

## CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	12
Defence.....	17
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	20
Honours/ Awards.....	28
Sports.....	35
Obituary.....	40
Important Days with theme.....	44

**GEORGIANS  
DEFENCE ACADEMY**

## National

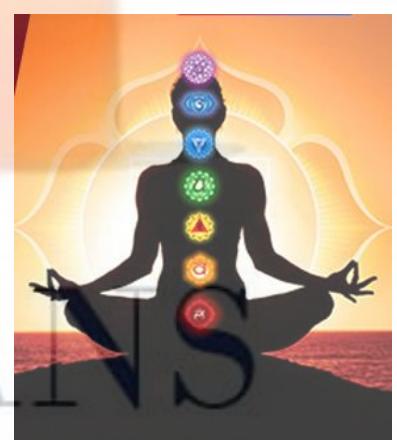
### India Launches 'Operation Brahma' to Aid Earthquake-Hit Myanmar

In response to the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28, **India** swiftly initiated **Operation Brahma**, aimed at providing urgent humanitarian aid. Within just 24 hours, the Indian Air Force (IAF) dispatched its **first** relief flight **C-130J aircraft** to Yangon, Myanmar.

- Its carrying 15 metric tons of essential supplies including medical equipment, shelter materials, and ready-to-eat food, to provide immediate relief to those affected by the disaster.
- India has dispatched two naval ships, **INS Satpura and INS Savitri**, carrying 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Yangon.
- Additionally, **INS Karmuk and LCU 52** from the Andaman and Nicobar Command departed on March 30, 2025, with 52 tonnes of relief material, including food, water, clothing, medicines, and emergency supplies.
- The Indian Navy continues to uphold India's role as the region's First Responder in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts.
- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led the mission, emphasizing India's "neighbourhood first" policy and its commitment to swiftly assisting neighbouring countries.

### PM Narendra Modi Announced 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health' as theme for 2025 Yoga Day

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi announced '**Yoga for One Earth, One Health**' as the theme for 2025 International Day of Yoga (IDY). The 1st ever IDY was observed **on June 21, 2015**, to raise awareness about the benefits of practicing Yoga, which is a 5,000-year-old ancient practice that originated from India.



- New Delhi(Delhi) based The Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), under the Ministry of AYUSH(Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy), has been tasked with organizing large-scale celebrations for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025. As part of the preparations, the institute launched the **100-day countdown to IDY 2025** during the Yogamahotsav event at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on March 13, 2025.

**i.**India proposed a resolution to declare IDY in United General Assembly (UNGA) which was endorsed by 175 member states.

**ii.**In December 2014, the UNGA adopted the resolution and proclaimed June 21 as IDY to be observed annually worldwide.

**iii.**In 2016, Indian Yoga was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**10 unique signature events to guide events to International Day of Yoga 2025**  
This year IDY activities will revolve around 10 unique signature events to mark the 11th edition of the global event, which makes it the most expansive and inclusive:

#### **India's external debt rises to USD 717.9 bn by December 2024**

At the end of December 2024, India's external debt rose to **USD 717.9 billion (bn)**, marking a **10.7% increase** from USD 648.7 billion in December 2023 as per according to 'India's Quarterly External Debt Report' released by the Ministry of Finance(MoF).

- The external debt increased by 0.7% on a quarterly basis, reaching **USD 712.7 billion in September 2024**. By December 2024, the external debt-to- Gross Domestic Product(GDP) ratio was 19.1%, slightly up from 19% in the previous quarter.

**i.**The valuation effect due to the appreciation of the **US dollar** vis-a-vis the rupee and other major currencies, such as the yen, the euro and Special Drawing Rights (SDR), amounted to **USD 12.7 bn** during the quarter ended December 2024.

**ii.**The central government's external debt saw a decline, the non-government sector experienced an increase.

- Among the non-government sectors, non-financial corporations held the largest share at 36.5%, followed by deposit-taking corporations (excluding the central bank) at 27.8%. The central government accounted for 22.1%, and other financial corporations held 8.7%.

#### **About Ministry of Finance(MoF):**

Union Minister– Nirmala Sitharaman (Rajya Sabha- Karnataka)

Minister of State(**MoS**) – Pankaj Chaudhary (Constituency- Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh, UP)

#### **Paradip Port Retained No.1 Spot in Cargo Handling Among Major Ports in FY25**

According to provisional estimates of the Indian Ports Association (IPA), (Odisha)-based Paradip Port Authority (**PPA**), formerly Paradip Port Trust, retained the **top spot in cargo handling** among Indian major ports and has joined the exclusive 150 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) by handling a cargo of **150.41 MMT** in Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25). This marks an increase of 3.5%, compared to 145.4 MMT in FY24.

- It is closely followed by Kandla (Gujarat)-based **Deendayal Port** saw an increase of over 13%, from 132.MMT (in FY24) to 150.15 MMT (in FY25) and Mumbai

(Maharashtra)-based Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (**JNPA**) saw a growth of 7.4% in cargo handled to 86 MMT.

i.The data showed that most of the 12 major Indian Ports recorded growth of **4.35%** in cargo traffic for FY25 to 855 MMT compared to 819.30 MMT reported in FY24.

ii.Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **Mundra Port**, India's biggest commercial port which is owned by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), has become the **1st Indian port** to handle over 200 MMT of cargo volume in FY25.

- Mundra Port has registered a growth of **11.5%** in cargo handling, to 200.7 MMT (in FY25) over the 180 MMT (in FY24).

#### **About Indian Ports Association (IPA):**

It is a statutory body constituted in 1966 under Societies Registrations Act. It aims to foster growth and development of all major ports which are under the supervisory control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).

**Chairman-** Rajiv Jalota

**Headquarters-** New Delhi, Delhi

#### **MoEFCC Report: Over 13,056 sq km of Forest Area Encroached in India; MP Leads**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) has submitted a report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), revealing that as of **March 2024**, a total of **13,056** square kilometers (**sq km**) (or 13,05,668.1 hectares) of **forest area** across 25 States and Union Territories (UTs) in India was under **encroachment**.

- This marks a significant increase compared to the **7,506.48 sq km** of encroached forest land reported in April 2023.

#### **State-wise Forest Encroachment Data:**

i.According to the report, **Madhya Pradesh** (MP) has the highest forest encroachment, covering **5,460.9 sq km**, followed by **Assam** with 3,620.9 sq km.

ii.The major states affected are Arunachal Pradesh (AR) recorded 534.9 sq km of forest encroachment, followed by Odisha with 405.07 sq km, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with 264.97 sq km, Mizoram with 247.72 sq km, Jharkhand with 200.40 sq km, and Chhattisgarh with 168.91 sq km.

iii.Other affected states include Tamil Nadu (TN) (157.68 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (AP) (133.18 sq km), Gujarat (130.08 sq km), Punjab (75.67 sq km), Uttarakhand (49.92 sq km), Kerala (49.75 sq km), Tripura (42.42 sq km), Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) Islands (37.42 sq km), and Manipur (32.7 sq km).

iv.10 States and UTs are yet to submit their forest encroachment data are Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Rajasthan, Telangana, West Bengal (WB), Nagaland, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.

#### **Recorded Forest Area (RFA):**

The Forest Area or Recorded Forest Area (**RFA**) includes land officially designated as

forest by the GoI under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, regardless of actual tree cover. It is divided into three categories:

- **Reserved Forests (RF):** Fully protected, with restrictions on activities like hunting and grazing.
- **Protected Forests (PF):** Some activities are allowed unless explicitly restricted.
- **Unclassed Forests:** Areas not classified as reserved or protected.

#### **About Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC):**

**Union Minister** – Bhupendra Yadav (Constituency -Alwar, Rajasthan)

**Minister of State (MoS)** – Kirtivardhan Singh (Constituency- Gonda, Uttar Pradesh UP)

#### **Sanjeev Chopra's book "The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India" Released**

A new biography, "**The Great Conciliator: Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Transformation of India**", authored by historian and former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Sanjeev Chopra**, has been released. It offers an in-depth look at India's second Prime Minister(PM), **Lal Bahadur Shastri**.

- Published by New Delhi(Delhi) based **Bloomsbury Publishing India** Private Limited, this book highlights Shastri's contributions to India's growth.

i.In this meticulously researched biography, Sanjeev Chopra delves into Shastri's political and administrative journey.

ii.The narrative sheds light on his pivotal role in establishing key national institutions such as the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

iii.Additionally, the book revisits Shastri's iconic slogan, "**Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan**," which encapsulated his vision for India's defense and agricultural sectors.

#### **Fourth Edition of IJR 2025: Karnataka Tops in Justice Delivery Among Large States, WB Ranks Lowest**

According to the fourth edition of the India Justice Report (IJR 2025) released on 15 April 2025, **Karnataka**(score – 6.78) has topped the list of 18 large and mid-sized Indian states (with population over 1 crore) in terms of justice delivery. It is the only state that fulfilled the reservation quotas for Scheduled Caste (SC), Schedule Tribes (ST), and Other Backward class (OBC) communities in both the police and judiciary.

- Karnataka is followed by Andhra Pradesh (AP)(6.32) at second place, Telangana(6.15) at third, Kerala at fourth, and Tamil Nadu (TN) at fifth among the large and mid-sized states in the IJR 2025.

i.Telangana made the biggest improvement, moving from 11th to 3rd place. West Bengal (**WB**) **ranked lowest** among the 18 large and mid-sized states. Karnataka got a score of 6.78 out of 10, while WB scored 3.63 overall.

ii.Among **smaller states** (with population upto 1 crore), **Sikkim** ranked **first**, followed by

Himachal Pradesh (HP) at second place and Arunachal Pradesh (AR) at third while Goa was at the bottom.

iiiThe India Justice Report (IJR) is an annual publication initiated by Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Tata Trusts in 2019**. The report evaluates how 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) of India are performing across four main pillars: police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid.

### **Telangana Becomes First Indian State to Implement SC Sub-Categorisation**

The Government of **Telangana** notified the implementation of the ‘Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservations) Act, 2025’, through a gazette notification, marking it as the **first state in India to implement sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes (SCs)**, also known as reservation within reservation, by classifying 59 SC sub-castes into three groups for reservations in education and employment.

- The Telangana Government based its decision on empirical data, including the social, economic, educational, employment, and political status of SC communities.

#### **Background:**

i.On August 1, 2024, a 7-judge Supreme Court of India (SCI) bench upheld the constitutional validity of sub-classifying SCs and Scheduled Tribes (STs) to ensure equitable reservation benefits.

ii.On March 18, 2025, the Telangana Legislative Assembly passed the SC sub-categorization Bill, aligning with the apex court’s verdict.

iii.The Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalisation of Reservation) Act, 2025 received the Governor’s assent on April 8, 2025, and was subsequently published in the Telangana Gazette on April 14, 2025.

#### **Three-Tier Categorisation:**

The SCs have been divided into three groups from a total of 59 sub-castes:

##### **1. Group-I (Most Backward Sub-Castes):**

- **15 sub-castes** (0.5% of Telangana’s SC population) are classified as “most backward.”
- Granted 1% reservation (double their population share) to enhance access to education and employment.

##### **2. Group-II (Marginally Benefited Sub-Castes):**

- **18 sub-castes** receive marginal benefits.
- Allocated 9% reservation.

##### **3. Group-III (Relatively Better Placed Sub-Castes):**

- **26 sub-castes** with better access to opportunities.
- Granted 5% reservation.

**Note:** Out of the total 59 sub-castes, 33 sub-castes continue in their earlier groups. Only 26 sub-castes, constituting 3.43% of the SC population, have been reclassified under the new categorisation.

### **Banarasi Shehnai & Other 20 Traditional Products from UP Received GI Tag; UP is No.1 in GI Tagging in India**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi awarded Geographical Indication (GI) certificates to **21 traditional products** from Uttar Pradesh (UP). Among them was the **Banarasi Shehnai**, a conventional musical instrument deeply rooted in Varanasi's cultural heritage, along with the **Banarasi Tabla** and **Banarasi Bharwan Mirch**.

