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## IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

## NATIONAL

**Issue Birth Certificate Before Discharge of Baby, Registrar General of India Tells States**

**In the News:** In mid-June 2025, the Registrar General of India (RGI), part of the Ministry of Home Affairs, issued a directive (dated 12 June 2025) asking all States to ensure that birth certificates are issued *before mothers and newborns are discharged* from hospitals—especially government-run facilities, which account for over 50% of institutional births in India.

**Key Points:**

- **Immediate Issuance Mandate:** The RGI emphasized that certificates should be provided as soon as registration is complete, and in any case *no later than seven days*, in electronic or physical format.
- **Focus on Public Facilities:** The letter highlights that government hospitals, community health centres, and primary health centres—which are also registration units—must be sensitized to the urgency of issuing certificates promptly.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS) Enhancements:** To streamline the process, the RGI pointed to recent measures such as amendments to the RBD Act, updates to State rules, and deployment of a centralized CRS portal.
- **Legal Basis & Digital Mandates:** Under Section 12 of the RBD Act, 1969, amended in 2023, all births must be registered via the central portal, and the resulting digital certificate is the official proof of birth from 1 October 2023. Birth registration is free if done within 21 days under the amended law.
- **Escalating Importance of Birth Certificates:** Digital birth certificates have become the sole valid document for essential services such as school admission, government employment, marriage registration, driving licences, passports, and more.
- **Addressing Registration Gaps:** RGI noted that historically around 10% of births weren't registered. A previous advisory in March 2025 directed hospitals to notify births/deaths within 21 days—a legal requirement.
- **Registration Coverage & Governance Goals:** Civil registration in India rose from around 86% in 2014 to over 96% in 2024. These measures support national efforts like integrating data with NPR, electoral rolls, ration cards, and meeting UN SDG targets for universal legal identity.

**India's Coastline Grows by 3,500 km After Precise Mapping**

**In the News:** The Survey of India (SoI) and National Hydrographic Office (NHO) announced that India's total coastline has been revised to 11,098 km—an increase of approximately 3,582 km (nearly 48%)—not due to any expansion of territory, but because of updated, more accurate mapping techniques.

**Key Points:**

- **Old vs. New Figures:** *Before:* Around 7,516 km, based on 1970s data using a coarse 1:4,500,000 scale. *Now:* 11,098 km (mainland 7,870 km + islands 3,228 km), using a detailed 1:250,000 scale and including previously unmapped offshore islands.
- **Why the Length Increased:** Higher-resolution mapping “ruler” captures more bends, inlets, and curves. Modern GIS, LIDAR, drone imagery, and satellite data have replaced manual methods.
- **Coastline Paradox:** Coastlines lack a fixed length; the smaller the measurement unit, the longer the coastline appears—a phenomenon called the coastline paradox.
- **Island Count Updated:** Revised to include 1,298 offshore and 91 inshore islands, totaling 1,389—standardized after reconciling earlier counts (1,382 vs. 1,334).
- Precision achieved by switching from old-scale mapping (1:4.5 million) to high-resolution (1:250,000), leveraging advanced technologies like GIS, drone and satellite imaging.
- Task carried out jointly by Survey of India, National Hydrographic Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Maritime Security Coordinator.

## India Rejects Arbitration Court Ruling Under Indus Waters Treaty

**In the News:** India formally rejected a supplemental ruling by the Hague-based Court of Arbitration (CoA) convened under the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty. The ruling pertained to India's Kishanganga and Ratle hydropower projects in Jammu & Kashmir. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) denounced the court as "illegally constituted," labeling the CoA's action a "charade at Pakistan's behest," and declared its rulings null and void.

### Key Points

- **Rejection of Court's Legitimacy:** India stated it "never recognised the existence in law" of the CoA, calling its formation a "serious breach" of the Treaty. Consequently, any awards or decisions by this CoA are termed "illegal" and "per se void".
- **Context of the Supplemental Award:** The CoA ruled it had jurisdiction to examine the Kishanganga and Ratle dam projects—despite India's suspension of the Treaty following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.
- **India's Abeyance of the Treaty:** India placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance after terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, asserting that until Pakistan unequivocally ceases terrorism support, India is not bound by Treaty obligations.
- **Pakistan's Position & CoA Stance:** Pakistan requested arbitration. The CoA reaffirmed its competence to adjudicate disputes under the Treaty, including those pending via the Neutral Expert mechanism.
- **Escalation Post-Pahalgam Attack:** The ruling comes amid heightened tensions: India has put the Treaty on hold and Pakistan has warned against any unilateral actions involving the rivers governed by it.
- **Treaty Framework:** The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty delineates water-sharing via Eastern and Western rivers. It provides for a Permanent Indus Commission, Neutral Expert review for technical issues, and a Court of Arbitration for legal disputes—mutually invoked.
- **India's Mechanism Preference:** India prefers the Neutral Expert route and contends that Pakistan's approach of initiating CoA proceedings without India's consent violates the treaty's structure.

## National Statistics Day: 5 Things About P. C. Mahalanobis, Who Decoded the Stories Data Tells

**In the News:** India celebrates National Statistics Day on June 29, marking the birth anniversary of Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (1893–1972), acclaimed as the "Father of Indian Statistics" for founding the modern statistical architecture that underpins national planning and policymaking.

### Pioneer of Indian Statistical Institutions

- **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI):** Founded in Kolkata in 1931–32, ISI laid the groundwork for statistical research and education in India.
- **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO):** Established in 1950, revolutionizing large-scale socio-economic data gathering.
- **Central Statistical Organisation (CSO):** Set up in 1951 to coordinate data of all states, later integrated into the National Statistical Office.

**Inventor of Mahalanobis Distance:** Introduced in 1936, this statistical metric measures distance in multivariate data, widely used for cluster analysis, pattern recognition, and outlier detection.

**Architect of India's Second Five-Year Plan:** Using statistical models and operations research, Mahalanobis crafted the "Feldman–Mahalanobis model" in 1953, directing investment into heavy industries and shaping India's rapid industrialization. Served on the Planning Commission from 1955 to 1967, influencing economic policies and infrastructure development.

**Scholar of Real-World Applications:** Initially trained in physics, Mahalanobis shifted to statistics to address practical challenges in meteorology, agriculture, anthropology, and flood control. Emphasized the use of data as a tool for scientific progress and societal welfare.

**Legacy & Honours:** Awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1968 for his transformative contributions to science and national planning. In 2007, the Government of India designated his birth date as **National Statistics Day**, honoring his role in building the country's data foundation.

### Amit Shah Inaugurates Turmeric Board HQ in Nizamabad

**In the News:** On **June 29, 2025**, Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board headquarters** in **Nizamabad**, Telangana—a milestone long awaited by farmers after about **40 years of advocacy**.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Milestone:** After nearly four decades of campaigning, turmeric farmers finally saw their demands met. The Board was officially approved by the Centre on **January 14, 2025**, virtually launched by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, and its physical headquarters was inaugurated by Amit Shah recently.
- **Location & Leadership:** Situated in **Vinayak Nagar, Nizamabad**, the headquarters reinforces the city's stature as the **turmeric capital of India**. Amit Shah highlighted that a **Telangana native** has been appointed as the Board's chairman.
- **Objectives & Government Support:** Operating under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, the Board will focus on: **Quality enhancement, modern planting techniques, and research** with an allocated budget of **₹200 crore**. Strengthening the **entire turmeric value chain**—from planting material to branding, packaging, market access, and export promotion.
- **Market and Export Drive:** Amit Shah announced an ambitious target of **US\$1 billion** in turmeric exports by **2030**, aiming to elevate farmers' incomes by **₹6,000–7,000 per quintal** over the next three years.
- **Local Impact:** The Board intends to free farmers from intermediaries by providing **direct market linkages, training for harvesting**, compliance with **global standards**, and support from cooperatives like **Bharat Cooperative Exports Ltd.** and **National Cooperative Organics Ltd.**
- **Leadership and Political Commitment:** Amit Shah credited Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** for fulfilling the 40-year-old promise and reiterated the central government's dedication to the **welfare of turmeric farmers**.

### India Bans Jute Imports from Bangladesh via Land and Sea Ports

**In the News:** On **June 27–29, 2025**, India's **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** banned the import of specific **jute products and woven fabrics** from Bangladesh via **all land and seaports except Nhava Sheva**. This policy aims to prevent rerouting through informal channels and curb subsidized, low-cost imports undermining domestic producers.

#### Key Points

- **Scope of Ban:** The restriction covers a range of items—**raw jute, bast fibres, jute yarn (single and multiple fold), woven jute fabrics**, and allied textile products. Importantly, the **Nhava Sheva seaport in Maharashtra** remains the only legal entry point.
- **Rationale Behind Decision:** The move aims to **protect India's jute industry**—including farmers and mills—from **unfair competition**, especially subsidized Bangladeshi imports that bypass anti-dumping duties. There's also concern over **rerouting via third countries** to circumvent trade barriers.
- **Economic Disruption:** Land-route trade between India and Bangladesh is a cost-effective mode for small exporters. The ban forces a shift to sea routes, potentially raising logistics costs and delivery time, especially affecting exporters dependent on Kolkata and land routes.
- **Domestic Industry Impact:** Despite anti-dumping duties imposed earlier, Indian **jute prices dropped below the Minimum Support Price (₹5,335/quintal)**. Mills faced under-utilization and debt accumulation. This restriction is designed to stabilize domestic prices and revive jute mills.
- **Policy & Political Context:** The ban coincides with rising **India-Bangladesh tensions**—including geopolitical concerns and trade friction after statements by Bangladesh's interim PM Muhammad Yunus. India's action reflects both economic and strategic motivations.

### NIF Progress Report 2025

**In the News:** On **June 29, 2025**, marking the 19th **Statistics Day**, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the **National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2025**, highlighting India's progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through 284 national indicators covering 17 SDGs.

#### Key Points:



- **Annual Framework Publication:** NIF Progress Report 2025 presents **time-series data** sourced from line ministries and statistics agencies, serving as a key tool for **evidence-based policymaking**.
- **Social Protection:** Coverage under social protection schemes surged from **22% in 2016** to **64.3% in 2025**, reflecting broader access to safety nets like pensions, maternity benefits, and health insurance.
- **Agricultural Productivity:** Gross Value Added (GVA) per agricultural worker improved from **₹61,247 (2015–16)** to **₹94,110 (2024–25)**, indicating gains in productivity and rural incomes.
- **Access to Safe Water:** Rural population access to improved drinking water rose from **94.57% (2015–16)** to **99.62% (2024–25)**, nearing universal access.
- **Renewable Energy Uptake:** Renewable energy's share in electricity generation increased from **16.02% to 22.13%**, and per-capita installed capacity rose from **64 W to 156 W** between 2015–16 and 2024–25.
- **Waste Management Growth:** **Recycling of plants rose from 829 to 3,036**, and **waste processing coverage improved from 17.97% to 80.7%**, indicating major improvements in solid waste treatment infrastructure.
- **Start-up Ecosystem Expansion:** Recognized start-ups under "Startup India" increased from **453 in 2016** to **34,293 in 2024**, reflecting entrepreneurship growth.
- **Inequality Reduction:** Gini coefficients for household expenditure declined from **0.283 to 0.237 (rural)** and from **0.363 to 0.284 (urban)**, showing more equitable distribution.
- **Emissions Intensity & Digital Access:** Emissions intensity dropped by **36% (2020 vs. 2005)**, and internet subscriptions increased from **302 million to 954 million**, underlining strides in climate efficiency and digital inclusion.
- **Forest Cover:** Forest cover rose slightly from **21.34% (2015)** to **21.76% (2023)**, indicating consistent environmental improvement.

