

CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL.....	2
2. INTERNATIONAL.....	6
3. SPORTS.....	12
4. ECONOMICS	14
5. ENVIRONMENT	16
6. SCIENCE & TECH	17
7. AWARDS & HONOURS.....	19
8. IMPORTANT DAYS.....	20
9. MISCELLANEOUS.....	21
10. POLITY.....	21



IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

PM Modi Chairs 10th NITI Aayog Governing Council Meeting: Focus on Viksit Bharat@2047

In the News: On May 24, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The central theme was "Viksit Rajya for Viksit Bharat@2047," emphasizing the collaborative efforts of states and union territories in transforming India into a developed nation by its 100th year of independence.

Key Points:

- **Vision for Viksit Bharat@2047:**
 - PM Modi underscored that the aspiration for a developed India by 2047 is a collective goal of 140 crore Indians, transcending political affiliations.
 - He emphasized that the development of each state, city, and village is crucial to achieving this vision.
- **State Participation and Commitments:**
 - The meeting witnessed participation from Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors of 24 states and 7 union territories.
 - States shared their individual "Vision 2047" documents, outlining strategies for economic growth, infrastructure development, and social welfare.
- **Strategic Initiatives Discussed:**
 - **Tourism Development:** PM Modi urged each state to develop at least one world-class tourist destination to boost local economies and attract international visitors.
 - **Investment-Friendly Charter:** NITI Aayog was tasked with preparing a charter to attract investments, leveraging India's favorable global perception.
 - **River Grids:** The creation of river grids at the state level was proposed for effective water resource management.
 - **Urban Planning:** Emphasis was placed on sustainable urban growth, particularly in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
 - **Youth Skilling:** The importance of skilling and training youth in emerging sectors to make them employment-ready was highlighted.

Draft Space Activities Bill Finalised

In the News: On May 25, 2025, the Government of India finalized the draft of the Space Activities Bill, aiming to provide a comprehensive legal framework for space activities in the country. This legislation is poised to bolster private sector participation and grant statutory powers to the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe), aligning with India's ambition to expand its share in the global space economy.

Key Points:

- **Empowering IN-SPACe:** The bill seeks to grant statutory authority to IN-SPACe, the regulatory body established in 2020 to facilitate and oversee private sector involvement in India's space endeavors.
- **Facilitating Private Sector Growth:** By providing a clear legal framework, the bill aims to encourage private companies to engage in space activities, including satellite manufacturing, launch services, and space-based applications.
- **Insurance Provisions:** Addressing concerns from private entities, the bill includes provisions for affordable insurance mechanisms for space missions and assets, mitigating financial risks associated with space ventures.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** The legislation outlines measures to protect the intellectual property rights of entities involved in space activities, fostering innovation and safeguarding proprietary technologies.
- **Compliance with International Obligations:** The bill ensures that India's space activities adhere to international treaties and agreements, holding the government accountable for all space activities conducted under its jurisdiction.
- **Economic Ambitions:** The government envisions expanding India's space economy from \$8.4 billion in 2022 to \$44 billion by 2033, with \$11 billion projected from exports.

National Writeshop in Delhi Launches Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

In the News: On May 26–27, 2025, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized a two-day National Writeshop at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi to officially launch the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) Version 2.0. This enhanced

framework aims to empower Gram Panchayats with data-driven tools for improved planning, monitoring, and governance aligned with Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Key Pointers:

- **Objective of PAI 2.0:** PAI 2.0 serves as an upgraded tool to evaluate and enhance grassroots governance by assessing the performance of Gram Panchayats across nine LSDG-aligned themes: poverty alleviation, health, education, water sufficiency, clean environment, infrastructure, governance, social justice, and women's empowerment.
- **Enhancements Over PAI 1.0:**
 - Reduction of indicators from 516 to 147 to streamline data collection and focus on quality.
 - Integration with national data portals for automated updates.
 - Introduction of a mobile-friendly portal interface with intuitive dashboards.
 - Implementation of data validation and anomaly detection tools.
 - Incorporation of a Decision Support System (DSS) to identify development gaps and prioritize resource allocation.
- **Event Highlights:**
 - Launch of the PAI 2.0 portal, Local Indicator Framework (LIF) Booklet for FY 2023–24, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
 - Technical sessions covering the PAI 1.0 baseline report, methodology and framework of PAI 2.0, and demonstrations of portal functionalities.
 - Hands-on training for participants on portal configuration, data entry, validation, and planning using PAI outputs.
 - Experience-sharing sessions by State and UT teams on implementing PAI 1.0 and plans for PAI 2.0 integration with Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).
- **Participants:**

The **Writershop** witnessed participation from teams of 32 States and Union Territories, officials from various departments such as Health, Education, Women and Child Development, Public Health Engineering, and technical experts from organizations like NITI Aayog, National Informatics Centre (NIC), UNICEF, UNFPA, Tribal Research Institutes, and the Piramal Foundation.

Emergence of COVID-19 Subvariant NB.1.8.1 in India

In the News: In April 2025, India identified a new COVID-19 subvariant, NB.1.8.1, through genomic sequencing conducted by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG). This subvariant, a descendant of the Omicron lineage JN.1, was first detected in Tamil Nadu. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified NB.1.8.1 as a "Variant Under Monitoring" due to its potential for increased transmissibility and immune evasion.

Key Pointers:

- **Detection and Spread:** NB.1.8.1 was first identified in India in April 2025, with a confirmed case in Tamil Nadu. As of May 26, 2025, India reported over 1,000 active COVID-19 cases, with NB.1.8.1 contributing to the surge. The variant has also been detected in other countries, including China, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United States, indicating its international spread.
- **Classification and Mutations:** NB.1.8.1 is a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant JN.1, which itself is a descendant of BA.2.86. The variant carries specific spike protein mutations—A435S, V445H, and T478I—that may enhance its ability to bind to human cells and potentially evade immune responses.
- **Symptoms and Severity:** Symptoms associated with NB.1.8.1 are similar to those of previous Omicron variants and include sore throat, fatigue, mild cough, fever, muscle aches, nasal congestion, headaches, nausea, loss of appetite, and gastrointestinal issues. Current data suggest that NB.1.8.1 does not cause more severe illness compared to earlier variants, with most cases presenting mild to moderate symptoms.
- **Public Health Response:** The WHO has designated NB.1.8.1 as a "Variant Under Monitoring," indicating that it is being closely observed for changes in transmissibility, severity, or impact on public health measures.
- **Vaccination and Immunity:** While NB.1.8.1 may have some ability to evade immunity from previous infections or vaccinations, existing vaccines are still expected to provide significant protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Former CJI Khehar, Dancer Shobana Chandrakumar, Actor Anant Nag Among Padma Awardees

In the News: On May 27, 2025, President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Padma Awards upon 139 distinguished individuals during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Among the honourees were former Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar, renowned dancer and actress Shobana Chandrakumar, and veteran actor Anant Nag. These awards recognize exceptional contributions across various fields, including public affairs, arts, and social service.

Padma Awards: The **Padma Awards** are among India's highest civilian honours, instituted in 1954 to acknowledge exceptional contributions across various fields such as art, literature, education, sports, medicine, social service, science and engineering, public affairs, and civil services. They are announced annually on Republic Day (January 26) and presented by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Categories of Padma Awards

1. **Padma Vibhushan:** Awarded for "exceptional and distinguished service."
2. **Padma Bhushan:** Conferred for "distinguished service of a high order."
3. **Padma Shri:** Given for "distinguished service."

These awards are open to all individuals, regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender. However, government servants, including those working with public sector undertakings, are generally not eligible, except for doctors and scientists.

History and Evolution

- **1954:** The Government of India established two civilian awards: the **Bharat Ratna** and the **Padma Vibhushan**, which initially had three classes: Pahela Varg (Class I), Dusra Varg (Class II), and Tisra Varg (Class III).
- **1955:** These classes were reclassified as:
 - **Padma Vibhushan** (Class I)
 - **Padma Bhushan** (Class II)
 - **Padma Shri** (Class III)
- **Suspensions:**
 - **1978–1980:** The awards were suspended by the Morarji Desai government, citing that they did not conform with Article 18 of the Indian Constitution, which prohibits titles.
 - **1992–1995:** Suspended again due to litigation questioning their constitutional validity.
 - **1995:** The Supreme Court upheld the validity of the awards, stating they are not titles under Article 18.
- **2015:** The nomination process was made more inclusive, allowing any Indian citizen to nominate individuals online, promoting transparency and wider participation.

