTube India
Kamla Persad-Bissessar	Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago
Mark Carney	Prime Minister of Canada
Alok Joshi	Chairman of the revamped National Security Advisory Board
Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma	Commander-in-Chief of the Northern Army Command
Arvind Shrivastava	Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
Vumlunmang Vualnam	Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance
Santosh Kumar Sarangi	Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Samir Kumar Sinha	Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
Vivek Aggarwal	Secretary, Ministry of Culture

INDEX AND RANKING

ELON MUSK, MARK ZUCKERBERG TOP FORBES' 2025 RICHEST PEOPLE IN WORLD

- **Top Billionaires:**
 - Elon Musk reclaimed the top spot with a net worth of \$342 billion, driven by successes in Tesla, SpaceX, and xAI.

- Mark Zuckerberg ranked second with \$216 billion, followed by Jeff Bezos at \$215 billion.
- Global Billionaire Count: A record 3,028 billionaires were listed, with a combined wealth of \$16.1 trillion, up by \$2 trillion from 2024.

- **Country Rankings:**

- USA led with 902 billionaires, followed by China (516) and India (205).
- India's billionaires collectively hold a net worth of \$941 billion, with Mukesh Ambani as the richest Indian at \$116 billion.
- Newcomers: The list featured 288 new billionaires, including notable figures from diverse industries.
- Trends: The report highlighted the growing dominance of tech entrepreneurs and the increasing wealth concentration in the \$100 Billion Club, which now has 15 members.

DELHI'S IGI AIRPORT RANKED 9TH BUSIEST GLOBALLY IN 2024

- The top position was **claimed by Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (USA)**, maintaining its title as the busiest airport in the world.
- The rankings **reflect the recovery of the aviation sector post-pandemic, with improved** connectivity and infrastructure driving passenger growth.

AIIMS, HAS SECURED THE 97TH POSITION IN THE 2024 WORLD'S BEST HOSPITALS RANKING

- The ranking, published on April 15, 2024, evaluated over 2,400 hospitals across 30 countries based on patient satisfaction, clinical outcomes, hygiene standards, and peer recommendations.
- **India's Representation:** Apart from AIIMS, Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon ranked 146th, and PGIMER, Chandigarh ranked 228th.
- **Top Position:** The Mayo Clinic, USA, secured the 1st position, followed by the Cleveland Clinic and Toronto General Hospital.
- **AIIMS Excellence:** Recognized for its affordable treatment, advanced medical research, and state-of-the-art facilities.
- **Global Significance:** Reflects India's growing prominence in healthcare and its potential as a medical tourism hub.

SBI & HDFC BANK RANK AMONG WORLD'S TOP 100 BANKS BY ASSETS IN 2025: S&P GLOBAL

- The ranking is dominated by **Chinese banks**, with the **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC)** securing the 1st position, reflecting its large asset base and financial influence.
- State Bank of India (SBI)**, ranked **43rd**, climbing 4 spots from last year's ranking.
- HDFC Bank**, ranked **73rd**, rising 1 spot compared to its previous position.
- India's representation underscores the growing scale and global competitiveness of its financial institutions.

IISC TOPS TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION ASIA RANKINGS 2025

- India's Performance:** The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) **ranked 38th in Asia**, maintaining its position as India's top university. Other notable Indian institutions include Anna University (111th), IIT Indore (131st), and Mahatma Gandhi University (140th). In total, 20 Indian universities featured in the top 250.
- Top Performers:** Tsinghua University, China, secured the **1st position**, followed by Peking University, China, and National University of Singapore (NUS).
- Global Trends:** China dominated the rankings with five universities in the top 10, while Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong also performed strongly.
- Enhances SPDs' ability to underwrite and trade G-Secs, improving market liquidity and price discovery.
- Strengthens the infrastructure of the G-Sec market, encouraging broader investor participation.

Terms: The RBI will communicate individual limits to SPDs separately. All other terms and conditions of the SLF remain unchanged.

MAHARASHTRA, GUJARAT & KARNATAKA LEAD 2025 CAREEDGE STATE RANKINGS

- Key Findings:**
 - Top Performers:** Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka secured the highest ranks due to their strong industrial base, investment-friendly policies, and fiscal stability.
 - Sector-Specific Leaders:** Odisha led in fiscal management, Punjab & Haryana excelled in infrastructure, Kerala topped in social

indicators, and Andhra Pradesh ranked highest in governance efficiency.

- Regional Trends:** Western states dominated economic and fiscal rankings, while Southern states performed well in governance and environmental sustainability.
- Investment Attractiveness:** The rankings offer a quantitative evaluation of states' growth potential, influencing policy decisions, business investments, and development strategies.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Akarsh Shroff	National Youth Award
Tamil Nadu's Kumbakonam Betel Leaf	GI tags
MSRDC	SKOCH Award
Narendra Modi	Mithra Vibhushana
Sudarsan Pattnaik	Fred Darrington Award
Adani Group	Olive Crown Gold
Droupadi Murmu	City Key Honour
Rajesh Unni	National Maritime Varuna Award
Booker Shortlist	Heart Lamp
Droupadi Murmu	Honorary Doctorate
Dr. Ambrish Mithal	IOF CSA Medal
James Anderson	Knighthood
Aamir Khan	Master Humor Award
P. Sivakami	Verchol Dalit Literary Award
Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy	Legends of Endoscopy
Meghalaya	UIDAI Award
UP Police	SKOCH Award
H.G. Infra Engineering Ltd and Ashoka Buildcon Ltd	National Highways Excellence Awards
Commander D. Panda, Electrical Artificer Rahul Kumar Pandey, Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer Ram Ratan Jat, Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, and Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal	MacGregor Medal
Samar Abu Elouf	World Press Photo of the Year
Dr. Achyuta Samanta	Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma Award
Jan Swasthya Sahayog, Pratham Education Foundation, Services Plus	Yashraj Bharti Samman Awards

Anil Malik	PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration
Kumar Mangalam Birla	Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award
Payal Kapadia	"Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres"
Singapore Changi Airport (World's Best Airport)	Skytrax World Airport Awards 2025
University of Jammu's High Energy Physics Group Led by Prof. Anju Bhasin	Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics
Uttar Pradesh, Moradabad DM Anuj Singh, Bahraich DM Monika Rani	Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration
Semia Gharbi, Batmunkh Luvsandash, Besjana Guri & Olsi Nika, Carlos Mallo Molina, Laurene Allen, Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari	Goldman Environmental Prize 2025
71 famous personalities	Padma Awards
Akashvani	Series of the Year, Best Late Night Show, Best Produced Audio Streaming Programme, Best Celebrity Show on Air, Best Travel Show, Best Interstitial

MOUS SIGNED

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
India and Nepal	1st April 2025	To enhance education, healthcare, and cultural infrastructure in Nepal.
Maharashtra with Microsoft	1st April 2025	To establish three AI Centres of Excellence
India Assist with UAE authorities	4th April 2025	Offering real-time travel assistance to UAE visa holders
Indian Railways and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation	4th April 2025	To implement Automatic Wheel Profile

		Measurement Systems
Union Health Ministry and the Delhi Government	5th April 2025	To implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
India-Australia	6th April 2025	To enhance cooperation in cotton production and trade
(NIEPVD) with Amar Seva Sangam	7th April 2025	Implement the 'Enable Inclusion' App, a digital platform for early identification, intervention, and tracking of children with developmental disabilities.
Supreme Courts of India and Nepal	7th April 2025	To enhance judicial cooperation
Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited	7th April 2025	To strengthen India's maritime sector and aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
India and Nepal	9th April 2025	Focuses on improving crop productivity, post-harvest management, and climate-resilient farming practices.
Telangana & Godrej Capital	9th April 2025	Enhancing credit access for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

MAHAGENCO with ROSATOM	11th April 2025	To develop India's first thorium-based SMR (Small Modular Reactor).
(NaBFID) with the New Development Bank	11th April 2025	To facilitate joint funding, risk-sharing, and knowledge exchange for sustainable projects in sectors like energy, transport, and urban development.
Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Dairy Federation and the National Dairy Development Board	13th April 2025	To expand dairy societies from 6,000 to 9,000, boost milk production.
India and Slovakia	15th April 2025	To co-develop and manufacture next-generation combat vehicles under the Make-in-India initiative
Ministry of Labour & Employment with Swiggy	15th April 2025	To strengthen employment linkages in the gig sector via the National Career Service portal.
Maharashtra with International Business Machines	16th April 2025	To integrate AI into governance
Ranchi, the Jharkhand government and SBI	17th April 2025	To provide insurance benefits to state employees.
Telangana with (TG REDCO), Ecoren Energy India Private Limited, GPRS Arya Private Limited	17th April 2025	For renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and

		compressed biogas.
(CREDAI) with (NSDC) and (QCI)	18th April 2025	To enhance skill development and promote sustainability in the Indian real estate sector.
(ICAI) and the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)	21st April 2025	To strengthen public sector auditing capabilities.
Ministry of Cooperation signed an MoU with Swiggy Instamart	25th April 2025	Promotes digital access for cooperatives, aligning with the International Year of Cooperation 2025.
(NIELIT) with eight visionary organizations	25th April 2025	To strengthen the Digital India mission by fostering innovation, skilling, and research in emerging technologies.
ISRO & SCTIMST	25th April 2025	To Propel Space Medicine Advances
New Delhi, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Microsoft	22nd March 2025	"AI Careers for Women"
State Bank of India with the Land Ports Authority of India	29th April 2025	To modernize forex transactions, corporate salary packages, and digital banking solutions.
Ministry of Labour with Rapido	29th April 2025	To create 50 lakh employment opportunities in

		the logistics sector over the next 1-2 years through the (NCS) portal
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IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
1st April 2025	Zero Discrimination Day	Theme: "Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World"
2nd April 2025	Odisha Day, or Utkal Divas	Tribute to leaders like Madhusudan Das who shaped its legacy.
2nd April 2025	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: "Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"
2nd April 2025	International Children's Book Day	Theme: "The Freedom of Imagination"
3rd April 2025	261st Raising Day	Motto is "Sarve Santu Niramaya" (Let all be free from disease)
4th April 2025	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action	Theme: "Safe Futures Start Here,"
5th April 2025	International Day of Conscience	Theme: "Leave No One Behind"
5th April 2025	National Maritime Day	Theme: "Samridh Sagar – Viksit Bharat Evam Neel Arth Aur Harit Vikas Ke Liye Yuva"
6th April 2025	International Day of Sports for Development and Peace	Theme: "Levelling the Playing Field: Sport for Social Inclusion,"
7th April 2025	International Day of Reflection	Theme: -
7th April 2025	World Health Day	Theme: "Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures"
8th April 2025	International Romani Day	Theme: -
9th April 2025	Central Reserve Police Force Valour Day	Theme: -