### India Commissions Second Project 17A Stealth Frigate in Record Time

**In the News:** On **July 1, 2025**, India's Navy welcomed **INS Udaygiri**, the second vessel under the advanced Project 17A (Nilgiri-class), built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL) in Mumbai. Delivered in just **37 months** from launch, this commissioning showcases India's rapidly advancing naval manufacturing capabilities.

#### Key Points:

- **Record Delivery Time:** INS Udaygiri was delivered in a swift **37 months** from launch—remarkable for a highly complex stealth warship.
- **Stealth & Design Enhancements:** The hull is about **4.54% larger** than earlier Shivalik-class (Project 17) frigates. It features advanced stealth shaping, reduced radar and infrared signature, and significant sensor upgrades.
- **Advanced Weapons & Sensors:** Equipped with supersonic surface-to-surface missiles, medium-range surface-to-air missiles (MR-SAM), a 76 mm main gun, and CIWS (30 mm + 12.7 mm). These systems represent a significant leap from Project 17 capabilities.
- **Propulsion & Platform Management:** Powered by a CODOG (Combined Diesel or Gas) system that drives controllable-pitch propellers, supported by an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) for operational efficiency and reliability.
- **High Indigenous Content:** The ship boasts over **75% indigenous systems and weapons**, developed by more than **200 MSMEs**, reflecting a strong push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- **Integrated Construction Approach:** Employs "block-stage pre-outfitting"—modules are substantially outfitted before assembly, reducing overall build time and increasing efficiency.
- **Warship Design Bureau Milestone:** INS Udaygiri marks the **100th vessel** designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau—emphasizing India's growing ship-design expertise.
- **Fleet Strengthening and Timelines:** Udaygiri is the second of **seven P-17A frigates** being built jointly by MDSL (Mumbai) and GRSE (Kolkata). The remaining five are scheduled for delivery **by the end of 2026**, bolstering India's blue-water naval capabilities.
- **Heritage & Legacy:** Named after the earlier INS Udaygiri, a steam-powered vessel decommissioned in August 2007 after 31 years of service, this ship continues the naval legacy in a modern avatar.

## India Achieves 78% Decline in Under-Five Mortality Rate, Surpassing Global Average

**In the News:** In its 2024 report, the UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) highlighted that **India achieved an impressive 78% drop** in its under-five mortality rate (U5MR) between **1990 and 2023**, well above the **global decline of 61%**.

### Key Points:

- **Under-Five Mortality Reduction:** U5MR fell **78%** in India vs. **61%** globally from 1990–2023. Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) declined **70%** in India compared to **54%** globally.
- **Zero-Dose Children Decline:** The share of children who have never received any vaccine dropped from **0.11% in 2023** to **0.06% in 2024**.
- **Immunization Programme Reach:** India's **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** annually vaccinates around **2.9 crore pregnant women** and **2.6 crore infants**, with **1.3 crore sessions** conducted by frontline health workers.
- **Strategic Campaigns:** Key initiatives include **Zero Dose Implementation Plan 2024** in 143 districts, and **Mission Indradhanush** which has immunized **5.46 crore children** and **1.32 crore pregnant women** since its intensification in 2017.
- **Broader Child & Maternal Health Gains:** Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) dropped by **86%** since 1990, now around **80 per lakh live births**, surpassing the global reduction of 48%. India also registered significant declines in infant mortality and stillbirth rates.
- **Global Recognition:** India's achievements have earned it international commendations—included in UNIGME's 2024 report and recognized for exemplary vaccine coverage.

## INS Tamal Commissioned in Kaliningrad

**In the News:** India commissioned **INS Tamal (F71)** at the Yantar Shipyard in **Kaliningrad, Russia**, marking a significant milestone in naval modernization. It is the **last foreign-built warship** inducted into the Indian Navy.

### Key Points:

- **Ship & Class:** INS Tamal is an upgraded **Talwar-class (Project 1135.6) "Tushil" variant**, part of the Krivak III design lineage. It is the **eighth Talwar-class frigate**—second of the Tushil batch.
- **Commissioning:** Took place on **1 July 2025** at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad. Ceremony led by Vice Admiral **Sanjay Jasjit Singh**, Western Naval Commander, alongside Russian and Indian dignitaries.
- **Crew & Command:** Manned by roughly **250 sailors and 26 officers**, commanded by Capt. **Sridhar Tata**, specialist in gunnery and missile warfare.
- **Missiles:** 8 × **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missiles, **Shtil-1** MRSAM via vertical launch system (2×12-cell, ~50 km range)
- **Guns & CIWS:** 1 × 100 mm A-190 main gun, 2 × AK-630 CIWS.
- **ASW Suite:** RBU-6000 rocket launcher, Heavyweight torpedo tubes.
- **Aviation Capabilities:** Can deploy **Kamov Ka-28 (ASW)** or **Ka-31 (AEW)** helicopters.
- **Engine Sourcing:** Equipped with Ukrainian-built **M7N1 gas turbines**, delivered late 2020/early 2021.
- **Combat Capability:** Designed for four-dimensional warfare: air, surface, subsurface, and electromagnetic—significantly enhancing India's blue-water operational reach.
- **Indigenisation Drive:** With ~26% local systems integrated, it reinforces the push toward **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, and serves as a bridge to domestically built platforms like the **Nilgiri-class (P-17A)** and future **Tripud/Tavasya** frigates.
- **Fleet Assignment:** Assigned to the **Western Fleet ("Sword Arm")**, homeported at **Karwar**, and will transit via overseas port visits on its return voyage.
- **Ceremony Highlights:** Joint **Guard of Honour**, signing of delivery document, lowering of Russian ensign, hoisting of Indian naval flag, Emphasis on India–Russia naval cooperation and India's shift to indigenous maritime strength.

## India's Research Development and Innovation Scheme

**In the News:** The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the **Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme** with an outlay of **₹1 lakh crore**, aimed at bolstering India's research and innovation ecosystem, particularly in sunrise and strategic sectors.

### Key Points:

- **Scheme Launch:** Approved by the Cabinet on **July 1, 2025**, under Prime Minister Modi's chairmanship. Designed to foster private sector-led R&D through long-term concessional loans and equity support.
- **Funding Goal:** Central corpus of **₹1 lakh crore**, channelled to innovation projects via a two-tier structure managed by ANRF—first through a Special Purpose Fund (SPF), then via second-level fund managers.
- **Financial Instruments:** Concessional long-term loans, potentially at **zero or low interest**. **Equity investments** especially targeting startups. Contributions to a **Deep-Tech Fund of Funds** for supporting emerging technologies.
- **Objectives:** Encourage private-sector RDI in **sunrise and strategic domains** to enhance self-reliance and national competitiveness. Finance projects at **advanced Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)** with transformative potential. Support **critical technology acquisition** in strategic sectors. Establish a **Deep-Tech FoF** to back emerging technology ventures.
- **Governance & Implementation:** **ANRF Governing Board**, chaired by the PM, provides strategic oversight. **Executive Council of ANRF** approves guidelines, recommends fund managers and project domains. An **Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS)**, led by the Cabinet Secretary, reviews performance and approves changes. **Department of Science & Technology (DST)** is the nodal executing agency.
- **Private Sector Focus:** Aims to bridge the gap in private R&D financing, which has traditionally lagged behind public sector investment, and foster commercialization-led innovation.
- **Strategic Impact:** Viewed as a game changer for India's innovation ecosystem—enhancing global competitiveness, economic security, and moving towards a self-reliant "Viksit Bharat by 2047."

## India Plans to Build More Oil Reserves for a Safer Future

**In the News:** The Indian government unveiled plans to construct additional strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) to strengthen the nation's energy security amid rising fuel demand and global geopolitical uncertainty. The expansion includes three new reserve facilities and enhancements at existing sites, aiming to bolster strategic stockpiles and move India toward International Energy Agency (IEA) membership.

### Key Points:

- **New Reserve Locations:** **Bikaner, Rajasthan:** 5.2–5.3 million tonnes of crude oil to be stored in salt caverns. **Mangalore, Karnataka:** Additional 1.75 million tonnes facility **Bina, Madhya Pradesh:** New facility with capacity yet to be determined
- **Existing & Approved Facilities:** Current SPR sites at Mangalore, Padur, Visakhapatnam hold 5.33 million tonnes. Approved expansions: 2.5 MMT at Padur and 4 MMT at Chandikhol (Odisha) .
- **Total Expansion Scale:** Combined increase of roughly 12 MMT—new 5.2–5.3 MMT at Bikaner, 1.75 MMT at Mangalore, plus additions at Padur and Chandikhol .
- **Energy Security Goal:** India currently maintains approximately 75 days' worth of oil consumption; target is to reach 90 days to meet IEA admission criteria
- **Strategic Rationale:** Aims to buffer against global oil supply shocks, such as geopolitical conflicts or price volatility, protecting the economy and maintaining fuel availability
- **Implementation Model:** SPR projects will be developed via Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), with ISPRIL collaborating with Engineers India Ltd and encouraging private investment for commercialisation

## Union Minister C.R. Patil Launches C-FLOOD, India's First Unified Flood Forecasting Platform

**In the News:** Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil inaugurated **C-FLOOD**, India's first unified flood inundation forecasting platform, as part of efforts to enhance the nation's disaster preparedness. The web-based system delivers up to 48 hours of advance flood predictions at village-level granularity.

### Key Points:

- **Platform Launch:** Union Minister C.R. Patil officially launched C-FLOOD on July 2, 2025, at Shram Shakti Bhawan in New Delhi.
- **Collaborative Development:** Developed jointly by Central Water Commission (CWC), C-DAC Pune, and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under the National Hydrology Project within the Jal Shakti Ministry and executed via the National Supercomputing Mission.
- **Forecasting Capabilities:** C-FLOOD provides 48-hour advance flood inundation maps and water level forecasts down to the village level.
- **Coverage Areas:** Initially includes the Mahanadi, Godavari, and Tapi river basins, with planned expansion to additional basins.
- **Technology Backbone:** Utilises advanced 2-D hydrodynamic modelling: Mahanadi simulations run on HPC infrastructure at C-DAC Pune, while NRSC processes Godavari and Tapi data.
- **Disaster Management Integration:** The platform integrates outputs from national and regional agencies, serving as a decision-support tool. Agencies are instructed to integrate forecasts into the National Disaster Management Emergency Response Portal (NDEM) and enhance forecast precision via satellite validation and ground-truthing.