- PM Narendra Modi handed over the GI certificate for the Banarasi Shehnai to **Ramesh Kumar**, a renowned artisan from Banaras or Varanasi (also known as Kashi), during a public event at Mehndi Ganj, UP.

i. With this recognition, **UP** surpassed Tamil Nadu (TN) to become the Indian state with the **highest number of GI tags**, holding **77 GI-certified products**. TN holds 69 GI-tagged products.

ii. Since the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, came into force in 2003, this was the **first time** in India that GI certificates for **21 products** were distributed at a single event by the PM.

- Of the 21 products, **9 recipients** are from **Varanasi (UP)**, highlighting the city's cultural and artisanal richness.

iii. In **UP**, notably, the **Varanasi** region alone accounts for **32 GI tags**, making it a global hub of GI-recognized items.

### **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates India's Largest Cruise Terminal 'MICT' in Mumbai**

Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), **flagged off Cruise Operations** from the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT), the largest world-class cruise terminal in India, located at Ballard Pier, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

- The event also featured the inauguration of renovated heritage buildings, **a Shore-to-Ship Electric Supply system** under the Green Port Initiative, and the Sagar Upvan Garden, alongside **MoU signings** worth **Rs. 5,700 crores** for infrastructure development at Vadhavan Port.

i. The event was attended by Union Minister of State (MoS) **Shantanu Thakur**, MoPSW; **Sushil Kumar Singh** (IRSME), Chairman of Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA); Adesh Titarmare, Deputy Chairman of MbPA; Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Chairman of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), and Dhruv Kotak, Managing Director (MD) of J.M. Baxi, among other dignitaries.

ii.MICT has been developed at a total cost of **Rs. 556 crore** under the **Cruise Bharat Mission** in line with global standards to promote cruise tourism in India.

### **Amarjit Singh Dulat launched his Book titled “The Chief Minister and the Spy”**

Former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief **Amarjit Singh Dulat** launched his latest book titled **“The Chief Minister and the Spy”** in New Delhi, Delhi. The book was published by **Juggernaut Books**.

- The book offers a personal and political account of Dr. Farooq Abdullah, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), through the perspective of a top intelligence official.

i.Amarjit Singh Dulat (born 1940) is a seasoned Indian bureaucrat, former spymaster, and served as the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).

ii.He served as an Advisor on Jammu and Kashmir in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) after his retirement from 2000 to 2004.

iii.He authored the widely discussed book **Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years** in 2015, and co-authored **“The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace”** with Asad Durrani, the former chief of Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in 2018.

### **India Celebrates 50 Years of Aryabhata – The First Indian Satellite**

India commemorated the **Golden Jubilee** of its first satellite, **Aryabhata**, marking **50 years** since its launch on **19th April 1975**. This milestone celebrates India’s entry into space exploration and the advancements achieved by the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) over the past five decades.

- The satellite was launched aboard a **Kosmos-3M rocket** from Kapustin Yar, Astrakhan Oblast, **Russia**, with assistance from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (**USSR**).

#### **Key Details of Aryabhata Satellite:**

- **Developed by:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the leadership of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai the founder of India’s space program, and Prof. U.R. Rao, the then Project Director.
- **Weight:** 360 kilograms(kg)
- **Design:** 26-sided polyhedron with a diameter of 1.4 meters(m)
- **Power Source:** 24 solar-panel-covered faces, generating 46 watts(W) of electricity
- **Purpose:** Conduct experiments in Solar Physics, Aeronomy, and X-ray Astronomy

#### **Significance of the Mission**

- i.Aryabhata made India the **11th country** to launch a satellite into orbit.
- ii.Despite a power failure after five days, it transmitted crucial data, aiding future satellite

development.

iii. The satellite re-entered Earth's atmosphere and burned up on **11th February 1992**, after nearly 17 years in orbit.

#### **Naming of Aryabhata:**

The name "Aryabhata" was chosen after the ancient Indian mathematician and astronomer by then Prime Minister(PM) **Indira Gandhi** from a list of three options: Aryabhata, Mitra and Jawahar.

#### **About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):**

**Chairman** – Dr. V. Narayanan

**Headquarters** – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Established** – 1969

#### **GoI Announced 5-Point Action against Pakistan After Pahalgam Terror Attack**

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) which is the highest decision-making body on national security in India, chaired by Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** has taken series of strict actions against **Pakistan** after terror attack that killed 26 people including a foreign national in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K).

- Following the CCS meeting held in New Delhi (Delhi), the Government of India (GoI) has implemented a **5-point action plan** which will impact Pakistan's infrastructure, diplomatic presence, and movement across borders.

i. GoI has decided to suspend the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), a key water-sharing agreement between Indian and Pakistan, with immediate effect.

ii. The government has also decided to close the integrated **Attari-Wagah Border** with immediate effect. It has clarified that individuals who have already crossed over with valid documents will be allowed to return that route before **May 01, 2025**.

iii. All Pakistani military, Naval and Air advisors stationed at Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi (Delhi) have been expelled.

- Also, GoI has declared these personnel '**Persona Non Grata**' and they have been asked to leave India within **one week**.

#### **HDFC Bank Becomes Third Indian Company to Surpass Rs 15 Lakh Crore m-cap**

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based **HDFC Bank Limited** achieved a significant milestone by surpassing a market capitalisation(m-cap) of **Rs 15 lakh crore**, becoming the **third Indian company** to reach this valuation after Mumbai based Reliance Industries Limited(**RIL**) and Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**).

- As of 31 March 2025, HDFC Bank's m-cap stood at **Rs 15,01,289.37 crore**, driven by steady share price growth and strong investor confidence.

### **Financial Highlights for Q4 of FY25:**

**i.Net Profit:** The bank reported a standalone net profit of Rs 17,616 crore for the fourth quarter of 2024-25(Q4 FY25), a 6.7% increase from Rs 16,512 crore in the same quarter the previous year.

**ii.Net Interest Income (NII):** NII rose by 10.3% year-on-year to Rs 32,070 crore, up from Rs 29,080 crore in Q4 of FY24.

**iii.Total Income:** The total income for the quarter stood at Rs 89,488 crore, marginally lower than Rs 89,639 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### **Odisha's Similipal Officially Declared as India's 107th National Park**

Mohan Charan Manjhi, Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha officially declared Similipal Tiger Reserve (TR) located in Mayurbhanj district as a National Park (NP). Now, Similipal TR has become **India's 107th National Park (NP)** and Odisha's 2nd protected area to be declared NP after Bhitarkanika (declared as NP in 1998).

- This newly declared NP is now the **largest NP in Odisha**, which spreads at an area of 845.70 square kilometer (sq. km).
- The Forest, Environment and Climate Change (FE&CC) department of Odisha issued a notification in exercise of powers given under **Section 35 (4) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

### **About Similipal NP:**

i.It is divided into two divisions: Similipal south wildlife division comprises 7 ranges including Pithabata North, Nawana South, Jenabil, among others.

- Similipal north wildlife division comprises 4 ranges including Barrehipani, Chahala, Nawan North, and Talabandh wildlife ranges.

**Note:** The word Similipal derives its name from '**Simul**' (**Silk Cotton**) tree.

ii.Similipal hosts more than 360 species of birds, 55 species of mammals including leopards, sambar, 62 species of reptiles and 21 species of amphibians.

- It is also home to 40 wild tigers, including the world's only home to wild melanistic tigers and is natural habitat for 25% of Odisha's elephant population.

iii.It is spread over 2,750 sq. km including around 2,306 sq. km that forms Similipal Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS).

iv.In 2007, the Odisha government had notified 1,194.75 sq. km of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) as the core critical tiger habitat.

### **'Beyond the Courtroom' By Fali S. Nariman Released**

'Beyond the Courtroom: Reflections on Law, Constitution, and Nationhood', written by the late Fali Sam Nariman, released. It is a curated collection of S.Nariman's most impactful speeches, groundbreaking articles, and enlightening lectures, reflecting the extensive scope of his legal and constitutional expertise.

- The book is published by New Delhi(Delhi) based **Hay House Publishers India Private Limited**.
- Divided into five sections (Nation, Judiciary, Constitution, Law and Arbitration) the book also advice young lawyers and tackles ethical questions.

#### **About Fali S.Nariman:**

- i.Fali Sam Nariman, born on 10 January 1929, was an Indian Jurist. He was a senior advocate, **Supreme Court of India**. He actively served as the nominated member of the Upper House of India's Parliament from 1999 to 2005.
- ii.He was appointed as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Geneva, Switzerland from 1995 to 1997.
- iii.He was a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration, Paris and later, its Vice-President from 1998 to 2005. He was elected as the President of International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ICCA) from 1994 to 2002.
- iv.He was awarded **Padma Bhushan** in 1991 for recognition of distinguished services in the field of jurisprudence and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2007 for the recognition of exceptional and distinguished services in the field of Public Affairs.

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# International

## **SpaceX Launched ‘Fram2’ Mission, 1st Human Spaceflight over Earth’s Polar Regions**

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (**SpaceX**) successfully launched ‘Fram2’ mission, which marks the 1st human spaceflight over Earth’s polar regions. The mission was lifted off aboard a **Falcon 9** rocket and Crew Dragon capsule ‘**Resilience**’, from Launch Complex-39A at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the United States of America (USA).



- The mission is named after Norwegian ‘**Fram**’ Ship which explored both poles in the early 20th Century.

i.The privately funded mission carried **4 astronauts** on 3-5 days orbital journey.

ii.During their 5-day journey in orbit, the crew will conduct 22 research studies, which will largely focused on how spaceflight and zero gravity affect the human body.

### **About Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX):**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)-** Elon Musk

**Headquarters-** California, the United States of America (USA)

**Founded-** 2002

## **Russia Unveils ‘Zircon’ Hypersonic Missile to Strengthen Naval Dominance**

Russia unveiled the ‘Zircon’ Hypersonic Missile, a cutting-edge weapon capable of reaching speeds of Mach 9 (over 10,000 kilometers per hour, km/h) at altitudes of 20 km. Zircon is described as a “*strategic asset*” representing a significant leap in military technology, capable of striking land, sea, and airborne targets with unmatched precision and speed.

- The **Zircon**, also called the **3M22 Zircon**, is a Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet-powered, nuclear-capable hypersonic cruise missile.
- It utilises the 3S-14 launch platforms on frigates and submarines, and the missile was first used during Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2024.

### **About Zircon Hypersonic Missile:**

i.The Zircon hypersonic missile was initially developed as an anti-ship missile, but it is versatile enough to strike ground targets as well.

ii. Its maximum strike distance is estimated to be around 1,500 km (932 miles), allowing long-range strikes, significantly extending Russia’s long-range strike potential.

iii. In March 2025, Russia officially launched “**Perm**”, a 4th-generation nuclear-powered attack submarine and the **first** Russian submarine designed to carry and launch **hypersonic Zircon missiles**.

### **About Russia:**

**President–** Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin

**Prime Minister (PM)-** Mikhail Mishustin

**Capital–** Moscow

## Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg top Forbes' 2025 richest people in world

Forbes released its '39th Annual World's Billionaires list', the definitive ranking of the world's richest people. **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla Motors topped the List with a net worth of **USD 342 Billion (bn)**.

- He is followed by **Mark Zuckerberg**, CEO of Meta with a net worth of USD 216 bn and at the 3rd place is **Jeff Bezos**, chairman and founder of Amazon.

### Key Points:

- i. In 2025 list features **3,028 billionaires**, the most since the list's inception in **1987**. The world's wealthiest people are collectively worth a record-breaking **\$16.1 trillion**.
- ii. **Mukesh Ambani** remains India's richest person and Asia's wealthiest, ranking **18th globally** with a fortune of **\$92.5 billion** from Reliance Industries.
- iii. **Gautam Adani**, chairman of the **Adani Group**, follows at **28th place** with \$56.3 billion. He is the fourth richest Asian, behind TikTok's Zhang Yiming (23rd, \$65.5 billion) and Nongfu Spring's Zhong Shanshan (26th, \$57.7 billion).
- iv. **Jensen Huang**, the CEO and co-founder of Nvidia, presently positioned at the 10th rank has entered the ranks of the top 10 richest people for the **first time**.
- v. The **US** topped the list with a record of 902 billionaires, followed by **China** with 516 billionaires and **India** at the 3rd position with 205 billionaires.
- vi. The richest woman of all is Walmart heir **Alice Walton**, whose fortune stands at an estimated \$101 billion. She reclaims the title from French L'Oréal heiress **Francoise Bettencourt Meyers**, who now ranks second, at \$81.6 billion.