10th April 2025	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme: Adhyayan, Adhyaapan, Anusandhaan'
11th April 2025	World Parkinson's Day	Theme: -
12th April 2025	International Day of Human Space Flight	Theme: -
12th April 2025	International Day for Street Children	"Are Your Kidneys OK? Detect Early, Protect Kidney Health"
13th April 2025	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti	Theme:-
13th April 2025	Siachen Day	Theme: -
14th April 2025	World Quantum Day	Theme: "Every Day in 2025,"
14th April 2025	World Chagas Disease Day	Theme: "Prevent, Control, Care: Everyone's Role in Chagas Disease,"
14th April 2025	National Fire Service Day	Theme: "Unite to Ignite, a Fire Safe India".
15th April 2025	78th Foundation Day	Theme: -
15th April 2025	World Art Day	Theme: "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community Through Art"
16th April 2025	World Voice Day	Theme: "Empower Your Voice"
17th April 2025	World Hemophilia Day	Theme: "Access for All: Women and Girls Bleed Too."
18th April 2025	International Day for Monuments and Sites, or World Heritage Day	Theme: "Disaster and Conflict Resilient Heritage"
19th April 2025	World Liver Day	Theme: "Food is Medicine"
20th April 2025	UN Chinese Language Day,	Theme: "Chinese Language: A Gift Across Time and Space,"
21st April 2025	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme: "Creativity for Sustainable Futures,"
22nd April 2025	World Earth Day	Theme: "Our Power, Our Planet"
23rd April 2025	World Book and Copyright Day	Theme: The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable

		Development Goals (SDGs)
23rd April 2025	English Language Day	"The Role of Literature in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
23rd April 2025	Khongjom Day	Theme: -
23rd April 2025	Administrative Professionals Day	Recognizes the contributions of administrative staff like assistants and receptionists.
23rd April 2025	UN Spanish Language Day	Legacy of Miguel de Cervantes, the renowned Spanish writer,
24th April 2025	National Panchayati Raj Day	Promoting local self-governance
24th-30th April 2025	World Immunization Week	Theme: "Immunization for All is Humanly Possible"
24th April 2025	World Day for Laboratory Animals	Raises awareness about the ethical and scientific concerns surrounding animal testing
24th April 2025	International Girls in ICT Day	Theme: "Girls in ICT for Inclusive Digital Transformation".
24th April 2025	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	Theme: "-
25th April 2025	World Malaria Day	Theme: "Malaria Ends With Us: Reinvest, Reimagine, Reignite"
25th April 2025	International Delegate's Day	Theme: -
25th April 2025	World Penguin Day	Theme: "Waddle for a Greener Tomorrow",
21st-25th April 2025	Fire Safety Week	Theme: "Fire Safety in Health Facilities",
26th April 2025	International Sculpture Day	Theme: -
26th April 2025	World Veterinary Day	Theme: World Veterinary Day
27th April 2025	World Tapir Day	Theme: To raise awareness about tapirs
27th April 2025	World Design Day	Theme: "Outlandish Optimism,"

28th April 2025	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme: "Revolutionizing Health and Safety: The Role of AI and Digitalization at Work,"
28th April 2025	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	Theme: "Building a Safer Future: Lessons from Chernobyl,"
29th April 2025	International Dance Day	Theme:
30th April 2025	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	Theme: "Achieving Universal Health Coverage and Promoting Health at the Grassroots."

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

22,919 CRORE ELECTRONICS COMPONENT SCHEME FOR ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- **Incentives:** The scheme offers turnover-linked, capex, and hybrid incentives to encourage domestic manufacturing of electronic components.
- **Employment Generation:** It aims to create over 91,600 direct jobs and many indirect opportunities.
- **Investment and Production Goals:** The scheme is expected to attract investments worth ₹59,350 crore and generate production valued at ₹4,56,500 crore.
- **Focus Areas:** It targets sub-assemblies like camera and display modules, electro-mechanical components, and multi-layer printed circuit boards.

MOE ANNOUNCES 9.5% MATERIAL COST HIKE FOR PM POSHAN SCHEME

- This decision ensures the continued delivery of quality meals to students across India.

Announced by the **Ministry of Education on April 10, 2025**, the new material costs will take effect from May 1, 2025.

- **Hike Details:** A 9.5% increase in material costs under the scheme.

Revised Rates:

- Balvatika and Primary Students: Allocation increased from ₹6.19 to ₹6.78.

- Upper Primary Students: Allocation rose from ₹9.29 to ₹10.17.
- **Impact:** Covers over **11.2 crore** students across **10.36 lakh schools** in the country.
Government Budget: An additional ₹954 crore has been allocated for the fiscal year 2025–26 to accommodate this change.

UNION MINISTER ASHWINI VAISHNAW LAUNCHES GUIDELINES AND PORTAL FOR ECMS

- This initiative aims to strengthen India's electronics manufacturing ecosystem by attracting investments and integrating Indian companies into global value chains.
- **Key highlights of the scheme:**
- **Budget:** ₹22,919 crore, spanning six financial years (FY 2025–26 to FY 2031–32).
- **Focus Areas:** Electronics, power, automotive, and industrial equipment sectors.
- **Incentives:** Linked to employment generation, capital expenditure, and company turnover.
- **Applications Open:** From May 1, 2025, via the online portal2.
- The **scheme emphasizes innovation, quality (Six Sigma standards), and** the establishment of design teams.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES: ONE LINER

- On April 1, 2025, **Assam launched the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan in Biswanath district to empower women entrepreneurs.** The scheme provides ₹10,000 seed capital to women SHGs initially, benefiting 30 lakh women. Additional funding of ₹25,000 and ₹50,000 is offered based on effective utilization. This initiative aims to foster financial independence and micro-entrepreneurship.

SPORTS

HITESH GULIA WINS GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD BOXING CUP BRAZIL 2025

- **Final Match:** Opponent Odel Kamara (England) withdrew due to injury, granting Gulia a walkover win.
- **Semifinals Victory:** Gulia defeated Makan Traore (France) with a 5-0 unanimous decision.

- **Medal Tally for India:** Total of 6 medals—1 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze.
- **Other Medalists:** Silver by Abhinash Jamwal (65kg), bronzes by Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg), and Vishal (90kg).
- **Preparation:** Gulia trained in a 10-day camp in Brazil prior to the event.
- **Background:** Gulia is a sailor with the Indian Navy and a multiple gold medalist in national-level competitions.

INDIA FINISHES SECOND OVERALL IN FIRST ISSF WORLD CUP 2025

- The first ISSF World Cup of 2025 was held from April 1 to April 10.
- This **strong performance marked a successful start to the international shooting** season for the Indian team.
- **Total Medals: 8**
- Gold: 4
- Silver: 2
- Bronze: 2
- **Medal Tally:**
 - 1st Place: China with 11 medals (5 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze)
 - 3rd Place: USA with 6 medals (2 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze)
- **Key Indian Medal Winners:**
 - Sift Kaur Samra: Gold in Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
 - Suruchi Singh: Gold in Women's 10m Air Pistol
 - Vijayveer Sidhu: Gold in Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol
 - Esha Singh: Silver in Women's 25m Pistol
 - Saurabh Chaudhary & Suruchi Singh: Bronze in Mixed 10m Air Pistol
 - Chain Singh: Bronze in Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
- **Notable Achievements:**
 - Vijayveer Sidhu became the first Indian to win gold in the Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol event at any ISSF World Cup.
 - Suruchi Singh defeated double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker in her events, showcasing her remarkable talent.

DHIRAJ BOMMADEVARA WON BRONZE FOR INDIA IN THE ARCHERY WORLD CUP INDIVIDUAL EVENT

- **India secured 4 medals:**
 - Gold: Compound Mixed Team (Rishabh Yadav and Jyothi Surekha Vennam).
 - Silver: Men's Recurve Team (Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, and Atanu Das).
 - Bronze: Men's Individual Recurve (Dhiraj Bommadevara) and Compound Men's Team (Rishabh Yadav, Abhishek Verma, and Ojas Deotale).
- **Top Countries:**
 - Mexico led with 6 medals, followed by China and the USA.
- **India's Performance:**
 - Dhiraj Bommadevara showcased exceptional skill, winning bronze in the Men's Individual Recurve category after a tense five-set match against Spain's Andres Temino Mediel.
 - The Men's Recurve Team settled for silver after a 1-5 loss to China in the final.
- **Global Participation:**
 - Archers from 34 countries competed, with 12 nations winning medals.
 - The event featured categories like recurve and compound, with top athletes aiming for ranking points and direct qualification for the World Cup Finals in China.

THE SECOND ISSF WORLD CUP OF 2025 WAS HELD IN LIMA, PERU

- It featured **top shooters from around the world, with India finishing third in the medal tally** with seven medals: two gold, four silver, and one bronze.
- **Gold Medals:**
 - **Suruchi Singh:** Women's 10m Air Pistol.
 - **Suruchi Singh & Saurabh Chaudhary:** 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team.
- **Silver Medals:**
 - Manu Bhaker: Women's 10m Air Pistol.
 - Simranpreet Kaur Brar: Women's 25m Pistol.
 - Rudranksh Patil & Arya Borse: 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team.

- Arjun Babuta: Men's 10m Air Rifle.

- **Bronze Medal:**

- Saurabh Chaudhary: Men's 10m Air Pistol.

- **Highlights:**

- China topped the medal tally with 13 medals (4 gold, 3 silver, 6 bronze), followed by the USA with 7 medals (4 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze).
- The event saw participation from 392 shooters representing 43 countries.
- India's shooters showcased consistent performances, building on their success from the first ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires.