### Karnataka Mis-Information and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025

**In the News:** The Karnataka government introduced the draft **Karnataka Mis-Information and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025**, which proposes sweeping measures to criminalize the dissemination of false or misleading content on digital platforms. This initiative has sparked widespread debate over its implications for free speech and constitutional rights.

#### Key Points:

- **Scope & Definitions:** **Fake News** includes misquotations, manipulated audio/video, and entirely fabricated content.
- **Misinformation:** covers statements made “knowingly or recklessly” that are false or inaccurate. The Bill exempts satire, comedy, opinions, and artistic expression, though the concept of a “reasonable person” is used, creating ambiguity.
- **Penalties:** **2–5 years** in prison for disseminating misinformation. **Up to 7 years** imprisonment plus **₹10 lakh fine** for fake news. **2-year term** for abetment of such offenses.
- **Regulatory Body:** A six-member **Fake News on social media Regulatory Authority**—chaired by the state Information & Broadcasting Minister, and including MLAs/MLCs, a bureaucrat, and two industry representatives—would oversee enforcement.
- **Special Courts & Enforcement Mechanisms:** Establishes **special courts** for handling cases under the law. Empowers the authority to issue **Correction** and **Disabling Directions** to platforms. Cases escalate to the police, triggering **non-bailable FIRs** and stringent bail restrictions.

### NCB's Operation-MED MAX

**In the News:** India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) revealed **Operation MED MAX**, a sweeping crackdown on a global pharmaceutical drug trafficking syndicate. Coordinated with international agencies, the operation led to eight arrests in India and triggered enforcement actions across the US and Australia.

#### Key Points:

- **Operation Initiation:** Began on May 25, 2025, when NCB officers intercepted a vehicle near Delhi's Mandi House, seizing 3.7 kg of Tramadol from two B.Pharma graduates.
- **Arrests in India:** Eight individuals arrested across Delhi, Jaipur, Roorkee, and Udupi (Karnataka). A call-centre in Udupi coordinated 50 international consignments.
- **Global Network:** Syndicate spanned four continents and over ten countries, with shipments to the US, Australia, Europe (Estonia, Spain, Switzerland), and back.
- **International Collaboration:** NCB shared intelligence with DEA and Interpol. This led to the arrest of a major re-shipper in Alabama (Joel Hall) and seizure of 17,000+ tablets, alongside a pill factory bust in Australia.



- **Modus Operandi:** Used encrypted platforms (Telegram), cryptocurrency, PayPal/Western Union, premium B2B vendor profiles, anonymous drop-shipping, and hawala channels. Repeat buyers were recruited as stockists.
- **Kingpin & Money Laundering:** The kingpin, based in the UAE, coordinated finances and shipments. An Indian-American financier in the US has been indicted.
- **Government Response:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised NCB as a model of multi-agency coordination and affirmed the government's zero-tolerance stance on drug cartels. The US Embassy also commended India's role.

### India Hosts 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities (Asia) under the CWC

**In the News:** From July 1–3, 2025, India hosted the **23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia** under the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** in **New Delhi**. Organized by the **OPCW** in collaboration with India's **National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC)**, the three-day gathering brought together **38 delegates from 24 Asian countries**, alongside representatives from the **OPCW** and **UNRCPD**.

#### Key Points:

- **Objective & Scope:** Aims to enhance **regional cooperation** in implementing the CWC. Focused on **legislative frameworks, chemical safety & security, industry engagement**, and the **role of emerging technologies (e.g., AI)** in CWC implementation.
- **India's Role & Leadership:** As an **original signatory** of the CWC (1997), India implemented commitments via the **NACWC**, established under the **Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000**. Hosted the meeting through NACWC within the **Cabinet Secretariat**, alongside **Ministry of External Affairs** officials.
- **Strategic Outcomes & Networking:** Enabled sharing of **best practices**, challenges, and solutions. Strengthened **bilateral and regional networks** among national authorities. India mentored **Kenya's National Authority** under the OPCW mentorship initiative.
- **Industry Engagement & Recognition:** The **Indian Chemical Council (ICC)** collaborated closely with NACWC. ICC received the **OPCW-The Hague Award 2024**, the first chemical industry body globally to be honored for promoting chemical safety and compliance.
- **Context of the CWC & OPCW:** The **Chemical Weapons Convention**, which **prohibits** development, production, and use of chemical weapons, took effect in **1997**. The **OPCW**, its implementing agency with **193 member states**, was awarded the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize** for its work in eliminating chemical weapons.

### Ministry of Coal Launches RECLAIM Framework for Just & Sustainable Mine Closures

**In the News:** On July 4, 2025, Union Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** launched the **RECLAIM Framework**, a structured model designed to guide **inclusive mine closure and repurposing**. Developed by the **Coal Controller Organisation** under the **Ministry of Coal**, in collaboration with the **Heartfulness Institute**, the framework seeks to facilitate a **just transition** for affected communities and ecosystems.

#### Key Points:

- **Launch & Context:** The framework provides a **step-by-step guide** for engaging local communities before, during, and after mine closures. It was formally unveiled on **July 4, 2025**, highlighting India's commitment to framework-based, sustainable mine closure.
- **Framework Overview:** RECLAIM stands for Revitalizing Ecosystems and Communities through Local Actions for Inclusive Mine-closure. It integrates ecological restoration, economic recovery, gender inclusion, and the active rights of vulnerable groups.
- **Community Engagement:** Incorporates local stakeholders and Panchayati Raj institutions in decision-making.
- **Toolkit Availability:** Offers actionable templates and methodologies tailored to Indian mining regions.
- **Gender & Vulnerability Focus:** Prioritizes inclusivity and equity across affected communities.
- **Ecological Restoration Goals:** Targets land reclamation, soil rejuvenation, and afforestation initiatives.
- **Socioeconomic Continuity:** Supports alternate livelihoods, capacity building, and livelihood diversification.
- **Collaborations & Expansion:** The Ministry has signed MoUs with the Heartfulness Foundation and entities like Coal India and SCCL to restore defunct mines in states like Telangana, Jharkhand, MP, and Gujarat, converting them into green spaces and sustainable livelihoods hubs.

### SC Upholds Legislative Authority of State

**In the News:** On **May 15, 2025**, a two-judge bench of the **Supreme Court of India** delivered its judgment in **Nandini Sundar & Ors. v. State of Chhattisgarh**, affirming that the enactment of a law by a State Legislature—even after a related judicial order—does not automatically amount to contempt, provided it conforms to constitutional norms.

#### Key Points:

- **Original Judicial Directive:** In July 2011, the Court had prohibited the use of inadequately trained Special Police Officers (SPOs) in anti-Maoist operations and ordered the disbanding of groups such as Salwa Judum for violating Articles 14 & 21.
- **Legislative Response by State:** In response, Chhattisgarh enacted the Auxiliary Armed Police Force Act, 2011, authorizing auxiliary forces under stricter conditions—such as six months' training, no combat deployment, and screening.
- **Supreme Court's Ruling:** Held that legislative enactment per se is not contempt of Court unless it is unconstitutional or ultra vires. Emphasized separation of powers, affirming legislative competence to craft laws even related to prior court orders. Reiterated that the judiciary can only test constitutionality, not penalize legislatures for law-making
  - **Constitutional Principles Reinforced:**
    - **Doctrine of Separation of Powers:** Legislature, judiciary, and executive operate within their domains.
    - **Judicial Review vs. Lawmaking:** Courts can invalidate a law if unconstitutional, but **cannot treat lawmaking as contempt**.

### Sub Lt Aastha Poonia Becomes First Woman Navy Fighter Pilot Trainee

**In the News:** On **July 3, 2025**, Sub Lieutenant **Aastha Poonia** was awarded the prestigious '**Wings of Gold**' at **INS Dega, Visakhapatnam**, marking her as the **first woman officer to enter the fighter stream of Naval Aviation**. She completed the **Basic Hawk Conversion Course** and will now undergo advanced training to qualify for **carrier-based fighter jets** like the MiG-29K and Rafale M.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Milestone:** Sub Lt Aastha Poonia's induction into the fighter stream shatters a long-standing **gender barrier** in the Indian Navy's elite combat aviation wing.
- **Training Achievements:** She completed the Second Basic Hawk Conversion Course at INS Dega and received the '**Wings of Gold**' from Rear Admiral Janak Bevli, ACNS (Air) .
- **Advanced Combat Path:** Poonia will now undergo a **year-long advanced training programme** to operate **MiG-29K** jets from aircraft carriers like **INS Vikramaditya** and **INS Vikrant**.
- **Nari Shakti & Inclusivity:** Her achievement exemplifies the Navy's commitment to **gender inclusivity** and empowerment of women ('Nari Shakti') in frontline combat roles.
- **Broader Context:** Sub Lt Poonia joins a growing legacy of women in combat aviation, following trailblazers like Lt Shivangi Singh in Navy patrol aircraft and Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth, and Mohana Singh in the Indian Air Force fighter stream .

## INTERNATIONAL

### G7 Nations Agree to Exempt U.S. Firms from Global Minimum Tax

**In the News:** At the **June 26–28, 2025 G7 summit**, the member nations agreed to a "**side-by-side**" approach that **exempts U.S.-headquartered multinationals from the 15% global minimum corporate tax** (Pillar Two). In return, the U.S. committed to removing its proposed retaliatory "revenge tax" (Section 899) from its domestic legislation

#### Key Points:

- **Side-by-Side System:** G7 countries endorsed a system where **U.S. parented firms are exempt** from the OECD's **Income Inclusion Rule (IIR)** and **Undertaxed Profits Rule (UTPR)**, recognizing their **domestic minimum tax mechanism (GILTI)**

- **Retaliatory Tax Withdrawal:** In exchange, the **U.S. Treasury**, led by Secretary Scott Bessent, pushed to **remove Section 899** from the “Big, Beautiful Bill”—a US tax proposal that would have penalized foreign countries targeting American firms
- **Revenue Protection for US Firms:** The exemption is expected to **save U.S. multinationals approximately \$100 billion over a decade**, avoiding potential **double taxation**
- **OECD’s Inclusive Framework:** While maintaining their role, the **G7 stated** that this side-by-side system will still require approval from **all 147 Inclusive Framework member states** to be globally implemented.
- **Geopolitical & Economic Implications:** The exemption reflects U.S. negotiating power and may influence future global digital tax regulations. For other G7 members, it ensures stability in international tax norms while protecting economies from U.S. retaliation.