INS Tarini Completes World Voyage: A Triumph of Nari Shakti and Seamanship

In the News: On May 29, 2025, the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini is scheduled to return to Goa, marking the successful completion of **Navika Sagar Parikrama II**—a historic circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew. Lieutenant Commanders **Dilna K** and **Roopa A** embarked on this ambitious journey on October 2, 2024, covering approximately **25,600 nautical miles** over eight months, relying solely on wind power.

Key Developments:

- **Expedition Overview:** The voyage, named Navika Sagar Parikrama II, involved circumnavigating the globe in a double-handed mode, a first for Indian women sailors. The route included port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falkland Islands), and Cape Town (South Africa).
- **Challenges Faced:** The crew navigated through treacherous waters, including the Drake Passage and Cape Horn, and faced extreme weather conditions with wind speeds up to 95 km/h and waves reaching heights of 7 meters.
- **Scientific Contributions:** During the expedition, the crew collaborated with the National Institute of Oceanography and the Wildlife Institute of India to collect data on marine microplastics and large sea mammals, contributing to environmental research.
- **Significance:** This voyage underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to promoting gender equality and empowering women in challenging roles. The successful circumnavigation enhances India's stature in global maritime endeavors and showcases the nation's capabilities in ocean sailing.
- **Flag-In Ceremony:** A grand welcome is planned at the Mormugao Port Trust in Goa on May 29, 2025, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expected to attend.

'Sugar Boards' in Schools

In the News: In May 2025, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) mandated the installation of 'Sugar Boards' in all affiliated schools across India. This initiative aims to educate students about the health risks associated with excessive sugar consumption, particularly its link to rising cases of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes. The boards are designed to promote healthier dietary habits among students by providing clear, accessible information.

Key Developments:

- **Purpose of Sugar Boards:** These boards display information on the recommended daily sugar intake, the sugar content in commonly consumed foods and beverages, associated health risks, and healthier alternatives. The goal is to raise awareness among students about the hidden sugars in their diets and encourage informed food choices.
- **Health Context:** Recent studies indicate that Indian children consume significantly more sugar than recommended. Children aged 4–10 derive about 13% of their daily calories from sugar, while those aged 11–18 consume approximately 15%, exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended limit of 5%.
- **Educational Integration:** CBSE has encouraged schools to incorporate sugar awareness into the curriculum through workshops, seminars, and interactive activities. These efforts aim to reinforce the messages conveyed by the Sugar Boards and foster a culture of health consciousness among students.
- **Community Engagement:** The initiative also involves parents and the broader school community. By promoting discussions about nutrition at home and in school, the program seeks to create a supportive environment for students to adopt healthier eating habits.

Tata-Airbus to Build India's First Private Helicopter Assembly Line in Karnataka

In the News: On May 28, 2025, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and European aerospace giant Airbus announced their collaboration to establish India's first privately-led helicopter final assembly line (FAL) in Kolar, Karnataka. This facility will focus on the assembly of the Airbus H125 helicopter, marking a significant milestone in India's aerospace manufacturing sector.

Key Developments:

- **Facility Overview:** The assembly line will be situated in the Vemagal Industrial Area of Kolar district, encompassing 740,000 square feet. The integrated facility will include manufacturing, assembly, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations.
- **Production Capacity:** Operations are slated to commence in 2026, with an initial production capacity of 10 H125 helicopters annually. The facility is designed for scalability to meet the projected demand of over 500 H125-class helicopters in the Asia-Pacific region over the next two decades.
- **Strategic Significance:** This initiative positions India as the fourth country globally to host an H125 final assembly line, following France, the United States, and Brazil. It underscores India's growing capabilities in indigenous aerospace manufacturing and aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative.
- **Selection of Karnataka:** Karnataka was chosen over other contenders like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat due to its robust aerospace ecosystem, skilled workforce, and supportive government policies, including incentives such as land subsidies and production-linked benefits.
- **Broader Collaboration:** This project is part of a larger partnership between Tata and Airbus, which also includes the establishment of a C295 military transport aircraft assembly line in Vadodara, Gujarat, further strengthening India's position in the global aerospace industry.

Aizawl Becomes 4th Northeast Capital Linked to National Railway Network

In the News: On May 1, 2025, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) successfully conducted a trial run on the Bairabi–Sairang railway line, effectively connecting Mizoram's capital, Aizawl, to India's national railway network. This development marks Aizawl as the fourth northeastern capital, after Guwahati (Assam), Agartala (Tripura), and Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), to achieve such connectivity.

Key Developments:

Project Overview:

- **Route Details:** The Bairabi–Sairang railway line spans 51.38 km, linking Bairabi in Kolasib district to Sairang, a town approximately 20 km from Aizawl.
- **Financials:** The project's revised sanctioned cost stands at ₹5,021.45 crore.
- **Progress:** As of May 2025, the project has achieved 94.52% physical completion and 97.13% financial progress.

Engineering Highlights:

- **Challenging Terrain:** Constructed through Mizoram's mountainous landscape, the project includes:
 - **48 tunnels** totaling 12.85 km in length.
 - **55 major bridges** and **87 minor bridges**.
 - **5 Road Over Bridges (ROBs)** and **6 Road Under Bridges (RUBs)**.
- **Notable Structure:** Bridge No. 196 stands at 104 meters, surpassing Delhi's Qutub Minar by 32 meters, making it one of the tallest railway bridges in the region.

Operational Milestones:

- **Trial Run:** The NFR conducted a successful trial run on May 1, 2025.
- **Inauguration:** The formal inauguration is anticipated post-June 17, 2025, following the final inspection by the Commission of Railway Safety (CRS).

India Notifies Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Rules, 2025

In the News: On May 27, 2025, the Government of India officially notified the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Rules, 2025, under the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023. This significant development aims to enhance jointness and operational efficiency among the Indian Armed Forces by empowering commanders of inter-service organisations with comprehensive administrative and disciplinary authority over personnel from all three services.

Key Developments:

Background and Legislative Journey:

- **Enactment of the Act:** The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act, 2023, was passed by both Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session of 2023 and received Presidential assent on August 15, 2023.
- **Commencement:** The Act came into force on May 10, 2024, as per the Gazette Notification dated May 8, 2024.
- **Notification of Rules:** The subordinate rules under Section 11 of the Act were notified on May 27, 2025, thereby making the Act fully operational.

Empowerment of Commanders:

- **Unified Command Authority:** The Rules grant Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) full administrative and disciplinary powers over all service personnel—Army, Navy, and Air Force—serving under their command, irrespective of their parent service.
- **Maintenance of Discipline:** This empowerment ensures effective maintenance of discipline and administration within ISOs without altering the unique service conditions applicable to each branch of the Armed Forces.

Structural and Operational Enhancements:

- **Succession Protocols:** The Rules establish clear procedures for succession in command positions. In the **absence** of a Commander-in-Chief or Officer-in-Command, an officiating officer will be designated through official orders. In emergencies without prior orders, the next higher formation will appoint a temporary substitute.

Avoidance of Duplication: By centralizing disciplinary authority within ISOs, the Rules aim to expedite the disposal of disciplinary cases and prevent duplication of proceedings, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency.

INTERNATIONAL

Saudi Arabia Launches TOURISE to Shape the Future of Global Tourism

In the News: On May 22, 2025, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Tourism, Ahmed Al-Khateeb, officially launched TOURISE, a global platform designed to shape the future of tourism over the next 50 years. This initiative aims to unite leaders from the public and private sectors—including policymakers, sustainability experts, entrepreneurs, and investors—to address challenges and unlock transformative opportunities in the tourism industry.

Key Points:

- **Strategic Objectives:** TOURISE is envisioned as a year-round global platform and annual summit that will focus on four key themes:
 - The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in tourism
 - New business models and investment strategies
 - Enhancing the travel experience

- Promoting sustainable and inclusive tourism practices
- **First TOURISE Summit:** The inaugural TOURISE Summit is scheduled to be held in Riyadh from November 11–13, 2025. The event will be live-streamed and will feature an Innovation Zone showcasing ideas and technologies from global companies and startups.
- **Collaborative Approach:** TOURISE will convene a cross-section of industry leaders with expertise in tourism, technology, investment, sustainability, and culture. The platform aims to develop whitepapers and global indices focused on tourism, sustainability, and the global economy, co-created with leading international organizations to set new benchmarks for the tourism sector.
- **Alignment with Vision 2030:** The launch of TOURISE aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which positions tourism at the heart of the national transformation strategy. The initiative seeks to leverage the Kingdom's diverse natural, cultural, and historical resources to foster growth, create job opportunities, and solidify Saudi Arabia's status as a premier global tourism destination.
- **Global Impact:** By addressing critical challenges such as climate change, AI disruption, workforce skill gaps, and shifting traveler expectations, TOURISE aspires to set the agenda for a tourism sector that is sustainable, equitable, and future-focused.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Discover Oil in Neutral Zone After 5 Years

In the News: On May 26, 2025, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait jointly announced a significant oil discovery in the Partitioned Neutral Zone, marking the first such find since the resumption of production operations in 2020. The discovery underscores the ongoing energy collaboration between the two nations and their commitment to bolstering global energy supplies.

