



Current Affairs Supplement
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National

IMF Report 2025: USA Retains as Largest economies in the world; India at 4th

The United States of America(USA) retains its position as the **largest economy** in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of **USD 30.51 trillion**, followed by China(USD 19.53 trillion) and Germany (USD 4.92 trillion) in Washington, D.C., the United States of America(USA) based International Monetary Fund (IMF's) 'April 2025 World Economic Outlook(WEO)',

- India is the **fourth** largest economy in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of **USD 4.39 trillion**. India is expected to overtake both Germany and Japan by the year 2030, provided the current economic growth trajectory remains consistent.
- i. The IMF also forecasts India to be the fastest-growing major economy over the next two years, maintaining a significant advantage over both global and regional competitors.
- ii. The report highlighted that the ongoing trade conflict has the potential to further weaken global economic growth prospects and negatively impact the international financial system.

India's Coastline Length Revised to 11,098.81 km Following Updated Methodology

As per the Survey of India (SoI) data, **India's coastline length** was officially updated to **11,098.81 kilometers** (km), increasing by **3,537.21 km** or nearly **50%** from the earlier figure of **7,516.60 km** recorded since the 1970s.

- This revision follows a multi-year scientific review led by the Dehradun (Uttarakhand) based National Hydrographic Organisation (NHO) in coordination with SoI.
- According to the updated measurements, **Gujarat** has the longest coastline among states, while **Goa** has the shortest. Among union territories (UTs), Andaman & Nicobar (**A&N Islands**) has the longest, and **Puducherry** the shortest.

Background:

- i. For decades, different government departments used varying coastline figures due to outdated measurement methodologies.
- ii. The Coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee (CPDAC) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), New Delhi (Delhi), began addressing this issue in its 11th meeting (2010).
- iii. During its 16th meeting (16th July 2019), CPDAC accepted NHO's revised coastline length of 11,084.50 km, computed using advanced hydrographic data.
- iv. On August 10, 2023, the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), New Delhi, finalized updated Terms of Reference (ToR) for standardizing maritime parameters.
- v. This revised length of 11,098.81 km was accepted during a meeting held in January 2024, at the NSCS, New Delhi (Delhi), with representatives from coastal States/UTs and other stakeholders.

Reasons for Deviation:

- i. Differences in scale and calculation methods; the 1970s data were likely computed at a scale of 1:4,500,000 or smaller, whereas the re-verified data used a scale of 1:250,000.
- ii. Advancements in technology, with modern Geographic Information System (GIS) software providing more accurate measurements compared to conventional/manual methods used previously.
- iii. Inclusion of the coastline lengths of 1,298 offshore islands/islets (1,059 islands and 239 islets), which were possibly omitted in earlier calculations due to scale constraints.

About Survey of India (SoI):

SoI, the National Survey and Mapping Organization of India operates under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T).

Surveyor General of India – Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana

Headquarters – Dehradun (Uttarakhand)

Founded – 1767

Memoir titled ‘The Undying Light’ by Gopalkrishna Gandhi Released

Renowned author and former Governor of West Bengal (WB), **Gopalkrishna Gandhi** released his memoir titled “**The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India.**” The book was published by New Delhi (Delhi)-based Aleph Book Company, spans **624 pages** and is available in English in hardcover format.

- i. The memoir starts with a deeply personal recollection of **Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination**, witnessed by the author when he was just three years old. From this intimate moment, the narrative broadens into an insightful study of **India’s political history post-1947**, blending personal anecdotes with key historical events.
- ii. It provides a unique insider view on India’s political and social evolution, making it a valuable resource for students and aspirants preparing for competitive examinations.
- iii. **Gopalkrishna Devadas Gandhi** is the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and C. Rajagopalachari, India’s last Governor-General. He served as the Governor of West Bengal (WB) from 14 December 2004 to 14 December 2009.

Overview of PM Narendra Modi ‘s visit to Maharashtra, Kerala, AP from May 1-2, 2025

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Maharashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh (AP) from May 1-2, 2025, to inaugurate various developmental projects.

- i. During his visit to Maharashtra, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first-of-its-kind **WAVES 2025**, a four-day summit with tagline “**Connecting Creators, Connecting Countries**” at the Jio World Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.



- It is organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MoI&B), in association with the Ministry of External Affairs(MEA).
- ii.On May 2, 2025, PM Narendra Modi dedicated **Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport** worth Rs.8,867 crore to the country in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The full-fledged operation is planned to begin by the year 2028-29.
- iii.On May 2, 2025, he inaugurated and laid the foundation for multiple development projects worth over **Rs.58,000 crore** in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- He laid the foundation stone for 74 projects worth Rs.49,000 crore.

Rajasthan to join India's first cheetah conservation corridor with MP

Rajasthan is set to become a key participant in India's first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor, collaborating with Madhya Pradesh(MP) to establish a 17,000 square kilometer(sq km) wildlife corridor. It will allow cheetahs to roam freely in a protected and connected habitat.

- The aim of the project is to improve genetic diversity, ensure better movement for wildlife, and mitigate the challenges of habitat fragmentation.

About Cheetah conservation corridor:

i.Out of the 17,000 Sq Km corridor area, 10,500 Sq Km falls under MP and remaining 6,500 Sq Km in Rajasthan.

- The corridor will span 27 districts: 13 in Rajasthan and 12 in MP.
- In this plan, **seven** districts in Rajasthan :Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, and Chittorgarh will be integrated into the project.
- ii.The corridor will link **Palpur Kuno National Park(NP)** and **Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary** in MP with the **Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve** in Rajasthan.
- iii.This corridor will allow cheetahs to move from Kuno NP through the Mukundara Hills Reserve in Rajasthan to Gandhi Sagar.
- iv.The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) released an action plan, in which **Kuno-Gandhi Sagar** landscape was designated as a suitable cheetah habitat.
- v.This corridor is expected to play a critical role in supporting the long-term survival of cheetah species in India, a vital part of the country's biodiversity.



First Edition of WAVES 2025 Held in Mumbai; Garners Rs 1328 crores Business Deals

Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind World

Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, **WAVES 2025**, at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The four-day event, organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra (GoM), held from May 1-4, 2025.

- WAVES 2025 was held under the tagline “**Connecting Creators, Connecting Countries.**”

Highlights:

i. During the WAVES 2025, PM Modi released special postage stamps to honour five great personalities of Indian cinema. These included filmmaker Guru Dutt, director Raj Khosla, filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak, actress P. Bhanumathi and music composer Salil Chowdhury.

ii. At WAVES 2025, the MoI&B organised the Global Media Dialogue (**GMD**) for the first time, with the support from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and with ministerial participation from over 50 countries.

- During the GMD, 77 countries adopted the 13-point ‘**WAVES Declaration**’, focusing on promoting the responsible use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (**AI**).

iii. At WAVES 2025, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MoI&B, announced the launch of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (**IICT**), a National Centre of Excellence (CoE) backed by **Jio Star** based in Mumbai.

iv. WAVES 2025 was concluded with remarkable success, recording business transactions totaling **Rs.1,328 crore** across various sectors.

Operation Sindoor: Indian Armed Forces’ Response to the Pahalgam Terror Attack

The Indian Armed Forces carried out ‘**Operation Sindoor**’, targeting nine terrorist camps in **Pakistan** and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (**PoJK**) which were identified as launchpads for attacks being planned against India. Operation Sindoor was carried out in response to the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in April 2025.

- The action was named “Operation Sindoor” to **honour the women** who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam terror attack which was termed as one of the biggest terror attacks after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

About Operation Sindoor:

i. As part of the operation, **nine places** connected to terrorist activities were struck in Pakistan and PoJK. These strikes were done with care, avoiding any Pakistani military sites, and were launched from Indian airspace.

- The Nine terror locations were targeted. These locations were terror camps **operated** by groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

ii. The Indian Air Force (IAF) **used** its frontline fighter jets to target terror camps without crossing the Line of Control (LoC). Rafale, Mirage 2000, and Su-30 MKI aircraft were

involved in the operation.

iii..Two women officers **Colonel Sofiya Qureshi** and Wing Commander **Vyomika Singh** and Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), jointly led the official media briefing on Operation Sindoor, marking a significant moment in Indian military history.

Union Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates BrahMos Aerospace Testing Facility in Lucknow, UP

Union Minister **Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) virtually inaugurated the **BrahMos Aerospace Integration and Testing Facility** with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) **Yogi Adityanath** leading the ceremony at the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (**UPDIC**) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP), to strengthen India's efforts to become a self-reliant in defence production.

- The **BrahMos Production Unit**, established by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**), MoD was also inaugurated.

i.During the event, Union Minister Rajnath Singh also inaugurated **India's largest Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant**, operated by Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh(UP) based Aerolloy Technologies Limited, a subsidiary of PTC Industries Limited. Located within the Lucknow node of the UP Defence Industrial Corridor.

ii.In addition to the plant's inauguration, the foundation stones for seven other advanced facilities were laid as part of **India's first Strategic Materials Technology Complex**.

- These include an aerospace precision castings plant, an aerospace forge shop and mill products plant, and an aerospace precision machining shop.

About Ministry of Defence(MoD):

Union Minister – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

Minister of State (MoS) – Sanjay Seth (Constituency – Ranchi, Jharkhand)

Adani Group Launches India's First Hydrogen-Powered Truck for Mining in Chhattisgarh

Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-based Adani Enterprises Limited (**AEL**), the flagship company of the Adani Group, introduced **India's first hydrogen-powered fuel cell truck** for mining logistics in Raipur, **Chhattisgarh**, to promote cleaner transportation and replace diesel vehicles in its logistics operations.

- The truck, flagged off by Vishnu Deo Sai, Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh, will be used to transport coal from the **Gare Pelma III Block** (Raigarh, Chhattisgarh) to a state-run power plant in Chhattisgarh.

Note: The state-owned Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Company Limited (CSPGCL) appointed AEL as the mine developer and operator for the Gare Pelma III block through a

competitive bidding process.

Key Highlights:

i. Each truck is equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, capable of carrying up to **40 tonnes(t)** of cargo over a **200-kilometre (km)** range.

- Its Fuel System is equipped with three hydrogen tanks integrated with a Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell stack for efficient and clean energy conversion.

ii. AEL developed the hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks in collaboration with Indian and international energy technology firms and a major auto manufacturer.

iii. The project is executed by Adani Natural Resources (ANR) and Adani New Industries Limited (ANIL), subsidiaries of AEL.

- ANR sources hydrogen cells from ANIL, which specializes in green hydrogen, solar modules, wind turbines, and battery manufacturing.

Environmental Impact:

i. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles emit only water vapour and warm air, significantly lowering emissions and noise compared to diesel trucks.

ii. The initiative aligns with India's goal of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2070 and reducing crude oil imports.

Maharashtra Topped Among Indian States with Highest GST Revenue in FY25

Maharashtra with Rs 3,18,497 crore, has topped among the top 10 Indian states with highest Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection for Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) and even in April 2025 with total GST collection of **Rs 41,645 crore**. However, the state's financial capital's growth has decreased from 13% (in April 2024) to 11% (in April 2025).

- Gujarat secured the second position with Rs.1,74,938 crore and Karnataka at the third place with Rs.1,43,023 crore.

i. Also, total GST revenue collection reached at **Rs 21.36 lakh crore** in 2024, the highest since the introduction of GST in 2017. This marks an increase of 8.86% compared to the last year's collection.

ii. As per the Ministry of Finance (MoF)'s latest data, total GST revenue collections reached at Rs 2,36,716 lakh crore in April 2025, reflecting an annual growth rate of 12.6%.

About Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:

GST Council is a constitutional body introduced through 101st Amendment Act, 2016 in the constitution. It was constituted under Article 279-A of the constitution.



Chairperson- Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister

Established – 2016

Indore Becomes the India's First Beggar-Free City

The District Magistrate of Indore, Madhya Pradesh(MP) announced that Indore has become the first Indian city to be beggar-free, which is result of an 'anti-begging campaign' initiated in February 2024 to eliminate begging.

- The campaign launched by the city administration has been recognized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) and a World Bank(WB) team as a **model project**.

Note: Indore is one of the 10 cities where the MSJE has started a pilot project to eliminate begging.

Key Points:

i. Earlier, the city had 5000 beggars, including 500 children, who were rehabilitated by helping to find employment, children involved in begging were enrolled in schools.
ii. Under the campaign, individuals found begging at intersections and roads in Indore were caught and sent to relocation centres, where they were provided with accommodation and food.

- First Information Reports (FIRs) were registered against the beggars coming from the other states.

iii. Indore district administration also launched a dedicated number where the citizens could report the presence of beggars via whatsapp or other means, leading to the immediate dispatch of a rescue team to relocate them to rehabilitation centres.

Vice President Releases Haryana Governor's Book "Janta Ki Kahani-in Meri Aatamkatha"

The Vice President (VP) of India, **Jagdeep Dhankhar** released the book, "**Janta Ki Kahani-in Meri Aatamkatha**", an autobiography written by Haryana Governor, **Bandaru Dattatraya** in an event organized at Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book reflects Bandaru Dattatraya's political and social journey, emphasizing his grassroots-level connection with the public and his commitment to the upliftment of the underprivileged. It also sheds light on key historical and political events witnessed by the author over the decades.