### India–South Africa Submarine Cooperation Agreements

**In the News:** During the **9th India–South Africa Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** meeting held in **Johannesburg on June 23–24, 2025**, the nations signed **two key agreements on submarine cooperation**, reinforcing their bilateral defence relationship.

#### Key Points:

- **Strategic Institutional Forum:** The agreements were formalised under the **JDC framework**, which operates based on the **2000 MoU on Defence Cooperation**, co-chaired by the Defence Secretaries of both nations to strengthen ties through **defence policy, training, production, and R&D collaboration**.
- **Scope of Cooperation:** The submarine cooperation involves: Joint **operational sea training (OST)** programs, Shared **rescue and surveillance cooperation**, Collaborative **defence production and R&D** efforts, Implementation of **submarine rescue protocols and equipment exchange**.
- **Deep-Sea Rescue Support:** India will provide its **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV)** to assist South Africa in emergencies—building upon an earlier 2024 submarine-rescue implementation agreement.
- **Operational Training:** In May 2025, the first **joint submarine operational sea training** took place in Simon’s Town, where Indian and South African submariners conducted **block training** to enhance underwater operational readiness.
- **Maritime Security & Indo-Pacific Reach:** The partnership advances **blue-water naval capability across the Indian and Atlantic Oceans**, aligning with India’s maritime strategy and South Africa’s naval modernisation goals
- **Historical & Diplomatic Context:** The defence collaboration traces back to a 1996 MoU on defence equipment, deepening over decades via exercises like **IBSAMAR** and participation in forums such as **BRICS and G20**. The 2025 agreements further heighten strategic convergence.

### GPS Interference Threatening Flights, Ships

**In the News:** Recent incidents have raised alarms about increasing **GPS interference**—including both **jamming** (signal blocking) and **spoofing** (false signal generation)—which have disrupted flights and maritime navigation, especially near conflict zones like the **Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Red Sea**.

#### Key Points:

- **What Is GPS Interference? Jamming:** Emission of strong signals on GPS frequencies that overpower genuine satellite transmissions, causing receivers to lose location data. **Spoofing:** Transmission of counterfeit GPS signals that deceive receivers into locking onto false positions
- **Why It Matters:** For aircraft: GPS loss or deception can lead to **navigation errors, missed approaches, and relied-upon cockpit systems failure**, raising serious safety issues. For ships: It can cause **groundings, collisions**, and navigational mishaps due to loss of situational awareness.
- **Hotspots of Interference:** Regions near **conflict zones**, notably the **Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Eastern Europe, and Baltic Sea**, have reported sharp increases in spoofing incidents—up to **350% rise in Red Sea incidents**. In 2024, up to **430,000** jamming/spoofing incidents occurred—reflecting a **62% increase**.
- **Mitigation in Aviation:** Use of **backup navigation** systems: **Inertial Navigation (INS), VOR/DME, and Instrument Landing Systems (ILS)**. **Pilot training** on recognizing and responding to signal anomalies; air traffic regulators like **DGCA** have issued advisories.



- **Mitigation at Sea:** Manual navigation using **charts, radar, and terrestrial landmarks** when GPS is compromised. Shift toward **multi-GNSS receivers** incorporating **GLONASS, Galileo, and BeiDou** alongside GPS.
- **Technological Solutions: Layered Positioning- Navigation-Timing (PNT)** frameworks, combining GPS with terrestrial, quantum, or magnetic navigation systems like **NavIC, MagNav**, and authenticated GNSS signals. Research into **machine learning models** to detect spoofing/jamming with 99% accuracy rates.
- **Policy & Regulatory Response:** Regulatory bodies such as the **FCC** in the U.S. are exploring **alternatives to sole GPS dependency** to safeguard infrastructure. International bodies like **ICAO, ITU, and IATA** have recommended countries adopt **anti-jamming equipment, validated GNSS receivers, and issue standardized navigation guidance.**

### QUAD Launches First-Ever At-Sea Observer Mission to Boost Maritime Security

**In the News:** On **June 30, 2025**, the QUAD nations—**India, the United States, Japan, and Australia**—launched their inaugural “**QUAD at Sea Ship Observer Mission**” aboard the **USCGC Stratton**, marking a breakthrough in coast guard cooperation under the **Wilmington Declaration** agreed at the September 2024 QUAD Leaders’ Summit.

#### Key Points

- **Cross-Embarkation Missions:**
- Two officers, **including women**, from each QUAD nation are onboard USCGC Stratton on its journey to **Guam**, fostering exchange of best practices and joint operations at sea.
- **Mission Objectives:**
  - Enhance **interoperability and operational coordination**
  - Strengthen **maritime domain awareness**
  - Promote a **rules-based, inclusive Indo-Pacific**
  - Focus on **maritime safety, surveillance, and disaster-response readiness.**
- **Strategic Context:** Initiated under the **Wilmington Declaration**, the mission signals a shift in QUAD cooperation—from naval exercises like **Malabar** to **coast guard-level integration**, reflecting a holistic maritime security strategy.
- **India’s Role:** Participation aligns with India’s **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine and the **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, reinforcing its leadership in regional maritime diplomacy.
- **Future Expansion:** The mission is the first of its kind and lays the groundwork for **future at-sea observer operations**, aiming to build trust and resilience amid evolving regional maritime challenges

### G7 Nations Agree to Exempt U.S. Firms from Global Minimum Tax

**In the News:** G7 finance ministers reached an agreement to implement a “**side-by-side**” system, effectively **exempting U.S. (and U.K.) multinationals** from the 15% **Pillar Two** global minimum tax framework, in exchange for the U.S. removing its proposed retaliatory corporate tax (Section 899) from domestic legislation.

#### Key Points:

- **Side-by-Side System:** Under the deal, U.S.-headed companies are **fully excluded** from both the **Income Inclusion Rule (IIR)** and **Under-Taxed Profits Rule (UTPR)**, while still respecting U.S. minimum tax regimes like **GILTI**.
- **Removal of "Revenge Tax":** In return, the U.S. removed **Section 899**—a proposed retaliatory tax on foreign firms—fostering consensus and ensuring stability.
- **U.K. Firms Covered Too:** U.K. companies also benefit from this carve-out, gaining **certainty and relief** from potential extra international levies.
- **Conflict Over Fairness:** Critics argue the carve-out rewards U.S. firms at the expense of other multinationals and **undermines the original goal** of preventing profit shifting.
- **Effect on Inclusive Framework:** Though the U.S. withdrawal could destabilize the Pillar Two consensus, proponents say the **deal preserves core gains** and allows for further refinements within the OECD framework.
- **Impact Estimates:** U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent suggested the agreement could **save U.S. firms over \$100 billion** in overseas tax over a decade



## Why Elon Musk Is Calling for a New Political Party in the U.S.

**In the News:** In late June 2025, Elon Musk renewed his call to form a new U.S. political party—likely dubbed the “America Party”—in direct response to the Senate’s ongoing debate over Trump’s high-spending and debt-heavy “Big Beautiful Bill.” He contends the passage of this bill would cement a **bipartisan “uni-party”**, making both Republicans and Democrats complicit in excessive government debt and spending.

### Key Points

- **Catalyst: The “Big, Beautiful Bill”:** Musk blasted the Senate package—projected to add trillions to national debt—as a “disgusting abomination” and “biggest debt increase in history,” calling out supporters as shameless hypocrites.
- **What He’s Proposed:** Musk is exploring a centrist third-party—the “America Party”—to give voice to the “80% in the middle” he believes are unrepresented by either major party.
- **Political Weapons Deployed:** He has pledged to back primary challengers against incumbent Republicans supporting the bill and leverage his **America PAC** to influence elections.
- **Repercussions & Pushback:** Donald Trump accused Musk of undermining national interest, even threatening to review subsidies for Tesla and SpaceX and suggesting deportation if Musk persisted.
- **Rising Support from Centrists** Former Democratic presidential hopeful Andrew Yang expressed interest in formalizing Musk’s initiative, potentially merging it with the Forward Party

## Pakistan Assumes UN Security Council Presidency for July 2025

**In the News:** On **July 1, 2025**, Pakistan formally assumed the **rotating presidency** of the **UN Security Council** for the month of July, during its current two-year non-permanent term (January 2025–December 2026).

### Key Points:

- **Presidency Handover:** Pakistan begins its monthly presidency on **July 1, 2025**, rotating in accordance with the UNSC’s alphabetical order. It earned **182 out of 193 votes** as a non-permanent member.
- **Presidential Leadership:** Chaired by **Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad**, Pakistan promises **transparent, inclusive, rule-based leadership**, prioritizing **international law, multilateral cooperation, and conflict resolution**.
- **Major Events in July:** Under Pakistan’s chair: **July 22:** Open debate on “Promoting International Peace and Security through Multilateralism and the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes.” **July 23:** Open debate on the **Question of Palestine**. **July 24:** Briefing on “UN cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations,” including the **OIC**.
- **Strategic Context:** Pakistan intends to highlight its **diplomatic and peace-building credentials**, including its role in **Taliban Sanctions Committee** and Chair of the **Counter-Terrorism Committee**. India is reportedly planning a **photo exhibition** and will spotlight its contributions to the **UN SDGs** and highlight cross-border terrorism narratives.
- **National SDG Commitment:** Pakistan adopted the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as its **national agenda**, backed by a 2016 parliamentary resolution. The country uses SDG units at federal and provincial levels for implementation and tracking.
- **UN Cooperation:** The UN in Pakistan supports through the **Pakistan One UN Programme III (2018–2022)**, which aligns stakeholders and resources to meet SDG targets, emphasizing **policy alignment, monitoring frameworks, and finance mobilization through technology**.
- **July Relations:** During its UNSC presidency, Pakistan is expected to connect its multilateral diplomacy with SDG advocacy, spotlighting its green and development agenda.

## UN Sustainable Development Goals Index 2025: Top 10 Best and Worst Performing Countries

**In the News:** The **Sustainable Development Report 2025**, published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), ranks all 193 UN Member States on progress toward the 17 SDGs. Europe continues to dominate, while global progress remains off track, with only **17 %** of targets on track for 2030.

### Key Points:

**Top 10 Performers (2025):**

S. No.	Country	Score (2025)
1	Finland	87.0
2	Sweden	85.7
3	Denmark	85.3
4	Germany	83.7
5	France	83.1
6	Austria	83.0
7	Norway	82.7
8	Croatia	82.4
9	Poland	82.1
10	Czechia	81.9

- European nations occupy 19 of the top 20 spots.