Key Pointers:

- **Location of Discovery:** The oil was discovered in the North Wafra Wara-Burgan field, situated approximately 5 kilometers north of the existing Wafra field within the Partitioned Neutral Zone shared by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
- **Production Details:** The newly discovered well, named Wara-Burgan-1, has an initial output exceeding 500 barrels per day, with an API gravity between 26 and 27 degrees, indicating medium-grade crude oil.
- **Operational Collaboration:** The discovery was made by Wafra Joint Operations, a collaborative venture between Saudi Arabia Chevron and Kuwait Gulf Oil Company (KGOC), reflecting the strong bilateral cooperation in energy exploration and production.
- **Historical Context:** This marks the first oil discovery in the Partitioned Neutral Zone since the resumption of production in mid-2020, following a five-year hiatus due to operational disagreements between the two countries.

Six African Nations Sign MoU to Eliminate Kala-Azar

In the News: On May 22, 2025, six East African countries—Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to eliminate visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar. The agreement was formalized during a World Health Organization (WHO) and African Union (AU) side event at the 78th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Key Pointers:

- **Disease Overview:** Kala-azar is a life-threatening parasitic disease caused by Leishmania parasites, transmitted through the bites of infected female sandflies. Symptoms include prolonged fever, weight loss, fatigue, and enlargement of the spleen and liver. If left untreated, the disease is almost always fatal.
- **Regional Impact:** Over 70% of global kala-azar cases are reported in Eastern Africa. Children under 15 years old constitute approximately half of those affected in the region.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** The MoU is supported by organizations such as the WHO, AU, and the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi). Additional countries, including Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania, joined in calling for improved cross-border cooperation to tackle neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Global Context: NTDs affect over 1 billion people annually, predominantly in impoverished communities. As of May 2025, 56 countries have eliminated at least one NTD, with notable progress in Africa.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025

In the News: On May 22, 2025, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) with a 215–214 vote. This extensive legislative package, championed by President Donald Trump, aims to extend and expand upon the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The bill now proceeds to the Senate, where it is expected to undergo further scrutiny and potential revisions.

Tax Reforms

- **Extension of 2017 Tax Cuts:** The bill seeks to make permanent the individual and corporate tax cuts introduced in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- **Tax Exemptions:** Introduces temporary exemptions (through 2028) on taxes for tips, overtime pay, and car loan interest for U.S.-made vehicles.
- **Child Tax Credit:** Increases the child tax credit to \$2,500 through 2028, reverting to \$2,000 thereafter.
- **State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction:** Raises the SALT deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for married couples earning up to \$500,000.
- **Estate and Gift Tax:** Proposes to permanently increase the unified credit for estate and gift taxes from \$10 **million** to \$15 million per individual, indexed for inflation.

Social Programs and Healthcare

- **Medicaid:** Imposes stricter work requirements by 2026 and increases verification processes, potentially **affecting** millions of beneficiaries.
- **SNAP (Food Assistance):** Requires states to contribute more to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and adds work requirements for certain enrollees.
- **Gender-Affirming Care:** Bans Medicaid and CHIP from covering gender-affirming treatments for individuals of **all** ages.
- **Planned Parenthood:** Cuts Medicaid funding to clinics that provide abortion services.

Immigration and Border Security

- **Funding Allocation:** Allocates \$46.5 billion to resume construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall and **enhances** border security measures.
- **Deportation Efforts:** Provides additional funds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to increase deportation capacities.

Fiscal Impact

- **National Debt:** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill would add \$3.8 trillion to the federal debt over the next decade.
- **Debt Ceiling:** Raises the federal debt ceiling by \$4 trillion to prevent a default.
- **Criticism:** Critics label the bill as the largest upward transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich in U.S. history, dubbing it the "Reverse Robin Hood Bill."

France's National Assembly Adopts Long-Debated Bill Legalizing End-of-Life Options

In the News: On May 27, 2025, France's National Assembly approved a landmark bill permitting assisted dying for adults with incurable illnesses. The legislation passed with 305 votes in favor and 199 against, marking a significant step in the long-debated issue of end-of-life options. The bill now proceeds to the Senate, where further deliberations are expected.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Age & Residency:** Patients must be over 18 and be French citizens or residents.
- **Medical Condition:** Must have a grave and incurable illness at an advanced or terminal stage, causing intolerable and untreatable pain.
- **Mental Competence:** Patients must be capable of making an informed and voluntary request.
- **Exclusions:** Individuals with severe psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease are not eligible.

Procedure

- **Request Process:** The patient initiates the request for lethal medication and must confirm it after a reflection period.
- **Medical Evaluation:** A team of medical professionals must confirm the patient's condition and consent.
- **Administration:** If approved, a doctor provides a prescription for the lethal medication, which the patient can **take** at home, in a nursing home, or a healthcare facility. If the patient is physically unable, a doctor or nurse may assist.

Legislative Journey

- **Senate Review:** The bill now moves to the Senate, where the conservative majority could seek amendments. A definitive vote may take months, given France's legislative process.
- **Public Support:** A 2023 report indicated that most French citizens back legalizing end-of-life options, with opinion polls showing growing support over the past 20 years.

ASEAN-GCC Summit 2025: Strengthening Economic and Strategic Ties

In the News: On May 27, 2025, Kuala Lumpur hosted the second ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit, bringing together leaders from Southeast Asia and the Gulf region. The summit aimed to enhance economic cooperation, address global trade challenges, and explore avenues for deeper collaboration between the two blocs.

Key Developments:

- **Economic Collaboration:** Leaders emphasized the potential for increased trade and investment between ASEAN and GCC countries. Discussions included exploring a Free Trade Agreement and enhancing cooperation in sectors like energy, finance, and digital economy.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** The summit highlighted the importance of mutual respect, non-interference, and adherence to international law as foundations for a robust ASEAN-GCC partnership.
- **Global Trade Dynamics:** Amid rising protectionism, leaders called for the removal of trade barriers and reaffirmed their commitment to a multilateral trading system centered on the World Trade Organization.
- **Joint Initiatives:** The summit concluded with a joint statement outlining plans for collaborative efforts in areas such as sustainable development, counter-terrorism, and cultural exchange.

Sadhguru Conferred with 'Global Indian of the Year' Award by Canada India Foundation

In the News: On May 22, 2025, Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, the founder of the Isha Foundation, was honored with the 'Global Indian of the Year' award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) during a ceremony in Toronto. This prestigious award recognizes individuals of Indian origin who have made significant global contributions in various fields.

Key Developments:

- **Recognition of Global Impact:** The CIF acknowledged Sadhguru's tireless efforts over four decades in elevating human consciousness and promoting ecological sustainability. His initiatives, such as the Conscious Planet movement, have been instrumental in raising environmental awareness worldwide.
- **Award Ceremony Details:** The award was presented by CIF Chair Ritesh Malik and National Convenor Sunita Vyas, in the presence of Indo-Canadian leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members. Alongside the award, Sadhguru received a CAD 50,000 prize, which he dedicated to the 'Cauvery Calling' initiative aimed at revitalizing the Cauvery River and supporting millions of people in southern India.
- **CIF's Statement:** Ritesh Malik highlighted Sadhguru's ability to provide practical solutions to global challenges like soil degradation and climate change. He emphasized that Sadhguru's teachings align with Canada's focus on individual well-being, sustainability, and inclusivity.
- **Sadhguru's Response:** Expressing gratitude, Sadhguru appreciated the warmth and hospitality of the Indo-Canadian community. He acknowledged their contributions to the growth and prosperity of both Canada and India.

US Proposes 60-Day Gaza Ceasefire Deal: Israel Accepts, Hamas Reviewing

In the News: On May 30, 2025, the United States proposed a 60-day ceasefire plan for Gaza, aiming to halt hostilities between Israel and Hamas. The plan includes a hostage-prisoner exchange, humanitarian aid delivery, and a roadmap toward a permanent ceasefire. Israel has accepted the proposal, while Hamas is currently reviewing it.

Ceasefire Proposal Overview:

- **Duration:** The proposal outlines a 60-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.
- **Hostage-Prisoner Exchange:** Hamas would release 28 Israeli hostages (10 alive and 18 deceased) in the first week. In return, Israel would release 1,236 Palestinian prisoners and the remains of 180 deceased Palestinians.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Upon Hamas's approval, humanitarian aid would be delivered to Gaza by the United Nations, the Red Crescent, and other agreed channels.
- **Guarantees:** The plan is backed by U.S. President Donald Trump and mediators Egypt and Qatar.