## South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace Signed USD 253.6 million Deal with L&T to Export K9 Howitzer to Indian Army

Chagwon (South Korea)-based defence manufacturing company **Hanwha Aerospace Co., Ltd.** has signed **USD 253.6 million** or 371.4 billion South Korean won (KRW) agreement with Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Larsen & Toubro Limited (**L&T**) to export components of **K9 Vajra-T**, a 155 millimeter (mm), 52-caliber tracked self-propelled howitzers to the Indian Army (IA).



- The agreement was signed at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in New Delhi, Delhi, marking a major milestone in the defense partnership between South Korea.
- As per the agreement, the company will supply 100 K9 Vajra-T Howitzers to IA by **September 2030**.

- i. This latest agreement follows the successful delivery of the 1st –batch of 100 units ordered in 2017 under procurement agreement valued at **USD 310 million**.

- Of these 100 units, 10 were developed in South Korea and remaining 90 were assembled in India by L&T.

ii. These K9 Vajra-T howitzers will be manufactured in cooperation with Hanwha Aerospace at L&T's Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) located at Hazira near Surat, Gujarat.

#### **About Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T):**

It was initially founded by Holck-Larsen in partnership with Toubro in 1938.

- Later, it was converted into Limited company on February 7, 1946.

**Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)-** Sekharipuram Narayanan (S.N.) Subrahmanyam  
**Headquarters-** Mumbai, Maharashtra

#### **Katy Perry launches into space with all-female crew on Blue Origin rocket**

Pop star **Katy Perry** and five other women were launched into space on a Blue Origin rocket and came back safely to Earth. The New Shepard rocket launched from its site in West Texas, the United States of America(USA).

- This was the **first space trip with only women** in more than 60 years, after Valentina Tereshkova's solo journey in 1963.
- The singer was joined by Jeff Bezos's fiancée **Lauren Sánchez**, CBS presenter **Gayle King**, former NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) rocket scientist **Aisha Bowe**, civil rights advocate **Amanda Nguyen**, and film producer **Kerianne Flynn**.



#### **About the launch:**

i. This flight, designated as Blue Origin NS-31 and marks Blue Origin's **11th human spaceflight** and the first all-female spaceflight since Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space. She flew alone around the Earth for almost three days.

ii. The flight lasted about **11 minutes** and took the six women over 100 km (62 miles) above Earth. They crossed the internationally recognized boundary of space and experienced a few moments of weightlessness.

iii. The rocket came back to Earth with the help of parachutes, making a soft landing. The rocket booster also landed back in Texas.

iv. The spacecraft was fully automatic, so it didn't need any pilots. The crew didn't have to control it themselves.

#### **USA Emerges as India's Largest Trading Partner for 4th Consecutive Year in FY25: MoC&I**

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) released trade data showing that the United States of America (USA) continued to be **India's largest trading partner** for the 4th consecutive year in Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), with bilateral trade reaching **USD 131.84 billion**.

- In FY25, **China** was India's second-largest trading partner with total bilateral trade amounting to USD 127.7 billion, while the United Arab Emirates (**UAE**) ranked third with USD 100.5 billion in trade value.

i. **India's exports to the USA** grew by 11.6% in FY25 to **USD 86.51 billion**, compared to USD 77.52 billion in FY24.

ii. **Imports from the USA** rose by 7.44% to **USD 45.33 billion**, compared to USD 42.2 billion in FY24.

iii. The trade surplus in favour of India with the USA increased to **USD 41.18 billion** in FY25 from USD 35.32 billion in FY24.

#### **ACI's World's Top 10 Busiest Airports in 2024: Atlanta Airport topped, Delhi Airport Ranked 9th**

Montreal (Canada)-based Airports Council International (ACI) **World** released its Annual Rankings of the World's busiest Airports 2024. As per the report, Delhi Airport (DEL), named Indira Gandhi International Airport (**IGIA**) in New Delhi (Delhi) ranked at **9th** spot, among the world's top 10 busiest airports in 2024 in 'passenger' category. Over the years, Delhi airport has improved its ranking from 10th (in 2023), 13th (2021) and 17th (2019).



- IGIA saw passenger traffic of **77 million in 2024**, marking an increase of 7.8% compared to 2023 and 13.6% compared to 2019.

i. The United States of America, USA-based **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport** (ATL) continues to be the world's busiest airport, handling **over 108 million** passengers traffic in 2024.

- It is followed by Dubai (the United Arab Emirates, UAE)-based **Dubai International Airport** (with airport code: DXB) and USA-based Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.

ii. As per ACI World latest preliminary report, global passenger traffic reached nearly **9.5 billion** in 2024, representing an increase of 9% over 2023 and an increase of 3.8% compared to pre-pandemic levels (2019).

iii. The report further showed that the world's top 10 busiest airports accounting for **9%** of the total global traffic, (handling 855 million passengers in 2024), reflecting an 8.8% increase over 2023 and 8.4% increase compared to 2019.

#### **About Airports Council International (ACI):**

Director General (**DG**)- Justin Erbacci

**Headquarters**- Montreal, Canada

**Established**- 1991

**Members**- 830 members (as of January 2025)

### China Introduces Gold ATMs in Shanghai for Instant Gold-to-Cash Conversion

China introduced its first **gold ATM** (Automated Teller Machine), developed by Guangdong (China) based **Shenzhen Kinghood Holdings Group Company Limited**, offering a swift and paperless method for individuals to convert gold items into cash.

- This innovative machine evaluates, melts, and weighs gold items, determining their purity, and transfers the equivalent amount directly to the seller's bank account within **30 minutes**, without requiring any paperwork or identification.

#### Key Features:

- Eligibility:** Accepts gold items weighing over **3 grams** with a minimum purity of **50%**.
- Processing:** Melts gold at temperatures exceeding **1,200 degrees Celsius**(°C), conducts real-time purity checks, and calculates value based on current market rates.
- Fees:** A service fee of **18 yuan (approximately Rs 210)** per gram is deducted before the transfer.

### China Launches World's 1st 10G Broadband Network

China launched the world's first 10-Gigabit (10G) broadband network in Sunan County, Hebei Province, achieving a major milestone in its internet infrastructure.

- This initiative is a collaborative effort between telecommunications (telecom) giant **Huawei** and the state-run operator **China Unicom** to deliver faster internet access.

- The high-speed internet is powered by next-generation **50G PON** (Passive Optical Network) technology, a very advanced system that enhances data transmission capabilities over existing fibre-optic infrastructure.
- This infrastructure, likely powered by advanced fibre-optic technology and Dense Wavelength-Division Multiplexing (**DWDM**), sets a new global standard for internet connectivity.
- This upgrade boosts single-user internet speeds from gigabit to 10G levels and reduces latency to just a few milliseconds (ms).
- In tests, download speeds reached 9,834 Megabits per second (Mbps), uploads 1,008 Mbps, and latency as low as 3 ms.

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## Defence

### **4th Edition of India-US Naval Exercise ‘Tiger Triumph’ Commenced in Visakhapatnam**

Exercise **Tiger Triumph-25**, the 4th edition of bilateral Tri-Service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise between **India** and the United States of America (**USA**), commenced on the Eastern Seaboard on **April 01, 2025** and will continue till April 13, 2025.

- Also, the Harbour Phase of exercise commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP) on April 1, 2025 and will last till April 07, 2025 during which an Opening Ceremony with a joint Flag Parade and Media interaction was organised onboard Indian Naval Ship (**INS Jalashwa**).
- The closing ceremony of the exercise will held on board US Navy Ship **Comstock** at Vishakapatnam.

i. The exercise is aimed at developing interoperability for conducting HADR operations and framing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to set up a Combined Coordination Center (CCC) that would enable rapid and seamless coordination between Indian and USA Joint Task Forces (JTF) during exercises and crisis.

ii. Participants from both countries will engage in training visits, subject matter expert exchanges, sports events and social interactions.

- Under the Sea phase, the ships with troops embarked, will undertake maritime, amphibious and HADR operations off Kakinada.

#### **About Indian Navy (IN):**

**Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)-** Admiral Dinesh Kumar (DK) Tripathi

**Headquarters-** New Delhi, Delhi

**Founded-** 1950

### **IAF Participates in Multinational Air Exercise ‘INIOCHOS-25’ in Greece**

The Indian Air Force (**IAF**) participated in the **12-day** biennial multinational air exercise INIOCHOS-25, held from March 31 to April 11, 2025 at Andravida Air Base of **Greece**. The exercise is hosted by Greece’s **Hellenic Air Force**, took place in the historic region of Elis.

- This biennial exercise provides an opportunity to train in planning and executing Combined Air operations, refine tactics in complex air warfare scenarios, and exchange operational best practices.

#### **About INIOCHOS:**

i. The Iniochos exercise, named after the ancient Greek word for “charioteer” or “rein-holder,” is an annual multinational air training event that brings air and ground assets from **15 nations**, creating realistic combat situations to prepare for modern warfare challenges.

ii. Originating in the late **1980s** as a small-scale tactical drill, it has evolved into one of

Europe's most competitive and realistic air combat training platforms.

iii. It helps air forces sharpen their skills, share tactical knowledge, and build stronger military partnerships.

**Note:** The previous edition of Exercise INIOCHOS was held from April 8 to April 18, 2024 in Greece.

#### **About INIOCHOS-25:**

i. The IAF's participation in the exercise, with its **Su-30 MKI fighter jets** and **IL-78 and C-17** combat support aircraft, enhanced its operational preparedness and strengthened India's strategic ties with friendly nations.

ii. Apart from the Hellenic Air Force and the IAF, **other countries** taking part include: France (M-2000), Israel (G-550), Italy (Tornado), Montenegro (B-412), Poland (F-16), Qatar (F-15), Slovenia (PC-9), Spain (F-18), United Arab Emirates (UAE) (M-2000/9), the United States of America (USA) (F-16, KC-46, KC-135).

#### **About Greece:**

Prime Minister(**PM**) – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

**Capital** – Athens

**Currency** – Euro (EUR)

### **India, Tanzania co-hosted 1st edition of Multilateral Maritime Exercise 'AIKEYME' in Tanzania**

The inaugural edition of the multilateral exercise named 'Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME 2025)' which means 'Unity' in Sanskrit, a 1st of-its-kind initiative co-hosted by **India** and **Tanzania**, commenced in Tanzania on April 13, 2025 and will continue till April 18, 2025.



- The harbour phase of the exercise was jointly inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) **Sanjay Seth**, Ministry of Defence (MoD), India and Minister of Defence and National Service of Tanzania **Dr. Stergomena Lawrence** onboard Indian Naval Ship (INS) Chennai at Dar-es-salam, Tanzania.
- This initiative is in alignment with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision of promoting Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (**MAHASAGAR**).

**i. Participating countries:** The 6-day multilateral exercise saw participation from various African countries such as: Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa (SA).

**ii. Participating Units from India:** **INS Chennai** (destroyer) and **INS Kesari** (Large) reached at Dar-es-Salaam to participate in the exercise.

- Also, **INS Sunayna**, renamed Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR and sailed out from Karwar naval base on April 05, 2025 will participate in the exercise.

### **About Indian Navy (IN):**

**Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)-** Admiral Dinesh Kumar (DK) Tripathi

**Headquarters-** New Delhi, Delhi

**Founded-** 1950

### **India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI Commences in Pune**

The **6th** edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise(**DUSTLIK-VI**) commenced at the Foreign Training Node (FTN) in Aundh, **Pune (Maharashtra)**. The 13-day exercise is scheduled to be conducted from April 16- 28, 2025.



- The Exercise DUSTLIK-VI focuses on strengthening bilateral defence ties and refining counter-terrorism strategies in **semi-urban** environments.

### **Background:**

- i.The exercise, named 'Dustlik' (meaning '**friendship**' in Uzbek), is an annual bilateral event conducted alternately in India and Uzbekistan since 2019.
- ii.DUSTLIKVI facilitates the exchange of best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for subconventional operations. By strengthening defence cooperation, the exercise further augments bilateral relations and mutual trust between India and Uzbekistan .
- iii.The previous edition (**DUSTLIK-V**) was held in Termez District, **Uzbekistan**, in April 2024.