**Bottom 10 Performers (2025):**

S. No.	Country	Score (2025)
158	Madagascar	51.0
159	Niger	50.3
160	Afghanistan	49.1
161	Sudan	49.1
162	DR Congo	48.2
163	Yemen	47.7
164	Somalia	46.1
165	Chad	46.0
166	Central African Republic	45.2
167	South Sudan	41.6

- Global Context:** No UN Member State is on course to fully achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030; only 17 % of individual targets are currently on track. East and South Asian economies like Nepal, Cambodia, and the Philippines show significant improvement since 2015.
- India's Progress:** For the first time, India has entered the top 100, ranking 99th with a score of 67.0 in 2025. A consistent ranking climb from 120th in 2021, 121st in 2022, 112th in 2023, and 109th in 2024. In Asia, India trails behind Bhutan (74th), Nepal (85th), Maldives (53rd), and Sri Lanka (93rd), but ranks above Bangladesh (114th) and Pakistan (140th). Other benchmarks: China (49th, 74.4 points); USA (44th, 75.2 points).

**Global Unicorn Index 2025: Top 10 Countries with the Most Billion-Dollar Startups**

**In the News:** The Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2025, released in June 2025 by the Hurun Research Institute, ranks countries by privately held startups valued at over US \$1 billion (unicorns). The global count has hit a record 1,523 unicorns, with a combined valuation of US \$5.6 trillion, reflecting the robust expansion of the global startup ecosystem

**Key Points:****Top 10 Countries by Number of Unicorns (2025):**

S. No.	Country	Number of Unicorns
1	United States	758
2	China	343
3	India	64
4	United Kingdom	61
5	Germany	36
6	France	30
7	Canada	28
8	Israel	20
9	South Korea	18
9	Singapore	18

- **Notable Figures & Trends:** USA added 55 new unicorns since January 2024–Jan 2025 . **China** added 36 new unicorns over the same period . **Global spread:** unicorns now spread across 52 countries and 307 cities—diversifying beyond traditional hubs .
- **Sector Mix:** Combined, **Fintech, SaaS, and AI** account for 31% of the unicorn population (Fintech: 197; SaaS: 151; AI: 128)
- **Country Highlights:**
- **United States:** Nearly half of all unicorns (758); major hubs include San Francisco (199 unicorns), New York (142), Boston, and Austin . Most valuable unicorns (e.g., SpaceX at US \$350 billion) are US-based
- **China:** Home to 343 unicorns centered in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou Heavyweights include ByteDance, Ant Group, and Shein .
- **India:** Ranked 3rd with 64 unicorns; key cities: Bengaluru (7th globally), Mumbai (22nd), Gurugram (27th) . Leading sectors: fintech, gaming, and ed-tech; top unicorns include Zerodha (~US \$8.2B), Dream11 (~US \$8B), Razorpay (~US \$7.5B)
- **Europe & Others:** **UK** (61 unicorns; London is 5th in global city rankings) , **Germany:** 36 unicorns, with Berlin leading (13th city rank), **France:** 30 unicorns (Paris 8th globally) , **Canada:** 28 unicorns (Toronto 24th city rank) , **Israel:** 20; Tel Aviv ranked 24th , **South Korea & Singapore:** 18 each

### Jio Becomes World's Largest Fixed Wireless Access Provider

**In the News:** In late June to early July 2025, analysts from ICICI Securities reported that Reliance Jio has surpassed U.S. telecom giant T-Mobile to become the **world's largest Fixed Wireless Access (FWA)** provider by subscriber count. As of May 2025, Jio's 5G FWA subscriber base, including unlicensed-band users, reached 6.88 million, overtaking T-Mobile's 6.85 million in March 2025

#### Key Points:

- **FWA Leadership:** In May 2025, Jio achieved 6.88 million 5G FWA subscribers, higher than T-Mobile's 6.85 million reported in March 2025 .
- **Subscriber Growth:** Reclassification of ~1 million unlicensed-band subscribers into FTTx brought Jio's net FWA base to 5.9 million in May, with a monthly gain of 0.74 million
- **Aggressive Expansion via AirFiber:** Launched in September 2023, Jio's AirFiber offers plug-and-play 5G broadband at affordable plans (starting ~₹599/month), rapidly connecting households and SMEs
- **Digital Inclusion:** With 5G coverage across ~98% of India, FWA extends high-speed internet to remote towns and villages, supporting education, healthcare, e-commerce, and online livelihoods
- **Market Share:** In India, Jio commands over 50% of total broadband (wired + wireless) market share, far outpacing Airtel's ~31%
- **Global Implication:** Jio's achievement underscores India's rising digital infrastructure and offers a model for developing nations aiming to leapfrog fiber deployment with 5G FWA

- **Momentum Towards Global Dominance:** ICICI Securities projects Jio will firmly hold the title of the top FWA provider worldwide by the end of June 2025

### 'PM Modi Honoured in Ghana with 'Order of the Star'

**In the News:** During his first visit to Ghana by an Indian Prime Minister in over 30 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with **The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana**, the nation's second-highest civilian honour, by President John Dramani Mahama

#### Key Points:

- **Prestigious Recognition:** Modi received the **Officer rank** of the Order of the Star of Ghana, awarded for distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership.
- **Dedication to Youth & Culture:** He dedicated the honour to the aspirations of India's youth, its rich cultural diversity, and the historical ties between India and Ghana. Modi emphasized that the award brings "new responsibility" for strengthening India-Ghana friendship
- **Historic State Visit:** This marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ghana in over three decades, during which a state banquet was hosted at Jubilee House, Accra .
- **Diplomatic Momentum:** During his visit (July 2–3, 2025), Modi and President Mahama elevated bilateral ties to a "Comprehensive Partnership," signing MoUs in areas such as cultural exchange, Ayurveda, trade standards, and ministerial dialogues.
- **Development Cooperation:** Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to Ghana's youth training, digital tech, healthcare, infrastructure, defence, mining, and support for Ghana's "Feed Ghana" agricultural initiative. India also plans to double trade and introduce UPI digital payments in Ghana .
- **Global Recognition Record:** This award adds to Modi's record-setting collection of international honours—29 in total—making him the most internationally decorated Indian leader.

### UN Women & the Global Gender Agenda

**In the News:** On the eve of landmark anniversaries—30 years since the 1995 Beijing Declaration and 25 years of UNSC Resolution 1325—**UN Women** sounded the alarm on a significant global rollback in gender equality. In its recent analysis, backed by data from over 150 national reports and surveys, the agency described this as a "historic and precarious moment" for women and girls worldwide .

#### Key Points:

- **Backlash in Progress:** Nearly **1 in 4 countries** reported regression in women's rights in 2024. A March 2025 global poll found a **60% increase in public concern** over stagnating gender-equality gains
- **Violence & Exclusion:** In 2023, around **85,000 women and girls** were killed—largely by intimate partners or family members. The number of women living near conflict zones surged by **50%** over the past decade, now exceeding 600 million. Between 2020–23, **80% of peace negotiations excluded women**
- **Economic & Digital Gaps:** Women earn **20% less than men** and perform **2.5× more unpaid care work**, averaging **4.2 hours/day** versus men's 1.7 .A digital divide persists—**277 million** fewer women accessed the internet in 2024, risking **\$500 billion** in GDP losses over five years
- **Milestone Anniversaries: Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action (1995):** A blueprint addressing legal rights, health, education, violence, political participation, and more.
- **UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000):** Pioneering resolution mandating women's involvement in peace processes, ending conflict-related sexual violence, and implementing gender perspectives in security .
- **UN Women's Mandate & Reported Data:** This year UN Women, marking its 15th anniversary, stressed the need to rejuvenate global commitments to gender equality across its key pillars: leadership, economic empowerment, ending violence, peace and security, humanitarian action, and governance . Their 2024–25 reports spotlight the critical role of gender data in guiding investment and policy—a trackable foundation for measurable progress



## Nvidia on Track to Become the World's Most Valuable Company in History

**In the News:** On July 3, 2025, Nvidia briefly reached a market valuation of **US \$3.92 trillion**—surpassing Apple's previous record—marking a significant moment in corporate history and positioning the company to become the most valuable ever.

### Key Points:

- **Market Valuation Milestone:** Nvidia's shares climbed to around \$160.98 in intraday trading, pushing its market cap to approximately \$3.92 trillion—exceeding Apple's all-time record of \$3.915 trillion from December 2024.
- **Proximity to \$4 Trillion:** It needs just a ~3% gain (to about \$163.93 per share) to break the \$4 trillion threshold, a milestone no company has reached.
- **AI Chip Dominance:** The surge stems from soaring global demand for Nvidia's advanced AI chips, used by major tech players like Microsoft, Amazon, Meta, Alphabet, and Tesla
- **Market Leadership Role:** Nvidia now accounts for ~7% of the S&P 500 index, meaning its stock fluctuations are significantly influencing broad-market performance.
- **Valuation Context & Forecasts:** Despite its nearly 8× stock increase since 2021, Nvidia still trades at a P/E ratio of about 32x expected earnings, suggesting continued earnings confidence. Analysts from Wedbush expect both Nvidia and Microsoft to hit \$4 trillion this summer and possibly \$5 trillion within 18 months.
- **Market Conditions & Risks:** The broader rally in the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, boosted by strong jobs data ahead of the July 4th holiday, further lifted Nvidia's stock. However, some analysts caution that enthusiasm around AI may be exceeding its actual ability to transform industries.

## Russia Becomes First Country to Officially Recognise Taliban Government

**In the News:** Russia officially recognized the Taliban government in Afghanistan by accepting the credentials of their ambassador in Moscow—making it the first country to extend full diplomatic recognition to the regime that seized power in August 2021.

### Key Points:

- **Historic Recognition:** Russia formally accepted credentials from Taliban ambassador Gul Hassan Hassan, marking the first official diplomatic recognition since the group's return to power.
- **Diplomatic Benefits:** The recognition paves the way for enhanced cooperation in trade, energy, transport, agriculture, infrastructure, security, counter-terrorism, and anti-drug efforts.
- **Policy Shift:** Earlier in April 2025, Russia removed the Taliban from its terrorist list, signalling a shift from informal engagement to formal diplomatic endorsement.
- **Geopolitical Strategy:** The move expands Russia's influence in Central and South Asia and consolidates a strategic partnership aimed at combating Islamist militant threats like ISIS-K.
- **Taliban Reaction:** Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi termed it a "historic" and "brave" step that could set a precedent for other nations.
- **International Response:** While Russia leads in recognition, countries like China, UAE, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran have engaged diplomatically or accredited envoys—though none have formally recognized the government. Western nations continue cautious engagement without recognition, citing concerns over human rights, especially women's rights

## Ancient Egyptian Genome Sequenced for the First Time

**In the News:** Scientists successfully sequenced the first complete genome from an ancient Egyptian individual— a man buried during the Old Kingdom (circa 2855–2570 BCE) in Nuwayrat—marking a historic milestone in archaeogenetics.

### Key Points:

- **Historic Genome Sequencing:** For the first time, complete DNA from an ancient Egyptian—an Old Kingdom-era individual—was extracted mainly from his dental tissue in a sealed pottery tomb, overcoming challenges of DNA decay in hot climates.