Israel's Position:

- **Acceptance:** Israel has accepted the U.S.-proposed ceasefire plan. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly informed families of hostages held in Gaza about the acceptance.
- **Military Operations:** Israel would cease all military operations in Gaza as soon as the truce takes effect and would redeploy its troops in stages.

Hamas's Response:

- **Reviewing the Proposal:** Hamas is conducting a "thorough and responsible review" of the proposal.
- **Criticism:** Hamas officials have criticized the proposal for failing to meet key demands, including a complete end to hostilities and an Israeli troop withdrawal. They argue that the plan perpetuates occupation and policies of killing and starvation.

U.S. Court Strikes Down Trump's Tariffs Imposed Under Emergency Powers

In the News: On May 28, 2025, the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that former President Donald Trump exceeded his legal authority by imposing sweeping tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The court determined that the IEEPA does not grant the president the power to unilaterally impose such broad tariffs, leading to the invalidation of the "Liberation Day" tariffs announced in April 2025.

Court Ruling Details:

- **Case Overview:** The case, *V.O.S. Selections, Inc. v. United States*, was brought by small businesses and 12 U.S. states, including Oregon, challenging the legality of the tariffs imposed under the IEEPA.
- **Court's Decision:** A three-judge panel unanimously ruled that the IEEPA does not authorize the president to impose tariffs as a means to address trade deficits or other economic concerns, stating that such actions require congressional approval.
- **Immediate Impact:** The court ordered the cessation of the tariffs within 10 days, affecting duties on a wide range of imports from countries including China, Mexico, and Canada.

Appeals and Temporary Reinstatement:

- **Appeals Court Action:** On May 29, 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit granted a temporary stay on the lower court's decision, allowing the tariffs to remain in effect while the appeal is considered.
- **Next Steps:** The appeals court has set deadlines for further briefs, with plaintiffs to respond by June 5 and the government's reply due by June 9, 2025.

Legal and Political Implications:

- **Separation of Powers:** The ruling emphasizes the constitutional principle that the power to impose tariffs lies with Congress, not the executive branch, challenging the expansive use of emergency powers for trade policy.
- **Legislative Response:** In response to concerns over executive overreach, bipartisan legislation known as the Trade Review Act of 2025 has been introduced, aiming to require congressional approval for tariffs imposed under emergency powers.

Hawaii Implements First Climate Impact Fee in the U.S.

In the News: On May 27, 2025, Hawaii Governor Josh Green signed into law Senate Bill 1396, establishing the nation's first climate impact fee, known as the "Green Fee." This legislation aims to fund environmental protection and climate resilience initiatives by increasing taxes on tourists.

- **Introduction of the Green Fee:** The Green Fee adds a 0.75% increase to Hawaii's existing Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT), raising it from 10.25% to 11% starting January 1, 2026. For the first time, cruise ship passengers will also be subject to this tax, with an 11% levy on their bills beginning July 2026, prorated based on the duration of their stay in Hawaiian ports.
- **Revenue Generation and Allocation:** The fee is projected to generate approximately \$100 million annually. Funds will be directed toward environmental initiatives such as:
 - Beach restoration and sand replenishment projects.
 - Wildfire prevention measures, including the removal of invasive fire-prone grasses.
 - Infrastructure improvements to enhance resilience against hurricanes and other natural disasters.
 - Establishment of a "green jobs youth corps" to engage young people in environmental conservation efforts.
- **Legislative and Industry Support:** The bill received unanimous support in the Hawaii State Senate and overwhelming approval in the House. The tourism industry, including hotel operators, backed the measure, **recognizing** the importance of preserving Hawaii's natural beauty for the sustainability of tourism.

- **Implementation and Oversight:** While the revenue will be funneled into the state's general fund, it is **earmarked** for climate resilience and environmental protection projects. A Climate Advisory Team (CAT) has been established to guide the allocation of funds and ensure transparency and effectiveness in addressing climate-related challenges.

India Engages U.S. in Plans to 'Grey List' Pakistan at FATF Session

In the News: India is intensifying its diplomatic efforts to have Pakistan reinstated on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, citing concerns over Pakistan's alleged non-compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations. During a recent visit to Washington, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri engaged with U.S. officials to coordinate strategies ahead of the upcoming FATF plenary session. India plans to present a comprehensive dossier highlighting Pakistan's purported lapses in curbing terror financing and misuse of international financial aid.

Key Factual Details

- **Diplomatic Engagements:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held discussions with U.S. Deputy Secretary of the **Treasury** Michael Faulkender and other senior officials to deepen economic and financial ties, including collaboration in international financial institutions and coordination in upcoming FATF processes.
- **FATF Grey List Context:** The FATF grey list comprises countries under increased monitoring due to strategic deficiencies in countering money laundering and terrorist financing. Pakistan was placed on this list in 2018 and removed in 2022 after implementing an action plan.
- **India's Dossier:** India is preparing a detailed dossier to present at the FATF plenary, outlining evidence of **Pakistan's** alleged failure to act against terror financing and misuse of international funds. The dossier will highlight concerns such as Pakistan's increased defence spending despite economic challenges and its purported support to extremist groups.
- **Political Consensus:** An all-party delegation from India, including AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, has advocated for Pakistan's reentry into the FATF grey list, emphasizing Pakistan's continued failure to take action against the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- **International Financial Implications:** India plans to raise objections to upcoming World Bank funding **initiatives** for Pakistan, expressing concerns over potential fund diversions towards arms procurement and terror financing.

Thailand's Opal Suchata Chuangsri Crowned Miss World 2025

In the News: Opal Suchata Chuangsri from Thailand has been crowned Miss World 2025, making history as the first Thai woman to win the prestigious international beauty pageant. The 72nd edition of the Miss World competition was held on May 31, 2025, at the HITECH Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad, India. Chuangsri triumphed over 107 contestants from around the globe, with Hasset Dereje Admassu of Ethiopia finishing as the first runner-up. The event was co-hosted by former Miss World 2016 Stephanie del Valle and Indian presenter Sachiin Kumbhar.

Key Factual Details

- **Historic Victory:** Opal Suchata Chuangsri's win marks Thailand's first-ever Miss World title.
- **Pageant Highlights:**
 - The competition featured 108 contestants.
 - The top four placements were:
 1. **Winner:** Opal Suchata Chuangsri (Thailand)
 2. **First Runner-Up:** Hasset Dereje Admassu (Ethiopia)
 3. **Second Runner-Up:** Maja Klajda (Poland)
 4. **Third Runner-Up:** Aurélie Joachim (Martinique)
 - India's representative, Nandini Gupta, reached the top 20.
- **Background of Opal Suchata Chuangsri:**
 - Born on March 20, 2003, in Phuket, Thailand.
 - Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a focus on International Relations at Thammasat University.
 - Multilingual, fluent in Thai, English, and Chinese.
 - Previously crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2024 and placed as the third runner-up at Miss Universe 2024.
- **Advocacy and Personal Journey:** At age 16, Opal discovered a benign lump in her breast, which inspired her to advocate for breast cancer awareness and early detection in Thailand.

First Round of India-Chile CEPA Negotiations Concludes in New Delhi

In the News: India and Chile have successfully concluded the first round of negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in New Delhi. This development follows Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font's state visit to India in April 2025, during which both nations reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral economic ties.

Key Factual Details

- **Negotiation Timeline and Leadership:**
 - The first round of CEPA negotiations took place from May 26 to May 30, 2025, in New Delhi.
 - The talks were inaugurated by India's Commerce Secretary, Sunil Barthwal, and Chile's Ambassador to India, Juan Angulo.
 - India's delegation was led by Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
 - Chile's 17-member delegation was headed by Pablo Urria, Director for Asia & Oceanic at Chile's Secretariat of International Economic Relations.
- **Scope of Discussions:** Negotiations covered 17 thematic areas, including: Trade in Goods and Services, Rules of Origin, Movement of Natural Persons, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, Technical Barriers to Trade, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Dispute Settlement, Investment Promotion and Cooperation, Intellectual Property Rights, Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development and Critical Minerals
 - **Objectives of the CEPA:**
 - The CEPA aims to expand upon the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Chile, which was implemented in 2006 and expanded in 2017.
 - Key goals include reducing trade barriers, enhancing cooperation in digital services, investment, and critical minerals, and promoting the integration of global value chains.
- **Trade Statistics:**
 - In the fiscal year 2024-25, India's exports to Chile amounted to approximately USD 1.15 billion, while imports from Chile were around USD 2.60 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of about USD 1.45 billion for India.
 - Major Indian exports to Chile include automobiles and pharmaceuticals, whereas imports from Chile primarily consist of minerals, copper, and chemicals.