### **About DUSTLIK-VI:**

i.The DUSTLIK-VI exercise emphasizes Joint Multi-Domain Sub-Conventional Operations within semi-urban environments.

ii.The exercise simulates comprehensive counter-terrorism missions, including territory capture, establishment of a Joint Operations Centre at the battalion level, population control measures, raids, search-and-destroy operations, and coordinated use of air assets.

### **Participating Contingents:**

- **Indian Contingent:** Includes 60 personnel from a battalion of the **JAT Regiment** and the Indian Air Force (**IAF**)'s Garud (Special Force) personnel.
- **Uzbekistan Contingent:** Represented by personnel from the **Uzbekistan Army**.

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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### **Chandrasekaran Joined the IMF's Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth**

Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Tata Sons Limited's Chairman, **Natarajan Chandrasekaran**, was appointed to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth.



#### **About Natarajan Chandrasekaran:**

i. Natarajan Chandrasekaran, an Indian businessman, was born in 1963 in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu (TN).

ii. He served as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Executive Director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in 2009.

iii. In 2017, He became the Chairman of Tata Motors and Tata Global Beverages (TGB) after being appointed as the Chairman of Tata Sons.

iv. Natarajan Chandrasekaran assumed the chair of G20 India in 2022 and began leading the business agenda during India's G20 (Group of Twenty) presidency. He also served on the Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2016.

#### **About of Advisory Council:**

i. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) established the Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship and Growth in March 2025 to address global economic challenges, particularly declining productivity and sluggish growth.

ii. The council, led by IMF Managing Director (MD) Kristalina Georgieva, aims to shape macroeconomic and financial policies that drive productivity, innovation, and sustainable economic growth globally.

iii. The advisory council includes experts from business, finance, academics, and policymaking to share ideas and suggest ways to support innovation, entrepreneurship, and productivity.

### **About the International Monetary Fund (IMF):**

Managing Director (MD) – Kristalina Georgieva

Headquarters – Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA)

Established – 1944

Member Nations – 190

### **Shirley Botchwey becomes 1st African woman to be appointed Commonwealth Secretary-General**

Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, from Ghana, assumed office as the 7th Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations. With this, she has become the **first woman from Africa** to hold this office. Also, she is the second woman to take on the position.



- She succeeds **Baroness Patricia Janet Scotland** of Dominica who was appointed as the 6th Secretary-

General of the Commonwealth of Nations in November 2015, becoming the first woman to hold this position.

- She was appointed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government during their biennial meeting in Apia, Samoa, in 2024.

i.The Secretary-General is nominated by Commonwealth leaders and can serve up to two terms, each lasting four years.

ii.The role involves promoting and protecting the Commonwealth's values, representing the Commonwealth in public, and overseeing the management of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

#### **About The Commonwealth (Commonwealth of Nations):**

**Head** – Charles III

**Headquarters** – London, the United Kingdom (UK)

**Founded** – 1931

#### **CCI Chairperson Ravneet Kaur Gets Additional Charge as NFRA Chairperson for 3 Months**

The Government of India (GoI) appointed **Ravneet Kaur**, the **5th Chairperson** of the New Delhi(Delhi) based Competition Commission of India (CCI), with additional charge as Chairperson of the New Delhi based National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MoCA).

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment for **three months** starting **1 April 2025**, or until a regular appointment is made.
- The position became vacant after **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** completed his three-year term on 31 March 2025.

i.Ravneet Kaur served as joint secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).  
ii.She has served as Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC), Exim Bank (Export-Import Bank of India) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL).

iii.She was a consultant at International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C., (United States of America, USA) and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Cornell University, USA.

#### **Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi Appointed as President of ACC**

Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Chairman of Lahore (Pakistan)-based Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), was appointed as the new **Chairman** of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), during the ACC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held virtually.

- He will hold the position for two years, starting April 3, 2025.

i.He replaced **Shammi Silva** of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC),who assumed the ACC presidency in December 2024 after Jay Shah from India.

ii.His first major assignment is the Asia Cup 2025, which is scheduled to take place in September 2025.

iii. He is currently serving as Pakistan's Interior Minister, has been leading the PCB since February, 2024.

### **Justice Dinesh Maheshwari Appointed as Chairperson of 23rd LCI**

The Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) has appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice **Dinesh Maheshwari** as the **Chairperson** of the **23rd Law Commission of India (LCI)**, succeeding Justice (Retired) **Ritu Raj Awasthi**.

- Along with him, Advocate **Hitesh Jain** and Professor **D.P. Verma** have been appointed as **full-time members** of the 23rd LCI for a tenure extending until 31st August 2027.

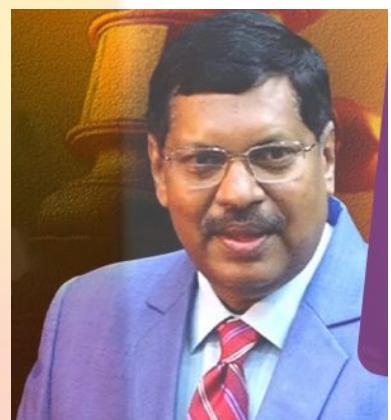
i. The 23rd LCI was constituted with effect from **1st September 2024** for a **three-year term**, following the conclusion of the 22nd Law Commission's tenure on 31st August 2024.

#### **ii. Key Objectives:**

- Identify obsolete laws and recommend repeals or amendments.
- Examine the feasibility of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) across India.

### **Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai Set to Become 52nd CJI**

Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna (BR) Gavai, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court of India (SCI), will take oath as the **52nd Chief Justice of India (CJI)** on **14th May 2025**. He will replace **CJI Sanjiv Khanna**, who retires on 13th May 2025.



- He will serve as CJI until his retirement on 23rd November 2025 and will be the **second Dalit CJI** after Justice KG Balakrishnan, who served from 2007 to 2010.
- The appointment was made as per the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), under which the Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J) obtains a recommendation from the outgoing CJI for the next appointment.

**Note:** The retirement age of SCI judges is 65 years.

#### **About Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai:**

i. Enrolled as an advocate in 1985, Justice BR Gavai worked under Raja S. Bhonsale (former Advocate General and Bombay High Court (HC) judge) until 1987.

ii. Practiced independently at the Bombay HC (Mumbai, Maharashtra) from 1987–1990, later shifting to the Nagpur Bench, specializing in Constitutional and Administrative Law.

iii. He served as Standing Counsel for Nagpur Municipal Corporation, Amravati Municipal Corporation, and Amravati University in Maharashtra.

**iv.** He was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the Bombay HC on November 12, 2005, and later elevated to the SCI on May 24, 2019.

**v.** He was a member of the five-judge Constitution Bench that upheld the abrogation of **Article 370** in 2023, revoking Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) special status, leading to its reorganization into a Union Territory (UT).

**vi.** He was also part of the 2024 verdict that struck down the Electoral Bonds Scheme and the 2023 ruling against illegal demolitions ("bulldozer culture") by states.

#### **Sourav Ganguly Reappointed as ICC Men's Cricket Committee Chairperson**

Former Indian cricket captain **Sourav Ganguly** was reappointed as the **Chairperson** of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Cricket Committee. He succeeded **Anil Kumble**, who completed the maximum permitted three three-year terms.

- The ICC Cricket Committees play a crucial role in shaping cricket regulations, playing conditions, and development strategies.

**i.** The committee includes notable former cricketers:

- VVS Laxman (India) – re-appointed
- Hamid Hassan (Afghanistan)
- Desmond Haynes (West Indies)
- Temba Bavuma (South Africa's Test and ODI captain)
- Jonathan Trott (former England batsman)

#### **Duro Macut appointed as new PM of Serbia**

Serbia's parliament appointed **Duro Macut**, a 61-year-old doctor and academic with no prior political experience, as the new Prime Minister (PM). He received 153 votes in the 250-seat Parliament, with 199 Members of Parliament (MPs) participating and 46 opposing.

- His appointment follows the resignation of former PM **Milos Vucevic** (President of Serbian Progressive Party (SNS)) on January 28, 2025, after SNS members assaulted a student protester in Novi Sad (Serbia).
- He was nominated by Aleksandar Vucic, the President of Serbia, who has been serving in the position since 2017.

#### **About Duro Macut:**

**i.** Duro Macut is a renowned endocrinologist, currently serving as Deputy Director at the Clinic for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases, part of the University Clinical Center of Serbia.

**ii.** He is also a full professor at the University of Belgrade Medical School, and lectures in Athens (Greece) and Skopje (North Macedonia).

iii. He is the President of the Serbian Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and a member of the Executive Board of the European Society of Endocrinology.

iv. In 2024, he was awarded the **Order of Karadorde Star**, the third-highest state order of Serbia.

#### **About Serbia:**

**President** – Aleksandar Vucic

**Prime Minister (PM)** – Duro Macut

**Capital** – Belgrade

**Currency** – Serbian Dinar (RSD)

#### **Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey appointed Vice-president at AIIB**

Beijing (China)-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) appointed **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** as the **Vice President of Investment Solutions**.

- He is responsible for providing strategic leadership and overseeing three critical departments: the Sectors, Themes and Finance Solutions Department (STF), the Sustainability and Fiduciary Solutions Department (SFD), and the Portfolio Management Department (PMD).

i. Ajay Bhushan Pandey is a Maharashtra cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer who retired in February 2021. Prior to his appointment at AIIB, Pandey served as India's **Finance Secretary** and **Revenue Secretary** in the Ministry of Finance (MoF).

ii. He also held the position of Chairperson at the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), where he strengthened auditing and accounting standards, attracting sustainable investments into India's economy.

- Before his tenure at NFRA, he chaired the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), the technological backbone of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

ii. His contributions have been pivotal in transforming India's digital and financial infrastructure. Notable initiatives include Aadhaar, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), GSTN, and the National Infrastructure Pipeline.

#### **About AIIB:**

- Established in **2016**, AIIB has 110 member countries.
- Total capital: **USD 100 billion**.
- India is the second largest shareholder after China.

#### **Mirabai Chanu Elected as Chairperson of IWLF's Athletes Commission**

Tokyo 2020 Olympic silver medallist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu was elected as the **Chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF)**, marking a significant step toward strengthening athlete representation in Indian weightlifting.

- Hailing from Manipur, she is the second Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic medal, following Karnam Malleswari.
- Two-time Commonwealth Games (CWG) gold medalist Sathish Kumar Sivalingam was appointed Vice-Chairperson, joining Mirabai Chanu for a 4-year term to give athletes a stronger voice in decisions.

#### **About Athletes Commission of IWLF:**

The **Athletes Commission of the IWLF** was newly formed in 2025 to act as a liaison between active athletes and the governing body. It aims to:

- Represent and advocate the interests of Indian weightlifters in administrative matters.
- Facilitate communication between athletes and IWLF officials.
- Address concerns related to athlete welfare and ensure uninterrupted focus on training and performance.

#### **Mirabai Chanu's Sporting Achievements:**

- Olympics:** Silver medal (49kg category) at Tokyo 2020 (Total lift: 210kg).
- Commonwealth Games:** Gold medals in 2018 (Gold Coast) and 2022 (Birmingham).
- World Championships:** Gold (2017) and Silver (2022).
- National Records:** 88kg (snatch) and 119kg (clean & jerk) in the 49kg category.

#### **Klaus Schwab Steps Down as WEF Chairman; Peter Brabeck Appointed interim Chairman**

Klaus Schwab, founder of the Geneva (Switzerland) based World Economic Forum (WEF), announced his resignation as Chairman and member of the Board of Trustees with immediate effect.

- Following Klaus Schwab's resignation, the WEF's Board of Trustees convened an extraordinary meeting, during which **Peter Brabeck-Letmathe**, former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nestlé S.A., was unanimously appointed as **interim Chairman**.
- Brabeck-Letmathe, an Austrian businessman, has been associated with the WEF as Vice Chairman of the Foundation Board.

**i.** Klaus Schwab, a German engineer and economist, founded the WEF in 1971, with the aim of fostering dialogue between political, business, and academic leaders to address global challenges.

**ii.** Under his leadership, the WEF became renowned for its annual meetings in Davos, Switzerland, which convene global leaders from various sectors to discuss pressing international issues.