About the Author:

- Bandaru Dattatraya, born on 12 June 1947 in Hyderabad, has serving as Governor of Haryana since July 2021.
- A senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, he was Union Minister of State(MoS) for Labour (1999–2004) under Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and a four-time Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad(Telangana).

- His career spans decades of political and social work, marked by humility and public welfare initiatives.

India to Launch First Manned Deep Ocean Mission 'Samudrayaan' by End of 2026

Balaji Ramakrishnan, Director of the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), announced that India's first manned deep ocean mission, 'Samudrayaan', will be launched by 2026.

- The mission will use the manned submersible vehicle 'Matsya' to reach a depth of 6,000 metres (6 km) under the sea with 3 scientists.
- 'Samudrayaan' is a part of India's Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) aimed at exploring deep-sea resources and conducting scientific research.
- The mission supports India's aspirations in blue economy development, deep-sea mining, and underwater biodiversity studies.

Note: The announcement was made at the inaugural event of a five-day national training programme on the 'Role of Fisheries in the Blue Economy', jointly organized Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) by at CMFRI in Kochi, Kerala.

Key Points:

- i. NIOT, an autonomous society under MoES, is the implementing nodal agency of the deep ocean mission.
- ii. "Matsya", a 25-tonne 4th generation vehicle, developed with India's indigenous technology, is specifically engineered to withstand pressure and temperature in the deeper ocean, with a hull made of titanium.

About 'Samudrajivah':

- i. 'Samudrajivah' is an innovative technology, developed to focus on improved large-scale open sea farming.
- This technology is currently in the demonstration phase.
- ii. The electronically monitored submerged fish cages are designed for offshore regions, capitalizing on the nutritionally rich deep-sea environment to promote the fish growth.
- iii. Having different sensors, Samudrajivah is capable of remote monitoring of individual fish biomass, growth and movement and water quality parameters.

HP Govt Declares 'Tsarap Chu CR' as India's Largest Conservation Reserve

The Himachal Pradesh (HP) Government has formally designated the **Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve (CR)** located in Spiti Valley (HP) as India's largest conservation reserve under Section 36A (1) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

- Tsarapu is the **5th** CR of HP after Shilli CR, Naina Devi CR, Darlaghat CR and Potter Hills CR.

Key Points:

i.The Tsarapu CR is spreads over 1,585 square kilometres(sq km) and bounded by the Union Territory(UT) of Ladakh to the north, the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary(Hp) extending up to Malang Nala and Lungar Lungpa to the east, Kabjima Nala to the south and Chandratat Wildlife Sanctuary(HP) to the west.

- It is also the location for the confluence of the Unam River and Charap Nala.

ii.Tsarapu CR is one of the areas in HP with a high density of snow leopards. It is often called as the “**ghost of the mountains**”.

iii.The reserve will be managed through a Conservation Reserve Management Committee(CRMC), which will also include representatives from local panchayats.

- The committee will manage the area while balancing the needs of local communities and wildlife conservation priorities.

Mizoram Declared India's First Fully Literate State Under ULLAS Initiative

Chief Minister (CM) of Mizoram, Lalduhoma declared **Mizoram** as the first fully literate state in India, in the presence of Union Minister of State (MoS), **Jayant Chaudhary**, Ministry of Education (**MoE**) at an event held at Mizoram University in Aizawl, Mizoram.

- Mizoram has currently achieved **98.2%** literacy rate as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023–24, which was ranked as the third most literate state with 91.33%, as per the 2011 census.

Key Points:

i.The Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society (**ULLAS**) initiative, under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP) has also helped Mizoram achieve the “Full literacy” status, surpassing **95%** literacy benchmark of MoE.

ii.The NILP, which identified 3,026 illiterate people, of whom, 1,692 people showed interest to learn.

- A dedicated team of 292 volunteer teachers, including students, educators, resource persons played a crucial role in achieving the milestone.

iii.He emphasized, Mizoram aims to expand literacy beyond basic reading and writing, incorporating digital, financial, and entrepreneurial skills.

About ULLAS initiative:

i.The ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP) initiative was launched by Government of India (GOI) to provide education to adults for a period of 5 years (**2022-27**).

ii.It is a Centrally Sponsored Initiative, which aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Asiatic Lion Census 2025: Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Population Rises to 891 from 674

Bhupendra Patel, the Chief Minister (CM) of Gujarat, announced the results of the **16th Asiatic Lion Census**, revealing a significant increase in the lion population. The census, conducted from May 10 to 13, 2025, recorded **891 Asiatic lions** in Gujarat, marking a 32.2% rise from the 674 lions counted in the 2020 census.

- According to the Gujarat Forest Department, the population breakdown is 196 adult males, 330 adult females, 140 sub-adults, and 225 cubs.

Census Methodology:

- i.The census spanned approximately 35,000 square kilometers (sq. km) across 58 talukas in **11 districts of Gujarat**.
- ii.Around 3,000 participants, including officers, enumerators, and volunteers, were involved in the operation.
- iii.Advanced methodologies such as direct beat verification were employed, supported by tools like high-resolution cameras, camera traps, and Global Positioning System (GPS)-enabled radio collars.
- iv.Participants meticulously recorded observations, including time, movement direction, physical characteristics, age, sex, and precise location of the lions.

Key Findings of the 2025 Census**1.Population Breakdown:**

- i.The current lion population comprises 196 males, 330 females, 140 sub-adults, and 225 cubs.
- ii.The increase in adult females from 260 to 330 (a 26.92% rise) highlights the population's robust reproductive capacity.

2.Geographic Spread:

- i.Lions now inhabit 11 districts in Saurashtra, covering 35,000 sq. km (up from 30,000 sq. km in 2020).
- ii.384 lions reside in Gir National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary (core area), Gujarat, while 507 are in satellite habitats like Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (Gujarat) (17 lions) and coastal zones.

- The number of Asiatic lions residing outside forested areas has increased significantly from 340 in 2020 to 507 in 2025.

UP Launches India's First Vistadome Jungle Safari Train

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) government, in collaboration with Indian Railways (IR), launched **India's first Vistadome jungle safari train**, enhancing eco-tourism infrastructure in the state.

- The service connects **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary** in Bahraich district (UP) with the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** in Pilibhit district (UP), covering a 107-kilometre (km) forest route.

- i. The train operates as the Bichia–Mailani Tourist Passenger, traversing **nine stations** within UP, namely Bichia, Manjhara Purab, Khairatiya Bandh Road, Tikunia, Belrayan, Dudhwa, Palia Kalan, Bhira Kheri, and Mailani.
- ii. The journey takes approximately 4 hours and 25 minutes, and tickets are priced at **Rs. 275 per person**, making the service affordable and accessible to a wide range of tourists.
- iii. The Vistadome coaches are specially designed with panoramic windows, transparent glass roofs and rotating seats for immersive views of wetlands, grasslands, and wildlife.
- iv. This Vistadome train service is a part of UP's broader '**One Destination, Three Forests**' initiative, which aims to integrate UP's Dudhwa National Park, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary into a cohesive tourism experience.

Maharashtra Govt Approves Merger of Konkan Railway with Indian Railway

The Government of Maharashtra (GOM) has approved the merger of Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra) headquartered Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), Ministry of Railways (MoR) with the Indian Railways (IR), with an aim to resolve Konkan Railway's financial constraints, enhance operational efficiency, and enable infrastructure growth.

- Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala have already approved the merger, and with Maharashtra's decision, the path is now clear for fully integrating one of India's most scenic and strategically important railway lines into the national railway network.

Merger Conditions by the GOM:

The merger has been approved by the GOM with **two conditions** such as

- To reimburse **Rs.396.54 crores**, the equity contribution by the GOM during the formation of KRCL.
- To retain the name 'Konkan Railway' after the merger, acknowledging its regional and operational significance.

About KRCL:

- i. Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) is a 741 kilometre(km) coastal railway line connecting Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala formed in **1990**.
- ii. KRCL is a Joint Venture (JV) owned by the MoR (51% stake) and four states such as Maharashtra (22%), Karnataka (15%), Goa (6%) and Kerala (6%).
- iii. It operates through a difficult terrain of Western Ghats, connecting **Roha** in Maharashtra to **Mangalore** in Karnataka.
- iv. The first passenger train on Konkan Railway ran on March 20, 1993, between Udupi and Mangalore in Karnataka.

UGC Approves Setting Up of 5 Foreign Universities' Campuses in India

New Delhi (Delhi) based University Grants Commission (UGC), a statutory body under the Ministry of Education(MoE), has approved the establishment of campuses of **5**

internationally recognized universities in India, with an aim to make India a Global Educational Hub.

- The move aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, to elevate India's academic system.
- Union minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, MoE, handed over the Letter of Intent (LoI) to set up a campus in India under the UGC (Setting Up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023.

The Five Foreign Universities:

i. Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), located in Chicago, United States of America (USA) is the **first American university** to set up a campus in India.

- Ranked 601-610 in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2025, IIT is known for its excellence in engineering, science and technology.

- The campus is expected to open between 2026 and 2027 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

ii. University of Liverpool (UoL), located in Liverpool, United Kingdom (UK) is expected to start its operations in India by 2026 or 2027.

- Ranked 165th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2025, it will set up its campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It is renowned in fields such as law, business and health sciences.

iii. Victoria University (VU), located in Melbourne, Australia, aims to launch its Indian campus by 2026-2027.

- Ranked 741-750 in QS 2025 Rankings, the university is recognized for flexible learning models and focuses on practical, hands-on education in business, Information Technology (IT) and hospitality.

iv. Western Sydney University (WSU), based in Penrith, Australia will begin its operations in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- Ranked 384th globally, WSU is known for its strong programs in technology and research.

v. Istituto Europeo di Design (IED), located in Milan, Italy, is known for its expertise in Fashion, Visual Arts (VA), and communication.

Note: The University of Southampton from the UK became the first foreign institution to receive approval from the UGC to establish a campus in India.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

Chairman – Vineet Joshi

Vishwanath Karthikey Becomes Youngest Indian to Complete Seven Summits Challenge



Vishwanath Karthikey Padakanti, a 16-year-old mountaineer from Hyderabad(Telangana), became the **youngest Indian** and the second youngest globally to successfully complete the **Seven Summits Challenge**, which involves climbing the highest peak on each of the seven continents.

- He surpassed the previous national record held by **Kaamya Karthikeyan**, who completed the Seven Summits at the age of 17 in 2024.
- The global record remains with **Jordan Romero** from the United States of America (USA), who achieved the feat at the age of 15 years in 2011.

Key Points:

- i.Vishwanath Karthikey's mountaineering journey began at age 11 with a trek to **Mount Rudugaira** in Uttarakhand.
- ii.He successfully summited peaks such as Mount Everest (Asia), Aconcagua (South America), Denali (North America), Mount Elbrus (Europe), Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mount Kosciuszko (Australia), and Mount Vinson (Antarctica) .

International

UNESCO adds 16 new Global Geoparks, North Korea & Saudi Arabia features first time

UNESCO Global Geoparks Council (UGGp), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) added 16 new sites **across 11 countries** to its Global Geoparks Network (GGN).

- The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network, announced the list during its 10th anniversary.
- North Korea recorded its historic first with the inclusion of its site, **Mt Paektu**, Saudi Arabia has made its debut with **North Riyadh and Salma**.
- India does not have featured site in the list.

i. With the new entries, the Geopark network consists of **229 sites across 50 countries**. The Network now comprises 229 sites across 50 countries, collectively spanning nearly 855,000 square kilometres

ii. UNESCO Geoparks are the model for the conservation of Heritage. They also support educational projects, promote sustainable tourism.

iii. To maintain the quality of UNESCO Global Geoparks, each site undergoes a thorough revalidation process **every four years**. As a result, a green card indicates the renewal status for four years while a yellow card denotes the renewal to a period of two years.

- Of the 39 revalidations, the council granted 33 green cards and 6 yellow cards.



Forbes India W-Power 2025: Dr. Gita Gopinath, Manu Bhaker & Payal Kapadia Featured Among 20 India's Top Self-Made Women

Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Forbes India**, in collaboration with France based **L'Oréal Paris**, unveiled its annual **W-Power 2025 list**, honoring **20 exceptional self-made women** who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, and resilience across various sectors, including business, finance, sports, entertainment, and public service.

- The honorees included **Dr. Gita Gopinath, Manu Bhaker, and Payal Kapadia**, among others, recognized for their leadership, innovation, and commitment to building meaningful legacies.

About W-Power:

i. This initiative, launched in **2017**, aims to spotlight women who have carved their paths to success, serving as inspirations for future generations.

ii. The Forbes India team shortlisted candidates from primary and secondary sources, focusing on entrepreneurs and professionals without inherited wealth/positions.

- Key metrics included financial success, influence, leadership, innovation, and societal impact.