- **Identity & Lifestyle:** The individual, likely a potter from Nuwayrat, lived into his 60s, stood about 157–161 cm tall, and exhibited skeletal signs of heavy physical labour.
- **Ancestral Composition:** The genome revealed approximately **80% North African** ancestry and **20% Mesopotamian/Fertile Crescent** lineage, supporting archaeological evidence of early inter-regional contacts between Egypt and West Asia.
- **Genetic Affinities:** Analyses (PCA, ADMIXTURE, haplogroups) showed genetic similarity to present-day North Africans and West Asians, with mitochondrial haplogroup I/N1a1b2 and Y-chromosome haplogroup E1b1b1b2b typical of those regions .
- **Preservation Breakthrough:** Preservation of the DNA was enabled by the unembalmed burial in a sealed pot within a rock-cut tomb, which maintained cooler, stable conditions. Improved sequencing techniques and dental tissue sampling were critical .
- **Implications for History:** This genetic evidence confirms human migrations and cultural exchange alongside known trade and technological links uniting Egypt and Mesopotamia during pyramid-building eras. It provides a foundation for broader genetic studies across social strata in ancient Egyptian society.

### Quad Launches Critical Minerals Initiative to Reduce Dependence on China.

**In the News:** Between July 1–2, 2025, the foreign ministers of the Quad—Australia, India, Japan, and the United States—met in Washington, D.C., and announced the launch of the **Quad Critical Minerals Initiative**, aimed at securing and diversifying supply chains for critical minerals to counterbalance China's dominant position in the sector.

#### Key Points:

- **Inaugural Initiative Launch:** The Quad officially unveiled the Critical Minerals Initiative during their Washington meeting, emphasizing economic security and collective resilience in supply chains.
- **Diversification Drive:** The objective is to lessen overreliance on China for critical minerals and rare earth processing, as Beijing wields significant control and occasionally uses export restrictions for political leverage—recently restricting seven rare earth exports in April 2025.S
- **Strategic Rationale:** The ministers warned that dependence on a single nation exposes member countries to "economic coercion, price manipulation and supply chain disruptions," negatively impacting industries and national security.
- **Quad Cohesion & Context:** Led by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and joined by counterparts Penny Wong (Australia), S. Jaishankar (India), and Takeshi Iwaya (Japan), the meeting also flagged China's assertive actions in the East and South China Seas—without direct mention of China.
- **Corporate Engagement:** Over 30 private-sector firms from Quad nations convened in connection with the initiative to explore collaboration on mineral exploration, processing, and refining.
- **Broader Indo-Pacific Security Agenda:** The initiative forms part of a larger Quad agenda that includes maritime security, defence cooperation, and support for a free and open Indo-Pacific, reaffirming commitment amid regional tensions .

### India and Trinidad & Tobago Sign Six New Agreements to Boost Ties

**In the News:** On **July 4, 2025**, during Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** first official visit to Trinidad & Tobago since 1999, **six new MoUs** were signed in **Port of Spain** covering key sectors including **infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, quick-impact projects, sports, diplomatic training, and cultural exchange**. The agreements reinforce growing cooperation in health, digital innovation, agriculture, and security.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic Visit & Significance:** This was PM Modi's first bilateral visit in over 25 years, reaffirming the historic ties rooted in a shared Indian diaspora presence of over 35–40% .
- **Agreements Signed:** MoUs cover:
  - Pharmaceutical cooperation (Indian Pharmacopoeia);

- Infrastructure & Quick-impact Projects;
- Sports development;
- Diplomatic training;
- Cultural exchange (2025–28);
- Re-establishment of ICCR Chairs in Hindi & Indian Studies at the University of the West Indies.
- **Digital & Healthcare Cooperation:** Expansion of UPI adoption, DigiLocker, and e-Sign under India Stack; Donation of 2,000 laptops, haemodialysis units, sea ambulances, and a prosthetic-limb camp for 800 recipients; Enhanced medical support under the 'Heal in India' programme.
- **Diaspora & Global South Focus:** Extends OCI eligibility to the sixth generation of Indian-origin Tritonians; Forge stronger collaboration under Global South initiatives, including mutual backing in the UNSC reforms.
- **Broader Strategic Cooperation:** Enhanced collaboration in climate change, disaster resilience, cybersecurity, energy, agriculture, and defence; Mutual support pledged in counter-terrorism, Global South solidarity, and India-CARICOM partnerships.

### US Remittance Tax Introduced under Big Beautiful Bill

**In the News:** The US Congress approved the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, which introduces a **1% tax on certain outbound cash remittances** starting January 1, 2026. Designed to fund immigration enforcement and deportation efforts, this levy will primarily affect non-citizens and non-bank transfers, including many Indian NRIs sending money home.

#### Key Points:

- **Tax Introduction:** The bill's final version lowered the tax from an originally proposed 5% → then 3.5%, settling at **1%**, with **exemptions** for transfers via **US bank accounts, debit/credit cards**, and low-value transactions under **\$15**.
- **Impact on India:** India is the world's **largest remittance recipient**, receiving **≈ \$129 billion** in FY 23-24, with **~28% from the US**. A **1% tax** could reduce formal inflows by roughly 1.6%, potentially costing India up to \$500 million annually. However, the actual decline is expected to be limited, due to tax exemptions and the predominance of bank/card-based transfers by NRIs.
- **Cost and Behavior Effects:** The levy adds to existing transfer costs (~6%) and may push some users to informal channels (e.g., hawala, crypto) or urge pre-tax remittance surges in late 2025. Center for Global Development research suggests each 1% increase in transfer cost reduces remittances by ~1.6%.
- **Policy Implications:** The burden falls on Indian diaspora and recipient families, with limited global aid offset. For India, the cost impact is modest, yet the long-term effects on household resilience, education, and health outcomes could be more pronounced.

## ECONOMY

### India's Farm Output Hits ₹29.49 Lakh Crore in FY24: NSO Report

**In the News:** On **June 27–28, 2025**, the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, part of **MoSPI**, released its annual report titled Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011–12 to 2023–24). It revealed that India's **Gross Value of Output (GVO)** in the farm sector rose to **₹29.49 lakh crore** in **FY24**, marking substantial growth since FY12.

#### Key Points:

- **Growth Since FY12:** Farm GVO increased from ₹19.08 lakh crore in FY12 to ₹29.49 lakh crore in FY24—a **54.6% rise at constant prices**. GVA at current prices jumped about **225%**, from ₹15.02 lakh crore to ₹48.78 lakh crore over the same period.
- **Sectoral Contribution:** The **crop sector** dominated with ₹15.95 lakh crore, accounting for **54.1% of total GVO (constant prices)**. Cereals, fruits, and vegetables made up roughly **52.5%** of crop output.
- **Leading Crops & Regions:** **Paddy and wheat** contributed about **85%** of total cereal GVO. Five states—UP, MP, Punjab, Telangana, and Haryana—together generated nearly **53% of cereal output by value**.

- **Horticulture Highlights:** **Banana** overtook **mango** in fruit GVO (₹47,000 crore vs ₹46,100 crore). **Potato** remained the top vegetable, with GVO increasing to ₹37,200 crore. **Floriculture** nearly doubled, rising to ₹28,100 crore—signalling diversification.
- **Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries:** Livestock GVO nearly doubled from ₹488,000 crore to ₹919,000 crore; milk continues to lead, while meat's share rose from **19.7% to 24.1%**. Forestry output reached ₹227,000 crore, with industrial wood accounting for **70%**. Fisheries rose to **7.0% share of agri GVA**, overtaking inland fish production.

### India's Bank GNPA's Fall to Multi-Decade Low of 2.3%: RBI

**In the News:** On **June 30, 2025**, the Reserve Bank of India reported in its **Financial Stability Report** that **Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs)** of scheduled commercial banks dropped to a **multi-decade low of 2.3% as of March 2025**, down from 2.6% in September 2024. The RBI projected a slight uptick to about 2.5–2.6% by **March 2027** under baseline economic conditions.

#### Key Points:

- **GNPA Improvements:** GNPA's declined from 2.6% in Sep 2024 to 2.3% in March 2025. Despite this improvement, RBI forecasts a rise to approximately 2.5–2.6% by March 2027 in normal growth scenarios.
- **Explosion of Loan Write-Offs** Write-offs (including technical) rose to **31.8%** of total GNPA in FY25, up from 29.5% in FY24—driven largely by private and foreign banks. Public sector banks saw a marginal decline in write-off activity.
- **Stable Fresh Slippages:** Half-yearly slippage ratio (new NPAs vs. standard advances) stayed steady at **0.7%**, indicating controlled fresh deterioration.
- **Segment-Wise GNPA Trends:**
  - **Agriculture:** Highest GNPA share at **6.1%**.
  - **Personal loans:** Stable at **1.2%**.
  - **Credit cards:** PSBs at a high **14.3%**, private banks at **2.1%**.
- **Large Borrower Profile:**
  - Large borrowers account for **37.5%** of GNPA—reduced from 43.9% earlier. Their GNPA ratio dropped to **1.9% in March 2025** from 3.8% in September 2023.
  - No top-100 borrowers are currently classified as NPAs; they represent ~15.2% of total banking credit.
- **Macro Stress Scenarios:** Under baseline forecasts of 6.5–6.7% GDP growth, GNPA may increase modestly to **2.5–2.6% by March 2027**.
- Under severe stress scenarios, GNPA's could surge to **5.3–5.6%**, though banks' capital positions remain robust.
- **Capital Ratios & Resilience:** Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio was **14.6% in March 2025**, expected to stabilize near 15.2% by March 2027 (baseline), falling to ~12.5–12.9% under stress. All 46 banks exceed regulatory minimums under both baseline and stress conditions.

### RBI's Financial Stability Report

**In the News:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its **Financial Stability Report**, highlighting that India's financial system remains **resilient** amid global and domestic headwinds.

#### Key Points:

- **Asset Quality & NPA Levels :** Gross NPA ratio for 46 banks stood at just **2.3%** in March 2025, one of the lowest in decades. Projected to remain range-bound at **2.5% by March 2027** under normal growth; could spike to **5.3–5.6%** under stress scenarios. Stalled asset quality gains were driven by recoveries, write-offs, and restrained credit growth.
- **Capital Buffers & Bank Resilience:** Capital Adequacy (CRAR) across banks hit a record high of **17.2% in March 2025**, expected to ease slightly to ~17% by 2027. Stress tests confirm banks and NBFCs can withstand macroeconomic shocks—"adequate capital" remains intact.
- **Retail Loan Delinquency:** Rising stress observed in unsecured consumer credit—delinquencies higher in credit cards and microfinance segments.
- **Household Debt & Exposure:** Household debt at **41.9% of GDP**, below emerging market average (46.6%); non-housing loans form **54.9%** of household borrowings.