**iii.** He founded Forum of Young Global Leaders (YGL) and co-founded the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

## **RIL Appoints Anant Ambani as ED; Becomes 1st Indian Company to Cross Rs 10 Lakh Crore Equity**

The Board of Directors of Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) appointed **Anant M. Ambani** as an Executive Director (**ED**) for a **five-year** term, effective from 1st May 2025, subject to shareholders' approval.

- Currently, he serves as a Non-Executive Director at RIL and has been actively involved in the group's energy and sustainability initiatives, where RIL targets becoming a net-zero carbon company by 2035.
- He plays a pivotal role in steering RIL's energy ventures, particularly focusing on green and Renewable Energy(**RE**) initiatives.

### **About Anant M. Ambani:**

- i.Anant Ambani becomes the first among the Ambani siblings to assume an ED role at RIL.
- ii.He has been a Board Member of Jio Platforms Limited (JPL) since March 2020, Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) since May 2022, and both Reliance New Energy Limited (RNEL) and Reliance New Solar Energy Limited (RNSEL) since June 2021.
- iii.He also serves on the Board of Reliance Foundation (RF) since September 2022.

## **RIL becomes 1st Indian company to cross Rs.10 lakh crore in total equity**

Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) reported record annual consolidated revenues of **Rs.1,071,174 crore** (approximately USD 125.3 billion) for the fiscal year 2024–25(**FY25**), marking a 7.1% year-on-year(**YoY**) increase.

- With this, RIL achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first Indian company to surpass Rs.10 lakh crore** in total equity .
- This follows its 2024 achievement as the first Indian firm to cross Rs. 20 lakh crore in market capitalization(**market cap**).

- i.This growth was driven by strong performances in its consumer businesses and oil-to-chemicals (**O2C**) sector.
- ii.Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) reported a 2.9% **YoY** increase in its annual consolidated Profit After Tax (**PAT**) and share of profit/(loss) from associates and joint ventures, reaching **Rs.81,309 crore** (approximately USD 9.5 billion).
- iii.The company also announced a capital expenditure of **Rs.131,107 crore** (about USD 15.3 billion) for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.

## **Thailand's Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul elected as new BWF President**

Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul of Thailand was elected as the new President of the Badminton World Federation (**BWF**) for the **2025-2029** term at the 86th BWF Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Xiamen, China.

- With this, Leeswadtrakul becomes the **second woman** to serve as president of the sport's global governing body, **after China's Lu Shengrong**, who held the position from 1993 to 2001.
- She **succeeds Poul-Erik Høyer Larsen** of Denmark, whose 12-year tenure has come to an end. Høyer was honored with the title of Honorary Life Vice President by the BWF membership at the BWF AGM.

**Note:** The 87th BWF AGM is scheduled to be held in April or May 2026 in **Horsens, Denmark**.

About Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul:

i. Leeswadtrakul, has served as the president of the Badminton Association of Thailand since 2013.

- Under her leadership, **Thailand** secured its **first-ever Olympic medal** at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**, with Kunlavut Vitidsarn winning a silver medal in the badminton men's singles event.

ii. She is member of the Executive Board of Thailand's National Olympic Committee.

iii. She is also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and an executive member of the Olympic Council of Asia.

#### **Other Appointments at the 86th BWF AGM:**

i. **Etienne Thobois of France**, BWF Council member and Paris 2024 Chief Executive Officer (CEO), was confirmed as the **Deputy President-elect of BWF**.

ii. **Richard Perot of France** elected as BWF Vice President (VP) for Para Badminton.

iii. 20 new BWF Council members have also been inducted, which includes Zhang Jun, president of the Chinese Badminton Association, and Tan Sri Mohamad Norza Zakaria, honorary life president of the Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM).

**Note:** The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Los Angeles, United States of America (USA).

#### **About Badminton World Federation (BWF):**

**President:** Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul

**Headquarters:** Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

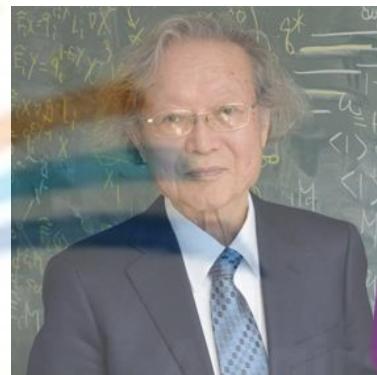
**Founded:** 1934

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## Honours/ Awards

### Japanese mathematician Masaki Kashiwara awarded the Abel Prize 2025

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters announced that renowned Japanese mathematician **Masaki Kashiwara** (78 year old) has been awarded the **2025 Abel Prize** in Oslo, Norway. He won this award for his fundamental contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory, specifically for the development of the theory of **D-modules** and discovery of crystal bases.

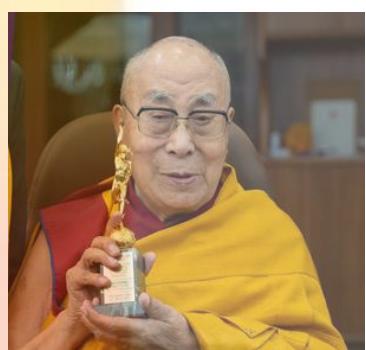


- With this, Masaki Kashiwara becomes the **1st** Japanese person to be awarded the Abel Prize, which is also known as '**Nobel Prize for Mathematics**' and **28th** recipient of this prestigious prize in the field of mathematics.

- Norway's King Harald V will officially present the Abel Prize to Masaki Kashiwara during an award ceremony which is scheduled to be held on May 20, 2025 in Oslo, Norway.
- The recipient of the award receives a cash prize of **7.5 million** Norwegian Krone (NoK) which is equivalent to USD 710,000, and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugan.
- The Prize is awarded annually by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, on behalf of the Ministry of Education (Norway).

### Dalai Lama Received Gold Mercury Award for Peace, Sustainability

Famous Tibetan spiritual leader his Holiness, **Tenzin Gyatso**, the **14th Dalai Lama** was conferred with Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Visionary Governance 2025, by London (the United Kingdom, UK)-based **Gold Mercury International**, the global governance think tank and historic award organisation, at his residence at Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh (HP).



- He received this honour in recognition of his lifelong commitment to peace, compassion, education and human rights.

- The Gold Mercury Awards are presented by Nicolas De Santis, President and Secretary General Gold Mercury International, which is established in **1961**, which is dedicated to promoting visionary governance, sustainable decision-making, peace, and international cooperation.

#### Dalai Lama – Awards & Honours:

Nobel Peace Prize: 1989

Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership: 1959

PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award: 2024

#### About Gold Mercury International:

ii. The Gold Mercury International recognizes world leaders, individuals, companies, and organisations worldwide across **8** different award categories such as: Global Health, Global Science & Technology, Global Culture, Global Resources, Global Economic & Social Policy, Global Peace & Security, Global Environment, and International Law & Humanitarian Affairs.

iii. Some of famous recipients who had received the award: Former Presidents of United States of America (USA) Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford for their diplomatic efforts on nuclear disarmament;

### **Former England Fast Bowler James Anderson Awarded ‘Knighthood’ for His Services to Cricket**

Former England fast bowler **Sir James Michael Anderson** has been awarded a ‘**Knighthood**’, one of the greatest honours conferred by the British Monarchy or Commonwealth nations, for his ‘services to cricket’.



- He received this award as part of former Prime Minister (PM) of the United Kingdom (UK) **Rishi Sunak’s** resignation honours list.
- Sir James Anderson is the only sportsperson to feature in the list. He is the 13th England cricketer to be awarded a knighthood for services to cricket.

#### **About PM’s Resignation Honours:**

i. These are honours bestowed at the behest of an outgoing UK PM after his resignation.

ii. An outgoing PM may request the reigning British monarch to award peerages, knighthoods, damehoods or any other awards in the British honours system to any number of people.

iii. Some of the legendary cricketers who were awarded with knighthood: Australia legend Sir Donald Bradman (1949), West Indies Sir Garfield Sobers (1975), West Indies Sir Everton Weekes (1995) and West Indies Sir Vivian Richards (1999).

#### **About Sir James Anderson:**

i. Sir James Anderson made his 1st appearance for the England cricket team in a One-Day International (ODI) against Australia in December 2002.

ii. He debuted in test cricket format in **2003** against Zimbabwe at Lord’s (England) and took 5 wickets in his 1st innings.

iii. Over 2 decade long career in international cricket, he played 188 test matches, 194 ODIs, and 19 Twenty20 International (T20I) for England and took total 991 wickets across all formats of cricket.

iv. In July 2024, Anderson retired from international cricket as the most successful Test seamer with **704 wickets** in a career spanning 21 years.

- Also, he is the 3rd bowler on the all-time list for test wickets only after Australia’s Shane Warne (708) and Sri Lanka’s Muttiah Muralitharan (800).

### 11th Annual Breakthrough Prizes 2025: University of Jammu Recognized

The 11th annual Breakthrough Prizes, also known as the **Oscars® of Science**, were announced by the Breakthrough Prize Foundation during a grand ceremony in Santa Monica, California, the United States of America (USA). The event was held to celebrate extraordinary contributions in the fields of science and mathematics.

- The High Energy Physics Group from the Department of Physics, **University of Jammu**, in Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir, J&K) was recognized as part of the international team awarded the **Breakthrough Prize 2025 in Fundamental Physics**. The recognition highlights the University's significant role in global scientific advancements.
- The Breakthrough Prize, established in **2013**, seeks to honor and celebrate scientists. This year, Six Breakthrough Prizes of **USD 3 million** each were awarded in the fields of **Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics, and Mathematics**.

### 2025 Breakthrough Prizes:

- i. The 2025 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was granted to **13,508** physicists. Among the recipients were members of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University (**SBU**) based in New York, USA.
- ii. Eight early-career physicists and mathematicians received **six New Horizons Prizes**, each worth USD 100,000.
- iii. Three women mathematicians who recently completed their PhDs (Doctor of Philosophy) were each awarded the **Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize** of USD 50,000.
- iv. The total prize money awarded this year is **USD 18.75 million**.

### TIME Revealed 2025 TIME 100 List of Most Influential People in the World; No Indian Featured on the List

New York (the United States of America, USA)-based **TIME**, the 102-year-old global media brand has revealed the 22nd edition of annual “TIME 100 Most Influential People 2025” in the world. This latest edition of the list has covered global figures from a wide range of fields like: politics, entertainment, science, and business, each recognised for their significant impact and contributions in their respective fields over the last one year.

- This year no Indian names have been featured on the list.
- However, Indian origin **Reshma Kewalramani**, Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of Boston, Massachusetts (USA)-based Vertex Pharmaceuticals Limited featured on the list in the ‘Leaders’ category.

- i. The List has been divided into **6** different categories: Leaders, Icons, Artists, Innovators, Pioneers and Titans.
- ii. This year’s list was released with **5 international covers**, each featuring a standout personality: Acclaimed American Actor Demi Moore (Icons category), former American tennis player and 4-time Olympic Gold Medalist Serena Jameka Williams (Titans), American rapper Snoop Dogg (Innovator), famous British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran (Artists) and

Demis Hassabis, CEO of the United Kingdom (UK)-based Google DeepMind (Pioneers).

iii.22 years-old Olympic swimmer **Leon Marchand** (France), is the youngest person on this year's list in 'Icons' category.

- While, Nobel Peace Prize winner **Muhammad Yunus** (84 years old), Chief Advisor of Bangladesh is the oldest person featured on the list in 'Leaders' category.

#### **About TIME Magazine:**

Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**)- Jessica Sibley

**Headquarters-** New York, United States of America (USA)

**Founded-** 1923

#### **WEF 2025 Young Global Leaders: 7 Indians Honoured, Including Union Minister Ram Mohan Naidu & OYO's Ritesh Agarwal**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) released the 2025 list of Young Global Leaders (YGL), recognizing 116 leaders under the age of 40 from around 50 countries who have significantly contributed to various fields, including business, politics, science, and the arts.