SRFTI's Film 'A Doll Made Up of Clay' Makes its Entry to Cannes 2025

Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute(SRFTI), the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoI&B) has announced the entry of its film “A Doll Made Up of Clay” to **78th Festival De Cannes**.

- The film has been selected for the prestigious **La Cinef section**, which showcases works by film school students across the world.
- i. The movie has been written and directed by **KokobGebrehweria Tesfay**, an Ethiopian student under the Indian Council of Cultural Research (ICCR)at SRFTI and produced by **Sahil Manoj Ingle**.
 - ii.The movie features a 23-year-old Nigerian Footballer, Ahmed, who originally came to play seven-a-side games in the city and somehow, he ended up as an actor.
 - iii.The **23-minute** experimental film, was made as a part of an academic project for the Department of Producing for Film and Television, SRFTI. The movie has a mix of Yoruba and Bengali languages.

Note: SRFTI, established in 1995, is an autonomous premier institution dedicated to film and television education in India. Named after the renowned filmmaker Satyajit Ray, it is located in Kolkata (West Bengal, WB).

Nicaragua Withdraws from UNESCO over a Press Freedom Award 2025

The **Nicaraguan** government **withdrew from** Paris (France)-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**), the United Agency (UN) agency, that promotes education, science and culture and also works for the preservation of exceptional cultural and natural heritage worldwide.

- This withdrawal is a reaction to the United Nations (UN) agency announcement of Nicaragua's exiled **La Prensa** newspaper as winner of the 2025 UNESCO/ Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day(May 3).
- Also, this departure of Nicaragua is a major blow for the organisation that is in the crosschairs of the United States of America (USA) President Donald Trump.

Points to Note:

- i.Nicaragua joined the UNESCO in 1952 and was one of its 194 member states.
- ii.As per UNESCO's constitution, Nicaragua will officially terminate its 74-year old membership on December 31, 2026.

About La Prensa:

- i.La Prensa or officially known as La Prensa- El Diario de los Nicaraguenses (The Nicaraguan People's Journal) was founded in 1926, based in the country's capital Managua.
- ii.Since 2021, following the imprisonment and expulsion of its leaders from the country as well as confiscation of its assets, La Prensa has continued to work online, with most of its team in exile and operating from Costa Rica, Spain, Mexico, Germany and the USA.

About UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize:

The award was instituted in 1997, recognizes individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to defending and promoting press freedom, particularly under dangerous or challenging circumstances.

UNDP HDR 2025: India Climbs Three Steps to 130; Iceland tops

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released a report titled “Human Development Report (HDR) 2025– A matter of choice: people and possibilities in the age of Artificial Intelligence” with the theme “Harnessing Digital Transformation to Advance Human Development”.

- India is ranked at **130 in 2023 Human Development Index (HDI)**, with score of **0.685**, moving three places higher from 133 in 2022 with a score of 0.676.
- **Iceland** has secured the top position globally with a HDI score of 0.972. It is followed by Norway (0.970) and Switzerland – 0.970.

Key Findings:

- i. India's **life expectancy** rose from 58.6 years in 1990 to **72 years** in 2023, reaching a new high.
- ii. As per the report, the **average years of schooling** have increased from 8.2 in 1990 to **13 years** in 2023.
- iii. The Gross National Income (GNI) of India, increased over 53%, from USD 2,167.22 in 1990 to **USD 9,046.76** in 2023.

About United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

Administrator – Achim Steiner

Headquarters – New York, the United States of America (USA)

Pakistan Launched ‘Operation Bunyan al-Marsus’ Against India

Pakistan launched ‘Operation Bunyan al-Marsu’ against India aimed at targeting military installations in India: Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K); Kashmir (J&K) and Pathankot (Punjab), Bhuj (Gujarat), among others.



- The operation was initiated in response to India's **Operation Sindoor**, conducted on May 7, 2025.
- The name of the operation is inspired from the Quran (the holy book of Muslims). The phrase '**Bunyan al-Marsu**' in **Arabic** means 'a wall constructed of molten lead' which symbolizes unity, strength, and an unbreakable front.

Key Points:

- i. The operation was conducted under the overarching command of Pakistan's military

leadership, with General **Asim Munir** serving as the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan.

ii. Under Pakistan's operation, **Fatah-II** hypersonic ballistic missile was fired to target Delhi, India's capital city but was taken down effectively by Indian Air Defence Systems Forces in Sirsa, Haryana.

iii. Pakistan launched this operation following India struck at least 3 air base stations in Pakistan: Nur Khan air base station, located near Chaklala, Rawalpindi); Murid airbase station, located in Chakwal, around 120 kilometer (km) away from Pakistan's capital city Islamabad; and Rafiqui airbase, located Shorkot in Punjab province of Pakistan.

iv. India and Pakistan have mutually agreed to a full and immediate **ceasefire**, effectively halting the most intense military escalation between the two nuclear-armed neighbors in decades.

v. After the ceasefire on 11 May 2025, Pakistan's Director General (DG) of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, addressed the media to share details regarding the conduct and **conclusion of Operation Bunyan al-Marsus**.

About Fatah-II:

i. Fatah-II is a guided Multi-Launch Rocket System (MLRS) developed by Pakistan, with a strike range of 450 km.

- It is a successor of Fatah-I which has a strike range of 140 km.

ii. In 2024, Pakistan conducted a test trial of Fatah-II, which boasts a precision-strike capability with a claimed Circular Error Probable (CEP) of less than 10 meters (m).

Elon Musk's Starlink Receives Approval to Launch Satellite Internet Services in India

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, issued a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Starlink, a satellite internet service provider owned by Elon Musk, marking a significant step towards its **commercial operations in India**. This development comes nearly three years after Starlink first applied for an operator licence.

- Starlink operates a constellation of over 7,000 low Earth orbit satellites, providing satellite communication services in more than 100 countries. Its entry into the Indian market is poised to enhance connectivity, especially in remote and underserved regions, aligning with the government's vision of digital inclusivity.

Key Developments:

i. **Regulatory Progress:** The LoI paves the way for Starlink to obtain a Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) licence, essential for offering satellite-based internet services in India.

ii. **Security Compliance:** Starlink has agreed to 29 stringent security conditions set by the

DoT, including real-time terminal tracking, mandatory local data processing, legal interception capabilities, and localisation of at **least 20%** of its ground segment infrastructure within the initial years of operation.

iii.Pending Approvals: Before commencing services, Starlink must secure approvals from the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (**IN-SPACe**) and obtain spectrum allocation from the government. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (**TRAI**) is currently finalising pricing recommendations for the administrative allocation of satellite communication spectrum.

iv.Strategic Partnerships: Starlink has entered into agreements with major Indian telecom firms, including Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Reliance Jio and New Delhi(Delhi)-based Bharti Airtel, to expand its reach and explore bundled service offerings.

Nepal's Yala Glacier Declared 'Dead' Amid Global Warming Concerns

The **Yala Glacier** in Langtang Valley, **Nepal**, was declared “**dead**” during Asia’s first glacier funeral, after losing 66% of its ice and retreating 784 meters since the 1970s, highlighting the severe impact of climate change in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region.

- The event, coordinated by the Kathmandu (Nepal)-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (**ICIMOD**), witnessed the participation of over 50 glaciologists, Buddhist monks, and local community members from Nepal, India, China, and Bhutan.

Key Details of the Event:

i.Memorial Plaques: Installed at the glacier’s base, featuring messages in English, Nepali, and Tibetan by authors Manjushree Thapa and Andri Snaer Magnason.

ii.Global Precedents:Yala is the **third glacier** worldwide and the **first in Asia**, to receive such a memorial, following Iceland’s Okjökull (Ok glacier) (2019) and Mexico’s Ayoloco (2021).

USA Became India's 4th Largest Crude Oil Supplier

Data from London (United Kingdom, UK)-based energy cargo tracking firm **Vortexa** revealed that the United States of America (**USA**) surpassed the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) in April 2025 to become India’s **fourth-largest crude oil supplier**.

- India’s crude imports from the USA doubled to **0.33 million** barrels per day (mbd) in April 2025, up from 0.17 mbd in April 2024 and 0.24 mbd in March 2025.

i.India represented **8%** of total USA crude exports in April 2025, highlighting India’s growing significance as an energy buyer for the USA.

ii.The USA share in India’s total crude oil imports rose to **7.3%**, overtaking UAE’s **6.4%**.

iii.The USA now trails Russia (37.8%), Iraq (19.1%), and Saudi Arabia (10.4%), which continue to be India’s top three crude suppliers.

iv.Following discussions between Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and USA President Donald Trump in February 2025, India plans to raise its energy imports from USA from USD 15 billion to USD 25 billion.

Henley & Partners World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2025: Mumbai Wealthiest City in India; New York Topped the List Globally

London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based **Henley & Partners** in partnership with wealth intelligence firm, **New World Wealth** released the 4th annual edition of World's Wealthiest Cities Report 2025. As per the report, **Mumbai** (Maharashtra) ranked at **27th** position globally with more than 51,000 millionaires, and 25 billionaires, emerged as the wealthiest city in India.

- Mumbai also known as the financial capital of India registered a robust growth of **69%** in millionaire numbers over the last 10 years.
- i. However, the United States of America (**USA**) is the country with highest number of millionaires, featuring 11 cities in the top 50 rankings (of which 4 are in top 10 rankings).
- ii. As per the report, **New York City (USA)** retained its position as the world's wealthiest city, with 384, 500 High-Net Worth Individuals (HNIs), followed by the Bay Area (including the city of San Francisco and Silicon Valley, USA) and Tokyo (Japan) ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position in the rankings.
- iii. This year, Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal debuted the list, ranked at 50th spot with 22,00 millionaires, due to which Auckland (New Zealand) dropped out from this year's list.

TCS, HDFC, Airtel and Infosys ranked among the world's top 100 most valuable brands in the Kantar BrandZ 2025 Report.

According to the Kantar BrandZ, "2025 World's Most Valuable Global Brands" report, 4 Indian companies namely, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Airtel and Infosys were featured among the top 100 most valuable brands. _

- **Apple** retains its **top** position for the 4th year with a brand value of **USD 1.3 trillion**, followed by **Google** with a valuation of USD 944 billion and **Microsoft** with a valuation of USD 884 billion at 2nd and 3rd position respectively.
- Overall, the Global Top 100 has reached a record total brand value of USD 10.7 trillion, a year-on-year (YoY) increase of 29%.

Top 5 Most Valuable Global Brands:

Rank	Brand Name	Value (in USD)
1	Apple	1.3 trillion
2	Google	944 billion
3	Microsoft	884 billion

4	Amazon	866 billion
5	Nvidia	509 billion

Top 4 Most Valuable Indian Brands:

Global Rank	Brand Name	Value (in USD)
45	TCS	57 billion
56	HDFC Bank	44 billion
66	Airtel	37 billion
73	Infosys	33 billion

Australian Cricket Captain Patrick Cummins Released New Book 'Tested: The Remarkable Power of Resolve'

Australian Cricket Captain Patrick James Cummins launched his book 'Tested: The Remarkable Power of Resolve', which explores leadership and decision-making through discussions with 11 experts from different fields.

- The book was published by **HarperCollins Publishers LLC**, a British-American publishing company.

i. In this book, Pat Cummins explores the themes of challenge, crisis, and opportunity by engaging in conversations with renowned personalities like former Australian Prime Minister (PM) Julia Gillard and cricket legend Dennis Lillee, etc., offering insights beyond his cricketing career.

ii. He also shares his own journey, reflecting on the challenges and responsibilities of becoming Australia's 47th Test captain at the age of 28.

iii. Patrick James Cummins, the Captain of the Australian Men's Test Cricket Team, has led Australia to major victories, including the 2023 International Cricket Council – One Day International (ICC ODI) World Cup, the 2023 Ashes, and the 2025 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and was named ICC Cricketer of the Year in 2024.

Google Unveils 'AI Matryoshka': AI-First Strategy Emphasizing Intelligence and Privacy Challenges

California (United States of America, USA)-based **Google LLC** introduced its Artificial Intelligence (AI)-**first restructuring strategy**, titled “**AI Matryoshka**”, during the Google I/O Developers Conference 2025 held in California.

- This multi-layered AI ecosystem aims to revolutionize interactions among users, developers, and enterprises by deeply embedding AI across all Google platforms.
- Inspired by **Russian nesting dolls**, AI Matryoshka places Google’s core AI, powered by the Gemini 2.5 models, at its center, with each surrounding layer representing a product or platform that leverages this central intelligence.

Defence

Indian Army & NDRF Conducted 'Exercise Raahat' in Nagaland

The Indian Army (IA) Engineers under the Spear Corps, in collaboration with National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) conducted 'Exercise Raahat' from May 13 to 15, 2025 at Rangapahar Military Station in Dimapur, Nagaland.

- The idea of this bilateral exercise was conceptualized with sole vision of enhancing the readiness and efficiency of disaster relief operations, especially during the monsoon season.
- i.The 1st two days of the exercise was focused on **strategic planning** and **scenario-based discussions** which involved experts from both agencies who dissected real-life case studies, engaged in group discussions and explored innovative response strategies.
- ii.The exercise concluded with **Lecture-cum-demonstration**, where, Sappers of the IA and NDRF showcased state-of-the-art disaster relief equipment and simulated rescue and medical operations.
- iii.Also, the Flood Relief Columns from various units of the Spear Corps participated in the exercise, which reinforces the importance on inter-agency cooperation.