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS 2025

- **Here's the complete winners list:**

- World Sportsman of the Year: Mondo Duplantis (Pole Vault)
- World Sportswoman of the Year: Simone Biles (Gymnastics)
- World Team of the Year: Real Madrid (Football)
- World Breakthrough of the Year: Lamine Yamal (Football)
- World Comeback of the Year: Rebeca Andrade (Gymnastics)
- World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability: Jiang Yuyan (Swimming)
- World Action Sportsperson of the Year: Tom Pidcock (Cycling)
- Sport for Good Award: Kick4Life
- Sporting Icon Award: Rafael Nadal (Tennis)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Kelly Slater (Surfing)

28TH NATIONAL FEDERATION SENIOR ATHLETICS COMPETITION 2025

- **Women's 400m Hurdles:**

- Gold: Vithya Ramraj (56.04 seconds, new meet record)
- Silver: Anu R (58.26 seconds)
- Bronze: Ashwini R (1:02.41)

- **Men's 200m:**

- Gold: Animesh Kujur (20.40 seconds, national record)
- Silver: Amlan Borgohain (20.80 seconds)
- Bronze: Rahul Kumar G (20.85 seconds)

- **Women's 100m Hurdles:**
 - Gold: Jyothi Yarraji (13.23 seconds, Asian Championships qualification)
 - Silver: Pragyan Prasanti Sah (13.40 seconds)
 - Bronze: Nithya Ramraj (13.42 seconds)
- **Men's Triple Jump:**
 - Gold: Praveen Chithravel (17.37m, national record equaled)
 - Silver: Abdulla Aboobacker (16.99m)
 - Bronze: Mohammed Muhassin (16.28m)
- **Men's Javelin Throw:**
 - Gold: Sachin Yadav (83.86m)
 - Silver: Yash Vir Singh (80.85m)
 - Bronze: Sahil Silwal (77.84m)
- **Women's Long Jump:**
 - Gold: Shaili Singh (6.64m, meet record)
 - Silver: Ancy Sojan (6.46m)
 - Bronze: Moumita Mondal (6.45m)
- **Men's Pole Vault:**
 - Gold: Dev Meena (5.35m, national record)
 - Silver: M Gowtham (5.15m)
 - Bronze: Reegan G (5.10m)
- **Men's 400m:**
 - Gold: Vishal TK (46.19 seconds, personal best)
 - Silver: Jay Kumar (46.33 seconds)
 - Bronze: Manu TS (46.38 seconds)

2ND Asian YOGASANA SPORT CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIA TOPS MEDAL TALLY WITH 87 MEDALS

- **India dominated the event, winning 83 gold medals, 3 silver, and 1 bronze**, securing the top position in the medal tally.
- Over 21 **countries participated, including Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.**
- Key highlights:
- Japan **ranked second with 3 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals.**
- **Mongolia secured third place with 1 gold, 11 silver, and 6 bronze medals.**
- The **championship featured artistic, rhythmic, and team categories, showcasing the growing global stature of Yogasana as a competitive sport.**
- The closing ceremony **was attended by dignitaries like Harsh Malhotra, Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, and senior officials from the Asian and World Yogasana federations.**

CRICKET RETAINED AND MMA TO DEBUT IN 2026 ASIAN GAMES

- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Cricket's Fourth Appearance:** Cricket was previously included in 2010, 2014, and 2023, with India winning gold medals in both men's and women's categories in the last edition.
 - **MMA's Debut:** MMA will feature six medal events under the combat sports category, alongside kurash and judo.
 - **Venue:** Cricket matches will be held in Aichi Prefecture, though the exact location is yet to be finalized.
 - **Olympic Connection:** Cricket's inclusion aligns with its return to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, marking its first Olympic appearance since 1900.

SPORTS ONE LINER

- **Aryna Sabalenka won the Miami Open 2025 on March 30, 2025, at the Hard Rock Stadium, Miami, Florida.** She defeated Jessica Pegula in the women's singles final with a score of 7-5, 6-2. This victory marked her 19th WTA singles title and her first **Miami Open title, solidifying her position as the World No. 1 in tennis.**
- **Sprinter Gurindervir Singh broke the Men's 100m National Record at the Indian Grand Prix 1 on March 28, 2025, held at SAI, NSSC, Bengaluru, Karnataka.** He clocked an impressive 10.20 seconds, surpassing the previous record of 10.23 seconds. This achievement crowned him as India's fastest man in the 100m sprint category.
- Indian wrestler **Manisha Bhanwala clinched India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 on March 29, 2025, held in Amman, Jordan.** She won the women's 62kg freestyle wrestling category, defeating North Korea's Ok J Kim with a close score of 8-7.
- Vandana Katariya **retired from international hockey on April 1, 2025, concluding a stellar 15-year career.** She holds 320 international caps, scored 158 goals, and is the first Indian woman to score an Olympic hat-trick. Her achievements include landmark contributions in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and multiple international tournaments.

- The Aditya Birla Memorial Polo Cup 2025 was held on March 31, 2025, at the Army Polo & Riding Centre, New Delhi. The Rajnigandha Achievers won the tournament by showcasing exceptional skill and teamwork. This event celebrated polo and honored Shri Aditya Vikram Birla's legacy.
- Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin clinched the 2025 Tashkent Open Agzamov Memorial Title in chess on March 29, 2025, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He achieved an unbeaten score of 8/10, outperforming a strong field of international players, including eight rated above 2600.
- Indian equestrian Niharika Singhania clinched gold at the prestigious Azelhof CSI Lier Equestrian Competition in Belgium on April 1, 2025. Competing in the Two Phases special event, she rode Hotese Charboniere, finishing with 40.72 and 40.34 penalty points.
- Max Verstappen triumphed at the Japanese Grand Prix on April 6, 2025, held at the Suzuka Circuit in Suzuka, Japan. The event was part of the Formula 1 World Championship, and Verstappen secured his fourth consecutive win at this iconic venue.
- At the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil won the gold medal in the men's 10m air rifle shooting event on April 6, 2025. This victory marked a significant achievement in his shooting career and contributed to India's strong performance in the tournament.
- Cricket returns to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, featuring six teams each in men's and women's T20 formats. The host nation, USA, is likely to gain direct entry, with others qualifying via ICC rankings. Each team will have a 15-member squad, contributing to cricket's growing global presence. This marks the sport's Olympic comeback after 128 years.
- On April 13, 2025, Oscar Piastri won the Bahrain Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain. Competing in the Formula One category, this victory marked his second win of the season, showcasing his exceptional talent in motorsport.
- On April 13, 2025, the Indian Men's Recurve Team won the silver medal in Stage 1 of the Archery World Cup, held in Auburndale, Florida, USA. The team, consisting of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai, and Atanu Das, displayed exceptional skill and determination.
- Carlos Alcaraz won the 2025 Monte Carlo Masters on April 13, 2025. The event was held at the Monte Carlo Country Club in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France. It is categorized as an ATP Masters 1000 event, and he claimed the title of champion by defeating Lorenzo Musetti.
- Mohun Bagan won the ISL 2024-25 title on April 12, 2025. The final took place at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata, India, as part of the Indian Super League (ISL), a professional football league. They defeated Bengaluru FC 2-1 after extra time to claim the championship.
- Magnus Carlsen from Norway won the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025 in Paris on April 14, 2025. The event was part of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, and the title category was Classical Chess. This innovative format combines creativity with classical rigor, showcasing top-tier competition in the sport of chess.
- World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen triumphed at the Inaugural Freestyle Chess Grand Slam 2025, held in Paris, France, on April 14, 2025. He defeated Hikaru Nakamura in the final with a score of 1.5–0.5, winning the first game and drawing the second.
- Will Pucovski, the 27-year-old Australian cricketer, retired from all forms of cricket on April 8, 2025, due to recurring concussions and health issues like motion sickness and fatigue. His decision follows a career impacted by 13 concussions, including one in March 2024.
- At the Asian U-18 Athletics Championship 2025 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, Nishchay won a silver medal in the boys' shot put on April 17, 2025, with a personal best throw of 19.59m. This achievement marked his second medal in the championship, showcasing his outstanding talent in athletics.
- Oscar Piastri of McLaren won the Formula 1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2025 on April 20, 2025, at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia. This victory, his third of the season, propelled him to the overall lead in the 2025 F1 Drivers' Championship. The event showcased his dominance in the Motorsport Formula 1 category.
- Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won the Pune leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2024-25 on April 23, 2025, held at Amanora-The Fern, Pune. She secured the title in the sport of chess, triumphing over China's Zhu Jiner based on superior tiebreaks.

- On April 16, 2025, **Indian cueist Sourav Kothari won the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Carlow, Ireland**, defeating Pankaj Advani with a score of 725-480. This marked his first IBSF world title in the timed format and came 35 years after his father, Manoj Kothari, won the same championship.
- The Asian **U18 Athletics Championships 2025 took place from April 15 to April 18 at Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz Sports City, Dammam, Saudi Arabia**. India achieved the 8th position, winning a total of 11 medals: 1 gold, 5 silver, and 5 bronze. A notable achievement was Himanshu Jakhar's historic gold medal in the boys' javelin throw.
- Indian **javelin star Neeraj Chopra began his 2025 season with a gold medal at the Potch Invitational Meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa, on April 16, 2025**. He achieved a remarkable throw of 84.52m, outperforming South Africa's Douw Smit (82.44m) and Duncan Robertson (71.22m).
- Liverpool **won the 2024–25 Premier League Championship on April 27, 2025, at Anfield Stadium** in the sport of football. They defeated Tottenham Hotspur with a resounding 5-1 victory. This marked their 20th English top-flight title, equaling Manchester United's record.

REPORTS

INDIA'S EXTERNAL DEBT RISES TO USD 717.9 BN BY DECEMBER 2024

- India's external **debt rose to USD 717.9 billion by December 2024, a 10.7% increase** from December 2023.
- The external debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 19.1%.
- The rise was attributed to the valuation **effect due to the US Dollar's appreciation against the Indian Rupee and other currencies**.
- Key components included US Dollar-denominated debt (54.8%), Indian Rupee debt (30.6%), and others like Japanese Yen, SDR, and Euro.
- Loans were **the largest component, followed by currency deposits, trade credit, and debt securities**.
- Debt **servicing ratio slightly declined to 6.6% from 6.7% in September 2024**.

MINISTRY OF COAL ACHIEVES RECORD GROWTH IN PRODUCTION AND DISPATCH FOR FY 2024-25

- Key Highlights:**
- Record Production:** India achieved a milestone of 1 billion tonnes of coal production, with a growth rate of 4.99% compared to the previous year.
- Coal Dispatch:** Total dispatches reached 1.02 billion tonnes, marking a 5.34% increase from FY 2023-24.
- Sectoral Growth:**
- Commercial Mines:** Production grew by 67.32%, and dispatches increased by 76.71%.
- Captive Mines:** Production rose by 24.72%, and dispatches by 27.76%.
- Sustainability Initiatives:** Focus on sustainable mining practices and reducing import dependency.
- Future Goals:** Plans to enhance domestic coal production and ensure energy security.

SBI RESEARCH REPORT: MSMEs IN BIHAR, UP, ODISHA, N-E AVAILING MORE MUDRA LOANS

- Key Highlights of the Report:**
 - Mudra Loan Growth:** The report highlights a significant increase in Mudra loan disbursements to MSMEs in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and the North-East, addressing regional financial disparities.
 - Inclusive Credit Distribution:** Bihar's share of Mudra loans rose from 5.67% in FY16 to 10.97% in FY25, while Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and the North-East also saw notable growth.
 - Policy Interventions:** The report attributes this shift to targeted policies like digital lending platforms and the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), improving access to micro-credit.
 - Economic Impact:** Over the past decade, PMMY has sanctioned over ₹33 lakh crore in loans, with the average loan size increasing from ₹38,000 in FY16 to ₹1.02 lakh in FY25.