- The list includes **seven Indians**, such as Union Minister **Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu**, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Government of India (GoI), and **Ritesh Agarwal**, Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of OYO Hotels and Homes.
- The global list also features prominent leaders such as **Sana Mir**, Sports Analyst and Commentator at Pakistan Television Corporation Limited (Pakistan), **Milojko Spajić**, Prime Minister (PM) of Montenegro, and **Paetongtarn Shinawatra**, PM of Thailand, among others.

#### **About WEF's YGL:**

i.The Forum of YGL, founded in 2004 by the WEF, is an initiative that aims to nurture responsible leaders to shape a more sustainable and inclusive future.

ii.Selected members undergo a 3-year leadership program featuring collaborations with academic institutions, immersive learning, and global networking aligned with WEF's mission.

#### **Indian Representation in the 2025 YGL List:**

Seven Indian personalities were selected, reflecting India's growing influence in global leadership:

**1.Ritesh Agarwal:** Founder and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gurugram (Haryana)-based OYO Hotels and Homes.

**2.Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu:** Union Minister of Civil Aviation, MoCA.

**3.Nipun Malhotra:** Founder of New Delhi (Delhi) based Nipman Foundation, focused on disability advocacy.

**4.Alok Medikepura Anil:** Founder and Managing Director (MD) of Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Next Big Innovation Labs, a biotechnology firm.

**5.Natarajan Sankar:** MD and Partner at Mumbai (Maharashtra) based Boston Consulting Group (BCG), India.

**6.Manasi Subramaniam:** Editor-in-Chief and Vice-President of New Delhi based Penguin Random House India.

**7.Anurag Maloo:** Mountaineer, Entrepreneur, and Keynote Speaker at Jaipur (Rajasthan) based Orophile Ventures Private Limited (Climbing4SDGs).

#### **About World Economic Forum (WEF):**

President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Børge Brende(Norway)

**Headquarters** – Cologny, Switzerland

**Founded** – 1971

#### **Palestinian Photographer Samar Abu Elouf Wins 2025 World Press Photo of the Year**

Qatar-based Palestinian photographer **Samar Abu Elouf** won the ‘2025 World Press Photo of the Year’ for her poignant image of nine-year-old **Mahmoud Ajjour**, a Gazan boy who lost both arms in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City(Palestine) in March 2024.

- The photograph, captured for The New York Times (NYT), a newspaper based in New York, the United States of America (USA), highlights the human cost of the Gaza conflict.

i.The winners and two finalists of the 2024 World Press Photo Contest were announced during the World Press Photo Exhibition in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. This exhibition will tour over 60 locations worldwide.

ii.The World Press Photo of the Year winner will also receive a cash prize of **10,000 Euros**.

#### **About World Press Photo:**

Executive Director (ED) – Joumana El Zein Khoury

**Headquarters** – Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Founded** – 1955

#### **Simone Biles & Mondo Duplantis Win Top Honours at Laureus World Sports Awards 2025**

The **Laureus World Sports Awards 2025** was held at the Palacio de Cibeles in Madrid, **Spain**. This year’s event marked the 25th anniversary of the global sports awards that celebrate the achievements of the world’s most outstanding athletes and sportspersons.

- Armand Gustav Duplantis, also known as **Mondo Duplantis**, a pole vaulter from Sweden, was honoured with the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award 2025. Meanwhile, **Simone Biles**, a gymnast from the United States of America (USA), received the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award 2025.

#### **Key Points**

i.**Real Madrid Men’s Football Team** of Spain won the Laureus World Team of the Year.

ii.**Lamine Yamal**, a football player of Spain, won the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year

iii. **Jiang Yuyan**, a para swimmer from China, was honoured with Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability.

#### **Goldman Environmental Prize 2025: 7 Grassroots Environmental Activists Honored**

California, the United States of America (USA) based Goldman Environmental Foundation announced the recipients of the 36th Goldman Environmental Prize (2025), also known as the ‘Green Nobel Prize’, honouring seven grassroots environmental activists for their outstanding contributions to environmental protection across the six inhabited continental regions.

- The award ceremony was held in San Francisco, California (USA), celebrating the global impact of grassroots leadership in environmental activism.

i. The 2025 award was presented to the **7 recipients** from six geographical regions for their grassroot level environmental activities in the inhabited regions.

ii. **Batmunkh Luvsandash**, a former electrical engineer from Mongolia, has been awarded the 2025 Goldman Environmental Prize for **Asia**.

#### **About Goldman Environmental Foundation:**

**President** – Susan R. Gelman

**Headquarters** – California, the United States of America (USA)

**Established** – 1989

#### **Humanitarian Madhusudhan Sai Honoured with Fiji's Highest Honour**

Sri Madhusudhan Sai, an Indian spiritual and Humanitarian leader, was conferred the ‘Companion of the Order of Fiji’, the nation’s highest civilian award by Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, the President of Fiji at the State House of Fiji in Suva, Fiji.

- The previous recipients of the ‘Companion of the Order of Fiji’ include Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** in 2023 and President of India **Draupadi Murmu** in 2024.

i. He was awarded for his significant contributions to healthcare and social welfare in Fiji, through his **Sri Satya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Hospital**, the first state-of-the-art, fully free Children's Hospital in the South Pacific region focusing on treating the children irrespective of any background.

ii. He founded ‘**One World One Family**’, global humanitarian mission, which works across more than 80 countries to improve access to healthcare, nutrition and education.

#### **About Fiji:**

**President** – Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu

**Capital** – Suva

**Currency** – Fijian Dollar (FJD)

## **Bihar Sets Two Guinness World Records for Madhubani Painting and Singing Bowl Ensemble**

Bihar set two Guinness World Records (**GWR**) : one for the world's largest **Madhubani painting** on canvas and another for the largest **singing bowl ensemble** performance by 375 Buddhist monks in Bodh Gaya, Bihar.

- The GWR officials presented the certificates to CM Nitish Kumar at a ceremony held at the Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar.

### **About World Records :**

#### **About Large Madhubani painting:**

- i.The first record was set with a large Madhubani painting, measuring **18.69 square meters**, sqm (201.17 square feet sqft) created at the Madhubani Painting Institution in Bihar.
- ii.It was created by a team of 50 women under the guidance of renowned artist Padma Shri **Bauaa Devi** as a tribute to Padma Shri Jagdamba Devi.
- iii.The team worked for 50 continuous hours to complete the artwork, which will be unveiled at the opening ceremony of **Khelo India Youth Games** on May 4, 2025.

- These games, being held for the first time in Bihar, will take place across various cities including Patna, Rajgir, Gaya, Bhagalpur, and Begusarai.

#### **About Madhubani Painting:**

Madhubani, also known as Mithila painting, is a traditional art form that **originated** in the Mithila region of Bihar, particularly in Madhubani.

- The colours used for the painting were made from **natural ingredients** like turmeric, beetroot, carbon, and flowers.

#### **About Singing bowl ensemble:**

- iThe second record was set by 375 Buddhist monks, aged between five and 70, who gathered in Bodhgaya, Bihar for a singing bowl ensemble.
- ii.This event marked the largest gathering of Buddhist monks for this traditional performance, which is linked to meditation, rituals, and ceremonies in Buddhist culture.
- iii.The event was organised by Bihar State's Sports Authority (BSSA).

#### **About Bihar:**

Chief Minister (**CM**)— Nitish Kumar

Governor— Arif Mohammed Khan

Capital— Patna

Airport – Gaya International Airport, Darbhanga Airport

**GEORGIANS  
DEFENCE ACADEMY**

# Sports

## Rajgir (Bihar) to Host Men's Asia Cup Hockey 2025

The historic city of **Rajgir in Bihar** was **designated** as the host city for the **Hero Asia Cup 2025**. This decision follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between New Delhi(Delhi) based **Hockey India(HI)** and the Bihar State Sports Authority (**BSSA**) in Patna, Bihar.

- The MoU was signed by the Secretary General of HI, Bholanath Singh and the Additional Chief Secretary(CS) of the Bihar Sports Department, B. Rajender in the presence of Dilip Tirkey, President of HI and Harmanpreet Singh, Indian Men's Hockey India team captain.
- The tournament is scheduled from **August 29 to September 7, 2025**, and will take place at the **Rajgir Hockey Stadium** in Rajgir.

i. **The Hero Asia Cup 2025** is the **12th** edition of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament. It will feature eight teams, including India, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, China, and Malaysia, with the remaining two teams qualifying through the Asian Hockey Federation (**AHF**) Cup. ii. This tournament is crucial as it serves as a qualifier for the **2026 FIH** (International Hockey Federation) **Men's World Cup**, to be jointly hosted by **Belgium** and the **Netherlands**. The winner will secure a direct spot in the World Cup, making it a high-stakes competition.

## ISSF World Cup 2025: India Bags 8 Medals, Finishes Second Behind China

India finished its First leg of International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2025 campaign in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with a total of eight medals—4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze—finishing second overall, while China topped the standings with 11 medals, including 5 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze. The event took place from April 1 to April 11, 2025.

- The United States of America (**USA**) secured **third** place with a total of 6 medals, including 2 gold, 3 silver, and 1 bronze.

### Key Points:

- i. Saurabh Chaudhary and Suruchi Singh (18-year old) won the **bronze medal** match by defeating Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, and Ravinder Singh.
- ii. In the men's 10m air pistol event, **Rudrankksh Patil** scored 252.9 points, defeating Hungary's Istvan Marton Peni.
- iii. In the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event, **Vijayveer Sidhu** (29 points) made a milestone by becoming the first Indian to win gold in this event at any ISSF World Cup.

### About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF):

**President**—Luciano Rossi (Italy)

**Established**—1907

**Headquarters**—Munich, Germany

### McLaren's Oscar Piastri Wins 2025 Bahrain Grand Prix

**Oscar Piastri**, an Australian Formula One (F1) driver representing the United Kingdom (UK)-based McLaren, **won the Formula 1(F1) Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix (GP) 2025**, held at the Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir, Bahrain. This marked Piastri's second victory of the 2025 F1 season and the fourth F1 career win.

- The Bahrain GP marked the 50th career race start for Oscar Piastri in F1 .
- With this, he became the first driver to win multiple races in the 2025 F1 season, following his earlier win at the Chinese GP in March 2025.



**Note:** Oscar Piastri became First McLaren driver to win in Sakhir (Bahrain), since the circuit's F1 debut in 2004.

#### Key Highlights:

i.Oscar Piastri secured victory after starting from pole position, maintaining a dominant lead throughout the race, and finishing with a time gap of 15.499 seconds over the second-place finisher.

ii.**George Russell**, representing Germany-based Mercedes, secured 2nd place, despite facing technical difficulties related to the gearbox and Drag Reduction System (DRS).

**Note:** With this victory, Oscar Piastri moved to 2nd place in the F1 2025 Drivers' Standings behind Lando Norris

#### Top 3 Positions in F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2025:

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

#### About Bahrain Grand Prix:

The Bahrain Grand Prix is a prestigious Formula One (F1) motor racing event held annually at the Bahrain International Circuit located in Bahrain. It was first introduced into the F1 calendar in **2004**, making it the first Formula One race held in the Middle East.

- The Bahrain International Circuit is known for its desert setting, twilight/night race format under floodlights, and a 5.412 kilometre(km) challenging track layout.

**Note:** The next race in the 2025 F1 season is the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit.

### **Mohun Bagan Super Giant Wins ISL 2024-25 Title**

Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG), a Kolkata (West Bengal)-based football club (FC), won the **11th edition** of the Indian Super League (ISL) **2024-25** by defeating Bengaluru FC with a score of 2-1 in the final match held at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium, Kolkata.



- This marked **MBSG's second ISL title**, their first being in the 2022-23 season (then known as ATK Mohun Bagan).
- With this victory, MBSG became the second team in ISL history, after Mumbai City FC (2020-21), to win both the ISL Winners Shield and the ISL Title.
- Pokemon served as the Official Sponsor of the ISL 2024-25 Final, while Hero MotoCorp Limited remained the Title Sponsor of the tournament.