Note: The NDRF is India's premier specialized force established in 2006 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) and functions as the operational arm of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

IA Received New Batch of Russian-origin 'Igla-S' Shoulder-fired Air Defence Missiles

The Indian Army (IA) has received fresh batch of the Russian-origin 'Igla-S missiles', are portable, shoulder-fired weapons, designed to neutralize low-flying threats such as helicopters, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and low-speed aircraft, especially in forward areas and mountainous terrain.

- These missiles have been procured as part of an **Rs 260 crore** contract signed by the Government of India (GoI) under the emergency procurement powers.
- Apart from these missiles, the Ministry of Defence (MoD), in coordination with IA has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to buy 48 launchers, 48 night vision sights, 85 missiles, and one missile test station for the Very Short Range Air Defence System (**VSHORADS**)- Next Generation (NG).
- i.The Igla-S man-portable air defence systems were assembled in India by Ahmedabad (Gujarat) based Adani Defence Systems And Technologies Limited(**ADSTL**).
- ii.Igla-S is an upgraded version of the Igla missiles which have been in use in Indian defence system since 1990s. This new version of Igla missile offers better resistance to countermeasures and enhanced seeker accuracy.
- iii.It is capable of engaging targets maximum 6 kilometer (km) away and at altitudes of maximum 3.5 km.

Akashteer: The Unseen Force behind India's New War Capability

Akashteer, India's fully indigenous, automated air defence control and reporting system, played a pivotal role in destroying Pakistan's aerial attacks, by neutralizing and intercepting every inbound projectile during the 4-day military stand-off between India and Pakistan.

- During **Operation Sindoor** on May 9-10, 2025, **Akashteer**, including the advanced Akash NG, acted as an invisible shield, intercepting multiple missiles and drone swarms launched from Pakistan.
 - While Pakistan relied on imported HQ-9 and HQ16 systems that failed to detect and intercept Indian strikes, India demonstrated its dominance in real-time, automated air defence warfare.
- i. It is part of the wider Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (**C4ISR**) framework.
 - ii. It is designed to automate detection, tracking, and engagement of enemy aircraft, drones, and missiles.
 - iii. Its vehicle-mounted design offers high mobility, allowing easier deployment even in a hostile environment.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Kamla Persad-Bissessar Elected as PM of Trinidad and Tobago

Kamla Susheila Persad-Bissessar (commonly referred to as KPB), leader of the United National Congress (UNC), was **elected** as the **9th** Prime Minister (PM) of **Trinidad and Tobago** for five years, marking her second term in office from April 30, 2025.

- She returned to power after a decisive victory in the general elections held on April 28, 2025, where the UNC, in alliance with the Coalition of Interests (CoI), secured 26 out of 41 seats in the House of Representatives comfortably crossing the 21-seat majority mark.
- She succeeded the incumbent PM, **Stuart Richard Young** of the People's National Movement (PNM), who served from March 17, 2025, to April 29, 2025.

About Kamla Susheila Persad-Bissessar:

- i.Kamla Persad-Bissessar, born to Indian descendants, is a renowned lawyer and politician from Trinidad and Tobago.
 - ii.She was the first woman to hold the roles of PM, Attorney General, and Opposition Leader in Trinidad and Tobago. She was also the first female Chairperson-in-Office of the Commonwealth of Nations.
 - iii.Her political career includes serving as Attorney General in 1995 and 2001, and Leader of the Opposition from 2006. In 2010, she became the political leader of the UNC.
- She served as the 6th PM of Trinidad and Tobago from May 26, 2010, to September 9, 2015, and remains the **nation's first and only female PM**.
 - iv.In 2011, Time magazine named her the 13th most influential female leader globally.
 - v.In **2012**, the Government of India (GoI) honoured her with the **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman** (Overseas Indian Award), the highest Indian award for Overseas Indians, for her contributions to public service.

Mark Carney elected as Canada's New Prime Minister

The Liberal Party, led by Canada Prime Minister (PM), **Mark Carney** won Canada's federal election **against Pierre Poilievre**, leader of the Conservative Party.

- Mark Carney, sworn in as the **first unelected PM of Canada** in March 2025 after the resignation of former PM Justin Trudeau.
- He was the 24th Prime Minister of Canada.
- The Liberal Party is elected to power for the **fourth** consecutive time.

About Mark Carney:

- He was born on March 16, 1965, near the Arctic in Fort Smith, located in Canada's North-west territories.

- Mark embarked on his banking career with Goldman Sachs (1995 – 2003) and later joined public service.
- He worked as Deputy Governor of the Bank of Canada between 2003 and 2004, and further as senior associate deputy minister of finance.
- He worked as governor of the **Bank of Canada** between 2008 and 2013.
- Mark Carney became the first non-British governor of **Bank of England** (2013-2020), making the first person to have headed the central banks of two G7 economies (Canada & England)

Former R&AW Chief Alok Joshi appointed as Chairman of new NSAB

The Government of India (GoI) reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board (**NSAB**), appointing **Alok Joshi**, former Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), as its new **Chairman**. This strategic move aims to bolster national security advisory mechanisms in light of recent security challenges.

- The decision followed a Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting chaired by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (PM) of India, in response to the Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) terrorist attack.
 - Alok Joshi is a 1976-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Haryana cadre. He served as the chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's external intelligence agency, from December 30, 2012, to December 31, 2014.
- The revamped **seven-member** NSAB comprises distinguished retired officials from India's military, police, and diplomatic services.
 - Established in **1998**, the NSAB functions as a key advisory body to the National Security Council (NSC) of India, which is chaired by PM of India.

About National Security Council (NSC) India:

NSC (India) was established in **1998** by the Government of India (GoI) under the leadership of the then Prime Minister (PM) **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**
National Security Advisor(NSA) of India – Ajit Kumar Doval

Australia's PM Anthony Albanese wins a 2nd Consecutive 3-year Term

The incumbent Prime Minister (PM) of Australia **Anthony Norman Albanese**, leader of the Labor Party(LP), has been re-elected as Australia's PM in the federal elections. With this, he became the 1st Australian PM to win a **2nd consecutive** 3-year term in two decades.

- As per Australian Electoral Commission's estimates, Albanese led ruling centre-left LP got **70 seats** while the conservative opposition coalition led by **Peter Dutton** got just 24 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, the lower chamber of Australian Parliament.



About Anthony Norman Albanese:

i. He started his political career by joining the Labor Party in 1979. In 1996, he was 1st elected to Australian Parliament as the member for the Sydney seat of Grayndler.

• Since 1996, he had been re-elected in the federal House of Representatives 9 times (1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022).

ii. He served as Deputy PM of the country, from June 2013 to September 2018 and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) from May 2019 to May 2022.

iii. He has been serving as the Leader of the Australian LP since **2019**.

iv. During his tenure as Infrastructure Minister and Communication Minister (from July 2013 to September 2013), he delivered nation-building projects, and rolled out the high speed fibre National Broadband Network (NBN).

iii. In May 2022, he became the **31st** PM of Australia and the head of the 1st Labor government to rule the country since 2013.

GoI Terminates K.V. Subramanian as IMF ED (India); Appoints Parameswaran Iyer as Interim ED

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, **terminated Krishnamurthy Venkata (K.V.) Subramanian** as Executive Director (ED) for India at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on 30 April 2025.

• His three-year tenure, which began in November 2022, was ended six months early, without any official reason given. He represented India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan at IMF.

• **Parameswaran Iyer**, the current ED for India at the World Bank (WB) has been appointed as the **interim ED** to represent India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka at the IMF.

About K.V. Subramanian:

i. K.V. Subramanian served as the **17th** Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the Government of India (GoI) from 2018 to 2021, becoming the youngest person to ever hold this role.

ii. He also served on expert committees of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

iii. He served as a member of the Board of Directors at Bandhan Bank Limited, the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune (Maharashtra), and RBI Academy.

Friedrich Merz Becomes Germany's 10th Chancellor

Joachim-Friedrich Martin Josef Merz, leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and lawyer, was elected as the **10th** Chancellor of Germany. He secured the majority with **325 votes out of 630** seats in the second round of voting.



- In the first round of secret ballot voting, he failed by six votes, receiving 310 votes, with the need for a majority of 316 votes, the threshold for winning the election.
- The President of Germany, Frank- Walter Steinmeier, approved Friedrich Merz as Chancellor at Bundestag, Berlin, Germany.

Key points:

- i. Merz's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party, which won an election in February 2025, was in alliance with Social Democrats. The coalition had a total of 328 seats.
- ii. Merz is the first Chancellor to lose Bundestag vote since Germany's independence.
- iii. He is the oldest Chancellor to assume office since Konrad Adenauer, the first post-war German head of government.

About Friedrich Merz:

- i. Joachim Friedrich Martin Josef Merz, born on 11 November 1955 in Brilon, an area of North-Rhine Westphalia in West Germany, served in German Army before embarking on his political career.
- ii. Merz served as a Member of the Parliament (MP) from **1989 to 1994**, he was a member of Bundestag from **1994 to 2009**.
- iii. In 2004, he took a break from his political career and embarked on his legal career. He worked as a corporate lawyer, becoming a senior counsel at Mayer Brown and served on the boards of different companies.

Cardinal Robert Prevost elected as New Pope in Vatican City

The United States of America (USA)-based Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been elected as the **267th** Pope of the Catholic Church. He was elected by the cardinals across the globe on the second day of the Papal conclave held in Sistine Chapel, Vatican City.



- He adopted the name **Pope Leo XIV** and is the first pope from the USA.
- He succeeds **Pope Francis**, who died on 21st April 2025.

Selection of a new Pope:

- i. Following the death of Pope Francis, 133 red-robed cardinals across the globe were brought together at the Papal Conclave in the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City, to select the new successor.
- ii. Robert Francis Prevost, was elected at the fourth ballot, held on the second day of the conclave.

- He had secured at least 89, two-thirds majority of the votes.

Colour Smoke tradition:

Black and White smoke is used to signal about the election of the new pope.

- Black indicates no pope is selected and the voting is restarted.
- White smoke indicates the selection of a new pope.

About Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost:

- i. He joined the Order of Saint Augustine and was ordained as priest in Rome in 1982.
- ii. In 1985, he began his missionary work in Peru, serving in various capacities including parish pastor, seminary teacher, and diocesan official.
- iii. From 2001 to 2013, he served as the Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine. In 2015, he was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru.
- iii. Robert Prevost, holds dual citizenship of USA and Peru, where he spent several years, initially as a missionary and later as Bishop.

Senior INC Leader KC Venugopal Reappointed as PAC Chairperson

Senior Indian National Congress (INC) Party leader, **K C Venugopal** was re-appointed as chairperson of the New Delhi(Delhi) based Public Accounts Committee (**PAC**) of the Parliament of India, by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. His tenure will continue until April 2026, as per the announcement by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

- This appointment aligns with the convention established in 1967, where the PAC Chairperson is selected from the principal opposition party in the Lok Sabha.

About KC Venugopal:**Current Positions:**

- i. Chairperson, Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
- ii. General Secretary (Organisation), All India Congress Committee (AICC)

Previous Roles:

- Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha (2020–2024)
- Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation (2012–2014)

About Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

- Established: 1921 (pre-independence), reconstituted in 1950 (post-independence)
- Significance: The PAC ensures accountability in the utilization of public funds by examining audit reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- Role: The committee comprises 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha) and reviews compliance with parliamentary approvals.

CBI Director Praveen Sood Granted One-Year Tenure Extension

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (**ACC**) approved a **one-year extension** in the tenure of **Praveen Sood** a 1986-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Karnataka cadre as **Director** of the Central Bureau of Investigation (**CBI**). His term, originally set to end on 24th May 2025, has now been extended till **May 2026**.

- The extension was approved based on recommendations by the high-level selection committee, chaired by Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi, and comprising Justice Sanjiv Khanna, Judge of the Supreme Court of India(SCI), and Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha.
- i.He began his service as Assistant Superintendent of Police in Mysuru, Karnataka in 1989.
- ii.He served as Director General of Police (DGP) in Karnataka before his appointment as CBI Director.

Former England Selector Ed Smith appointed as MCC's next President

Former England Men's Cricket Selector, **Edward Thomas Smith** was appointed as the President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), London, England. He will assume office for one year from **1st October 2025**.

- He was appointed by the current president of MCC, **Lord King of Lothbury**, at the MCC Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at Lord's Cricket Ground, London, England.

About Edward Thomas Smith :

- i.He is a former England Cricketer, Cricket commentator, Journalist and an English author.
- ii.During his playing days, Smith played for Kent, Middlesex and England in a career that spanned 13 seasons.
- During this period, he scored nearly **13,000 runs**, including 34 centuries.
- iii.He retired in 2008 and embarked on a career in the media and wrote five books.
- iv.He was the Chief Selector of England Men's Cricket team from **2018 to 2021**.
- England won the ICC Men's World Cup for the first time in 2019 during his tenure as chief selector.
- v.He is also involved in academia, as co-founder of the Institute of Sports Humanities (ISH), which has a mission to nurture and inspire sport's current and future leaders.