MOEFCC REPORT: OVER 13,056 SQ KM OF FOREST AREA ENCROACHED IN INDIA; MP LEADS

- **Key Highlights:**

- **Forest Encroachment Data:** The report reveals that 13,056 sq km of forest area across 25 states and Union Territories is under encroachment, with Madhya Pradesh leading at 5,460.9 sq km.
- **Regional Insights:** Other states with significant encroachments include Assam (3,620.9 sq km), Karnataka (863.08 sq km), and Maharashtra (575.54 sq km).
- **Policy Recommendations:** Emphasizes sustainable forest management and the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to address tribal and forest-dependent community rights.

IN 2023, INDIA WAS RANKED 10TH GLOBALLY FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN AI

- India ranked 10th globally for private AI investments in 2023, with a total of \$1.4 billion, making it one of only two developing countries, alongside China, in the top 10.
- The United States secured the 1st position, contributing 70% of global AI funding with investments totaling \$67 billion.
- The report reflects India's advancements in AI innovation and infrastructure, driven by initiatives like the India AI Mission and research centers at IITs.
- It also underscores concerns over automation-related job displacement, as the global AI market value is expected to reach \$4.8 trillion by 2033.
- Additionally, India improved its rank on the Frontier Technologies Readiness Index, moving from 48th in 2022 to 36th in 2024, showcasing its steady progress in research and industrial capacity.

SEX RATIO IMPROVEMENT UNDER BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO SCHEME

- **Name of the Report:** The report is part of the "Empowering India's Daughters: A Decade of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao's Success" initiative.
- **Released By:** The report was released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

- **Contents:**

- Highlights the improvement in the sex ratio at birth from 918 (2014-15) to 930 (2023-24).
- Showcases the increase in gross enrollment ratio of girls at the secondary level from 75% (2014-15) to 78% (2023-24).
- Focuses on the scheme's efforts to address gender biases, promote education, and ensure the survival and protection of the girl child.

SBI REPORT PROJECTS INDIA'S INFLATION TO STAY BELOW 4% IN H1 FY26

- **Key highlights:**

- **Inflation Forecast:** India's inflation is projected to remain below 4% during the first half of FY26, marking a significant milestone.
- **Core Inflation:** Expected to range between 4.2% and 4.3%, reflecting a stable economic trend.
- **Factors Influencing Inflation:** Includes global tariff changes, reduced crude oil prices, and improved agricultural output.
- **Headline Inflation:** Predicted to decline steadily until September or October 2025.
- **Macroeconomic Stability:** The forecast highlights improved fundamentals, enhancing economic resilience and consumer purchasing power.

MEITY LAUNCHED 1ST DIGITAL THREAT REPORT 2024 TO SUPPORT CYBER SECURITY IN BFSI SECTOR

- This initiative, **led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, CERT-In, CSIRT-Fin, and global cybersecurity firm SISA, addresses the growing risks in the BFSI ecosystem.
- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Unified Cybersecurity Framework:** The report identifies sector-wide security gaps and provides strategies to mitigate emerging cyber threats.

- **Focus on AI-Driven Risks:** It emphasizes countering sophisticated attacks, including those powered by artificial intelligence.
- **Economic Importance:** With digital payments projected to reach \$3.1 trillion by 2028, the report underscores the critical need for robust defenses to ensure financial stability.
- **Collaborative Approach:** It advocates for intelligence-sharing and coordinated efforts among stakeholders to tackle systemic risks.

FIRST-EVER PAI BASELINE REPORT FOR FY23: GUJARAT AND TELANGANA LEAD AS FRONT RUNNERS

- **Key Highlights:**
 - Evaluates the performance of over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats in India.
 - Focuses on aligning grassroots development efforts with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - Categorizes Panchayats into groups: Aspirants, Performers, Beginners, and Front Runners.
 - Highlights top-performing states: Gujarat (346 Gram Panchayats) and Telangana (270 Gram Panchayats).
 - Utilizes data validated by 2,16,285 Panchayats, emphasizing collaboration and evidence-based analysis.

"AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY: POWERING INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS REPORT RELEASED

- The report highlights India's **automotive sector as a cornerstone of the nation's manufacturing and economic growth**, contributing 7.1% to GDP and 49% to manufacturing GDP.
- It **outlines India's potential to become a global leader in the automotive value chain**, emphasizing opportunities in electric vehicles (EVs), Industry 4.0 technologies, and sustainable practices.
- **Key insights include:**
 - **Global Position:** India is the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, with an

annual production of nearly 6 million vehicles.

- **Challenges:** Limited penetration in high-value segments like engine components and steering systems, with only 3% share in global auto component trade.
- **Vision 2030:** Aims to scale auto component production to \$145 billion, triple exports to \$60 billion, and create 2–2.5 million jobs.
- **Policy Recommendations:** Focus on fiscal and non-fiscal interventions, including R&D, skill development, and adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.

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INDIA'S RAW SILK PRODUCTION RISES ALONGSIDE 16.46% EXPORT BOOST

- **Production Growth:**
 - India's raw silk production increased from 31,906 metric tonnes in 2017-18 to 38,913 metric tonnes in 2023-24.

- Mulberry silk production rose significantly, supported by the expansion of mulberry plantations from 223,926 hectares to 263,352 hectares.
- **Export Growth:**
 - Silk and silk goods exports grew by 16.46%, rising from ₹1,649.48 crores in 2017-18 to ₹2,027.56 crores in 2023-24.
 - India exported 3,348 metric tonnes of silk waste in 2023-24, showcasing its growing role in the global silk market.
- **Government Initiatives:**
 - **Silk Samagra Scheme:** Launched in 2017, this program focuses on improving quality, productivity, and market access while supporting sericulture activities for poor and backward families.
 - **Silk Samagra-2:** An extension of the scheme with a budget of ₹4,679.85 crores for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
 - Other schemes include the Raw Material Supply Scheme (RMSS) and the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP), which provide subsidized yarn and support handloom weavers.
- **Types of Silk Produced:**
 - **Mulberry Silk:** Constitutes 92% of India's total raw silk production, with major production states being Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, and West Bengal.
 - **Non-Mulberry Silk:** Produced by wild silkworms, with key production states including Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and the northeastern states.

FOURTH EDITION OF INDIA JUSTICE REPORT (IJR) 2025

- **Key Highlights:**
 - Karnataka ranked **first among large and mid-sized states, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**. West Bengal ranked lowest.
 - Among smaller states, **Sikkim topped the list, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh**.
 - The report **emphasizes inclusivity, with Karnataka being the only state to meet**

- reservation** quotas for SC, ST, and OBC communities in both police and judiciary.
- It also **highlights gaps, such as India's low police-to-population ratio (155 per 1 lakh people)** and underrepresentation of women in police forces.
- The IJR is a **collaborative effort led by Tata Trusts and other organizations, aiming to provide** actionable insights for improving justice systems.

WB'S STATE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION REPORT 2025

- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Coverage Expansion:** Social protection coverage increased to 51% globally, but 2 billion people remain underserved.
 - **Gender Disparity:** Women receive 81 cents for every USD 1 provided to men in social protection benefits.
 - **COVID-19 Response:** Emergency systems during the pandemic reached 1.7 billion people, underscoring the role of adaptive systems.
 - **Spending:** Nations dedicate 5.3% of GDP to social protection programs.
 - **Challenge for Low-Income Countries:** 80% of the population lacks access to adequate social protection.

UNCTAD REPORT PROJECTS INDIAN ECONOMY TO GROW BY 6.5% IN CY25

- **Key Highlights:**
 - **India's Growth Projection:** A projected 6.5% growth rate for the Indian economy in Calendar Year (CY) 2025, driven by public spending and monetary easing.
 - **Global Trends:** Analysis of challenges such as inflation, commodity price moderation, and sustainable development financing.
 - **Focus Areas:** Emphasizes equitable trade practices, climate-resilient policies, and support for developing nations.

WTO PROJECTS 0.2% DECLINE IN GLOBAL MERCHANDISE TRADE FOR 2025

- This marks a **significant shift from the earlier forecast of 2.7% growth, largely attributed to rising tariffs** and trade tensions, particularly between the US and China.
- **Key Insights:**
 - **Tariff Impact:** Reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US and China are expected to further reduce trade growth by 0.6%, with broader policy uncertainty potentially leading to a 1.5% decline.
 - **Regional Effects:** North America is forecasted to experience a steep drop in exports (12.6%) and imports (9.6%).
 - **Services Trade:** While not directly subject to tariffs, global commercial services trade growth is revised down to 4%.
 - **Economic Outlook:** WTO economists predict global GDP growth at 2.2% in 2025, down by 0.6 percentage points from earlier estimates.

UNESCO: ONLY 60% COUNTRIES HAVE LEGISLATIONS, STANDARDS FOR FOOD, BEVERAGES IN SCHOOL

- **Key findings include:**
 - **Limited Marketing Restrictions:** Only 29% of these 93 countries restrict food and beverage marketing in schools, and 60% have specific standards for school food.
 - **Obesity Oversight:** Most school meal programs focus on nutrition and education but lack emphasis on preventing obesity.
 - **Global Gaps:** 40% of countries lack any food safety or nutritional standards, raising concerns about student health.
 - **India's Context:** The PM-POSHAN scheme, one of the world's largest, feeds 118 million children daily, boosting attendance and academic performance (e.g., 18% higher reading scores). Tamil Nadu's breakfast program further improved attendance from 60-70% to 90-95%.
 - **Recommendations:** UNESCO advocates a whole-school approach, integrating nutrition education, physical activity, and restrictions on unhealthy food marketing, with stronger policies to address food environments over individual responsibility.

IMF LOWERED INDIA'S GDP FORECAST TO 6.2% FOR FY26; 6.3% FOR FY27

- **Revised GDP Growth Forecasts:**
 - **FY26:** Forecast lowered from 6.5% to 6.2%.
 - **FY27:** Forecast reduced from 6.5% to 6.3%.
- **Key Reasons for the Downgrade:**
 - **Global Trade Tensions:** Ongoing trade disputes and uncertainties among major economies, such as the U.S. and China, are impacting global trade and economic stability.
 - **Slower Global Demand:** The world economy is witnessing a moderation in demand due to inflationary pressures and cautious spending.
 - **Financial Market Volatility:** Unstable financial markets, including fluctuating interest rates, are contributing to a conservative outlook.
- **India's Resilience:**
 - **Despite the downgrade, India's GDP growth** remains relatively strong compared to other economies.
 - **Private consumption and rural economic recovery** are expected to support India's growth trajectory.
- **Inflation Outlook:**
- **Inflation rates are projected to ease to 4.2% in FY26 and 4.1% in FY27**, promoting price stability and encouraging investments.

INDIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE OUTPUT INCREASED BY 3.8 PERCENT IN MARCH 2025

- These industries **account for about 40.27% of the weight of items in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, making them critical indicators of economic health.
- The **report released on April 25, 2025, highlighted the following for March 2025:**
 - **Year-on-Year Growth:** Infrastructure output grew by 3.8%.
 - **Sector Performance:** Cement (11.6%), steel (7.1%), and electricity (6.2%) showed

significant growth, while crude oil and natural gas experienced declines.

- **Cumulative FY25 Growth:** The overall growth for FY25 was 4.4%, reflecting progress across core sectors.

INDIA MOVED 171 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF EXTREME POVERTY BETWEEN 2011-12 AND 2022-23

Extreme Poverty Reduction:

- India lifted 171 million people out of extreme poverty between 2011-12 and 2022-23.
- Extreme poverty, defined as living on less than \$2.15/day, fell from 16.2% to 2.3%.

Lower-Middle-Income Transition:

- India's poverty at the \$3.65/day threshold reduced from 61.8% to 28.1%, lifting 378 million people out of poverty.
- The report emphasized significant progress in rural poverty reduction, narrowing the rural-urban poverty gap.

Contributing Factors:

- Improved employment opportunities, targeted social welfare schemes, and better access to education and healthcare played key roles.
- Focus on gender equity and multi-dimensional poverty reduction added to the success.

Future Challenges:

- The report acknowledged remaining disparities and emphasized the need for sustained efforts in rural and urban areas.

SIPRI REPORT 2024: GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING SURPASSES USD 2.7 TRILLION

- **Key Highlights of the Report:**
 - **Global Military Spending:** Reached a record USD 2.7 trillion in 2024, marking a 9.4% increase from 2023. This is the steepest year-on-year rise since the end of the Cold War.
 - **Top Military Spenders:** The United States, China, Russia, Germany, and India

accounted for 60% of the global total, with combined spending of USD 1,635 billion.

- **India's Contribution:** India, the fifth-largest military spender, invested USD 86.1 billion, reflecting a 1.6% increase from the previous year.
- **Regional Trends:** Military spending surged in Europe and the Middle East due to ongoing conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

ADB-WEF REPORT 2025: ASIA-PACIFIC FACES GRID CHALLENGES DESPITE \$729.4 BILLION CLEAN ENERGY PUSH

Key Highlights:

- Despite a USD 729.4 billion investment in clean energy, the Asia-Pacific region lags in grid readiness.
- The report emphasizes the need for modernized and interconnected power grids to fully utilize renewable energy.
- It identifies a USD 23 billion annual funding gap for concessional finance to mobilize private investments.
- Countries like India, Malaysia, and Thailand have made progress in regulatory frameworks, but challenges in grid infrastructure persist.

REPORTS ONE-LINER

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)'s World Social Protection Report 2024-26**, released on March 26, 2025, highlights India's social security coverage doubling to 48.8% by 2024, benefiting 920 million people. Key schemes include Ayushman Bharat, Atal Pension Yojana, and eShram Portal. The report emphasizes India's role in global welfare and advocates for universal coverage.
- The **UNESCAP report, titled Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2025: Understanding the Macroeconomic Implications of Climate Change**, was released on April 8, 2025. It highlights that climate disasters could lead to annual economic losses of 6% GDP in one-third of Asia-Pacific nations.
- The **20th Edition of the 'Secretariat Reforms' Monthly Report for March 2025** was released on April 16, 2025, by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG). It

highlights achievements like freeing 15.88 lakh sq. ft of office space, generating ₹84.09 crore from scrap, and resolving 91.94% of grievances. The report showcases innovations like Waste to Wealth and streamlined governance practices.

- The India's **Trade Dynamics in FY25** report, released by the Ministry of Commerce on April 16, 2025, **highlights key trade trends**. India recorded a \$41 billion surplus with the US, driven by **pharmaceutical and gemstone exports**, while its trade deficit with China deepened to \$99.2 billion, primarily due to high imports of electronics and EV batteries.
- The **ICIMOD 2025 Report**, released on April 21, 2025, by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, **highlights a 23-year low in snow persistence in the Ganga, Indus, and Brahmaputra basins**, with levels 23.6% below normal. It warns of water shortages affecting agriculture, hydropower, and drinking water, and recommends science-based policies for mitigation.
- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) released the report titled **"Plant Breeding Programmes in Indian Zoos: Assessment and Strategic Actions (2024)"** in December 2024. It revealed that India has not initiated a breeding program for the conservation of the endangered musk deer. The report highlighted the absence of a founder stock and ongoing threats like poaching and habitat loss.
- The World Social Report 2025, released by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on April 24, 2025, **highlights global challenges like rising inequality, with the richest 1% owning most wealth, and economic insecurity, affecting 60% of people**. It also discusses deep distrust in governments, reported by over half the global population. The report calls for a new policy consensus emphasizing equity, security, and solidarity.
- The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) placed India and seven other countries on its Priority Watch List in the 2025 Special 301 Report, released on April 29, 2025. **Concerns for India include weak IP enforcement**, high customs duties, trademark counterfeiting, and rampant online piracy. Other listed countries include China, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Indonesia, Russia, and Venezuela.

APPS & PORTALS:

WATER RESOURCE CENSUS APP & PORTAL AND RESERVOIR STORAGE MONITORING SYSTEM LAUNCHED IN DELHI

- **Water Resource Census Application and Portal:**
 - Aimed at conducting nationwide water surveys like the 7th Minor Irrigation Census and 2nd Census of Water Bodies.
 - This application facilitates paperless data collection, geotagging water bodies, and validating data through satellite technology for enhanced accuracy.
 - It ensures precise mapping and transparent governance of India's water resources.
 - Web-Based Reservoir Storage Monitoring System (RSMS):
 - Designed to monitor live storage data for 161 major reservoirs across India.
 - Provides policymakers with real-time updates, insights, and analytics to inform water management strategies.
 - Includes features like downloadable reports and automated alerts for efficient planning and decision-making.

NSO UNVEILS DIGITAL INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S STATISTICAL SYSTEM

- **These include:**
 - **Revamped Microdata Portal:** A centralized repository for statistical data from national surveys and economic censuses, developed in collaboration with the World Bank Technology Team. It features a modern, scalable design and improved data access mechanisms.
 - **National Statistical System Training Academy Website:** A platform to streamline access to capacity-building resources for statistical professionals.
 - **AI/ML-Based Classification Tool:** A Proof of Concept (PoC) tool leveraging natural language processing to simplify the use of the National Industrial Classification (NIC) codes, improving data collection accuracy.

- These initiatives aim **to foster data-driven policymaking, enhance user experience,** and align with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

MP CM MOHAN YADAV LAUNCHES ANMOL 2.0 APP & WEB PORTAL FOR MATERNAL HEALTH

- This initiative is part of the **Maternal and Child Sanjeevan Mission, aimed at improving** maternal and child health in the state.
- **Key highlights:**
 - The **ANMOL 2.0 platform enables real-time monitoring of pregnant** women and infants' health.
 - Nearly 20,000 **Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) have been trained to use** the platform for better healthcare delivery.
 - The mission focuses **on reducing Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** through early detection of high-risk pregnancies and regular antenatal care.

HP CM SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU LAUNCHES E-KALYAN PORTAL OF ESOMSA

- **Key Highlights:**
 - **Objective:** Enable eligible applicants to apply online for benefits under various pension schemes.
 - **Integration:** Linked with Him Bhoomi, Him Parivar, Aadhaar, and PDS Ration Card databases for seamless verification.
- **Financial Impact:**
 - ₹1,410 crore spent on pension schemes in the last financial year, benefiting 8.24 lakh individuals.
 - 37,000 new beneficiaries to be added in 2025, with an additional ₹67 crore allocation.

IMF REPORT 2025: USA RETAINS AS LARGEST ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD; INDIA AT 4TH

- It highlights how **major economies are performing,** with the **United States retaining the top position**

at \$30.34 trillion GDP, followed by China (\$19.53 trillion), Germany (\$4.92 trillion), and India (\$4.39 trillion) at fourth place.

- **Key Insights from the Report:**
 - **India's Growth:** India maintains its position as the fastest-growing major economy, driven by strong domestic demand, digital expansion, and manufacturing growth.
 - **Global Challenges:** The report outlines concerns like trade tensions, policy uncertainties, and tighter financial conditions, affecting overall growth forecasts.
 - **Emerging Markets & Funding Risks:** Developing economies face higher real financing costs, making debt refinancing and fiscal management more difficult.
 - **Financial Market Volatility:** Risks from leveraged financial institutions and sovereign debt sustainability have increased globally.

APPS & PORTALS:

- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman launched the NITI NCAER States Economic Forum Portal on April 1, 2025**, in New Delhi. Developed by NITI Aayog and NCAER, the portal provides 30 years of data on social, economic, and fiscal parameters. It features a fiscal dashboard, state reports, and research insights, enabling evidence-based policymaking.
- **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the National Waterways Portal on April 9, 2025, developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The portal aims to attract private investment for inland water transport and simplify regulatory procedures for constructing terminals.** It issued its first digital No Objection Certificate (NoC) to Marina India Infrastructure Pvt Ltd for a jetty project in Goa.
- **Swiggy launched its new AI-powered platform, Pyng, on April 15, 2025. This app connects users with verified professionals** across various specializations, catering to the growing demand for professional services. Currently available in Bengaluru, Pyng can be downloaded on both iOS and Android platforms.

- Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the Bhu Bharathi revenue portal in Hyderabad on April 14, 2025. The portal aims to enhance land security and ensure transparency in land records with the introduction of the Bhudhar card.
- IIT Madras and Ziroh Labs launched the Kompact AI platform on April 9, 2025, under the Centre of AI Research (COAIR) initiative. This platform enables AI models to run efficiently on standard CPUs, removing the need for costly GPUs. It democratizes AI access, especially in rural areas, supporting India's "AI for All" mission.
- QNu Labs launched Q-Shield, the world's first unique quantum-safe platform, on April 14, 2025, coinciding with World Quantum Day. Q-Shield offers services like Qosmos, QConnect, and QVerse for securing critical infrastructure with quantum-safe cryptography. Developed by IIT Madras-incubated QNu Labs, this platform is a milestone in advancing India's quantum technology leadership.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Paatil launched a digital platform on April 17, 2025, in New Delhi to promote freshwater biodiversity conservation. Developed under the NMCG and WII, the platform provides data on rivers like the Ganga and Godavari.
- The e-SEHAT App was launched on April 16, 2025, by J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. It aims to provide digital healthcare services, including telemedicine, appointment booking, and health tracking. The app also supports multilingual access and integrates wearable devices for enhanced health monitoring.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a new digital CGHS platform on April 28, 2025, developed by C-DAC to enhance healthcare services. Key upgrades include PAN-based identification, Bharat Kosh integration, real-time tracking, and revamped CGHS mobile apps for seamless access.
- On April 22, 2025, the FAO launched the AIM4NatuRe Initiative to enhance global ecosystem restoration monitoring. Supported by the UK, it has a GBP 7 million (~USD 9 million) budget and uses advanced tracking tools. The initiative helps countries strengthen data collection and aims to restore 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030.