SPORTS

Arsenal Triumphs Over Barcelona to Win Women's Champions League 2025

In the News: Arsenal Women secured a historic 1-0 victory over defending champions Barcelona in the UEFA Women's Champions League final on May 24, 2025, at Estádio José Alvalade in Lisbon. This triumph marked Arsenal's second European title and their first since 2007, ending an 18-year wait.

Stina Blackstenius scored the decisive goal in the 75th minute, assisted by Beth Mead. The win was celebrated by over 10,000 fans in North London, highlighting the club's unity and the success of its long-term development strategy.

Key Pointers

Match Highlights

- **Final Score:** Arsenal 1-0 Barcelona
- **Winning Goal:** Stina Blackstenius scored in the 75th minute, assisted by Beth Mead.
- **Venue:** Estádio José Alvalade, Lisbon
- **Attendance:** 38,356 spectators.

Tactical Masterclass

- **Defensive Prowess:** Leah Williamson led a resilient defense, earning a 9/10 rating for her performance.
- **Midfield Control:** Frida Maanum's tireless effort in midfield disrupted Barcelona's rhythm.
- **Strategic Substitutions:** Manager Renée Slegers' introduction of Beth Mead and Stina Blackstenius proved decisive.

Barcelona's Challenge

- **Missed Opportunities:** Claudia Pina hit the crossbar in the second half, and other key players like Aitana Bonmatí and Alexia Putellas were effectively neutralized by Arsenal's defense.

- **End of Reign:** Barcelona's defeat ended their pursuit of a third consecutive Champions League title.

UN Declares 25th May as World Football Day

In the News: On May 7, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution A/RES/78/281, officially designating May 25 as **World Football Day**. This annual observance celebrates the centenary of the first international football tournament held during the 1924 Summer Olympics in Paris, marking a significant milestone in the sport's global history.

The resolution was introduced by Libya's UN Ambassador, Taher El-Sonni, and co-sponsored by over 160 member states, including Bahrain and Tajikistan. It acknowledges football's unparalleled ability to transcend cultural, national, and socio-economic boundaries, promoting peace, development, and unity worldwide.

- **Historical Context:** May 25, 1924, marks the commencement of the first international football tournament during the Paris Summer Olympics, featuring teams from various regions, laying the foundation for football's global appeal.
- **Promotion of Peace and Unity:** The day aims to harness football's universal language to foster mutual understanding, tolerance, and solidarity among diverse populations.
- **Support for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Aligning with the UN's SDGs, the observance encourages leveraging football to advance gender equality, social inclusion, and community development.
- **FIFA World Football Week:** In 2025, FIFA inaugurated the first **World Football Week** from May 21 to 25, encompassing various events and activities to celebrate the sport's impact and promote its values.
- **UN Headquarters Event:** A commemorative event was held at the UN General Assembly Hall in New York on May 22, 2025, featuring speeches from global football leaders and UN officials, emphasizing football's role in uniting people and promoting peace.

India to Host Khelo India Northeast Games Annually

In the News: On May 24, 2025, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India will host the **Khelo India Northeast Games** annually, rotating among the eight northeastern states: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura. This initiative aims to harness the region's rich sporting potential and provide a platform to showcase traditional games.

Key Pointers

Objectives of the Initiative

- **Talent Identification and Development:** The annual games will serve as a platform to scout and nurture sporting talent in the Northeast, integrating athletes into national training programs.
- **Promotion of Traditional Sports:** The event will highlight indigenous games, preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of the region.
- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** The games are expected to boost sports infrastructure development across the northeastern states, fostering economic growth and community engagement.

Supporting Initiatives

- **National Sports Repository System (NSRS):** A platform where individuals can upload videos of athletes' performances. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) will assess these and potentially induct promising talents into Khelo India Centres or National Centres of Excellence.
- **ASMITA League:** A flagship scheme under Khelo India to promote female participation in sports. In the previous year, approximately 13,000 girls from the Northeast competed across various disciplines.
- **Previous Events:** The Northeast region successfully hosted the Khelo India University Games Ashtalakshmi in 2023, demonstrating its capability to organize large-scale national sporting events.

Cristiano Ronaldo Breaks Barriers with 800 Goals in Club Football

In the News: On May 26, 2025, Cristiano Ronaldo became the first footballer in history to score 800 goals in club football. He achieved this milestone while playing for Al-Nassr in the Saudi Pro League, scoring during a 3-2 defeat against Al-Fateh.

Historic Milestone:

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** reached his 800th club goal on May 26, 2025, during a Saudi Pro League match where Al-Nassr faced a 3-2 defeat against Al-Fateh.
- At 40 years old, Ronaldo continues to perform at an elite level, demonstrating exceptional longevity in his career.

Club-wise Goal Distribution of Cristiano Ronaldo

- **Sporting CP (Portugal):** Cristiano Ronaldo began his professional career with Sporting CP in the 2002–03 season. He scored a total of 5 goals in 31 appearances across all competitions for the club.
- **Manchester United (England):** Ronaldo had two stints with Manchester United: from 2003 to 2009 and from 2021 to 2022. During his time at the club, he made 346 appearances and scored 145 goals across all competitions.
- **Real Madrid (Spain):** Ronaldo played for Real Madrid from 2009 to 2018. He became the club's all-time **leading** scorer with 450 goals in 438 appearances across all competitions.
- **Juventus (Italy):** Ronaldo joined Juventus in 2018 and played until 2021. He scored 101 goals in 134 appearances across all competitions for the club.
- **Al-Nassr (Saudi Arabia):** Ronaldo signed with Al-Nassr in December 2022. As of May 2025, he has scored 99 **goals** in 111 appearances across all competitions for the club.

Recent Performance:

- **In** the 2024–25 season, Ronaldo secured the Saudi Pro League Golden Boot for the second consecutive season, netting 25 goals.
- **Despite** his individual success, Al-Nassr finished third in the league, missing out on the AFC Champions League qualification.

Serena Williams Honoured with 'Princess of Asturias Award for Sports 2025'

In the News: On May 28, 2025, legendary tennis player Serena Williams was conferred with the **Princess of Asturias Award for Sports** by the Princess of Asturias Foundation in Spain. The award recognizes individuals whose careers in sports have had a transformative impact on society and inspired excellence globally.

Key Developments:

- **Recognition of Global Impact:** The jury acknowledged Serena Williams' outstanding achievements in tennis, including **23 Grand Slam singles titles, 4 Olympic gold medals**, and a record **319 weeks as world No. 1**, as well as her role as a global icon promoting gender equality, racial justice, and empowerment through sport.
- **Award Ceremony Details:** The award will be presented in **October 2025** at a royal ceremony in **Oviedo, Spain**, presided over by the Spanish royal family. Serena will receive a **€50,000 prize**, a **Joan Miró-designed sculpture**, and an official diploma and insignia from the Princess of Asturias Foundation.
- **Jury's Statement:** The jury commended Serena for **"breaking barriers in sports and society,"** highlighting her **advocacy for equal opportunities** and her **philanthropic work** through the Serena Williams Foundation and other ventures supporting education, entrepreneurship, and women's empowerment.

ECONOMICS

India Surpasses Japan to Become the World's 4th Largest Economy

In the News: In May 2025, India officially overtook Japan to become the world's fourth-largest economy, as confirmed by NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam. This milestone, based on International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, reflects India's robust economic growth and positions it just behind the United States, China, and Germany in terms of nominal GDP.

Key Pointers:

- **GDP Milestone:** India's nominal GDP reached approximately \$4.187 trillion in 2025, marginally surpassing Japan's estimated \$4.186 trillion. This achievement marks a significant shift in global economic rankings.
- **Growth Trajectory:** India continues to be the world's fastest-growing major economy, with projections **indicating** over 6% growth in the coming years. The IMF forecasts India's GDP to rise to \$5.58 trillion by 2028, potentially overtaking Germany to become the third-largest economy.
- **Contributing Factors:** Key drivers of India's economic ascent include strong domestic consumption, strategic reforms, increased investments, and integration into global trade networks. The country's young workforce and expanding service and technology sectors have also played pivotal roles.
- **Per Capita Income:** India's per capita income has doubled over the past decade, reaching \$2,880 in 2025, up from \$1,438 in 2013-14, indicating improved living standards and economic well-being.
- **Public and Industry Reactions:** The achievement has been met with national pride. Industrialist Anand Mahindra **remarked** that surpassing Japan was once a distant dream, now realized. Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan also expressed his admiration, highlighting the nation's progress.