Former Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar Appointed as Chairman of UPSC

The Government of India (GoI) appointed **Dr. Ajay Kumar**, former Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1985 Kerala cadre, as the new **Chairman** of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for 6 years or until reaching the **age of 65**, whichever is earlier.

- The appointment was approved by President of India **Droupadi Murmu**, under **Article 316(1)** of the **Constitution of India**, as per an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P).



- He succeeded **Preeti Sudan** whose tenure ended on 29th April 2025.

About Union Public Service Commission (UPSC):

The UPSC is responsible for conducting civil services examinations to recruit officers for prestigious roles like the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Police Service (IPS). The commission is headed by a Chairman and can have a maximum of 10 members.

President Draupadi Murmu appointed SC Judge Surya Kant as Executive Chairman of NALSA

President Draupadi Murmu has appointed Justice **Surya Kant**, Supreme Court (SC) Judge, as the **Executive Chairman** of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective May 14, 2025.

- He will succeed **Justice B R Gavai**, Judge, Supreme Court of India.

- He is currently the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC).
- Before his elevation to the Supreme Court in May 2019, he served as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court(HC) and as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana HC.
- He will lead NALSA's mission to provide accessible and free legal aid to all citizens, particularly those from Marginalized and economically weaker sections of society across India.

Note: The NALSA is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which came into effect on November 9, 1995.

IOC Appointed Mikaela Jaworski as Chair of Coordination Commission for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board member, Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski, has been appointed as the new Chair of the IOC Coordination Commission, for the 2032 Olympic games, to be held at Brisbane, Australia. The appointment was made by IOC President, Thomas Bach, at an Executive Board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.



- She will succeed **Kristy Coventry**, who is set to become the IOC President in June 2025
- She will chair the Coordination Commission meeting in Brisbane(Australia) from May 20 to 22, 2025.

Key Points:

- As a Commission Chair, **Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski** will oversee the planning and delivery of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, working in close partnership with the Organizing Committee, the Olympic Movement stakeholders, local authorities and International Sports Federations.
- Her role will be to ensure that all aspects of the project are developed and executed to the highest standards, creating an inclusive, sustainable and memorable Olympic experience for

athletes, fans and communities.

About Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski:

i. Mikaela Cojuangco Jaworski is a former equestrian athlete, represented Philippines internationally and won a **gold medal** in individual equestrian jumping at the **2002 Asian Games** in Busan, South Korea.

- She also secured a team gold medal at the 2005 Southeast Asian Games (Equestrian jumping) in Manila, Philippines.

iii. She has been a member of IOC since 2013, IOC Executive Board (EB) since 2020 and has been on the Coordination Commissions for the 2020 Tokyo (Japan), and 2024 Paris (France).

About International Olympic Committee (IOC):

IOC is a non-governmental organization that is responsible for organizing Olympic games and overseeing the Network of National Olympic Committees (NOCs), International Federations, Athletes and other stakeholders.

President – Thomas Bach

President Elect – Kirsty Coventry (From June 23, 2025)

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Establishment – 1894

Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Rank in TA

India's star javelin thrower and double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra was conferred the Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army (TA). The appointment was officially notified in The Gazette of India on 13 May 2025 by the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence (MoD), recognizing his contributions to sports and national pride.

- **Droupadi Murmu**, the president of India, conferred the honorary rank under Para-31 of the Territorial Army Regulations, 1948, effective 16 April 2025.

About Neeraj Chopra:

Military Career:

i. Neeraj Chopra's association with the Indian Army (IA) began on August 26, 2016, when he was enrolled as a Naib Subedar in the 4 Rajputana Rifles.

ii. Following his historic **gold** medal win at the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** (India's first in track and field), he was promoted to Subedar in 2021.

iii. In 2024, he was elevated to Subedar Major, the highest Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) rank.

Awards and Honors:

i. **Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM)**: Awarded in **2022**, recognizing distinguished service of the most exceptional order in the Indian Armed Forces.

ii. **Padma Shri**: In **2022** Conferred with India's fourth-highest civilian award For Outstanding performance in the field of sports.

iii. **Major Dhyani Chand Khel Ratna Award**: Received in 2021, India's highest sporting

honor.

iv.Arjuna Award: Bestowed in 2018 for outstanding performance in sports.

v.Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM): It's military award in India, recognizing "distinguished service of a high order" in 2020

About the Territorial Army (TA):

i.The Territorial Army (TA), established on 9 October 1949, completed 75 years in 2024.

ii.It functions as a part-time volunteer force that supports the regular Indian Army during emergencies and actively contributes to nation-building and developmental projects.

Notable Indian Sportspersons in the Territorial Army:

i.Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Cricket), conferred the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in TA in 2011

ii.Abhinav Bindra (Shooting), (Lieutenant Colonel, TA, 2011)

iii.Vijay Kumar Sharma (Shooting), (Honorary Captain, 2012)

iv.Kapil Dev (Cricket), (Lieutenant Colonel, TA, 2008)

Intelligence Bureau Chief Tapan Kumar Deka Gets 1 Year Extension

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved a second one-year extension of Counter-terrorism expert, **Tapan Kumar Deka** as the **Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB)**, under the Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) for a period of one year till **June 2026**.

- With this extension, he becomes the **longest-serving** IB chief since the tenure was formalized in 2005.

- The extension is in relaxation of the provisions of Fundamental Rules (FR) 56 (d) and Rule 16 (1A) of All India Services (Death Cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.

i.**Tapan Kumar Deka**, a 1988-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Himachal Pradesh(HP) cadre, was appointed as the IB Director for two years in June 2022.

ii.He was first appointed as the Director of the IB for a two-year term starting from June 2022. His tenure was extended by one year in **June 2024**.

iii.He led the operations wing of the IB for over two decades and played a key role in coordinating counterassault efforts during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Dr. Samir V. Kamat Gets Second Extension as Chairman of DRDO & Secretary of DDR&D

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved a **second one-year extension** in service to **Dr. Samir V. Kamat**, Secretary of New Delhi(Delhi) based Department of Defence Research and Development (**DDR&D**) and Chairman of New Delhi based Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**). His tenure has been extended from June 1, 2025, to **May 31, 2026**, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, under Fundamental Rule 56(d).

- He was first appointed as Secretary, DDR&D and Chairman, DRDO on 25th August 2022, succeeding Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy.

Honours/ Awards

Pulitzer Prize 2025: NYT wins 4, Reuters wins for US Fentanyl Investigation

The Pulitzer Prize Board announced the winners of 109th Pulitzer Prize (2025) under the categories such as: Journalism, Books, Drama and Music, and Special Citations.

- This year, The New York Times (NYT) won **4** awards in different categories of Pulitzer Prize. With this, NYT increased its total Pulitzer prize to 139, a record high since the awards started in year 1917.
 - It is followed by the New Yorker magazine which secured 3 awards in categories like: commentary, feature photography and audio reporting, mainly in recognition of their coverage of overseas wars.
- i. Currently, Pulitzer Prize is presented in **24** categories which are broadly classified as: Journalism (15), Letters, Drama and Music (8), and Special Citation (1).
- ii. Renowned American Photographer **Doug Mills** (NYT) won in the category of 'Breaking News Photography' for capturing the attempted assassination of then- the United States of America (USA) Presidential candidate Donald Trump on July 13, 2024 in Pennsylvania (the USA).

Renowned Entrepreneur-Social Activist Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom Conferred the International Buddha Peace Award 2025

Renowned social worker and entrepreneur from Mumbai (Maharashtra), **Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom** was conferred with the International Buddha Peace Award 2025 by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Governor of Assam during a grand ceremony organised by Maitri Peace Foundation in Guwahati, Assam.



- **Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom**, Managing Director (MD) of Care Takers Exterior and Interior Private Limited, received this award in recognition of his exceptional social activism and leadership in the building repairs and restoration industry.
- Other than **Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom**, eminent structural engineer **Dr. Munir Khan**, founder of Avon Consulting Engineers was also bestowed with the award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to social initiatives promoting sustainable development and community welfare.

About Dr. Mustafa Yusufali Gom:

- i. He is the Managing Director (MD) of Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Care Takers Exterior and Interior Private Limited.
- ii. In February 2025, he was honored with the Public Service Award by Governor of Himachal Pradesh (HP) during a ceremony at the Creator and Business Excellence Awards 2025.
- iii. He has previously received several honors for his social work, including the Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Award and recognition from the governors of Maharashtra and Telangana.

About Dr. Munir Khan:

- i. During his long-career as structural engineer, Dr. Munir Khan has spearheaded more than 1,500 structural audits and the restoration of over 300 buildings.
- ii. Some of his noted projects were undertaken across various cities of Maharashtra like: Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Mira Bhayandar, among others.
- iii. In September 2024, he was honoured with the International Buddha Peace Award from Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Telangana.

- He was also awarded with the Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar Award by C.P. Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra in October 2024.

About International Buddha Peace Award:

- i. The award was established in 2009, organised annually by Maitri Peace Foundation, a non-government voluntary organisation.
- ii. The award recognizes the individuals who have made extraordinary efforts to promote peace both inside or outside of their communities.
- iii. **Dr. Rashmi Saluja**, Chairperson of the Global Trade & Technology Council of India (GTTTCI) was among the key recipients of the award in year 2024.

Bhuwan Ribhu Becomes 1st Indian Lawyer to Receive WJA 'Medal of Honour'

Bhuwan Ribhu, a renowned Indian child rights lawyer and activist, was conferred the 'Medal of Honour' by the World Jurist Association (WJA), becoming the first Indian lawyer to receive this recognition. He was awarded this honor during the World Law Congress (WLC) 2025 held from May 4 to 6, 2025 in the Dominican Republic, a country in North America (NA).



- The Medal of Honour, an esteemed award presented by the WJA, recognised Bhuwan Ribhu's two-decade-long legal efforts in protecting children from child marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse, and forced labour, for his outstanding contributions to **justice and human rights**.
- i. He received the award jointly from **Eddy Olivares Ortega**, Minister of Labour, Dominican Republic, and **Javier Cremades**, President of WJA.
- ii. The WJA has previously recognized several iconic global legal figures, including Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and René Cassin.

Brazilian Microbiologist Mariangela Hungria Wins 2025 World Food Prize

The World Food Prize Foundation, based in Des Moines, Iowa (United States of America, USA), named Brazilian Microbiologist Dr. Mariangela Hungria as the winner of the 2025 World Food Prize.

- The award honors Dr. Hungria's groundbreaking work in developing **biological alternatives to chemical**



fertilizers, significantly enhancing sustainable agriculture practices in Brazil and beyond.

i. She will officially receive the award at the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium scheduled for October 2025 in Des Moines and a monetary prize of **USD 500,000**.

ii. She is the **10th woman** to be honoured with the World Food Prize.

About World Food Prize Foundation:

Chairman – Paul Schickler

Headquarters – Des Moines, Iowa (United States of America, USA)

Founded – 1986

Forbes 2025 Highest-Paid Athletes: Cristiano Ronaldo Tops with USD 275 Million Earnings

Forbes released the 2025 list of the world's highest-paid athletes with Portuguese soccer player **Cristiano Ronaldo** securing the top position for the third consecutive year and fifth overall, total earning of **USD 275 million** between May 2024 and May 2025.



- Cristiano Ronaldo earned an estimated USD 225 million from on-field activities, primarily through his contract with Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr, while his off-field earnings, including endorsements, business ventures, and social media partnerships, amounted to approximately USD 50 million.

i. The United States of America (USA)-based basketball player **Stephen Curry** ranked second on the list with total earnings of USD 156 million, while United Kingdom (UK)-based boxer **Tyson Fury** secured the third position with total earnings of USD 146 million.

ii. For the first time since 2019, no female athletes were featured in Forbes' 2025 list of the top 50 highest-paid athletes. No Indian athletes were present in the top 50 list for this year.

About Forbes:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Sherry Phillips

Headquarters – Jersey City, New Jersey, The United States of America (USA)

Founded – 1917

President Draupadi Murmu Presents 58th Jnanpith Award to Gulzar & Ramabhadracharya

President Draupadi Murmu conferred the 58th Jnanpith Award on Sanskrit Scholar Jagadguru Ramabhadracharya for Sanskrit at an event held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- Another awardee, renowned Indian Urdu poet and lyricist **Sampoorn Singh Kalra**, popularly known as Gulzar, was honoured for his contribution to **Urdu** literature but was unable to attend the ceremony.

About Jnanpith Award:

i. Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, has been annually presented by the

Bharatiya Jnanpith since **1965**.

ii. The award recognizes the outstanding contributions towards literature in English and other Indian languages.

iii. The award carries a cash prize of **Rs 11 lakhs**, a bronze statue of Vagdevi (Hindu Goddess Saraswati) and a citation.

Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2025 : Featured 94 Indians; Includes Gukesh D, Ananya Pandey and Ishaan Khatter

New Jersey, the United States of America (USA)-based Forbes, a Business Magazine released its 10th Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List, featuring 94 honourees from India, highest in the Asia-Pacific Region, which includes Chess Grandmaster(GM) Gukesh Dommaraju (18); Actress, Ananya Pandey (26) and Actor, Ishaan Khatter (29).

- The Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2025 list celebrates 300 of the region's most promising young leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators under the age of 30.
- The 10 categories featured in the 2025 list are: Entertainment & Sports; Consumer & Enterprise Technology; Social Impact; Finance & Venture Capital; Artificial Intelligence (AI); Industry, Manufacturing & Energy; Healthcare & Science, Retail & E-commerce; The Arts (Art & Style, Food & Drink) and Media, Marketing & Advertising.

i. Following India, Australia (32), China (30), Japan (25) and South Korea (23) recorded their entries.

ii. Other prominent names featured on the list include Actor Ananya Panday, global K-pop sensations Stray Kids, actor-singer Cha Eun-woo, actress Go Min-si, Australian-Korean actress Yerin Ha, Filipino pop group BINI, Indian chess grandmaster D Gukesh, and celebrated Paralympian Sheetal Devi.

Times Rich List 2025: Hinduja family dominates UK rich list for 4th Successive year

The Hinduja family, led by Gopichand Hinduja, Chairman of the 110-year-old multinational Hinduja Group, has once again secured the top spot on "The Sunday Times Rich List 2025", with a reported net worth of British Pound Sterling (GBP) 35.3 Billion (approximately Rs. 2,530,000 crore).

- **David and Simon Reuben and family**, follows the Hinduja Group, placed at the second place with a reported net worth of GBP 26.87 Billion.

i. The 37th Sunday Times Rich List features 350 individuals and families, with a combined wealth of **GBP 772.8 billion**, marking a 3% decline from the previous year.

ii. The 2025 Rich List highlights a significant decline in the number of UK billionaires, dropping from 165 in 2024 to 156, the largest decrease since the list's inception in 1989.

iii. Other notable names on the 2025 Sunday Times Rich List include Sir Leonard Blavatnik (GBP 25.725 billion), Sir James Dyson and family (GBP 20.8 billion), Idan Ofer (GBP 20.121 billion), the Weston family (GBP 17.746 billion), Sir Jim Ratcliffe (GBP 17.046 billion), and Lakshmi Mittal and family (GBP 15.444 billion).

Sansad Ratna Awards 2025: 17 MPs & 2 Parliamentary Committees Honoured; Maharashtra Leads with 7 MPs

Chennai (Tamil Nadu, TN) based Prime Point Foundation (PPF) announced the recipients of the **Sansad Ratna Awards 2025**, honouring **17 Members of Parliament (MPs)** and **2 Parliamentary Standing Committees (PSCs)** for their exemplary parliamentary performance in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

- The awards will be presented during the **15th** edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards ceremony which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi (Delhi) in the last week of July 2025.
- **Maharashtra leads** with 7 awards, followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP), Jharkhand, and Rajasthan (2 each). Odisha, Kerala, Tamil Nadu (TN), and Assam secured 1 award each.
- i. The nominations were finalized by the Jury Committee headed by Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, who serves as the Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ii. **Four MPs** receive special awards for “Outstanding and Consistent Contribution to Parliamentary Democracy” during the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha, and for maintaining their performance in the 18th Lok Sabha.
- Two PSCs will also be felicitated for their exceptional contributions.

India's Banu Mushtaq & Deepa Bhashti Wins International Booker Prize 2025 for 'Heart Lamp'

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based writer, lawyer, and activist **Banu Mushtaq**, along with translator **Deepa Bhashti**, won the **International Booker Prize 2025** for the Kannada short story collection '**Heart Lamp : Selected Stories**'. The award was announced by author Max Porter during a ceremony held at the Tate Modern in London, the United Kingdom (UK).

- This marks the first time a short story collection and a work originally written in Kannada have received this award.

Key Points:

- i. Banu Mushtaq became the **first Kannada author** and the first Muslim woman from India to win the International Booker Prize. She is the sixth female author to be awarded the prize since 2016.
- ii. The book was translated into English by Deepa Bhashti, who became the **first Indian translator** and ninth female translator to win the International Booker Prize.
- iii. Heart Lamp marks the **second Indian win** at the International Booker Prize after the 2022 victory of Geetanjali Shree (Author) and Daisy Rockwell (Translator) for Tomb of Sand, the first Hindi novel to receive the prestigious award.
- iv. The award carries a cash prize of **50,000 British Pound Sterling (GBP) (USD 66,000)** was shared equally between the author Banu Mushtaq and the translator Deepa Bhashti.

TIME100 Philanthropy 2025 List: Ambani Couple, Azim Premji, Nikhil Kamath Featured on the List

New York (the United States of America, USA)-based **TIME magazine**, the 102-year-old global media brand, has released the **inaugural** edition of “**TIME 100 Most Influential People in Philanthropy 2025**”. **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and his wife **Nita Ambani**; **Azim Premji**, former chairman of WIPRO Limited and **Nikhil Kamath**, Co-founder of Zerodha are among other Indians featured on the list.

- **Michael Bloomberg**, co-founder, CEO of Bloomberg LP, was named the **largest individual donor of 2024**, contributing USD 3.7 billion to various causes, including a USD1 billion donation to Johns Hopkins University to make medical education more accessible.

i. Some of the prominent global figures on the list: **David Beckham** (Titans), former British football player, entrepreneur and philanthropist; American entrepreneur and TV personality **Oprah Winfrey** (Titans) recognised for her work in female education; **Melinda French Gates** (Titans) co-founder of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, among others from 28 countries across the world.

ii. The list featured individuals who have made significant contributions through charity, funding, and policy reform.

iii. The list has categorised the influential people in philanthropy into **4** different categories: **Titans, Leaders, Trailblazers** and **Innovators**.

78th Cannes Film Festival: Iranian Filmmaker Jafar Panahi Wins Palme d’Or; Indian Film ‘Homebound’ recognized

The 78th annual Cannes International Film Festival was held from 13 to 24 May 2025 in Cannes, **France**. Iranian filmmaker **Jafar Panahi** was awarded the festival’s highest honour, the **Palme d’Or**, for his drama film ‘It Was Just an Accident’.

- The event was chaired by French actress **Juliette Binoche**, who led a nine-member jury comprising notable figures including Indian director Payal Kapadia, American actor Jeremy Strong, South Korean auteur Hong Sangsoo, and other international cinema professionals.

Noted Awards:

i. Norwegian filmmaker **Joachim Trier** was honored with the **Grand Prix** for Sentimental Value, a family drama exploring the complexities of reconciliation.

ii. In Caméra d’Or Section, **Iraqi filmmaker Hasan Hadi** made history as the **first from Iraq** to win this award for The President’s Cake, a childhood drama set under economic sanctions.

iii. Directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, ‘**Homebound**’ was selected for the **Un Certain Regard section**. The film features actors Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor, and Vishal Jethwa, and marks Ghaywan’s return to Cannes after his acclaimed debut Masaan in 2015.

iv. At the Cannes Film Market, the biopic ‘Kalam: The Missile Man of India’ was officially unveiled. The film was directed by Om Raut and starring Dhanush.

Sports

RR's Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest player to score IPL Century

Rajasthan Royals' (RR's) **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** (14 year old) has become the **youngest player** to score **century** (100 runs) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history, reaching the mark in just 35 balls against Gujarat Titans (GT) during IPL 2025 at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- He surpassed the previous record held by RR's Riyan Parag (17 years, 175 days), and RR's Sanju Samson ranks third on the list (18 years, 169 days).

Remarkable Achievements of Vaibhav Suryavanshi:

i. Youngest Centurion in T20 History: At 14 years and 32 days, he broke the record for the youngest player to score a (Twenty20) T20 century, surpassing Manish Pandey (19 years, 253 days in 2009).

ii. Fastest IPL Century by an Indian: His 35-ball hundred eclipsed Yusuf Pathan's 37-ball ton (2010) and is now the second-fastest in IPL history after Chris Gayle's 30-ball century (2013).

iii. Record-Breaking Strike Rate: Suryavanshi's 101 runs off 38 balls came at a strike rate of 265.79, with 11 sixes (joint-most by an Indian in an IPL innings) and 7 fours.

iv. Highest Boundary Percentage in an IPL Century: 94% of his runs (94/101) came via boundaries.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri Secures 3rd Consecutive Victory at 2025 Miami Grand Prix

Oscar Piastri, an Australian Formula One (F1) driver representing the United Kingdom (UK)-based McLaren **clinched** his fourth win of the **2025 F1 season at the Miami Grand Prix (GP)**, held at the Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida, the United States of America (USA).



- This victory marked Oscar Piastri's **third consecutive win**, following triumphs in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and extended his lead in the Drivers' Championship standings.
- This victory marked Piastri's sixth career win and the first time a McLaren driver has achieved three consecutive wins since Mika Häkkinen in 1997-1998.

Key Highlights:

i. Starting from fourth position, Oscar Piastri overtook pole-sitter Max Verstappen on lap 15 to seize the lead. He maintained his position to finish first, 4.630 seconds ahead of teammate Lando Norris.

ii. Despite an early setback that pushed **Lando Norris** down to sixth position, he made a strong recovery and secured second place, ensuring a 1-2 finish for McLaren.

iii. George Russell, Mercedes driver secured third place, overtaking Verstappen during a pit stop exchange on lap 27.

iv. Max Verstappen, the Red Bull Racing driver, who started from pole position, finished

fourth after being overtaken by both McLaren drivers and Russell.

Top 3 Positions in F1 Miami Grand Prix 2025:

Rank	Driver	Brand	Country
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	Australia
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	the United Kingdom (UK)
3	George Russell	Mercedes	UK

About Miami Grand Prix:

i. The Miami Grand Prix is a F1 race that debuted during the **2022** F1 season, held at the Miami International Autodrome, a circuit constructed around the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, USA.

- The circuit, designed by Apex Circuit Design, features a 5.412 kilometers (km) (3.363 miles) track with 19 corners and three Drag Reduction System (DRS) zones, offering high-speed straights and challenging turns.

Note: The next race in the 2025 F1 season is the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix, which will take place at Imola, Italy from 16 to 18 May 2025.

Indian Cricketer Rohit Sharma Announces Retirement from Test Cricket

Indian cricketer Rohit Gurunath Sharma announced his retirement from Test cricket, with immediate effect. The 38-year-old, who had been leading the Indian Test team since February 2022, made this decision following a series of underwhelming performances.

- He will continue representing India in One Day Internationals (ODIs).

About Rohit Sharma:

Test Career Highlights:

i. Debuted in 2013, scoring 177 against West Indies at Kolkata's Eden Gardens is the second-highest test debut score by an Indian.

ii. He played **67 tests**, scoring **4,301 runs** at an average of 40.57, with 12 centuries and 18 fifties. His highest score was 212 vs. South Africa (2019).

iii. He captained India in 24 Test matches, securing 12 victories.



ODI Achievements and Records:

- i. He holds the **world record** for the highest individual score in ODI with **264 runs** against Sri Lanka in 2014 and three double centuries.
- ii. He captained India to victory in the 2024 International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup and the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy, announcing his retirement from Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) after winning the T20 World Cup 2024.
- iii. He **ranks 3rd in ICC Men's ODI Batting** Rankings as of May 2025, behind India's Shubman Gill (1st) and Pakistan's Babar Azam (2nd).

Awards and Honors:

- i. In **2015**, he received the **Arjuna Award**, the second-highest sporting honour in India, for his outstanding achievements in sports.
 - ii. In **2020**, he was conferred with the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** (formerly Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award), the highest sporting honour in India.
- Note: Since 2018, Rohit Sharma was the brand ambassador of WWF India's Rhino Conservation.

Virat Kohli Retires from Test Cricket after 14-year Test Career

The Renowned Indian Cricketer, **Virat Kohli**, announced his retirement from Test cricket, bringing an end to a remarkable 14-year career in the longest format of the game with immediate effect.

- He will continue representing India in One Day Internationals (ODIs) and play for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Indian Premier League (IPL).

**About Virat Kohli:**

- i. Virat Kohli, 36-year-old batter, played 123 tests, scoring **9230 runs** including 30 centuries and 31 fifties.
- ii. He made his test debut in Jamaica in **2011** against the West Indies.

Awards and honors:

- i. In 2018, he was honoured with the ICC Test Player of the Year, for his overwhelming performance in the format.
- ii. He was awarded as ICC ODI Player of the Year award in 2012, 2017 and 2018.
- iii. In 2017 and 2018, he was honoured as **ICC Cricketer of the Year award**

Brazil to host FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027

The International governing body for football, Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has announced **Brazil** as the host country of the Women's football world cup in **2027**. The decision was made at the **74th** FIFA congress, held in Bangkok, Thailand.

- The event will take place from **June 24 to July 25, 2027**
- Brazil is the first country to host FIFA Women's World Cup (WCC) in South America.