Name of Summit	Organized/ Led By	Venue	Aim/Theme
Army Commanders' Conference	Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh	New Delhi	Theme: "Year of Reforms."
International Youth Conclave	Sikkim Tourism Department	Yangang	Focused on sustainable tourism and cultural preservation.
Global Technology Summit	Ministry of External Affairs and Carnegie India	New Delhi	Theme: "Sambhavana," which translates to "possibilities" in Hindi,
"Bridging Gaps: Integrated Strategies to Address Tuberculosis and Diabetes"	World Health Organization and International Diabetes Federation	New Delhi	Focused on integrated healthcare for the 15% of TB patients globally
Conclave on Buddhism	International Buddhist Confederation and Ministry of Culture	Arunachal Pradesh	Theme: "Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North-East India,"
Save Earth Conclave	Phoenix Foundation Sanstha and the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture	New Delhi	Theme: "Bamboo for a Resilient Future".
Global India Summit	Telangana State Government	Hyderabad	To foster global cooperation and showcase Telangana's initiatives.
6th BIMSTEC Summit	Thailand under its chairmanship	Bangkok, Thailand	Theme: "BIMSTEC : Prosperous, Resilient, and Open",
India Global Forum's NXT25 Summit	Devendra Fadnavis, with Union Minister Piyush Goyal	Maharashtra	Theme: "Shaping India's Next 25 Years – Investments, Innovation, and Sustainability"

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

First biannual Naval Commanders' Conference	Indian Navy, under the Ministry of Defence	Karnataka & New Delhi.	Theme: To reinforce India's position as the Preferred Security Partner in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
YUGM Innovation Conclave	Ministry of Education	New Delhi	Theme: Empowering India's innovation ecosystem for achieving Viksit Bharat@2047.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The SpaceX Fram2 mission, led by crypto investor **Chun Wang**, launched on **April 1, 2025**, from Kennedy Space Center, Florida. This marks the first human spaceflight to achieve true polar orbit, crossing both poles. The crew will conduct 22 scientific experiments during their three-to-five-day journey.
- India's **Services PMI fell to 58.5 in March 2025, down from 59.0 in February**, reflecting a slight slowdown in sector expansion. Softer demand and slow international sales growth contributed to the dip. The index remains above 50, indicating continued growth. This data was reported on April 3, 2025.
- On April 3, 2025, Citi and **SBI launched a \$295 million Social Loan facility to finance affordable housing, healthcare, education, and green infrastructure projects. This initiative aligns with ESG standards, ensuring** measurable social impact. It aims to foster sustainable development and uplift underserved communities through innovative financing.
- On April 2, 2025, the Bank of **Maharashtra (BOM)**, in partnership with Customer Capital, launched the travel platform 'Tripstacc'. It enables **BOM cardholders to book travel and earn loyalty rewards via the bank's website and app**. This white-label solution also offers insights into travel trends for banks.
- SEBI has extended the **deadline for retail algorithmic trading regulations to August 1, 2025. This provides additional time for stock exchanges and brokers to finalize implementation standards.** The move ensures safer adoption of algo trading for

retail investors. It aims to mitigate associated risks effectively.

- On April 2, 2025, **IDFC FIRST Bank was authorized by the CPAO to disburse pensions** for central government pensioners, including All India Service Officers and retired judges. Pensioners can receive their pensions in IDFC FIRST Bank accounts with benefits like zero-fee banking and senior citizen perks.
- On April 7, 2025, **researchers discovered a new land snail species, Theobaldius konkanensis, in Maharashtra's Konkan region of the Western Ghats. This snail is endemic to tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests** at altitudes of 80-240 meters.
- On April 5, 2025, **SDAL successfully tested the third-stage rocket motor for Vikram-1, featuring a 2400 kg propellant and 75,000 N thrust.** The test validated thrust vectoring performance and ensured structural integrity through non-destructive testing.
- On April 8, 2025, Bangladesh signed the Artemis Accords with NASA, becoming the 54th nation to join. The agreement promotes peaceful and sustainable non-military space exploration. It also paves the way for collaborations between Bangladesh's space research institutions and NASA.
- Skyroot Aerospace **successfully tested the Kalam-100 engine for its Vikram-1 rocket on April 7, 2025**, during a 102-second static fire test. The engine achieved a 100 kN peak vacuum thrust with precise thrust vector control. This milestone advances Vikram-1's development for payload delivery to 500 km orbits.
- The Soyuz **MS-27 launched on April 8, 2025, from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, carrying NASA's Jonny Kim and Russian cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Alexey Zubritsky to the ISS.** The crew will spend eight months conducting research and technology demonstrations.
- On April 14, 2025, **Blue Origin's New Shepard NS-31 rocket made history as the first all-women space tourist crew successfully returned to Earth after a brief suborbital flight.** The mission, launched from West Texas, carried six accomplished women, including Katy Perry, Lauren Sánchez, and Gayle King, beyond the Kármán line, the boundary of space.
- India's first **satellite, Aryabhata, completed 50 years on April 19, 2025. Launched in 1975 from Kapustin**

Yar, USSR, it marked India's space exploration debut. It conducted experiments in solar physics, aeronomy, and X-ray astronomy before a power failure.

- The Indian **Institute of Spices Research (IISR)** introduced the light-colored turmeric variety **IISR Surya** on April 16, 2025, for the masala and powdering industry. It offers a 20–30% yield increase, consistent aroma, and 2–3% curcumin content. Suitable for cultivation in states like Kerala, Telangana, and Odisha, it addresses turmeric shortages in domestic and export markets.
- On April 20, 2025, **ISRO successfully completed its second satellite docking under the SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) Mission**, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration. The docking involved the satellites SDX-01 (Chaser) and SDX-02 (Target), demonstrating autonomous docking from an inter-satellite distance of 15 meters.
- On April 17, 2025, **C-DOT and Sterlite Technologies Limited (STL) achieved India's first Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) over Multi-Core Fibre (MCF)** using a 4-core MCF. Quantum signals were transmitted through one core, while the other three carried high-speed classical data over 100 km.
- On April 22, 2025, **South Korea launched its fourth military reconnaissance satellite aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** from Florida. This satellite features synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology for all-weather, day-and-night imaging.
- **AIIMS Raipur successfully performed its first Swap Kidney Transplant, also known as Kidney Paired Donation (KPD)**, on March 15, 2025. This complex procedure involved two patients with incompatible donors swapping kidneys to ensure compatibility. It marks a milestone for Chhattisgarh, being the first such transplant in the state.
- **China launched the Tianlian-2 (05) satellite on April 27, 2025, using the Long March 3B rocket.** Positioned in geostationary orbit, it enhances data relay for the Tiangong Space Station and Earth orbit satellites. Key features include improved bandwidth, higher transmission rates, and a lifespan of 15 years.

2025. Exports spanned 80 countries, with private firms contributing ₹15,233 crore and DPSUs adding ₹8,389 crore. This growth aligns with India's goal to achieve ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029.

- On April 1, 2025, **Moody's projected India's GDP growth at 6.5% for FY26, leading the G-20 nations.** This growth reflects strong domestic demand, favorable tax policies, and increased government capital expenditure.
- Between **April and December 2024, India's pharmaceutical and medical device sector attracted ₹11,888 crore in FDI**, reflecting its global appeal. The investment aligns with the PLI Scheme, promoting domestic manufacturing and boosting exports. The announcement was made on April 13, 2025.
- **Moody's Analytics has revised India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 down to 6.1% from the earlier 6.4%.** This adjustment, announced on April 10, 2025, is attributed to potential economic impacts from US tariff threats targeting key Indian export sectors like gems and jewellery, textiles, and medical devices.
- **India's exports rose marginally by 0.7% to \$41.97 billion in March 2025, while imports increased by 11.3% to \$63.51 billion**, resulting in a trade deficit of \$21.54 billion. Overall exports for FY 2024-25 reached a record \$820.93 billion, marking a 5.5% annual increase despite global economic challenges.
- **India's exports are projected to grow by 5.5%, reaching USD 820.93 billion in FY 2024–25, as announced on April 16, 2025,** by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This includes merchandise exports of USD 437.42 billion and services exports of USD 383.51 billion.
- **The Indian government imposed a 12% safeguard duty on certain steel imports effective April 21, 2025,** for 200 days to protect domestic industries from a surge in low-cost imports. This duty covers five steel categories, targeting imports from countries like China, Japan, and South Korea.
- **India's infrastructure output grew by 3.8% in March 2025, driven by strong growth in cement (11.6%), steel (7.1%), and electricity (6.2%).** However, crude oil (-1.9%) and natural gas (-12.7%) saw declines. This data, released on April 21, 2025, marks a slight improvement from February's 3.4% growth. Cumulative growth for FY 2024–25 reached 4.4%.
- On April 17, 2025, **Fitch Ratings revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4% due to global trade tensions and slower economic projections.** The

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- India's defence **exports hit a record ₹23,622 crore in FY 2024-25, growing 12.04% from the previous year.** The announcement was made on April 1,

impact of US tariffs and a global slowdown were cited as key factors affecting India's net trade.

- On April 23, 2025, the World Bank revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 down to 6.3%, a reduction from its earlier estimate of 6.7%. This adjustment reflects global economic uncertainties and domestic policy challenges, including slower private investment and shortfalls in public capital expenditure.