India Secures Record \$81.04 Billion in FDI in FY 2024–25

In the News: India achieved a historic milestone in the fiscal year 2024–25 by attracting a provisional Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of **\$81.04 billion**, marking a **14% increase** from the previous year's \$71.28 billion. This surge underscores India's growing appeal as a global investment destination and reflects the country's robust economic policies and investor-friendly reforms.

Key Developments:

- **Sectoral Distribution:**
 - *Services Sector:* Led the FDI inflows, receiving **\$9.35 billion**, accounting for **19%** of the total, and registering a **40.77% growth** over the previous year.
 - *Computer Software and Hardware:* Secured **16%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *Trading Sector:* Attracted **8%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *Manufacturing Sector:* Witnessed an **18% increase**, reaching **\$19.04 billion**, highlighting India's emergence as a manufacturing hub.
- **Top Source Countries:**
 - *Singapore:* Remained the largest contributor with **\$14.94 billion**, constituting **30%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *Mauritius:* Contributed **17%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *United States:* Accounted for **11%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
- **Leading Recipient States:**
 - *Maharashtra:* Attracted the highest share with **39%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *Karnataka:* Received **13%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
 - *Delhi:* Accounted for **12%** of the total FDI equity inflows.
- **Policy Reforms and Initiatives:**
 - The Indian government has implemented several reforms to liberalize FDI norms across various sectors, including allowing 100% FDI under the automatic route in coal mining, contract manufacturing, and insurance intermediaries.
 - The number of countries investing in India increased from **89 in FY 2013–14** to **112 in FY 2024–25**, indicating a broader global interest.

Cargo Ship Sinks Near Kerala Coast: Impact of Oil Spills and Cleanup Measures

In the News: On May 25, 2025, the Liberian-flagged container vessel MSC ELSA 3 sank approximately 38 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala, India, while en route from Vizhinjam to Kochi. The ship was carrying 640 containers, including 13 with hazardous materials such as calcium carbide, and substantial quantities of fuel—84.44 metric tonnes of diesel and 367.1 metric tonnes of furnace oil. All 24 crew members were safely rescued. The incident has raised significant environmental concerns, particularly regarding potential oil spills and their impact on marine ecosystems.

Key Developments:

- **Oil Spill Threat:** The sinking of MSC ELSA 3 poses a significant risk of oil spills, which can have devastating effects on marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, fish populations, and seabirds. Oil spills can also impact the livelihoods of coastal communities dependent on fishing and tourism.
- **Hazardous Materials:** The presence of hazardous substances like calcium carbide on board raises concerns about chemical reactions upon contact with water, potentially releasing flammable gases and toxic compounds.
- **Plastic Pollution:** Reports indicate that plastic pellets (nurdles) from the cargo have begun washing ashore, contributing to long-term pollution and posing ingestion risks to marine life.
- **Cleanup Efforts:** The Indian Coast Guard has initiated efforts to contain and mitigate the oil spill using dispersants and containment booms. Advanced oil spill mapping technology and satellite assessments are being utilized to plan the containment strategy.
- **Scientific Monitoring:** Kerala's state government has launched a scientific response, including geotagged sampling of water, sand, and sediment to assess contamination levels and guide cleanup operations.
- **Public Safety Measures:** Fishing activities have been banned within a 20 nautical mile radius of the incident site, and residents have been advised to avoid contact with washed-ashore containers and materials.

India's AMCA Stealth Jet Project Approved

In the News: On May 27, 2025, India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the execution model for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme, marking a significant milestone in India's pursuit of indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter capabilities. The AMCA project aims to bolster the Indian Air Force's operational strength and self-reliance in advanced military technologies.

Key Developments:

- **Project Overview:** The AMCA is envisioned as a twin-engine, fifth-generation stealth multirole combat aircraft designed to perform air superiority, ground strike, and electronic warfare missions. It will feature advanced stealth capabilities, supercruise, and state-of-the-art avionics.
- **Execution Model:** The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will lead the project, inviting both public and private sector participation through a competitive bidding process. This marks a shift from previous models that primarily involved state-run entities like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- **Private Sector Involvement:** The new execution model opens doors for private companies to contribute to the development and production of the AMCA, aiming to leverage their capabilities and foster a robust domestic aerospace ecosystem.
- **Strategic Significance:** The approval comes amid rising regional tensions and aims to enhance India's strategic and defense posture. The AMCA project is expected to be a cornerstone in modernizing the Indian Air Force and reducing dependence on foreign defense imports.
- **Development Timeline:** The project plans to roll out the first prototype by 2028-29, with serial production expected by 2038-39 and service induction by 2034.

Miniratna Status Granted to MIL, AVNL & IOL: A New Milestone in India's Defence Sector

In the News: On May 29, 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved the grant of Miniratna Category-I status to three Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs): Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL). This recognition underscores their transformation into profit-making entities within three years of their establishment following the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board in 2021.

Key Developments:

- **Munitions India Limited (MIL):** Headquartered in Pune, MIL specializes in manufacturing a wide range of ammunition, including small, medium, and high-calibre rounds, mortars, rockets, and hand grenades. The company has achieved significant growth, with sales increasing from ₹2,571.6 crore in FY 2021-22 (H2) to a provisional ₹8,282 crore in FY 2024-25. Exports have also surged from ₹22.55 crore to ₹3,081 crore in the same period.
- **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL):** Based in Chennai, AVNL is engaged in the production of armoured and combat vehicles, including the T-90, MBT Arjun, and BMP-II Sarath. The company has achieved 100% indigenization of engines for platforms like T-72, T-90, and BMP-II. Sales have grown from ₹2,569.26 crore in FY 2021-22 (H2) to a provisional ₹4,986 crore in FY 2024-25.
- **India Optel Limited (IOL):** Located in Dehradun, IOL specializes in opto-electronic systems and vision equipment used in various land system platforms and weapons. The company's sales have increased from ₹562.12 crore in FY 2021-22 (H2) to a provisional ₹1,541.38 crore in FY 2024-25.
- **Significance of Miniratna Status:** The Miniratna Category-I status grants these DPSUs enhanced financial and operational autonomy, allowing them to make capital investments up to ₹500 crore or equal to their net worth, whichever is lower, without prior government approval. This autonomy is expected to accelerate their growth and competitiveness in the defence sector.

ENVIRONMENT

How the Madden-Julian Oscillation Helped Trigger the Early Onset of the Monsoon

In the News: On May 24, 2025, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) announced the onset of the southwest monsoon over Kerala, marking an early arrival by eight days—the earliest since 2009. A significant contributing factor to this early onset was the favorable phase of the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), which enhanced convection and moisture transport over the Indian Ocean region.

Key Developments:

- **Understanding the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):** The MJO is a large-scale atmospheric disturbance characterized by an eastward-moving pulse of cloud and rainfall near the equator. It influences tropical weather patterns, including the Indian monsoon, by modulating atmospheric circulation and convection.
- **MJO's Role in the 2025 Early Monsoon:** In mid-May 2025, the MJO entered a phase conducive to enhanced convection over the Indian Ocean. This active phase led to increased cloud formation and precipitation, creating favorable conditions for the monsoon's early onset over Kerala.
- **Impact on Monsoon Progression:** The active MJO phase not only triggered the early onset over Kerala but also accelerated the monsoon's advancement across other parts of India. Notably, Mumbai experienced monsoon rains two weeks ahead of its typical schedule, marking the earliest arrival on record for the city.
- **Other Contributing Factors:** While the MJO played a pivotal role, other atmospheric and oceanic conditions also supported the early monsoon. These included neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions, a low-pressure system over the Arabian Sea, and a trough extending across Vidarbha, all of which enhanced moisture inflow and convection over the Indian subcontinent.

Global Temperature Likely to Breach 1.5°C in Next Five Years: World Meteorological Organization

In the News: On May 28, 2025, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released its Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update, warning that global temperatures are increasingly likely to temporarily exceed the critical 1.5°C threshold above pre-industrial levels within the next five years. This development underscores the urgency of intensified climate action to mitigate the escalating impacts of global warming.

Key Developments:

- **High Probability of Exceeding 1.5°C:** There is an 86% chance that at least one year between 2025 and 2029 will experience global temperatures surpassing 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Additionally, there's a 70% likelihood that the five-year average temperature for this period will exceed the 1.5°C threshold.
- **Record-Breaking Heat Anticipated:** The report forecasts an 80% probability that at least one year in the 2025–2029 period will become the warmest on record, surpassing the previous record set in 2024.
- **Arctic Warming Accelerates:** The Arctic region is projected to warm more than three times the global average, with temperatures expected to rise 2.4°C above the 1991–2020 average during the next five extended winters (November to March). This rapid warming contributes to accelerated ice melt and sea-level rise.
- **Regional Climate Impacts:** Predicted precipitation patterns indicate wetter-than-average conditions in regions such as the Sahel, northern Europe, Alaska, and northern Siberia, while areas like the Amazon are expected to experience drier-than-average conditions.
- **Implications for the Paris Agreement:** While temporary exceedances of the 1.5°C threshold do not constitute a breach of the Paris Agreement—which focuses on long-term temperature averages—the increasing frequency of such events highlights the narrowing window to limit long-term warming and avoid the most severe climate impacts.