Key Points:

i. The 2027 edition of the FIFA WCC will expand to feature **32 national teams**.

ii. FIFA has selected the 8 cities and their stadiums, Rio De Janeiro (Maracana Stadium), Belo Horizonte (Mineirao Stadium), Brasilia (National Stadium), Fortaleza (Castelao Arena), Porto Alegre (Beira-Rio Stadium), Recife (Pernambuco Arena), Salvador (Fonte Nova Arena) and Sao Paulo (Itaquera Arena).

- The 8 venues are among the 12 venues, hosted the FIFA Men's World Cup

India Wins 7 Medals at Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 2 in Shanghai; Deepika Kumari Claims Bronze

The Archery World Cup 2025 Stage 2 was held from 6th May to 11th May 2025 in Shanghai, China, where India clinched a total of 7 medals and secured the **2nd position** in the overall medal tally.

- The Republic of Korea (**South Korea**) topped the overall medal tally with a total of 7 medals (5 gold and 2 silver) while India secured the 2nd position with 7 medals (2 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze).

i. **Madhura Dhamangaonkar**: Clinched **gold** in the Women's Individual Compound event, marking her first individual World Cup gold.

ii. The Indian team comprising Ojas Deotale, Abhishek Verma, and Rishabh Yadav won the **gold** medal in the **Men's Compound Team** event after defeating Mexico in the final.

**About World Archery:**

President – Ugur Erdener (Turkiye)

Headquarters – Lausanne, Switzerland

Founded – 1931

KIYG 2025: Maharashtra Tops with 158 Medals; 7th Edition Hosted by Bihar

The **7th** edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (**KIYG**) **2025**, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (**MYAS**) and Sports Authority of India (**SAI**), Government of India (GoI), was held from May 4 to May 15 2025 across five cities in **Bihar** (Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai) and New Delhi (**Delhi**).

i. **Maharashtra leads** the medal tally with 58 gold, 47 silver, and 53 bronze medals, totaling 158 medals followed by **Haryana** with 117 medals (39 gold, 27 silver and 51 bronze)

and **Rajasthan** in third place with 60 medals (24 gold, 12 silver and 24 bronze).

ii. 28 sports disciplines in Khelo India Youth Games 2025. Sepak takraw has been included for the first time. E-sports have been included as a demonstration sport.

iii. KIYG is an integral part of the Khelo India Programme, which was launched by GoI on 14th October 2017 to promote sports culture at the grassroots level.

Doha Diamond League 2025: India's Neeraj Chopra Finishes 2nd with 90.23m in Javelin Throw

India's Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** secured **second place** with a personal best and national record throw of **90.23 metres (m)** in the **Doha Diamond League 2025** held at the Qatar Sports Club in Doha, Qatar.

- Germany's **Julian Weber** clinched the **first** position in the men's javelin throw event with a personal best of 91.06 m, while Anderson Peters of Grenada, a two-time World Champion, secured the third position with an 85.34 m throw.

i. **Kishore Jena** of India secured the **eighth** position in the men's javelin throw event with a best attempt of 78.60 m

ii. **Parul Chaudhary** of India secured **sixth** place in the women's 3000m steeplechase with 9:13.39, improving from her previous mark of 9:15.31 set at the 2023 World Championships.

- With this she broke her national record and qualified for the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

iii. India's **Gulveer Singh** finished **ninth** in the men's 5000m race with a time of 13:24.32

Pankaj Advani Clinches Third Consecutive CCI Billiards Classic Title 2025

Indian cue sports legend **Pankaj Advani** secured his third consecutive **2025 CCI Billiards Classic title** by defeating Dhruv Sitwala 5–2 in the final held at the Wilson Jones Billiards Hall in Mumbai (**Maharashtra**).

- The 2025 CCI Billiards Classic was held from 25 April to 4 May 2025.

- **Winner** Pankaj Advani was awarded a cash prize of **Rs. 2.5 lakh**, while runner-up Dhruv Sitwala received a cash prize of Rs. 1.5 lakh

i. This victory added to Pankaj Advani's illustrious record of **28-time** International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBFS) world championship titles across billiards, snooker, and pool.

ii. He has 36 national titles, with his latest at the Billiards and Snooker National Championships 2024.

iii. He has won 2 Gold Medals at the 2006 Asian Games (Doha, Qatar) and 2010 Asian Games (Guangzhou, China).

iv. The Government of India (GoI) has honoured Pankaj Advani with several prestigious awards, including the **Arjuna Award** (2004), the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award** (2006), the **Padma Shri** in the Sports category (2009), and the **Padma Bhushan** in the Sports category (2018).

Tottenham Hotspur Clinches UEFA Europa Title after 17 years, defeated Manchester United

Tottenham Hotspur (also known as Spurs), a North London (England)-based Football club defeated the Manchester (England) based football club, Manchester United (MANU) 1-0 in the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) **Europa League final** at San Mames Stadium in Bilbao, Spain.

- This win marks Tottenham's first European title since 1984 and ensures their spot in the UEFA Champions League next season which is scheduled to take place from 16 September 2025 to 30 May 2026.

i. Son Heung-min serves as the captain of Tottenham Hotspur and **Bruno Fernandes** serves as the captain of MANU.

ii. Brennan Johnson's 42nd minute goal played the key role in winning the title. He connected with a cross from Pape Matar Sarr, and the ball deflected off Manchester United's Luke Shaw into the net.

iii. Tottenham Hotspur finished the UEFA Europa League with 10 wins, three draws and two losses.

Malaysia Masters 2025: China's Li Shifeng Clinches Men's Singles Title; India's Kidambi Srikanth Finishes Runner-Up

The 2025 Malaysia Masters, officially titled the Perodua Malaysia Masters 2025 organised by Badminton Association of Malaysia, was held from 20 to 25 May 2025 at the Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In the men's singles final, world no. 4 **Li Shifeng** of **China** defeated India's **Kidambi Srikanth**, a former world no. 1 currently ranked 65th, with a score of 21–11, 21–9.

- The **16th edition** of Malaysia Masters was part of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 500 series and featured a total prize pool of USD 475,000

Note: This was Srikanth's first final since the 2021 BWF World Championships, where he won silver.

Key Highlights:

i. Women's Singles: The women's singles title was claimed by **Wang Zhiyi** (China), who overcame her compatriot Han Yue in a three-game match, finishing 13–21, 21–13, 21–18.

ii. Men's Doubles: **Man Wei Chong/Tee Kai Wun** (Malaysia) beat Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia) with 21–12, 15–21, 21–16.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Silver at Janusz Kusociński Memorial 2025 in Poland

Neeraj Chopra, India's two-time Olympic medallist in javelin throw, secured a silver medal in the men's javelin throw event at the 71st edition of the **Janusz Kusociński Memorial (2025)**, held in Chorzów, Poland.

- This marked his 22nd consecutive top-two finish in international competitions since June 2021.
- i. Neeraj Chopra secured second place with a throw of 84.14 metres(m) on his sixth and final attempt in wet and challenging conditions.
- ii. Germany's **Julian Weber** clinched the **gold** medal with a best effort of 86.12 m, while Anderson Peters of Grenada secured third place with 83.24 m.
- iv. The Janusz Kusociński Memorial is one of Europe's longest-running annual athletics meets, classified as a Silver-level event on the World Athletics Continental Tour.

PepsiCo Joins as Official Partner of Formula 1

New York, the United States of America (USA) based **PepsiCo** has entered into a partnership agreement with London United Kingdom (UK) based **Formula One (F1)**, the highest class of international motorsport for open-wheel single-seater formula racing cars, until **2030**.

- The collaboration aims to enhance fan engagement through on-pack promotions, digital experiences, and unique content.
- i. Under the agreement, Heckmondwike (England) based **Sting Energy**, a beverage brand under PepsiCo, will join F1 as its official Energy drink.
- ii. Illinois (USA) based **Gatorade**, the world's sports and isotonic drinks brand, will become the official partner of F1 Sprint, bringing its legacy of fueling peak athletic performance.
- iii. Texas (USA) based **Doritos**, wholly owned subsidiary of PepsiCo will become the official savoury snack partner of F1.

Obituary

Former Union Minister Girija Vyas Passed Away

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister **Dr. Girija Vyas** passed away at the age of 79 in Ahmedabad (Gujarat). She was born in 1946 in Nathdwara, Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

About Dr. Girija Vyas:

i. Dr. Girija Vyas began her political career in 1977 as the Udaipur District Congress Committee President.

ii. She served three terms as a Member of Parliament (MP) in the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1998 and 2009.

iii. She held key positions in both State and Union Governments:

- State minister for Information and Broadcasting (1993–1996) under the P.V. Narasimha Rao government.
- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (2013–2014) under the Manmohan Singh government.

iv. She also served as Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and President of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee (RPCC).

Yoga Guru & Padma Shri Awardee Swami Sivananda Passed Away

Renowned Yoga guru and Padma Shri Awardee Swami Sivananda Saraswati, passed away at the age of 128 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

About Swami Sivananda:

i. Swami Sivananda Saraswati was born on August 8, 1897, in the Sylhet district of Bengal Presidency of British India (present day-Bangladesh).

ii. He was brought up by Guru Omkaranand Goswami at his Ashram in Nabadwip (West Bengal), since Swami's parents' demise at six years.

iii. He was imparted with practical and spiritual education, including Yoga, without school education.

iv. For about 3 decades, he taught yoga on the banks of the river Ganga in Varanasi, UP. In the last 50 years of his life, Swami Sivananda has served 400 – 600 leprosy- affected beggars by meeting them in their hutments.

v. He was the senior-most participant from the country at the yoga demonstration on June 21, the World Yoga Day in 2019.

vi. In January 2025, Swami Sivananda Saraswati made headlines once again after it was revealed that he has been attending the Maha Kumbh Mela for the past 100 years.

Awards and Recognition:

i. In 2019, he was honoured with **Yoga Ratna Award** in Bengaluru (Karnataka) and **Basundhara Ratan Award** by Respect Age International for his contribution to society.



ii. In 2022 He was honoured with **Padma Shri** in the field of Yoga for his contribution and humanitarian work. He was the oldest man to receive the Padma Shri award.

Three Time Oscar Winning Filmmaker Robert Benton Passed Away

The three-time Oscar-winner, Screenwriter and Director, **Robert Douglas Benton** has passed away at the age of 92 at Manhattan in New York, the United States of America (USA). He was born on September 29, 1932, in Texas, Benton, the USA.



- He received six Academy Award nominations throughout his distinguished career, winning three times.

About Robert Douglas Benton:

- Robert Douglas Benton began his career as art director at Esquire magazine, where he helped start the magazine's long standing Dubious Achievement Award.
- He was the co-writer for the film **Bonnie and Clyde (1967)**, which revolutionized Hollywood with its bold storytelling and earned him an Oscar nomination.
- He made his directorial debut with the film "The Late Show" (1977).
- He was awarded the Academy Award for his film "**Kramer vs Kramer**" (1979) for the Best Director, Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay.
- His film, "**Places in the Heart**" (1984), earned him an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay.
- His final directorial effort was Feast of Love in 2007.

Awards and Recognitions:

- He received the Ian McLellan Hunter Award by the Writers Guild of America in 1995.
- He received the Laurel Award for screenwriting in 2007.

Padma Vibhushan Awardee M.R. Srinivasan Passed Away

The Former Chairman of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) of India, and key architect of India's nuclear energy programme **Malur Ramasamy (M.R) Srinivasan** has passed away at the age of 95 in Ooty, Tamil Nadu (TN).

About M.R. Srinivasan:

- M.R. Srinivasan, born on January 5, 1930, in Bengaluru (Karnataka), joined the Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1955.
- He closely worked with Dr. Homi Bhabha on India's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in August 1956.
- In 1959, he was appointed as the Principal Project Engineer for the construction of India's first Atomic Power Station.

- In 1967, he assumed charge as Chief Project Engineer of the Madras Atomic Power Station

iv. In 1974, he became the Director of the Power Projects Engineering Division, DAE and he was promoted to the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board in 1984.

v. In 1987, he became the Chairman of the AEC, Secretary of the DAE and in the same year, he became the Founder-Chairman of the Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

- Under his leadership, 18 nuclear power units were developed, out of which seven are currently operational, 7 are under construction and four are in the planning stage.

Awards and Honours:

i. In 2015, He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the field of nuclear science and energy.

ii. He was conferred the **Padma Bhushan** award in 1990 and **Padma Shri** in 1984 to the field of nuclear science and energy.

Important Days with theme

International workers' day 2025 – May 1

International Workers' Day, also known as **International Labour Day**, is observed annually on **May 1st** to honor the contributions of workers worldwide and to promote workers' rights.