- **Sectoral Health Snapshot: Banks:** Strong earnings, robust capital buffers. Non-performing assets at multi-decade lows.
- **NBFCs:** Healthy capital adequacy, improving loan book quality
- **Insurance sector:** Solvency ratios remain comfortably above regulatory thresholds
- **Mutual funds & clearinghouses:** Demonstrated resilience in stress testing.
- **External & Global Risks:** Global uncertainties—trade fragmentation, geopolitical tension, climate change—heighten risk exposure. RBI advises regulators to remain “vigilant, prudent, and agile.”
- **Macro Outlook:** GDP growth forecast at **6.5% for 2025–26** and **6.7% for 2026–27**, underlining sound fundamentals. Inflation outlook remains **benign**; domestic drivers include strong agricultural output and easing food prices.

### Gujarat Joins One-Crore Club of Stock Market Investors

**In the News:** In early July 2025, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) confirmed that Gujarat has officially become the third Indian state—after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh—to surpass **1 crore registered stock market investors**, underscoring its growing retail participation in equity markets.

#### Key Points:

- **Milestone Achievement:** Gujarat crossed the 1-crore registered investor milestone in May 2025, joining Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh to form a powerful trio that accounts for **36% of India's total investor base**.
- **National Investor Base:** As of May 2025, the NSE reported that India had nearly **11.5 crore registered investors**. The month saw the addition of over **11 lakh new investors**, marking a **9% month-on-month increase** after four straight months of decline.
- **Regional Distribution & Growth:** North India leads with 4.2 crore investors, West India (including Gujarat) has 3.5 crore, South India 2.4 crore, and East India 1.4 crore. Over the past year, investor growth was highest in North (24%) and East (23%), followed by South (22%) and West (17%).
- **Growth Trend Over Time:** India reached 9 crore investors by Feb 2024, 10 crore by Aug 2024, and 11 crore by Jan 2025. From Feb to May 2025, average new additions slowed to **10.8 lakh/month**—down from **19.3 lakh/month** in 2024.
- **Gujarat's Decade-long Surge:** Investor registrations in Gujarat surged from ~20 lakh in FY 2015, to 38 lakh by FY 2020, and then jumped by 163% to reach the 1 crore mark by May 2025—driven by post-Covid IPO appetite, easier digital onboarding, and heightened awareness about wealth creation.

### SBI Opens New Global Trade Finance Centres in Kolkata and Hyderabad

**In the News:** On July 1, 2025, State Bank of India (SBI) inaugurated two **Global Trade Finance Centres (GTFCs)** in Kolkata and Hyderabad. These hubs aim to modernize and streamline the bank's import-export transaction processes using advanced digital technologies including AI, blockchain, and machine learning—to improve speed, safety, and compliance in global trade operations.

#### Key Points:

- **Launch of Trade Finance Hubs:** SBI marked its 70th anniversary with the launch of GTFCs in Kolkata and Hyderabad, staffed by over 800 specialists, to enhance trade finance capabilities and customer experience.
- **Digital Toolkit:** The centres will deploy AI/ML, blockchain, digitization of documents, and other digital tools to accelerate processing, strengthen compliance, and secure import-export workflows.
- **Scope & Functions:** These hubs will manage inland and international trade finance, centralizing standardized, paperless, and tech-driven solutions for faster turnaround and reliability.
- **Strategic Transformation Goal:** The launch is part of SBI's broader digital transformation and leadership strategy, emphasizing innovation, customer convenience, and operational efficiency in trade services.
- **Impact on Trade Ecosystem:** By streamlining trade finance, SBI aims to support exporters/importers, strengthen compliance frameworks, reduce execution timelines, and promote digital trade finance adoption across India.

## SBI Helps Add \$44 Billion to World Economy

**In the News:** In FY25, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** contributed approximately **US \$44 billion**—equivalent to **1.1 % of global GDP growth**—according to SBI's special report titled "*Kal, Aaj aur Kal*." This reflects SBI's scale and impact on the global economy, where India as a whole added US \$297 billion, about 6.7 % of the world's incremental GDP.

### Key Points:

- **Global Growth Contribution:** The world economy expanded by **US \$4.118 trillion**, with **India** contributing **US \$297 billion (6.7 %)** and **SBI** alone accounting for **US \$44 billion (1.1 %)** of that growth.
- **Domestic Economic Role:** SBI drove about **16 % of India's GDP growth** in FY25. It also contributed **8.7 % of the Gross Value Added (GVA)** in India's financial services sector, as its GVA rose by **5 % YoY**.
- **Scale & Reach:** SBI's total assets (~US \$0.77 trillion) now exceed the GDPs of **175 countries**, making it one of the **top 50 banks globally**. It maintains a **massive customer base (over 530 million)** and **23,000+ branches**, supporting its influential role in national financial inclusion.
- **Strategic Importance:** As the most profitable company in India for three consecutive years, SBI is central to major government initiatives—PMJDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY—and its digital platform **YONO** has over **88 million users**.

## ENVIRONMENT

### India Launches Pilot Scheme to Tackle Human-Tiger Conflict Outside Reserves

**In the News:** India's Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change approved a pilot scheme—funded through CAMPA—to manage increasing human-tiger conflict across areas beyond formally designated tiger reserves.

### Key Points:

- **Scope & Funding:** A one-year pilot (2025–26), later extended to 2026–27, with an outlay of around ₹88 crore (₹88.7 crore per some sources).
- **Geographical Coverage:** Targets 80 forest divisions across 10 to 17 states, selected based on recurring human-tiger incidents—approximately 30% of India's ~3,600 tigers live outside reserves.
- **Administrative Backing:** The National CAMPA executive committee granted in-principle funding; oversight and implementation managed by NTCA in collaboration with State Chief Wildlife Wardens.
- **Drivers Behind the Scheme:** Tigers dispersing due to habitat fragmentation and population growth
- Increased livestock predation and human fatalities (382 human deaths between 2020–24, with 111 in 2022 alone).
- **Monitoring & Protection:** Use of camera traps, AI-enabled early warning systems, satellite collars, and strengthened patrolling.
- **Capacity Building & Collaboration:** Training forest staff and veterinarians; forming rapid response teams and engaging local youth civil society; partnerships with expert veterinarians.
- **Prey Base Augmentation:** Improving natural prey availability to reduce livestock dependency.
- **Equipment & Infrastructure:** Procuring rescue vehicles, cages, immobilization kits, and technology tools like GIS systems.
- **Community Engagement & Awareness:** Outreach programs, volunteer forest camps, early warning networks, and involvement of panchayats.
- **Hotspots Identified:** Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Dudhwa & Pilibhit (Uttar Pradesh), Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Wayanad (Kerala), Kabini, and others.

### Adani Green Becomes First Indian Firm to Cross 15 GW Renewable Energy Milestone

**In the News:** In **June 2025**, **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** announced that it had crossed **15,539.9 MW (15.54 GW)** of operational renewable energy capacity. This marked the first time any Indian firm achieved this feat, placing AGEL among the **top 10 independent power producers globally**. **Key Points:**

- **Record Growth:** AGEL added ~5 GW in just **15 months**, marking the **fastest renewable capacity addition** by any Indian firm. During FY 2024–25 alone, it commissioned **3,309 MW**.

- **Capacity Composition:** The operational portfolio includes approximately **11,005 MW solar**, **1,977 MW wind**, and **2,557 MW hybrid wind-solar** projects across 12 states.
- **Households Powered & Emission Reduction:** This capacity can power around **7.9 million households** and offset approx. **28.6 million tonnes** of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly—equivalent to removing **6.3 million cars** or planting **1.36 billion trees**.
- **Contribution to National Targets:** AGEL now contributes ~**15%** of India's utility-scale solar, and ~**12%** of combined solar and wind capacity. It aims to ramp up to **50 GW by 2030**, including mega projects like the **Khavda hybrid park** in Gujarat.
- **Global Standing & Vision:** As India's largest renewables player, AGEL ranks among the **world's top 10 green power IPPs**. Its long-term vision includes **gearing up for AI-driven operations** to maintain rapid expansion.

### India Strengthens Submarine Cooperation Through IOR Agreements

**In the News:** On **June 23-24, 2025**, during the **9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting** in **Johannesburg**, India and South Africa signed two critical **submarine cooperation agreements**, marking a significant advancement in maritime defines collaboration within the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

#### Key Points:

- **Strategic Forum & Institutional Base:** Formalised under the **9th JDC**, operating since 2000 under a **Defence Cooperation MoU**, the agreements deepen collaboration in **training, research & development, and equipment sharing**.
- **Focused Submarine Capabilities:** India and South Africa agreed on cooperation in: **Operational Sea training (OST)**, **Submarine rescue protocols** and **shared equipment, Surveillance cooperation** and defence R&D. These efforts support both navies' **underwater readiness**.
- **Deep Sea Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Integration:** India's **DSRV** platform will now support **South African rescue tasks**, reinforce bilateral security capabilities and enhance maritime safety.
- **Joint Training Exercise Conducted:** In May 2025, both nations conducted their first **operational sea training** in **Simon's Town**, conducting specialized **block training** to standardize undersea operations.
- **Strategic Maritime Posture:** The agreements align with India's **blue-water naval aspirations** and bolster South Africa's efforts towards **naval modernization**—enhancing **maritime domain awareness** and operational presence.
- **Geopolitical Timing & Context:** These steps coincide with India's growing maritime focus in the IOR and increased naval collaboration under mechanisms like **IORA, Colombo Security Conclave**, and the **QUAD**. It underscores a strategic balancing act amid the region's evolving defense landscape.

### Kharai Camel

**In the News:** Recently, **four endangered Kharai camels**—including **two pregnant and two lactating females**—tragically **drowned** in a coastal swamp near **Jangi village, Kutch, Gujarat**, on **June 23, 2025**. This incident underscores the mounting threats to the species, primarily due to habitat loss from industrial expansion and destruction of mangrove ecosystems.

#### Key Points:

- **Unique Adaptation:** Known locally as the “**swimming camel**” or **Dariyataru**, the Kharai camel is uniquely adapted to **saline coastal environments**, capable of **swimming 3+ km** to graze on **mangrove islands**. It possesses **webbed feet** and a digestive system suited for salt-tolerant plants.
- **Conservation Status:** Classified as **Endangered** by the IUCN. Officially recognized as a distinct breed by India's NBAGR in 2015. Population estimates vary—around **4,000–6,200** across Gujarat, but sharply declining in Kutch (from ~1,952 in 2019 to ~1,096 in 2024).
- **Ecological & Cultural Significance:** Integral to coastal **mangrove ecosystems**, helping maintain their health. Central to the livelihood and identity of **Rabari and Fakirani Jat pastoralist communities** for over 400 years. Their milk is nutritious and may have therapeutic benefits.
- **Major Threats:** **Mangrove destruction** due to illegal salt pans, port expansions, cement plants, and industrial encroachment. Blocking of tidal creeks—a vital route for camel movements—further degrades habitat. Climate variability and erratic rainfall compound these stresses.