SCIECNE & TECH

Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy: A Strategic Boost to India's Space Sector

In the News: In April 2025, the Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the Tamil Nadu Space Industrial Policy 2025, aiming to position the state as a significant player in India's burgeoning space economy. The policy seeks to attract ₹10,000 crore in investments and generate 10,000 high-value jobs over the next five years.

Key Pointers:

- **Investment and Employment Goals:** Targeting ₹10,000 crore in investments over five years. Aiming to create 10,000 direct and indirect high-value jobs in the space sector.
- **Strategic Infrastructure Development:** Establishment of 'Space Bays'—dedicated industrial clusters in districts like Madurai, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, and Virudhunagar—to house space-tech companies and startups. Development of a spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district, facilitating efficient launches into polar orbits.

- **Policy Objectives:** Fostering a comprehensive space-tech ecosystem encompassing manufacturing, services, and **downstream** applications. Encouraging participation from startups, MSMEs, and large enterprises across the space-tech value chain. Building a future-ready skilled workforce through education and training initiatives.
- **Incentives and Support Mechanisms:** Provision of structured incentive packages for companies investing in the **space** sector, including capital subsidies and support for green initiatives. Establishment of the Tamil Nadu Emerging Sector Seed Fund (TNESSF) with a ₹500 crore corpus to support aerospace and defence sectors.
- **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Tamil Nadu **Industrial** Development Corporation (TIDCO) and IN-SPACE to facilitate manufacturing, R&D, and development of space-grade components.
- **Alignment with National Space Policy:** The policy aligns with the Indian Space Policy 2023, which emphasizes private sector participation and the establishment of a comprehensive framework for space activities.

Tianwen-2 Mission: China's Dual Asteroid and Comet Exploration Endeavor

In the News: On May 29, 2025, China is set to launch its Tianwen-2 mission, marking its first attempt at an asteroid sample-return and subsequent comet exploration. The mission aims to collect samples from the near-Earth asteroid 469219 Kamo'oalewa and later study the main-belt comet 311P/PANSTARRS, showcasing China's growing capabilities in deep-space exploration.

Key Pointers:

- **Mission Objectives:** Collect and return samples from asteroid 469219 Kamo'oalewa to Earth. Conduct a **rendezvous** and study of comet 311P/PANSTARRS after the sample return. Demonstrate advanced space technologies, including autonomous navigation and multi-target mission planning.
- **Mission Timeline:**
 - **Launch Date:** May 29, 2025, from Xichang Satellite Launch Center using a Long March 3B/E rocket.
 - **Asteroid Rendezvous:** Expected arrival at Kamo'oalewa in July 2026.
 - **Sample Collection and Departure:** Depart asteroid in April 2027 after sample collection.
 - **Sample Return:** Re-entry capsule to land on Earth in November 2027.
 - **Comet Rendezvous:** Arrival at comet 311P/PANSTARRS anticipated in January 2035.
- **Target: Asteroid 469219 Kamo'oalewa:**
 - A quasi-satellite of Earth, maintaining a stable orbit near our planet.
 - Approximately 50 meters in diameter with a rapid rotation period of about 28 minutes.
 - Spectral analysis suggests a composition similar to lunar material, indicating a possible origin from the Moon.
- **Sampling Techniques:** Utilizes both "anchor-and-attach" and "touch-and-go" methods for sample collection. Employs robotic arms equipped with drills to secure the spacecraft to the asteroid's surface, mitigating the risk of rebound due to low gravity. Aims to collect at least 100 grams of surface material for return to Earth.
- **Comet 311P/PANSTARRS Exploration:** After delivering the asteroid samples to Earth, the spacecraft will use Earth's gravity for a slingshot maneuver to set course for comet 311P/PANSTARRS. The mission will study the comet's activity, composition, and structure over an extended period.

Nine-Month-Old Receives World's First Successful Base Editing Therapy

In the News: In a groundbreaking medical achievement, a nine-month-old infant named KJ Muldoon became the first person to receive a personalized base editing therapy to treat a rare and life-threatening genetic disorder. Diagnosed shortly after birth with severe carbamoyl phosphate synthetase 1 (CPS1) deficiency—a condition that impairs the body's ability to eliminate ammonia—KJ faced a grim prognosis, with traditional treatments offering limited hope. Collaborative efforts by researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania led to the development of a bespoke gene-editing therapy using CRISPR-based base editing technology. Administered over three doses beginning in February 2025, the treatment has shown promising results, with KJ now thriving and exhibiting significant health improvements.

The Patient: KJ Muldoon

- **Diagnosis:** Severe CPS1 deficiency, a rare genetic disorder affecting approximately 1 in 1.3 million individuals.
- **Symptoms:** Inability to convert ammonia into urea, leading to toxic ammonia buildup in the blood.
- **Initial Prognosis:** High risk of fatality or severe developmental delays; liver transplant was the only existing long-term treatment option.

The Therapy: Personalized Base Editing

- **Technology Used:** CRISPR-based base editing, a precise gene-editing technique that corrects single-letter mutations without cutting the DNA strand.
- **Customization:** The therapy was tailored specifically to correct KJ's unique genetic mutation responsible for CPS1 deficiency.
- **Development Timeline:** Remarkably developed within six months from diagnosis to administration.

Treatment Administration and Outcomes

- **Delivery Method:** The gene-editing components were delivered directly to KJ's liver cells using lipid nanoparticles.
- **Dosage:** KJ received three escalating doses of the therapy starting in February 2025.
- **Results:** Significant reduction in ammonia levels, improved protein tolerance, decreased medication dependency, and enhanced resilience to illnesses.

Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) 2024

In the News: On May 29, 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2024. This comprehensive report, compiled by ISRO's System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM), provides insights into global and Indian space activities, emphasizing the growing challenges of space debris and the importance of space situational awareness (SSA).

Global Space Activity:

- **Launch Statistics:** In 2024, there were 261 global launch attempts, with 254 successes, adding 2,578 operational satellites and a total of 2,963 objects to Earth's orbit. This marks a slight decrease from 2023's 3,135 objects but still represents significant orbital activity.
- **Space Debris Increase:** Three major on-orbit breakup events occurred, notably a Long March rocket stage fragmentation, contributing approximately 702 new debris objects. By the end of 2024, the total number of space debris objects had risen to 3,665.
- **Atmospheric Re-entries:** A record 2,095 catalogued objects re-entered Earth's atmosphere in 2024, including 335 Starlink satellites deliberately deorbited. Solar activity, approaching the peak of Solar Cycle 25, accelerated orbital decay, contributing to this high re-entry rate.

Indian Space Operations:

- **Satellite Deployments:** India launched a total of 136 spacecraft, including those from private operators and academic institutions. As of December 31, 2024, the Government of India operated 22 satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 31 in Geosynchronous Orbit (GEO). Notable missions like Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter and Aditya-L1 continued their operations successfully.
- **Collision Avoidance Measures:** ISRO performed 10 Collision Avoidance Manoeuvres (CAMs) in 2024—six in LEO and four in GEO—to protect its satellites from potential collisions. Additionally, an orbit maintenance manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 was advanced to avoid conjunction with NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.
- **Close Approach Alerts:** ISRO received over 53,000 close approach alerts in 2024 from the Combined Space Operations Center (CSpOC). Improved analysis methodologies allowed many potential collisions to be mitigated through routine orbit adjustments, reducing the need for exclusive CAMs.

Space Traffic Management and SSA Initiatives:

- **Project NETRA:** ISRO's Project NETRA (Network for Space Object Tracking and Analysis) continues to enhance India's SSA capabilities. The project integrates phased-array radars, optical telescopes, and a control center to monitor and predict orbital debris and near-Earth objects, aiming to protect India's space assets.
- **Space Traffic Management (STM):** Recognising the increasing congestion in space, ISRO emphasized the need for a robust STM system. The agency advocates for international collaboration to develop frameworks ensuring the safety and sustainability of space operations.

AWARDS & HONOURS

World Food Prize 2025

In the News: On May 13, 2025, Brazilian microbiologist Dr. Mariangela Hungria was announced as the recipient of the 2025 World Food Prize. The award recognizes her pioneering work in developing sustainable agricultural practices through biological nitrogen fixation, significantly enhancing crop yields and reducing reliance on chemical fertilizers in Brazil.