**Note:** In the 2024-25 season, MBSG won the ISL Winners Shield by defeating Odisha FC.

### **ISL 2024-25 Awards:**

- Golden Boot (Top Scorer): Alaaeddine Ajaraie, NorthEast United FC (NEUFC)
- Golden Ball (Best Player): Alaaeddine Ajaraie, NEUFC
- Golden Glove (Most Clean Sheets): Vishal Kaith, MBSG
- Emerging Player of the Season: Brison Fernandes, FC Goa (FCG)
- Best Grassroot Program: Jamshedpur FC
- Best Elite Youth Program: Punjab FC

### **About Indian Super League (ISL):**

- The Indian Super League (ISL) is a top-tier professional football league in India, established in 2014.
- It is co-promoted by New Delhi (Delhi) based All India Football Federation (AIFF), Mumbai (Maharashtra)-based Reliance Industries Limited, and Star India.
- In 2019, both the Zurich (Switzerland) based Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) based Asian Football Confederation (AFC) recognised the ISL as India's top-tier domestic league.
- The league features 13 clubs that compete for two major trophies: ISL Winners Shield (a team that finishes at the top of the league table) and ISL Title (a team winning the playoffs)

**Note:** In the **2023-24 season**, the ISL title was won by **Mumbai City FC**.

### **Cricket Returns to Olympics After 128 Years in LA Olympics 2028**

Lausanne, Switzerland based International Olympic Committee (IOC) confirmed that cricket will make its return to the Olympic Games at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, after a gap of 128 years.

- The sport will feature six teams each in men's and women's T20 (Twenty20) tournaments, marking its first Olympic appearance since the 1900 Paris Games, where a one-off match between Great Britain and France was held.

### Event Overview

**i.Format:** Matches will follow the T20 format, with six teams per gender competing for medals.

**ii.Athlete Quota:** A total of 90 athlete quotas are allocated for each gender, allowing 15-member squads per team.

- The IOC also approved a record 351 medal events for LA 2028, including 22 additional events compared to Paris 2024.
- The total athlete quota remains at 10,500, with an extra 698 spots allocated to the new sports.

**iii.Qualification:** The qualification criteria are yet to be confirmed. The United States of America (USA) is likely to secure a direct spot as the host nation. Other teams will qualify based on the International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings.

**iv.Venues:** Specific locations for cricket matches in Los Angeles (USA) remain unconfirmed, with schedules to be finalized closer to the event.

**v.ICC Membership:** The ICC comprises 12 full-member nations including India, Australia, England and 94 associate members.

### Rohit Sharma Appointed as Brand Ambassador of T20 Mumbai League Season 3

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) officially appointed India's cricket captain **Rohit Sharma** as the brand ambassador for Season 3 of the Twenty20 (**T20**) **Mumbai League**, set to commence on 26th May 2025, after a six-year hiatus since 2019.

### Key Features of T20 Mumbai League Season 3:

**i.Icon Players:** Eight players, including Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane, and Prithvi Shaw, will be allocated to teams via a lottery system.

**ii.Rohit Sharma** unveiled the tournament trophy of the T20 Mumbai League Season 3.

**iii.Teams:** Sobo Mumbai Falcons, Mumbai South Central, North Mumbai Panthers, ARCS Andheri, Triumph Knights Mumbai North East, Namo Bandra Blasters, Eagle Thane Strikers, and Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs.

### MCA Renames Wankhede Stadium Stands:

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA), during its 86th Annual General Meeting (AGM), approved a resolution to honour former Indian cricket stalwarts **Ajit Wadekar** and **Rohit Sharma**, and former MCA, **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** and **International Cricket Council (ICC)** chief **Sharad Pawar**, by naming stands at the iconic **Wankhede Stadium** in Mumbai (Maharashtra) after them.

- The AGM also approved renaming the newly developed **MCA Office Lounge** in memory of **Amol Kale**, who served as MCA President until his demise in 2023.

## **McLaren's Oscar Piastri Won F1's Saudi Arabian GP to Take Overall Lead**

Oscar Jack Piastri, an Australian Formula 1 (F1) driver representing the United Kingdom (UK)-based McLaren won **F1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix(GP) 2025** held at Jeddah Corniche Circuit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

- This marked his **3rd** victory of the F1 2025 season and 2nd consecutive after winning Bahrain GP title in April 2025.
- With this, Oscar Piastri becomes the **1st Australian F1 driver to lead the drivers championship** standings with 99 points since Mark Webber (2010). He is followed by Lando Norris (McLaren) with 89 points and Max Verstappen (Red Bull) with 87 points.

### **Key Highlights:**

- i.Oscar Piastri crossed the finish line in 2.8 seconds (s) in his McLaren for his **51st** Grand Prix (GP) and got 25 points.
- ii.While, 4-time World Champion **Max Verstappen**, Belgian-Dutch driver of Red Bull secured **2<sup>nd</sup>** position (18 points) following a contentious 5 second penalty, followed by Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc** secured 3rd position (15 points) to claim his maiden podium of the season.

### **About Saudi Arabian GP 2025:**

- i.This marked the 5th edition of Saudi Arabian GP since its 1st edition was held in 2021.
- ii.Saudi Arabian GP 2025, officially known as the **F1 STC Saudi Arabian GP**, took place over 50 laps with 6.174 kilometer (km) circuit length.

## **Sourav Kothari Won IBSF World Billiards champion 2025**

Indian cueist **Sourav Kothari** won the International Billiards and Snooker Federation(**IBSF**) **World Billiards Championship 2025 title**, defeating **Pankaj Advani**, a multiple-time world champion, in the final held at the Snooker and Billiards Ireland (SBI) Academy, Carlow, **Ireland**.

- Sourav Kothari triumphed with a score of 725 points, surpassing Pankaj Advani's 480 points.
- His remarkable break of 325 points was the match's standout performance, demonstrating his superior cue control and focus. He also scored breaks of 119 and 112 points, showcasing exceptional skill and composure.

- i.This victory marked Sourav Kothari's **first** IBSF World Billiards title (timed format), making him only the **third Indian** to win both the IBSF and World Billiards League (WBL) World titles.
- ii.This achievement was also historically significant as it came 35 years after his father, Manoj Kothari, won the IBSF title in 1990.
- iii.**Dhruv Sitwala** from India and **David Causier** from England shared the **bronze medals**, with Sitwala continuing his consistent performances on the international stage.

## Obituary

### Veteran Indian Actor-Director & Padma Shri Awardee Manoj Kumar Passes Away

Veteran Indian actor and filmmaker **Manoj Kumar** passed away at the age of 87 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born in July 24, 1937 in Abbottabad, then part of British India (now in Pakistan).

- He was fondly called '**Bharat Kumar**' for his contribution to acting and filmmaking with patriotic themes.
- In 1992, he was honored with **Padma Shri award**, India's fourth highest civilian award in the field of **Arts**.

#### About Manoj Kumar:

i.Born as Harikrishna Giri Goswami, his film journey commenced with minor roles in films like 'Fashion' (1957), 'Sahara' (1958), and 'Chand' (1959).

ii.His first lead role was in Kaanch Ki Gudiya (1961), but Hariyali Aur Rasta (1962) gave him recognition. Shaheed (1965), based on the life of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh solidified his status in the industry.

iii.His directorial debut Upkar (1967) highlighted the life of a soldier and a farmer, followed by patriotic films Purab Aur Paschim (1970) and Kranti (1981), which portrayed India's cultural heritage and freedom struggle.

#### Awards and Honors:

i.In 1968, he won **National Film Award** by Government of India (GoI) for the film Upkar for second Best Feature Film.

ii.He won **7 Filmfare Awards**, including 4 for Upkar (1968), Best Actor (Be-Imaan) in 1969, Best Editing (Shor) in 1972, Best Director (Roti Kapda Aur Makaan) in 1975, and a Lifetime Achievement in 1999.

iii.In 2008, he received the Kishore Kumar Award from Madhya Pradesh (MP) and in 2010, the Raj Kapoor Award from Maharashtra, both for his contribution to Hindi cinema.

iv.In 2016, he was honoured with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, India's highest cinematic honour, during the 63rd National Film Awards.

### Legendary Kathak Dancer & Padma Awardee Kumudini Lakhia Passed Away

Renowned Kathak dancer and Padma Awardee **Kumudini Lakhia** passed away at the age of 95 at her residence in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She was born on May 17, 1930 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



- In January 2025, she was conferred with **Padma Vibhushan**, India's 2nd highest civilian honor by the Government of India (GoI) in 'Arts' category in recognition of her lifelong dedication to Kathak.

#### About Kumudini Lakhia:

i.She started her career in dancing with Ram Gopal and toured globally, bringing Indian classical dance forms to international audiences.

- Some of her most notable choreographic works are Dhabkar (Pulse), Yugal (The Duet), and Atah Kim (Where Now?), among others.
- In 1980, she presented Atah Kim at the Kathak Mahotsav in Delhi.

ii. She had established Kadamb: Centre for Dance and Music, in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in 1964. She developed the technique, vocabulary and repertoire of Kathak dance at the centre.

v. She mentored various acclaimed Kathak dancer, including Aditi Mangal Das, Vaishali Trivedi, Sandhya Desai, Dakhsha Seth, Maulik Shah, among many others.

vi. She also served Vice President of the Council International De La Dance, Paris, France; Executive Board Member of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, Delhi; Chairperson of the Gujarat State Sangeet Natak Akademi and etc.

#### Awards and Honors:

i. In 1987, Kumudini Lakhia was awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's 4th highest civilian honour in the field of 'Arts'; and later she was honoured with **Padma Bhushan**, India's 3rd highest civilian honour in 2010.

ii. She was bestowed with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award by New Delhi (Delhi)-based Sangeet Natak Akademi in **1982**.

iii. She was honoured with Kalidas Samman, presented by the state government of Madhya Pradesh (MP) in 2002-03 in the category of 'classical dance'.

iv. The state government of Kerala awarded her **Guru Gopinath Desiya Natya Puraskaram, 2021** in year 2022 for her excellence in dance.

#### Padma Shri Awardee and Tree Man of India, Daripalli Ramaiah, Passes Away at 87

Renowned environmentalist **Daripalli Ramaiah**, popularly called "Vanajeevi Ramaiah," and "Chettu Ramaiah" passed away at the age of 87. He was known as the "**Tree Man of India**" for his lifelong efforts in planting and protecting trees.



#### About Vanajeevi Ramaiah:

Born in 1937, Daripalli Ramaiah belonged to Reddipalli village in Khammam Rural mandal, **Telangana**. Ramaiah, a potter by profession, began his tree plantation efforts as an individual and made his life's mission to green the earth.

- Throughout his lifetime, he is believed to have planted more than **one crore** (10 million) trees in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (AP), making him one of India's most dedicated environmentalists.
- He was often seen wearing a wooden board that had a Sanskrit line written on it "**Vriksho Rakshati Rakshitah**," which means "If you protect trees, they will protect you."

#### Awards and Recognition:

i. In recognition of his work, he was awarded the **Padma Shri** in the field of Social work in 2017. He also received several other honours, such as the **Vanaseva Award** in 1995 and

the **Vanamitra Award** in 2005.

**ii.**He was even awarded an **honorary doctorate** by the USA (United States of America)-based Academy of Universal Global Peace for his outstanding role in promoting environmental care.

**iii** In 2015, his innovative approach to greening dry lands were **recognised with** the National Innovations and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Award.

**Note:** The Government of Telangana included a chapter about him in the 6th-grade social studies textbook. His story was also added to the 9th-grade Telugu syllabus in Maharashtra for Telugu-speaking students.

### **Pope Francis, 1st Latin American Leader of the Roman Catholic Church Passed Away**

Pope Francis, the 1st Latin American leader of the Roman Catholic Church passed away at the age of **88** in Vatican, Vatican City. He was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- He was also the 1st non-European pope in over 1,000 years and the 1st Jesuit and also 1st pope who chose to be called as Francis in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi.

#### **About Pope Francis:**

**i.**He was ordained a priest in the Jesuit order in 1969. He was the order's top leader in Argentina from 1973-79.

**ii.**He was appointed an auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1992 and held this post until his election to the papacy in 1998.

- Later in 2001, he was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II.

**iii.**In 2013, he was elected Pope of the Roman Catholic Church (at the age of 76) following the resignation of **Pope Benedict XVI**.

**iv.**He initiated various reforms within the Vatican, stressing on transparency, accountability and financial changes, and appointed more to senior posts in its hierarchy.