- In India, this day is also referred to as May Day, Antar Rashtriya Shramik Divas, or Kamgar Din.
- i. The origins of International Workers' Day trace back to the **1886 Haymarket Affair** in Chicago, United States. On **May 4, 1886**, a peaceful rally advocating for an **eight-hour workday** turned violent when a bomb was thrown at the police, leading to multiple casualties.
- In **1889**, the **Second International**, an organization of socialist and labor parties, declared **May 1st** as International Workers' Day to commemorate the Haymarket Affair and to promote labor rights globally.
- ii. On the occasion of Labour Day 2025, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (**DoSJE**), the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Government of India (GoI), entered into a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) to improve access to finance, relevant technologies, and ensure a safe and sustainable work environment for **waste pickers** across India.
- iii. On May 1, 2025, Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Charan Majhi launched the '**Odisha Shramik Sathi**' mobile application (app) during a state-level Labour Day celebration in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

World Press Freedom Day 2025 – May 3

The United Nations (UN's) **World Press Freedom Day** or **World Press Day** is annually observed across the globe on **May 3** emphasizing the significance of press freedom and the safety of journalists globally.

- **May 3, 2025**, marks the observance of **32nd** anniversary of World Press Freedom Day.
- The **theme** for World Press Freedom Day 2025 is "Reporting in the Brave New World – The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Press Freedom and the Media"

Background:

- i. In **1993**, The UN General Assembly (**UNGA**) formally proclaimed **May 3** as World Press Freedom Day.
- ii. The **first** World Press Freedom Day was observed on May 3, **1994**.

2025 Highlights:

- i. In 2025, UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize have been named to La Prensa, a Managua (Nicaragua)-based newspaper, recognized for resilience amid repression.



ii. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) released the World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2025, evaluating press freedom across 180 countries.

- The index is topped by Norway and India improved its position to **151st**, up from 159th in 2024

International Leopard Day 2025 – May 3

International Leopard Day is celebrated every year on May 3 worldwide to raise awareness about protecting leopards (*Panthera pardus*), one of the most adaptable big cats, and to encourage peaceful coexistence between humans and leopards.

i. Leopards are listed as “**Vulnerable**” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

- This classification is based on criteria **A2cd**, indicating a significant population decline due to habitat loss, prey depletion, and exploitation

ii.i. As per the “Status of Leopards in India, 2022” report released by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), India’s leopard population is estimated at **13,874** individuals.

- Madhya Pradesh (MP) has the **largest** leopard population in India, followed by **Maharashtra** and **Karnataka**.



International Day of the Midwife 2025 – May 5

The International Day of the Midwife (IDM) is an annual global observance held on 5 May to honor the vital contributions of midwives in ensuring maternal and newborn health.

- The IDM celebration was led by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).
- The theme of IDM 2025 is : “**Midwives: Critical in Every Crisis**”.

Background:

i. The International Day of the Midwife (IDM) was proposed at the **1987** ICM conference in the Netherlands.

ii. First IDM was celebrated on 5 May **1991**.

About International Confederation of Midwives (ICM):

The International Midwives’ Union (IMU), the forerunner of the ICM was founded in 1922 in Belgium. In 1954, the IMU changed its name to the ICM with its head office in London, United Kingdom (UK).



President- Sandra Oyarzo Torres

Headquarters– The Hague, The Netherlands(since 1999)

World Asthma Day 2025 – May 6

World Asthma Day(WAD) is annually observed across the globe on the **first Tuesday of May**, is a global initiative led by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to raise asthma awareness and improve care.

- The WAD 2025 was observed on **May 6, 2025**.
- The theme for WAD 2025 is “**Make Inhaled Treatments Accessible for ALL.**”

Background:

i.World Asthma Day was first observed in **1998** during the inaugural World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain, with participation from over 35 countries.

ii.The day is strategically placed in **May**, aligning with seasons (spring/fall) when asthma symptoms often exacerbate due to environmental factors and is also recognized as **World Allergy and Asthma Awareness Month**.



World Athletics Day 2025 – May 7

World Athletics Day is annually celebrated across the globe on May 7, to raise awareness among children and young people, about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics. The day emphasizes, significance of sports and its beneficial effects on mental and physical health.

- The annual observance is led by the World Athletics Organization.
- The theme for the World Athletics Day 2025 is “**Relay Around the World Challenge**”.

Background:

i.IAAF, the international governing body for the sport of track and field athletics, introduced World Athletics Day as a social responsibility titled “Athletics for a Better World”.

ii.IAAF was established on July 17, 1912, in Stockholm, Sweden.



World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2025 – May 8

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is annually observed across the globe on May 8 to honor the principles and humanitarian efforts of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- The movement operates under seven core principles: humanity, neutrality, impartiality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

i.The theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2025 is **“Keeping Humanity Alive”**.

ii.The day commemorates the **birth anniversary of Henry Dunant**, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

iii.The **first** International Red Cross Day was celebrated on 8 May **1948**.

About International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC):

President – Kate Forbes

Headquarters – Geneva, Switzerland

Founded – 1919

National Technology Day 2025 – May 11

National Technology Day, celebrated every year on May 11. The celebrations will be organised by Technology Development Board (TDB) on **11th May 2025**, featuring participation from scientists, technocrats, industry leaders, academic institutions, policymakers, and startup founders.

- **11 May 2025** marks the **27th** edition of National Technology Day, commemorating 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests.
- The Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoS&T) unveiled the official theme for National Technology Day 2025 as **“YANTRA – Yugantar for Advancing New Technology, Research & Acceleration”**.

Background:

i.Marks the historic achievements of **May 11, 1998**, when India conducted the **Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II) nuclear tests** and the maiden flight of the indigenous Hansa-3 aircraft.

ii.In recognition of these milestones, former Prime Minister (PM) of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared May 11 as National Technology Day in **1999**.

iii.The Council for Technology organised the first-ever National Technology Day on **11 May 1999**.

International Nurses Day 2025 – May 12

International Nurses Day (IND) is observed globally every year on May 12 to acknowledge and celebrate the vital contributions of nurses in delivering healthcare services worldwide.



- This date commemorates the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale** (1820-1910), renowned as the founder of modern nursing.
- The theme for International Nurses Day 2025 is “**Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for nurses strengthens economies.**”

Background:

i.In **1953**, Dorothy Sutherland, an official at the United States of America (USA) Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, proposed a “Nurses Day” to then President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

ii.Since **1965**, ICN has been celebrating International Nurses Day (IND) annually.

iii.In **1974**, ICN officially designated May 12 as IND to honor Florence Nightingale’s birth.

State of the World’s Nursing 2025 Report:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and ICN released the State of the World’s Nursing 2025 (SoWN) report, offering detailed insights into the global nursing workforce based on data from 194 countries.

International Day of Families 2025 – May 15

The United Nations (UN’s) International Day of Families (IDF) is observed annually across the globe on **May 15** to highlight the role of families in societal development and aims to address the various social, economic, and demographic challenges impacting them globally.



- 2025** marks the **31st** anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF), observed in 1994.
- The **theme** for IDF 2025 is “Family-Oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development.”

Background:

i.In **1993**, the UNGA adopted Resolution A/RES/47/237, designating May 15 as the annual International Day of Families.

- The International Day of Families is observed annually under the guidance of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), with its Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) taking the lead in coordinating and organizing the global observance.
- ii.The **1st** International Day of Families was observed on **May 15, 1994**.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2025 – May 17

The United Nations (UN’s) World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on May 17 across the globe to raise awareness about the transformative power of the Internet and other Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in enhancing quality of life and narrowing the digital divide.



- In 2025, the day gains special significance as it marks the **160th anniversary** of the Geneva (Switzerland)-based International Telecommunication Union (**ITU**).
- The theme for WTISD 2025 is “**Gender Equality in Digital Transformation**”, focusing on closing digital gender gaps in access, skills, leadership, and affordability.

Background:

i. 17 May was designated as World Telecommunication Day in 1969 to commemorate the founding of ITU on 17 May 1865, when the First International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris (France).

ii. In November 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) urged the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to declare 17 May as WISD. The UNGA adopted this in March 2006.

iii. In November **2006**, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, decided to combine both observances into WTISD, celebrated annually on 17 May.

International Museum Day 2025 – May 18

International Museum Day (**IMD**) is annually observed across the globe on **May 18** by the International Council of Museums (**ICOM**) to highlight the pivotal role of museums in fostering cultural exchange and promoting mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among peoples.

- The theme for IMD 2025 is “**The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities.**”

Background:

i. IMD was officially established in 1977 through a resolution adopted during the ICOM General Assembly in Moscow, Russia.

- It aims to unify museums globally and highlight their contributions to societal development.

ii. Since its inception in 1977, ICOM has organized IMD annually, serving as a significant occasion for the global museum community.

iii. The practice of selecting an annual theme for IMD began in 1992, while the concept of an international poster was introduced by ICOM in 1997.

International Tea Day 2025 – May 21

Every year on May 21, the United Nations (UN)’s International Tea Day (ITD) is celebrated to recognise the cultural, economic, and social significance of tea across the world.

- 21st May 2025 marks the observance of the 6th ITD.

Background:

i. International Tea Day (ITD) was first observed on **15th December 2005** in New Delhi,

India, initiated by a group of tea workers.

ii. The Government of India (GoI) proposed the idea of a globally recognized International Tea Day during a meeting of the FAO Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea in **October 2015**.

iii. Acknowledging tea's cultural significance and socio-economic value, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** adopted the proposal and officially declared May 21 as International Tea Day in **December 2019**.

iv. The first UN-recognized International Tea Day was celebrated on 21st May **2020**, marking a shift from the earlier December observance to a more globally unified celebration

Commonwealth Day 2025 in India – May 24

Commonwealth Day 2025 is observed in India annually on May 24, commemorating the birthday of Queen Victoria, born on this day in 1819.

However, **Commonwealth Day** was globally observed on the **second Monday of March** (March 10, 2025) in accordance with the tradition followed by most of the 56 member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations (CoN).

- This unique observance reflects India's historical association with the British Empire during the colonial period.
- The day promotes shared values, historical ties, cultural exchange, and international cooperation among member states.

Note: The theme of Commonwealth Day 2025 is **“Together We Thrive”**.

Background:

i. The idea of the day was championed by **Clementina Trenholme**, and the first observance took place in Ontario, Canada in 1898, aligned with Queen Victoria's birthday (May 24).

ii. By the early 20th century, Empire Day was celebrated across parts of the British Empire, including the Cape Colony and Union of South Africa.

- In **1904**, Reginald Brabazon, 12th Earl of Meath, formally introduced **Empire Day** in the United Kingdom (UK) to promote imperial identity and responsibility among youth.

iii. It was first celebrated as **“Empire Day” in 1904**, the event honored the British Empire and Queen Victoria's legacy.

World Football Day 2025 – May 25

The United Nations (UN's) **World Football Day (WFD)** is annually observed across the globe on **May 25** to acknowledge the global reach of football and its impact across various spheres, including commerce, peace and diplomacy.

- The day encourages countries to use football to promote peace, health, unity, and development, and empower women and girls.

- The year 2025 marks the **2nd** anniversary of the UN World Football Day.

Background:

i.On 7th May 2024, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/78/281, proclaiming the 25th May of every year as WFD.

- The resolution was initiated by Bahrain, Libya, and Tajikistan and was subsequently adopted by 170 nations at the UNGA.

Significance of 25 May:

On 25th May 1928, 17th FIFA congress, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, decided to **create the FIFA World Cup**.

Objectives of World Football Day:

- To celebrate football's universal appeal and power
- To provide a platform for shared experiences; and
- To drive progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs).

- The inaugural football week 2025 theme is **“Together, We Are Stronger”**.

World Hunger Day 2025 – May 28

World Hunger Day is annually observed across the globe on May 28 to raise awareness about the millions of people lacking access to proper food.

- The theme for World Hunger Day 2025 is **“Sowing Resilience”**, highlights the need to strengthen communities against climate-driven disruptions and systemic inequalities.

Background:

i.World Hunger Day was established in 2011 by the New York (United States of America, USA)-based non-profit organization, The Hunger Project (THP), to highlight the global food crisis.

ii.The **first** World Hunger Day was observed on **May 28, 2011**.

About The Hunger Project (THP):

President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Rowlands Kaotcha

Headquarters – New York, the United States of America (USA)

Founded – 1977

International Everest Day 2025 – May 29

International Everest Day is annually observed across the globe on 29th May to commemorate the first-ever successful summit of Mount (Mt) Everest in 1953 by mountaineer **Sir Edmund Hillary** of New Zealand and **Tenzing Norgay Sherpa** of Nepal.

- 29 May 2025** marks the **72nd** anniversary of the first ascent of Mount Everest.



- Nepal officially declared 29th May as International Everest Day in **2008**, following Sir Edmund Hillary's death.
- i.**Mount Everest, located in the Himalayas on the Nepal-Tibet border, is the **highest mountain** on Earth, with an updated official height of **8,848.86 meters (29,031.7 feet)** as per a 2020 Nepal-China joint survey.
- Everest, known as “Sagarmatha” in Nepali, meaning “Goddess of the Sky” and “Chomolungma” in Tibetan, meaning “Mother Goddess of the World”.
- ii.**It was named in **1865** by the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) of Britain after **Sir George Everest**, the former Surveyor General of India.
- iii.**The Everest Summiters Summit 2025 was held in Kathmandu(Nepal), bringing together over 175 national and international Everest climbers.