Key Highlights

- **Laureate:** Dr. Mariangela Hungria, a senior researcher at the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).
- **Award Significance:** Often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture," the World Food Prize honors individuals who have made exceptional contributions to improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food globally.
- **Scientific Contributions:**
 - Over a 40-year career, Dr. Hungria developed biological seed and soil treatments that utilize symbiotic soil bacteria, such as rhizobia and *Azospirillum brasilense*, to enhance nitrogen fixation in crops.
 - Her innovations have been applied across more than 40 million hectares in Brazil, leading to increased yields of soybeans, maize, wheat, rice, and beans.
- **Economic and Environmental Impact:**
 - The adoption of her biological treatments has enabled Brazilian farmers to save up to \$40 billion annually in fertilizer costs.
 - These practices have also prevented over 180 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions each year, contributing to more sustainable farming methods.
- **Transformation of Brazilian Agriculture:**
 - Dr. Hungria's work has been instrumental in transforming Brazil into the world's largest producer and exporter of soybeans, with production increasing from approximately 15 million metric tons in the 1980s to over 170 million tons today.
- **Award Ceremony:** The \$500,000 prize will be formally presented to Dr. Hungria at the World Food Prize Award Ceremony in October 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa.

International Booker Prize 2025

In the News: On May 20, 2025, *Heart Lamp*, a collection of short stories by Indian author Banu Mushtaq, translated from Kannada by Deepa Bhashti, was awarded the International Booker Prize. This marks the first time a short story collection and a work originally written in Kannada have received this prestigious honor.

Key Highlights

- **Award-Winning Work:** *Heart Lamp* comprises 12 stories that delve into the lives of women and girls in patriarchal communities of southern India. The narratives, spanning over three decades, address themes such as reproductive rights, caste, faith, and power.
- **Author and Translator:**
 - **Banu Mushtaq:** A lawyer, women's rights activist, and writer from Karnataka, India. Her work is rooted in the Bandaya Sahitya movement, known for its protest literature.
 - **Deepa Bhashti:** A writer and translator based in Kodagu, India. Her translation approach, described as "translating with an accent," aims to preserve the cultural richness of the original Kannada text.
- **Prize Details:** The International Booker Prize includes a monetary award of £50,000, shared equally between the author and translator.
- **Judging Panel:** Chaired by author Max Porter, the panel unanimously selected *Heart Lamp* for its radical use of language and emotional depth.
- **Publisher:** The book was published by And Other Stories, marking the independent UK publisher's first **Booker** Prize win.
- **Significance:** This win highlights the global recognition of regional Indian literature and the importance of **translation** in bringing diverse voices to a wider audience.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Hunger Day 2025: Empowering Communities for Sustainable Food Security

In the News: On May 28, 2025, the global community observed **World Hunger Day**, emphasizing the theme “**Sowing Resilience**”. Initiated by The Hunger Project in 2011, this annual event highlights the importance of empowering communities, especially women and smallholder farmers, to develop sustainable solutions to end hunger. The 2025 observance focused on the interconnection between climate change and food insecurity, advocating for climate-resilient agricultural practices and community-led initiatives to combat hunger.

Key Developments:

- **Theme – “Sowing Resilience”:** The 2025 theme underscores the need to build resilience against climate-induced food insecurity. It promotes investment in climate-smart agriculture, such as drought-resistant crops and sustainable farming techniques, to ensure long-term food security.
- **Empowerment of Women and Smallholder Farmers:** Recognizing that women produce up to 80% of food in many developing countries, the day highlighted the importance of providing them with resources, training, and market access. Empowering smallholder farmers is seen as crucial for sustainable agriculture and community resilience.
- **Maternal and Child Nutrition:** Former UK development ministers called for global prioritization of maternal nutrition, noting that one billion adolescent girls and women suffer from malnutrition. They advocated for initiatives like the Child Nutrition Fund to provide antenatal micronutrient supplements, improving health outcomes for mothers and children.
- **Community-Led Initiatives:** The 8th National Convention of the Right to Food Campaign in Jaipur concluded with the 'Jaipur Declaration', emphasizing the need for inclusive policies and better implementation of food security schemes. The declaration called for intensified efforts against global hunger and malnutrition.

MISCELLANEOUS

India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025 Begins in Ulaanbaatar

In the News: On May 31, 2025, the 17th edition of the India-Mongolia joint military exercise, NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2025, commenced in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Scheduled to run until June 13, this annual exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Indian Army and the Mongolian Armed Forces, focusing on semi-conventional operations in semi-urban and mountainous terrains under a United Nations mandate.

Key Developments:

- **Participating Forces:** The Indian contingent comprises 45 personnel, primarily from the Arunachal Scouts battalion. The Mongolian Armed Forces are represented by a 150-member Special Forces unit.
- **Training Objectives:** The exercise includes endurance training, reflex shooting, room intervention, small team tactics, and rock craft training. Notably, this edition incorporates aspects of cyber warfare to enhance its complexity.
- **Tactical Drills:** Key tactical drills involve responses to terrorist actions, establishment of a joint command post, securing landing sites, small team insertion and extraction, special heliborne operations, and the use of drones and counter-drone systems.
- **Historical Context:** Initiated in 2004, NOMADIC ELEPHANT is an annual event conducted alternately in India and Mongolia. The previous edition was held in Umroi, Meghalaya, in July 2024.
- **Strategic Significance:** The exercise underscores the shared commitment of India and Mongolia towards regional security, peace, and stability. It reinforces the India-Mongolia relationship as a cornerstone of regional cooperation, fostering strong military ties and promoting cultural understanding.

POLITY

Goa Declared Fully Literate Under ULLAS Programme

In the News: On May 30, 2025, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced that Goa has achieved full literacy under the ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. This declaration was made during the state's 39th Statehood Day celebrations in Panaji.

Key Developments:

- **Achievement of Full Literacy:** Goa attained a literacy rate of **99.72%**, surpassing the national benchmark of 95% set by the Ministry of Education for declaring a region fully literate. This accomplishment positions Goa as the **second state** in India, after Mizoram, to achieve full functional literacy under the ULLAS programme.
- **Implementation of ULLAS Programme:** The ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing literacy to adults aged 15 and above who missed formal education. The programme encompasses five key components: foundational literacy and numeracy, critical life skills, basic education, vocational skills, and continuing education.
- **Community Engagement and Volunteerism:** The literacy campaign in Goa was driven by a whole-of-government approach, involving various departments such as the Directorate of Panchayats, Municipal Administration, Social Welfare, Planning & Statistics, and Women & Child Development.
 - A total of **6,299** non-literate individuals were identified across the state. Of these, **2,136** participated in the literacy programme and successfully completed the learning phase.
 - Notably, **82 panchayats** achieved 100% literacy, while **33 panchayats** and **one municipality** surpassed the 95% literacy mark.
- **Use of Technology and Multilingual Resources:** To facilitate learning, the state introduced ULLAS primers in **Konkani, Marathi, Hindi, and English**. The ULLAS mobile app was utilized to register learners and volunteer teachers, enhancing the reach and effectiveness of the programme.

Centre Approves Appointment of Three New Supreme Court Judges

In the News: On May 30, 2025, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, approved the appointment of three new judges to the Supreme Court: Justices N.V. Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi, and A.S. Chandurkar. This swift action followed the Supreme Court collegium's recommendation on May 26, 2025. The appointments restore the Supreme Court to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Appointed Judges

- **Justice N.V. Anjaria**
 - Born on March 23, 1965, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 - Graduated with an LL.B. from Sir L.A. Shah Law College in 1988 and obtained an LL.M. in 1989 from the University of Ahmedabad School of Law.
 - Elevated as an Additional Judge of the Gujarat High Court on November 21, 2011, and became a permanent judge on September 6, 2013.
 - Appointed as Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on February 25, 2024.
- **Justice Vijay Bishnoi**
 - Born on March 26, 1964, in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
 - Enrolled as an advocate on July 8, 1989, and practiced in civil, criminal, constitutional, and service matters.
 - Appointed as an Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court on January 8, 2013, and became a permanent judge on January 7, 2015.
 - Assumed office as Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on February 5, 2024.
- **Justice A.S. Chandurkar**
 - Born on April 7, 1965, in Pune, Maharashtra.
 - Completed his LL.B. from ILS Law College, Pune.
 - Elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court on June 21, 2013, and became a permanent judge on March 2, 2016.
 - Known for significant judgments, including upholding a college's hijab ban and striking down amended IT Rules as unconstitutional.

Appointment Process

- The Supreme Court collegium, led by Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, recommended the appointments on May 26, 2025.
- The Union government approved the appointments on May 29, 2025.
- Chief Justice B.R. Gavai administered the oath of office on May 30, 2025.