### **Former ISRO Chairman and Padma Awardee K. Kasturirangan Passes Away**

Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) and Padma awardee, passed away at the age of 84 in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**. He was born on 24 October 1940 in Ernakulam, Kerala.

**i.**Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan started his professional journey in space science as a researcher at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 1969.

**ii.**He led ISRO as its **Chairman** from **1994 to 2003**. He directed the successful development and launch of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). He also initiated India's planetary exploration efforts, leading to the Chandrayaan-1 mission

**iii.**He was honoured with India's top civilian awards for his contribution in the field of **Science and Engineering**:

- Padma Shri (1982), India's fourth-highest civilian award
- Padma Bhushan (1992), India's third-highest civilian award
- Padma Vibhushan (2000), India's second-highest civilian award



# GEORGIANS DEFENCE ACADEMY

## Important Days with theme

### Siachen Day – April 13 2025

Every year **Siachen Day** is observed by the Indian Army (IA) on **April 13** to commemorate **Operation Meghdoot**. On this day, Indian troops successfully landed at Bilafond La Pass and captured key positions on the Siachen Glacier, gaining a strategic advantage in the disputed Kashmir region, home to the world's highest battlefield.



- The day is observed on April 13 to commemorate the courage and undaunting determination of the IA in the world's longest active military operation.
- 13th April 2025 marks the **41st** year of IA's presence at Siachen Glacier.

### About Operation Meghdoot:

- i.Operation Meghdoot was a military campaign launched by the Indian Army on April 13, 1984, to secure the Siachen Glacier. It is the longest military operation in the world till date.
- ii.The Army was deployed in the steep and snowy mountains of Siachen in response to intelligence reports indicating that Pakistan was preparing to launch military operations in the region.
- iii.Both the IA and Indian Air Force (IAF) played pivotal roles in the operation.

- The operation involved the IAF airlifting Army troops and deploying them onto the icy peaks of the glacier.

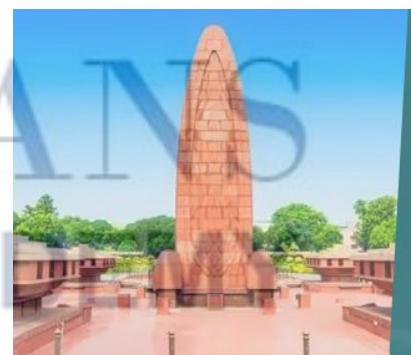
iv.The operation was launched under the leadership of Lieutenant General Manohar Lal Chibber, Lieutenant General P.N. Hoon, and Major General Shiv Sharma.

### About Siachen Glacier:

i.Situated at an altitude of approximately 20,000 feet in the Karakoram mountain range, the Siachen Glacier is recognized as the highest militarized zone in the world.

### 106th Anniversary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre – April 13 2025

13th April 2025 marks the 106th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, also known as the Amritsar Massacre, which took place on 13th April 1919 in Amritsar, Punjab, then part of British India (now in Punjab, India).



- Several leaders along with Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi paid homage to the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, calling it a “dark chapter”

in India's history and a "major turning point" in the country's freedom struggle.

#### **About the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:**

- i.On April 13, 1919, hundreds of unarmed civilians, including women and children, had gathered at Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh to celebrate the annual Baisakhi fair.
- ii.Then acting Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the large crowd, which had assembled peacefully to protest against the **Rowlatt Act**, a repressive law that granted sweeping powers to the colonial administration.

#### **About Hunter Commission:**

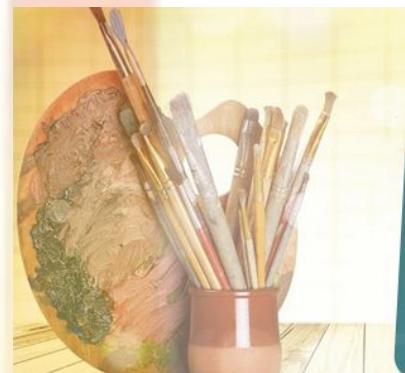
- i.In 1919, the British government appointed the **Hunter Commission**, officially known as the Disorders Inquiry Committee, to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- ii.The commission was chaired by **Lord William Hunter**, a former Solicitor-General of Scotland.

#### **World Art Day 2025 – April 15**

**World Art Day** (WAD) is observed annually worldwide on **April 15** to strengthen the connection between artistic creations and society, promote awareness of diverse artistic expressions, and acknowledge artists' contributions to sustainable development.

- The WAD 2025 theme, "**DNA – Do No Algorithm**," emphasizes human creativity as a counter to AI-generated art.

**Note:** The International Association of Art/Association Internationale des Arts Plastiques (IAA/AIAP), a Paris (France)-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) partnered with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), spearheads the celebrations.



#### **Background:**

- i.In April 2011, during the 17th General Assembly of IAA/AIAP in Guadalajara, Mexico, the IAA/AIAP adopted a proposal by the Turkish National Committee to declare 15 April as World Art Day.
- ii.The **inaugural** World Art Day was celebrated on **April 15, 2012**.

#### **International Day For Monuments and Sites 2025 – April 18**

The International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), also known as World Heritage Day, is observed annually across the world on **April 18** to raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural and historical heritage.



- The theme for IDMS 2025 is "**Heritage under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts: Preparedness and Learning from 60 years of ICOMOS Actions**."

- The theme for IDMS is annually proposed by the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

#### **Background:**

**i. Establishment:** IDMS was established in **1982** by **ICOMOS**.

**ii. UNESCO Approval:** In 1983, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the observance of IDMS during its 22nd General Conference.

**iii. First Observation:** The first IDMS was observed in **1983**.

#### **About International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS):**

**President** – Teresa Patricio (Belgium)

**Headquarters** – Paris, France

**Established** – 1965

#### **Central Railway Launched India's First Onboard ATM on Panchavati Express**

The Central Railway (**CR**), headquartered in Mumbai (Maharashtra), in collaboration with the Pune (Maharashtra)-based Bank of Maharashtra (**BoM**), launched India's **first onboard** Automated Teller Machine (**ATM**) on the **Mumbai-Manmad Panchavati Express**, under the New, Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (**NINFRIS**) to enhance passenger convenience and boost Non-Fare Revenue (**NFR**).

#### **Key Details of the Initiative:**

- i. The ATM was installed in an air-conditioned (AC) coach of the Panchavati Express, replacing a temporary pantry space.
- ii. The train operates daily between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) and Manmad Junction (Nashik district, Maharashtra), covering the 4-hour 35-minute journey.
- iii. The initiative targets NFR generation while addressing passenger needs, especially for senior citizens, women, and emergency cash requirements.

#### **National Civil Services Day 2025 – April 21**

National Civil Services Day is observed across India on April 21 to acknowledge and appreciate the pivotal role played by civil servants in the nation's governance and development.

- April 21, **2025**, marks the **17th** National Civil Services Day observance.

#### **Background:**

i. In **2006**, India's then Prime Minister (PM), Dr. Manmohan Singh, inaugurated the **first** National Civil Services Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi (Delhi).

ii. Since then, April 21 has been marked annually with conferences, award presentations, and interactions among senior bureaucrats and government officials.

#### **2025 Events:**

The 2025 Civil Services Day was organized as a day-long conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. It featured:

- i. The presentation of the PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2025.
- ii. Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge, IC) Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of

Science & Technology (MoS&T), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPPG&P), highlighted that the IAS 2023 batch comprises **74 women officers**, marking the **highest-ever** female representation, which accounts for **41%** of the total 180 officers in the batch.

### **International Mother Earth Day 2025 – April 22**

The United Nations (UN) observes **International Mother Earth Day** or Earth Day annually on **April 22** to highlight the interdependence between humans and the Earth's ecosystems. This observance emphasizes the collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature, ensuring a balance among economic, social, and environmental needs for present and future generations.

- In **2025**, this observance gains special significance as it falls within the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)**, a global initiative to combat environmental degradation.
- The theme for Earth Day 2025 is "**Our Power, Our Planet**".

#### **Background:**

**i. Establishment:** Officially recognized in **2009** via **UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/63/278**, introduced by **Bolivia** and supported by 50+ member states.

- The inaugural observance of the UN's International Mother Earth Day took place on **22 April 2009**.

**ii. First Observance:** Proposed by American peace activist **John McConnell** at a 1969 UNESCO conference in San Francisco, the United States of America(USA).

- The inaugural Earth Day was celebrated on **22 April 1970**, marking the birth of the modern environmental movement.
- The year **2025** commemorates the **55th anniversary** of this movement, emphasizing the enduring global commitment to environmental protection.

### **World Book and Copyright Day 2025 – April 23**

World Book and Copyright Day is observed annually across the world on 23 April to promote the enjoyment of books and reading.

- The annual observance of World Book and Copyright Day is organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).
- **Rio de Janeiro(Brazil)** was designated as the **World Book Capital for 2025**, following a comprehensive evaluation by the World Book Capital (WBC) Advisory Committee.

### **Background:**

i. World Book and Copyright Day was officially established by UNESCO during its General Conference held in Paris in **1995**. The aim was to honour the significant role that books and authors play in shaping individuals and societies.

iii. The first official celebration of World Book and Copyright Day took place on **23 April 1996** in **Barcelona, Spain**.

### **About United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO):**

Director-General(DG) – Audrey Azoulay

**Headquarters-** Paris, France

**Established-** 1945

### **National Panchayati Raj Day 2025 – April 24**

National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD), also known as **National Local Self-Government Day**, is annually observed in India on **24 April** to recognise the establishment of the Panchayati Raj System and its significant role in decentralised governance at the grassroots.

- **24 April 2025** marks the observance of the **16th NPRD**.
- **NPRD 2025** marks **32** years since the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which granted constitutional status to Panchayats.

### **Background:**

i. In **2010**, India's then Prime Minister (PM), **Dr. Manmohan Singh**, officially declared **24 April** of every year as National Panchayati Raj Day.

iii. The **first-ever NPRD** was observed on **24 April 2010**.

### **2025 Events:**

i. On 24 April 2025, the **main event** of the NPRD was held at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat (GP), Jhanjharpur Block, Madhubani District, **Bihar**, in collaboration with the Government of Bihar.

### **World Penguin Day 2025– April 25**

World Penguin Day is observed annually across the globe on 25th April every year to raise awareness about the environmental struggles and conservation for their survival.

### **Background:**

i. The day is celebrated **since April 25 1972** when the researchers noticed their migration to the north.

ii. According to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC), the date April 25 is closely associated with the annual movement of **Adelie Penguins**, a phenomenon first observed by researchers at McMurdo Station in Antarctica.

### **World Intellectual Property Day 2025 – April 26**

World Intellectual Property Day (**World IP Day**) is observed annually across the globe on **April 26** to raise awareness about how IP rights, such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs, influence daily life and to celebrate creativity and innovation.

- The date marks the enforcement of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization (**WIPO**), came into force in **1970**.
- The theme for World IP Day 2025 is “**Music and IP: Feel the Beat of IP.**”

#### **Background:**

i. The day was officially established in **2000** by WIPO to increase awareness and understanding of IP.

ii. The first World IP Day was observed on **26th April 2001**.

#### **Key Points:**

i. **India** secured the **9th** position globally in PCT filings, with 4,552 applications in 2024, up from 3,725 in 2023, reflecting a 22.2% year-on-year growth.

ii. According to the **13th edition of the International IP Index** released by the Washington, D.C. (USA) based U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **India** maintained its **43rd** position out of 55 countries.

### **International Dance Day 2025 – April 29**

International Dance Day, also known as World Dance Day, is celebrated annually across the globe on **April 29** to raise public awareness about dance as an important art form, cultural expression, and educational tool.

- The observance is promoted by the Paris (France) based International Dance Council (**CID**) and the Shanghai (China) based International Theatre Institute (**ITI**), in association with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**).
- In 2025 International Dance Day message is delivered by **Mikhail Baryshnikov**, one of the most influential figures in contemporary dance.

#### **Background:**

i. International Dance Day was established in **1982** by the Dance Committee of the ITI in collaboration with UNESCO to celebrate and honor the art of dance.

- The first International Dance Day was celebrated on April 29, **1982**.

ii. The date April 29 was specifically chosen to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Jean-Georges Noverre** (1727–1810), a renowned French dancer and choreographer, recognized as the pioneer of modern ballet.