- **Population Decline:** Recorded drops in Kutch: from **1,952 (2019) to 1,096 (2024)**. Gujarat-wide counts range from **4,000 to 6,200** individuals, with concentration in coastal Kutch and pockets in South Gujarat.
- **Conservation Efforts:** **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** directives (2019–2025) ordering creek restoration and halting mangrove encroachment. NGOs like **Sahjeevan** and breeders' groups (e.g., KUUMS) are campaigning for camels' ecological and cultural rights. Legal recognition as endangered provides a framework for habitat protection.

### 50 Years of CITES

**In the News:** On **July 1, 2025**, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) commemorated its **50th anniversary** since entering into force on that date in 1975, marking half a century of regulating international wildlife trade to protect endangered species.

#### Key Points:

- **Origins & Entry into Force:** CITES was signed in March 1973 in Washington, D.C., by 80 countries and officially came into effect on **July 1, 1975** after the requisite 10 parties ratified the treaty.
- **Broad Global Agreement:** Now with **185 Parties** (184 countries plus the EU), CITES is one of the largest and most influential environmental treaties globally, overseeing trade in over **40,900 species** of plants and animals.
- **Core Objectives & Compliance Mechanisms:** The treaty ensures that international trade in wildlife is **sustainable, legal, and traceable** using a permit-based system across three appendices categorizing species with varying levels of protection.
- **Evolving Scope & Impact:** Over 50 years, CITES has expanded its jurisdiction — regulating over **30,000 species** initially to the current list, with frequent updates via Conferences of the Parties to include new endangered species like sharks, rays, turtles, amphibians, and trees.
- **Implementation & Conservation Successes:** The treaty has had tangible conservation outcomes — from reversing poaching trends in elephants and pangolins to regulating trade through programs like MIKE — earning acclaim as one of the most effective multilateral environmental agreements.
- **Future Directions & Strategic Vision:** CITES aims to further support Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 14 and 15), build capacity via digital systems like eCITES, reinforce traceability and legal compliance, and mobilize financing to bridge implementation gaps.

### Kariyachalli Island

**In the News:** Under the Tamil Nadu Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resources (TNSHORE) project, launched in mid-2025 with World Bank support, the Tamil Nadu government has initiated a **₹50 crore restoration project** to protect and regenerate **Kariyachalli Island** in the Gulf of Mannar—an ecologically significant marine islet that has lost over 70% of its landmass since 1969.

#### Key Points:

- **Ecological Importance & Threats:** Kariyachalli is one of **21 small islands** within the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park, one of India's four major coral reef regions and South Asia's first marine biosphere reserve. The island's area shrank from ~20.85 ha in 1969 to under 6 ha by 2018–24, with projections of full submersion by 2036 due to erosion, rising seas, coral loss, and seagrass degradation.
- **TNSHORE Restoration Strategy:** Deployment of **8,500 engineered artificial reef modules** (ferrocement & steel, 2–3 m high, 1.8–3 t) around the island to reduce wave energy, capture sediment, and foster marine habitat regeneration. Plantation of **seagrass** and restoration of resilient **coral species** to stabilize the substrate and revive biodiversity.
- **Restoration Timeline & Leadership:** Restoration began in May–June 2025, with reef-block deployment targeted for completion by September 2025, and ecological outcomes expected within a year, depending on environmental conditions. Designed by experts at **IIT Madras** and the **Suganthi Devadas on Marine Research Institute**, under the TN Environment Department led by Supriya Sahu.
- **Community Engagement & Livelihoods:** Over **300 local fishermen** from Tuticorin are being trained as conservation divers to install reef modules, gaining new skills and alternative income streams via conservation and ecotourism.



- **Conservation & Climate Goals:** This ₹50 cr project is part of a broader ₹1,675 cr Coastal Restoration Mission across 14 districts, aiming to strengthen climate resilience, preserve marine ecosystems, and support species like **dugongs**. Efforts include restoration of **corals and seagrass** (covering ~3 acre coral and 4 acre seagrass), designed to benefit both biodiversity and shoreline protection.

### EU Sets New 2040 Climate Target with Flexibility

**In the News:** On **July 2, 2025**, the **European Commission** proposed amending the EU Climate Law to adopt a legally binding 2040 target of a 90% reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels—building on the existing 55% cut target by 2030. The plan includes flexibility measures, permitting member states to use up to 3% international carbon credits or domestic removals from 2036 onward to meet the goal—a major shift from previous reliance solely on domestic emissions cuts.

#### Key Points:

- **Target Launch & Rationale:** Introduced to boost investor confidence and bridge the gap toward climate neutrality by 2050, with support from 85% of Europeans who view climate change as a serious issue.
- **Flexibility Mechanisms:** Allows up to 3% of total emission reductions to be offset by international carbon credits sourced from projects in developing nations. Supports use of domestic permanent removals (e.g. carbon capture, reforestation) in the EU's emissions trading system.
- **Support & Opposition:** **Governments & industry** welcome the pragmatic approach for cost-effective compliance. Environmental groups warn that the offset option may undermine domestic emissions reductions and compromise policy integrity.

## SPORTS

### Union Cabinet Clears New National Sports Policy to Boost India's Sporting Ecosystem

**In the News:** The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Modi, on **July 1, 2025**, approved the **National Sports Policy 2025**—also branded "**Khelo Bharat Niti**". The policy replaces the 2001 framework to transform India into a **global sporting power** and boost its chances of **hosting the 2036 Olympics**.

#### Key Points:

- **Policy Launch & Vision:** Introduced on **July 1**, the policy is built on **five pillars**: Excellence on Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement, Integration with Education (NEP 2020).
- **Elite Performance:** Focuses on systematic **talent identification**, world-class **coaching**, competitive **leagues**, and **sports science** infrastructure. Foreign-born Indian-origin athletes may be encouraged to represent India.
- **Mass Participation & Fitness:** Proposes **fitness indices** in schools, colleges, workplaces; campaigns like family weekends, yoga challenges, and community-level sports events to popularize fitness.
- **Infrastructure & Governance:** Plans for sports facilities in rural and urban regions, a **Sports Regulatory Board** to oversee federations, and reforms for **transparent, professional federation governance**.
- **Economic Engine:** Will promote **sports tourism**, **international event hosting**, growth in **indigenous sports equipment manufacturing**, and support **startups** via PPP/CSR-driven funding.
- **Social Inclusion:** Encourages participation from **women, tribal/economically weaker groups, PwDs, LGBTQ+** individuals; aims to revive **traditional Indian games**; integrating sports into **education** under NEP 2020 framework.
- **Technology & Monitoring:** Emphasizes **AI and data analytics** for performance tracking, with **KPIs and benchmarks** in a national monitoring system; urges states to model policies aligned with federal goals.

## STATIC

### Gaden Phodrang Trust

**In the News:** On the eve of his 90th birthday in early July 2025, the 14th Dalai Lama reaffirmed that the centuries-old institution of the Dalai Lama will continue. He announced that the **Gaden Phodrang Trust**—a non-profit established by him—will have **sole authority** to identify his future reincarnation, rejecting any role from China and any external interference.

#### Key Points:

- **Succession Confirmation:** The Dalai Lama confirmed his reincarnation tradition will carry on. He dispelled earlier suggestions that he might be the last and emphasized continuation.
- **Authority Vesting:** He stated clearly that **Gaden Phodrang Trust**, founded in 2011, will alone recognize his successor. The process involves consultation with heads of Tibetan Buddhist traditions, keeping with established customs.
- **Reincarnation Details:** The next Dalai Lama may be of any gender, likely born **outside China**, as part of maintaining religious freedom. Formal written guidelines will be issued by the Dalai Lama in due course.
- **Traditional Framework:** The Gaden Phodrang Trust will follow centuries-old Tibetan Buddhist methods—vision, signs, and consultation with High Lamas and Dharma Protectors—to identify the reincarnation. The Golden Urn ritual, once controlled by China, will not supersede this tradition.
- **Geopolitical Clash:** China claims the right to appoint the Dalai Lama via state-controlled rituals (e.g., Golden Urn), but the Dalai Lama's position rebukes this claim. India's government has backed the Dalai Lama's stance.
- **Global Reactions:** The U.S., EU, UN human rights experts, and Tibetan advocates have supported the Dalai Lama's assertion. They call for no government interference and stress religious freedom.

## SCIENCE & TECH

### SatSure & Dhruva Space to Offer End-to-End Earth Observation Solutions

**In the News:** On **June 30, 2025**, Bengaluru's **SatSure**, an Earth observation and data analytics specialist, signed a strategic **MoU with Hyderabad's Dhruva Space** to jointly offer **end-to-end Earth Observation-as-a-Service (EOaaS)**. The collaboration bridges SatSure's data analytics capabilities with Dhruva's satellite platform, ground infrastructure, and launch integration services.

#### Key Points:

- **Integrated Space Ecosystem:** SatSure's downstream analytics, powered through its subsidiary **KaleidEO**, will be seamlessly combined with Dhruva Space's upstream satellite platform development, launch services, and ground station infrastructure.
- **Sovereign Capability Focus:** Both firms aim to build a **vertically integrated, sovereign EO ecosystem**—enhancing India's ability to independently collect, analyse, and deliver satellite data with **faster mission timelines and reliable service**.
- **Sectoral Applications:** The EOaaS offerings will target high-impact segments like **defence surveillance, agricultural monitoring, smart urban planning, and environmental management**, supporting government and commercial users.
- **Strategic Infrastructure Expansion:** Dhruva Space is building a **280,000 sq ft spacecraft manufacturing facility** in Hyderabad to support satellite platforms up to **500 kg**, while SatSure enhances payload analytics via KaleidEO's optical and multispectral tools.

### Ananth Tech to Start India's First Private Satellite Internet

**In the News:** On **July 5, 2025**, Hyderabad-based **Ananth Technologies** received regulatory approval from **IN-SPACe** to launch **India's first private satellite broadband service**, using a domestically-built geostationary (GEO) communications satellite. The service is scheduled to roll out in **2028**, marking a major milestone in India's private-space ecosystem.

**Key Points:**

- **Regulatory Approval:** IN-SPACe has granted permission to Ananth Tech to launch satellite internet services by **2028**, enabling private-sector entry into the GEO satcom market .
- **Satellite & Investment:** The firm plans to deploy a 4-ton geostationary satellite with 100 Gbps capacity over India. The project is backed by an initial investment of ₹3,000 crore .
- **GEO vs. LEO Strategy:** Unlike LEO constellations (Starlink, OneWeb, Project Kuiper), which offer low latency but require many satellites, a single GEO satellite, positioned ~35,000 km above, will provide nationwide coverage—though at higher latency .
- **Private Sector Push:** This move reflects the impact of the Indian Space Policy 2023, which encourages private participation in space. Ananth Tech joins other global players like Starlink, OneWeb, and Jio Satellite Communications in the Indian satcom space.