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- On April 2, 2025, NITI Aayog released the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025 to evaluate fiscal stability across 18 major states. Odisha topped the rankings with a score of 67.8, excelling in debt sustainability and innovative revenue strategies. The index highlights challenges like high fiscal deficits in Punjab and West Bengal.
- Veteran actor Manoj Kumar, known for his patriotic films like Upkar and Shaheed, passed away at 87 on April 4, 2025, in Mumbai. Fondly called Bharat Kumar, he was honored with the Padma Shri and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.
- Veteran actor Ravikumar, aged 71, passed away on April 4, 2025, in Chennai after battling cancer. Known for his versatile performances in Tamil and Malayalam cinema, his illustrious career spanned over five decades.
- Renowned Malayalam linguist Venugopala Panikkar passed away on April 2, 2025, at the age of 79 in Kozhikode, Kerala. A Sahitya Akademi Awardee, he was celebrated for his contributions to linguistics and Malayalam literature, including his acclaimed work "Bhashartham."
- Ram Sahay Pandey, the renowned Padma Shri folk artist and promoter of Rai dance, passed away on April 8, 2025, at the age of 97 in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. He dedicated his life to preserving the Rai dance, a vibrant art form from the Bundelkhand region.
- Dadi Ratan Mohini, spiritual head of the Brahma Kumaris, passed away on April 8, 2025, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, at the age of 101. She dedicated decades to promoting peace, harmony, and spirituality, inspiring millions worldwide.
- Renowned Rai folk dancer and Padma Shri awardee Ram Sahay Pandey passed away on April 8, 2025, in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, at the age of 92. He was celebrated for promoting Rai folk dance globally and blending it with Mridangam tunes.
- Dadi Ratan Mohini, the spiritual leader of the Brahma Kumaris, passed away on April 8, 2025, at the age of 101 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Her mortal remains were kept at the Shantivan Complex for homage.
- Daripalli Ramaiah, known as the "Tree Man of Telangana", passed away at 87 on April 12, 2025, in Khammam district, Telangana. Famous for planting over one crore saplings, he dedicated his life to afforestation and environmental conservation.
- Former President of Laos, Khamtay Siphandone, passed away on April 2, 2025, at the age of 102. A revolutionary leader, he played a crucial role in Laos' liberation and served as President from 1998 to 2006.
- Marvin Levy, a legendary publicist and collaborator of Steven Spielberg, passed away on April 7, 2025, at the age of 96. He was the first publicist to receive an Honorary Academy Award in 2018 for his contributions to the film industry.
- Kathak legend Kumudini Lakhia passed away on April 12, 2025, at the age of 95 in Ahmedabad. Known for modernizing Kathak while preserving its essence, she founded the Kadamb Centre for Dance and Music in 1964.
- Emmy-winning actress Jean Marsh, best known for her role as Rose Buck in the iconic British drama Upstairs, Downstairs, passed away on April 13, 2025, at the age of 90 in London.
- Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa passed away on April 13, 2025, at the age of 89 in Lima, Peru. Renowned for works like The Time of the Hero and Feast of the Goat, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010.
- Former Indian basketball captain Hari Dutt Kapri passed away at 83 on April 9, 2025, in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. A recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1969, he elevated India's rank in Asian basketball from 7th to 4th during his captaincy (1965–1978).
- Former Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, affectionately known as "Pak Lah," passed away on April 14, 2025, at the age of 85. He died at the National Heart Institute in Kuala Lumpur due to heart disease.
- Pope Francis passed away at 88 on April 21, 2025, at Casa Santa Marta, Vatican City. He suffered a stroke

followed by irreversible cardiac arrest after battling bilateral pneumonia. His funeral will take place on April 26, 2025, at St. Peter's Basilica, with burial in Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome.

- On April 18, 2025, renowned cardiologist Dr. **Mathew Samuel Kalarickal, aged 77, passed away** in Chennai. Known as the Father of Angioplasty in India, he conducted the country's first coronary angioplasty in 1986. Honored with the Padma Shri in 2000, he revolutionized cardiac care with innovations like bioresorbable stents.
- On April 18, 2025, Himachal Pradesh CM **Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu released the book 'Mere Achhe Din'** by Hari Singh Rana during the Statehood Day celebrations in Pangi. The book reflects Rana's experiences and social contributions.
- Dr. K. **Kasturirangan, former ISRO chairman, passed away on April 25, 2025, at the age of 84 in Bengaluru.** He played a pivotal role in India's space advancements, including the operationalization of PSLV and GSLV missions.
- Former Australian cricketer **Keith Stackpole passed away on April 22, 2025, at the age of 84. He played 43 Test matches for Australia (1966–1974), amassing 2,807 runs with seven centuries.** Known for his iconic Ashes performances, he was named Wisden's Cricketer of the Year in 1973.
- Historian M.G.S. Narayanan **passed away at 92 on April 26, 2025, in Kozhikode, Kerala. Renowned for his works like Perumals of Kerala, he contributed significantly to South Indian history.** He also served as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), leaving a lasting academic legacy.
- Historian **Muttayil Govinda Sankara Narayanan (M.G.S. Narayanan) passed away at 92 on April 26, 2025, in Kozhikode, Kerala.** A former ICHR Chairman, he was celebrated for his works on South Indian history, including "Perumals of Kerala" and "Cultural Symbiosis in Kerala", leaving a lasting academic legacy.
- **Lieutenant General S Pattabhiraman, former Deputy Army Chief, passed away on April 26, 2025, aged 78.** He had a distinguished 40-year military career, holding roles like Army Commander, Western Command and Colonel Commandant of Bombay Sappers.
- **Renowned Malayalam filmmaker Shaji N Karun passed away on April 28, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram, aged 73.** Known for

masterpieces like Piravi and Vanaprastham, he was a pioneer of Indian new wave cinema.

- **Jair da Costa, a Brazilian football legend and member of the 1962 FIFA World Cup-winning team, passed away** on April 27, 2025, at 84. Known for his stellar performances as a right winger, he was pivotal in Inter Milan's success, securing multiple Serie A titles and European Cups.
- Prof. **Sunny Thomas, legendary Indian shooting coach, passed away on April 30, 2025, at 83. A Dronacharya Awardee,** he mentored shooters like Abhinav Bindra and led India's national team from 1993 to 2012.

BOOKS

- "The **Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India**" by Sanjeev Chopra, published on March 18, 2025, explores Shastri's transformative role in Indian politics. It highlights his contributions to the Green Revolution, self-sufficiency, and key institutions like the Food Corporation of India.
- On April 4, 2025, Vice-President **Jagdeep Dhankhar released the book 'AI on Trial', authored by Shri Sujeet Kumar, a Member of Rajya Sabha.** In his address, he emphasized regulating Artificial Intelligence while promoting innovation.
- The memoir **The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India** was authored by Gopalkrishna Gandhi and was released on April 1, 2025. It offers a unique blend of personal recollections and historical insights into India's journey since independence.
- On April 6, 2025, **HP CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Buransh: The Fragrance of Words', a poetry collection by Anupama Sharma, in Shimla.** The book, published by Satluj Publications, contains 39 poems reflecting human emotions and nature's beauty. Priced at ₹150, proceeds support the Mukhyamantri Sukh Ashraya Yojana.
- The India **I Saw is the English translation of S. Ambujammal's autobiography, launched on April 8, 2025, in Chennai.** It chronicles her life from the 1920s to 1973, offering insights into India's freedom struggle and social transformation.
- "**Careless People: A Cautionary Tale of Power, Greed, and Lost Idealism**" by Sarah Wynn-Williams was published on March 11, 2025. It critiques

Facebook's corporate practices, addressing ethical compromises and unchecked power.

- **S. Ambujammal's autobiography, The India I Saw (originally Naan Kanda Bharatham in Tamil),** was released on January 15, 2025. Translated by Sriram V. and published by Rupa Publications, it provides personal insights into India's freedom struggle.
- The book '**Sanskriti Ka Paanchva Adhyay', a compilation of 34 speeches by Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on Indian culture, traditions, and heritage, was launched on April 18, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in New Delhi. Published by Prabhat Prakashan
- On April 23, **2025, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book,** curated by the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE). Authored by Ms. Shalini Goyal Bhalla, it features 30 innovations promoting circular economy principles.
- On April 18, **2025, Amarjit Singh Dulat launched his book, "The Chief Minister and the Spy."** The book explores his bond with J&K's former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah during Kashmir's turbulent times. It covers key events like the abrogation of Article 370 and the hijacking of IC-814, blending untold stories with political insights.
- The book "**Beyond the Courtroom**" by **Fali S. Nariman** was officially released on April 29, 2025. This anthology showcases Nariman's profound contributions to Indian jurisprudence, featuring his most influential speeches, articles, and lectures.
- The book "**Ramanujan: Journey of a Great Mathematician**" was launched on April 30, 2025, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi, organized by the National Archives of India. Authored by Arun Singhal and Dr. Devendra Kumar Sharma, it explores Srinivasa Ramanujan's life and contributions to mathematics, with original documents like his letters with G.H. Hardy.

d) Bajrang Punia

Answer: a) Manisha Bhanwala won India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 in the women's 62kg freestyle category, defeating North Korea's Ok J Kim with a score of 8-7.

Q.2 According to the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2024-26, what percentage of India's population was covered under social security by 2024?

- a) 32.4%
- b) 48.8%
- c) 60.2%
- d) 75.6%

Answer: b) The ILO's World Social Protection Report 2024-26 revealed that India's social security coverage doubled to 48.8% by 2024, benefiting 920 million people. Key schemes included Ayushman Bharat, Atal Pension Yojana, and eShram Portal.

Q.3 Where was India's largest solar cell manufacturing plant inaugurated on March 29, 2025?

- a) Pune, Maharashtra
- b) Chikhli, Gujarat
- c) Hyderabad, Telangana
- d) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Answer: b) Waaree Energies inaugurated India's largest solar cell manufacturing plant in Chikhli, Gujarat, with a capacity of 5.4 GW, supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

Q.4 Who won the 2025 Tashkent Open Agzamov Memorial Chess Title?

- a) Nihal Sarin
- b) R Praggnanandhaa
- c) Arjun Erigaisi
- d) Vidit Gujrathi

Answer: a) Indian Grandmaster Nihal Sarin won the 2025 Tashkent Open Agzamov Memorial Title with an unbeaten score of 8/10.

Q.5 What GDP growth rate did Moody's project for India for FY26?

- a) 6.2%
- b) 6.5%
- c) 6.8%

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS ONE-LINER QUESTION BANK

Q.1 Who won India's first gold medal in the Asian Wrestling Championship 2025?

- a) Manisha Bhanwala
- b) Vinesh Phogat
- c) Sakshi Malik

d) 7.0%

Answer: b) Moody's projected a 6.5% GDP growth rate for India, reflecting strong domestic demand and favorable policies.

Q.6 Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) on April 1, 2025?

- a) Sivasubramanian Ramann
- b) H. Shankar
- c) SC Ralhan
- d) Kamal Haasan

Answer: a) On April 1, 2025, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Sivasubramanian Ramann as the Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a tenure of five years.

Q.7 Who authored the book 'AI on Trial' released on April 4, 2025?

- a) Amitabh Kant
- b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- c) Sujeet Kumar
- d) Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Answer: c) The book, released by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, explores ethical AI regulation and innovation.

Q.8 Who was appointed as the President of the India Energy Storage Alliance effective April 1, 2025?

- a) Sohini Rajola
- b) Debmalya Sen
- c) Ravneet Kaur
- d) Akarsh Shroff

Answer: b) Debmalya Sen's appointment as IESA President on April 1, 2025, focuses on energy storage and green hydrogen.

Q.9 What is the new name of HIL Ltd as of April 3, 2025?

- a) BirlaGreen Ltd
- b) BirlaSmart Ltd
- c) BirlaNu Ltd
- d) BirlaEco Ltd

Answer: c) HIL Ltd, part of the CK Birla Group, was rebranded as BirlaNu Ltd to reflect a new identity focused on innovation and sustainability.

Q.10 Which portal was integrated with RPF to enhance mobile phone recovery?

- a) DigiLocker
- b) CEIR (Sanchar Saathi)
- c) mParivahan
- d) Aarogya Setu

Answer: b) The Sanchar Saathi CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) portal, run by the DoT, was linked with RPF to trace and block lost/stolen mobile phones reported by train passengers.

Q.11 The New Pamban Rail Bridge, inaugurated in April 2025, is India's first what?

- a) Bullet Train Corridor
- b) Double-decker Railway
- c) Vertical-lift Sea Bridge
- d) Underwater Metro

Answer: c) The New Pamban Rail Bridge is India's first vertical-lift sea bridge, enhancing rail and maritime connectivity between Rameswaram Island and mainland Tamil Nadu.

Q.12 Who won the Fred Darrington Award at the SandWorld International Sand Art Festival in the UK?

- a) Sudarsan Pattnaik
- b) Hitesh Gulia
- c) Niharika Singhania
- d) Shaleen Toshniwal

Answer: a) Sudarsan Pattnaik Explanation: Sudarsan Pattnaik received this award for his 10-foot-high sand sculpture of Lord Ganesha promoting "World Peace."

Q.13 Who won the men's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2025 in Buenos Aires, Argentina?

- a) Satish Chavva
- b) Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil
- c) Max Verstappen
- d) Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Answer: b) Rudranksh secured the gold medal in this event, marking a major milestone for Indian shooting.

Q.14 Who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on April 4, 2025?

- a) Justice Arun Palli

- b) Justice Tashi Rabtan
- c) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- d) Justice Jishnu Dev Varma

Answer: a) Justice Arun Palli was recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium to succeed Chief Justice Tashi Rabtan.

Q.15 Which country will host the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup?

- a) Canada
- b) United Kingdom
- c) United States of America
- d) Australia

Answer: c) The United States of America was announced as the host for the 2031 Women's World Cup — its third time hosting the tournament.

Q.16 Which countries were major contributors to India's increased steel imports in FY25?

- a) Russia and USA
- b) China and Vietnam
- c) Japan and Germany
- d) South Korea and Brazil

Answer: b) India imported cheaper steel from China and Vietnam, leading to a spike in the trade deficit.

Q.17 According to the IIT Kharagpur study (April 8, 2025), which Indian region is most vulnerable to surface ozone pollution affecting food crops?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Indo-Gangetic Plain
- c) Northeastern States
- d) Deccan Plateau

Answer: b) The study highlights that the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Central India are highly vulnerable to ozone pollution, which could reduce wheat yields by 20% and rice/maize yields by 7%.

Q.18 Bandhan Bank's 'Elite Plus' Savings Account targets:

- a) Students
- b) High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs)
- c) Small farmers
- d) Government employees

Answer: b) The account offers premium benefits like unlimited cash deposits, airport lounge access, and insurance, catering to High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs).

Q.19 Indian shooters won silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2025. Who were the medalists?

- a) Rudranksh Patil and Arya Borse
- b) Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary
- c) Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan
- d) Abhinav Bindra and Anjum Moudgil

Answer: a) Indian shooters Rudranksh Patil and Arya Borse won the silver medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Buenos Aires, Argentina on April 10, 2025.

Q.20 What is the total investment announced by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for its Paradip petrochemical complex?

- a) ₹50,000 crore
- b) ₹45,000 crore
- c) ₹61,077 crore
- d) ₹72,500 crore

Answer: c) IOC announced an investment of ₹61,077 crore for setting up a major petrochemical complex in Paradip, Odisha.

Q.21 What was the growth percentage of India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in February 2025, as announced on April 11, 2025?

- a) 2.9%
- b) 2.8%
- c) 3.5%
- d) 4.2%

Answer: a) The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation announced that India's IIP grew by 2.9% in February 2025, indicating moderate growth in the industrial sector.

Q.22 Which country signed the Artemis Accords with NASA on April 8, 2025?

- a) India
- b) Brazil
- c) Japan
- d) Bangladesh

Answer: d) Bangladesh became the 54th nation to sign the Artemis Accords with NASA, promoting peaceful space exploration.

Q.23 What is the subsidy percentage offered under Nagaland's Solar Mission for systems up to 2 kW?

- a) 75%
- b) 85%
- c) 90%
- d) 96%

Answer: d) Nagaland's Solar Mission, aligned with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, offers a subsidy of up to 96% for residential rooftop solar systems of up to 2 kW capacity.

Q.24 What was India's wholesale inflation rate in March 2025, as reported on April 13, 2025?

- a) 1.5%
- b) 2.05%
- c) 3.2%
- d) 4.0%

Answer: b) India's wholesale inflation dropped to 2.05% in March 2025, reaching a four-month low due to easing prices in food and fuel.

Q.25 What new classification did the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) introduce on April 15, 2025?

- a) Green Category
- b) Blue Category
- c) Red Category
- d) Yellow Category

Answer: b) The CPCB introduced the 'Blue Category' for industries under its Essential Environmental Services initiative, which includes industries like Waste-to-Energy incineration plants.

Q.26 Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) Athletes' Commission on April 15, 2025?

- a) S. Sathish Kumar
- b) P.V. Sindhu
- c) Mirabai Chanu
- d) Karnam Malleswari

Answer: c) Olympic silver medalist Mirabai Chanu was appointed as Chairperson of the IWLF Athletes' Commission, representing the voices of weightlifters.

Q.27 Where is Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- a) Vidarbha, Maharashtra
- b) Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh
- c) Belora, Amravati
- d) Shahgarh, Rajasthan

Answer: b) The sanctuary spans 258.64 sq. km across Banda and Shahgarh tehsils in the North Sagar Forest Division, making it Madhya Pradesh's 25th wildlife sanctuary.

Q.28 Which state declared heatwaves, sunstrokes, and sunburns as "State-Specific Disasters" in April 2025?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Answer: c) On April 15, 2025, Telangana classified these events as state-specific disasters, enabling ₹4 lakh compensation for affected families under SDRF.

Q.29 Where will the cricket competition for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics be held?

- a) SoFi Stadium, Los Angeles
- b) Dodger Stadium, Los Angeles
- c) Rose Bowl, Pasadena
- d) Fairgrounds in Pomona, California

Answer: d) The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics cricket competition (T20 format) will be held at the Fairgrounds in Pomona, known as Fairplex, approximately 50 km east of Los Angeles.

Q.30 Where was Baisakhi celebrated for the first time at a state capitol in the United States on April 14, 2025?

- a) California State Capitol
- b) Washington State Capitol
- c) New York State Capitol
- d) Texas State Capitol

Answer: b) The first-ever Baisakhi celebration at a U.S. state capitol took place at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia, hosted by the Consulate General of India in Seattle.

Q.31 The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Secretariat will be hosted by which country?

- a) South Africa
- b) Russia
- c) Brazil
- d) India

Answer: d) India signed the Headquarters Agreement with IBCA on April 17, 2025, committing ₹150 crore for infrastructure. The alliance focuses on conserving big cats like tigers, lions, and leopards.

Q.32 Which texts were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register on April 18, 2025?

- a) Ramayana and Mahabharata
- b) Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra
- c) Vedas and Upanishads
- d) Arthashastra and Manusmriti

Answer: b) The Bhagavad Gita (philosophical scripture) and Natyashastra (ancient treatise on performing arts) were inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register, bringing India's total entries to 14.

Q.33 Which tech giant launched the Ironwood AI chip in April 2025?

- a) Microsoft
- b) Google
- c) NVIDIA
- d) Apple

Answer: b) Google unveiled its Ironwood AI chip at the Google Cloud Next 2025 event, boasting double the efficiency of its predecessor.

Q.34 What is the size of Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, now home to cheetahs?

- a) 268.4 sq km
- b) 368.6 sq km
- c) 428.3 sq km
- d) 512.1 sq km

Answer: b) The sanctuary spans 368.6 square kilometers, offering a vast natural habitat for reintroduced cheetahs.

Q.35 What type of trains did Japan gift to India for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor?

- a) Shinkansen E10 series

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- b) Shinkansen E5 and E3 series
- c) Shinkansen E7 series
- d) Shinkansen E4 series

Answer: b) Japan announced the gifting of Shinkansen E5 and E3 series trains to India to support the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor.

Q.36 Who was appointed as Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR on April 21, 2025?

- a) Dr. Mangi Lal Jat
- b) Dr. Ramesh Chand
- c) Dr. A.K. Singh
- d) Dr. Suman Sharma

Answer: a) Dr. Mangi Lal Jat was appointed as Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR, recognized for his expertise in climate-resilient and conservation agriculture.

Q.37 Who received the PM's Award for Excellence for the Poshan Tracker App?

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman
- b) Anil Malik
- c) Sarbananda Sonowal
- d) Amit Shah

Answer: b) Anil Malik, Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, won the award for the Poshan Tracker, an innovation in nutrition monitoring.

Q.38 Who authored "The Chief Minister and the Spy" book?

- a) Shashi Tharoor
- b) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- c) Farooq Abdullah
- d) Amarjit Singh Dulat

Answer: d) On April 18, 2025, Amarjit Singh Dulat launched his book, "The Chief Minister and the Spy."

Q.39 Which Indian company became the first to cross ₹10 lakh crore in equity in FY 2024-25?

- a) Tata Group
- b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- c) Adani Group
- d) Infosys

Answer: b) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) became the first Indian company to cross ₹10 lakh crore in equity during FY 2024-25.

Q.40 Where is India's first PM MITRA Textile Park located?

- a) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- b) Bhainsola village, Dhar district
- c) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- d) Surat, Gujarat

Answer: b) The park is situated in Bhainsola village, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh, spanning 2,100 acres. This location is strategic due to its proximity to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

Q.41 Who scored the fastest century by a youngest player in IPL history on April 28, 2025?

- a) Vaibhav Suryavanshi
- b) Virat Kohli
- c) Rohit Sharma
- d) Shubman Gill

Answer: a) 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Rajasthan Royals) scored a 35-ball century, the fastest by a youngest player in IPL history.

Q.42 Which Guinness World Record was set by 375 Buddhist monks in Bihar on April 27, 2025?

- a) Largest Meditation Gathering
- b) Largest Singing Bowl Ensemble
- c) Largest Prayer Wheel Assembly
- d) Largest Yoga Session

Answer: b) At the Mahabodhi Temple, 375 Buddhist monks performed the Largest Singing Bowl Ensemble, showcasing harmony and meditation.

Q.43 Who will become the 52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on May 14, 2025?

- a) Justice DY Chandrachud
- b) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- c) Justice Bhushan Gavai
- d) Justice UU Lalit

Answer: c) Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai will succeed Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

Q.44 Which football club won the 2024–25 Premier League Championship?

- a) Manchester United
- b) Liverpool
- c) Chelsea

d) Arsenal

Answer: b) Liverpool won their 20th title, equaling Manchester United's record.