MONTHLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL 2025

India Wins ICC Champions Trophy 2025

Reserve Bank appoints Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as new executive director

PM Narendra Modi honored with Mauritius' highest civilian award

Astronauts Sunita Williams return to Earth after nine months

For UP, Bihar and Other State Exams

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Chapter 1

National Affairs

Govt Launches Aadhaar Good Governance Portal

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Aadhaar Good Governance portal to streamline the approval process for Aadhaar authentication requests, enhancing accessibility for the public.
- The portal operates under the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, following its amendment in January 2025, which aims to improve transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes.
- Aadhaar is recognized as a highly trusted digital ID in India, having been used for authentication over 100 billion times by more than a billion users in the past decade.

India Extends $1 Mn Grant to Lao PDR For Rice Fortification Project

- The Indian government has provided a grant of approximately USD 1 million to the Government of Lao PDR under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- This grant is designated for the project titled "Strengthening Large-Scale Food Fortification: The Case of Investing in Rice Fortification."
- The project is implemented by the World Food Programme and aims to promote food fortification programs in Lao PDR.

Govt Launched Hydrogen Fueled Buses and Trucks

- The Government of India has initiated five pilot projects under the National Green Hydrogen Mission aimed at using hydrogen in buses and trucks.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy issued guidelines for these pilot projects, which invite proposals for hydrogen-based vehicles, routes, and refueling stations.
- A total of 37 vehicles, including 15 hydrogen fuel cell-based and 22 hydrogen internal combustion engine-based vehicles, will be deployed across 10 different routes.
- Routes include Greater Noida-Delhi-Agra, Bhubaneshwar-Konark-Puri, and Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Surat among others.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

- The National Green Hydrogen Mission was launched on January 4, 2023, with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores up to FY 2029-30.
- The mission aims to promote self-reliance in clean energy, contribute to decarbonization, and enhance India's leadership in green hydrogen technology.

India launches multi-nation alliance for collaboration on sustainable development

- India launched the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3), aimed at fostering city-to-city collaboration and partnerships for sustainable urban development.

- The initiative is designed for policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and development partners to discuss sustainable solutions for waste management and resource efficiency in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the importance of the P (Pro-Planet People) approach and the role of the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) and circular economy principles in sustainable urban development.

PM Modi Inaugurates Vantara Wildlife Centre in Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated and visited Vantara, a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and conservation center in Gujarat.
- Vantara is home to over 2,000 species and more than 1.5 lakh rescued, endangered, and threatened animals.
- The Prime Minister explored various facilities at the center, interacting closely with rehabilitated animal species.

President of India Inaugurates Vividhta Ka Amrit Mahotsav at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the second edition of 'Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav' at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The second edition of Vividhta ka Amrit Mahotsav', people would get to know about the vibrant cultural heritage of five states - Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and two UTs - Lakshadweep and Puducherry.
- This Mahotsav has been structured in the seven distinct editions dedicated to – North-East, South, North, East, West, Central region and Union Territories.

Amit Shah inaugurated "Workshop on Sustainability and Circularity in Dairy Sector"

- The Workshop on Sustainability and Circularity in Dairy Sector was held on 3rd March 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated by Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah.
- It was Organized by the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- The workshop aims to promote sustainable dairy farming with economic growth and environmental responsibility.

Jayant Chaudhary launches Swavalambini, a Women Entrepreneurship Programme

- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, launched Swavalambini— a Women Entrepreneurship Programme at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, taking a significant step towards strengthening women entrepreneurship in India.
- This initiative empowers female students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by providing them with the necessary entrepreneurial mindset, resources, and mentorship to successfully build and scale their ventures.

Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve

- Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh was declared India's 58th tiger reserve.
- This designation marks it as the ninth tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- The park covers over 37,000 hectares and is located between Panna and Ranthambore tiger reserves, enhancing the regional tiger corridor.
- India has been at the forefront of global tiger conservation efforts through initiatives like Project Tiger, which was launched in 1973. With the addition of Madhav Tiger Reserve, India now has 58 tiger reserves under the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Government Initiatives to promote Gas based Power Generation

- The government has classified Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) under the Open General License (OGL) category, allowing power plants to import LNG based on commercial terms with suppliers.
- From April to January 2024-25, approximately 9.58 million metric standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas were imported by power plants.
- The government has implemented schemes for competitive procurement of power from gas-based plants during peak demand.

Indian Railways Joins Mission Amrit Sarovar to Tackle Water Scarcity

- The Indian Railways has been integrated into the Mission Amrit Sarovar initiative to aid in water conservation by constructing and rejuvenating ponds across the country.
- The initiative involves constructing and rejuvenating ponds across India, particularly near railway lines.
- Tasks include desilting, excavating, or creating water bodies in collaboration with district authorities and the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched in April 2022 with the goal of constructing or rejuvenating 75 ponds per district.
- As of October 2024, over 68,000 ponds have been completed under the initiative.

India generated $143 mn launching foreign satellites since 2015

- India generated foreign exchange revenue of $143 million from launching foreign satellites between 2015 and 2024, as reported by Union Minister Jitendra Singh.
- A total of 393 foreign satellites and three Indian customer satellites were launched commercially using ISRO's PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV launch vehicles during this period.
- The satellites launched were for 34 countries, including 232 for the US and 83 for the UK, among others.
- India has signed space cooperative documents with 61 countries and five multilateral organizations, covering areas such as satellite remote sensing and planetary exploration.

DoT announces the launch of the 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the 5G Innovation Hackathon 2025 to drive 5G-based technological advancements in India.
- This six-month program invites students, startups, and professionals to create innovative solutions in AI-driven networks, IoT, smart healthcare, V2X connectivity, and quantum communication.
- With a ₹1.5 crore fund, the initiative aims to develop over 50 prototypes and 25 patents, reinforcing India's position in 5G innovation.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Launches PM Internship Scheme App

- On March 17, 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS) App at the Parliament House in New Delhi.
- This mobile application aims to streamline access to internship opportunities for Indian youth, particularly those from Tier II and III cities.
- The PM Internship Scheme, announced in the 2024-25 Union Budget, aims to provide one crore internships in the top 500 companies over five years.

Smt. Anupriya Patel inaugurates QUAD Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for Indo-Pacific Region

- On 17 March 2025, Union Minister Anupriya Patel inaugurated the Quad Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for the Indo-Pacific Region in New Delhi.
- The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- The three-day event, hosted under India's Quad presidency, saw participation from Quad nations (India, the U.S., Japan, Australia) and 15 Indo-Pacific countries.
- Discussions focused on One Health, disease surveillance, and cross-border coordination.

Indore launches India's first PPP-based green waste processing plant

- Indore, recognized as India's cleanest city, is set to inaugurate the nation's first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model-based green waste processing plant under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize waste management by converting green waste into valuable resources, thereby promoting environmental sustainability.
- Indore generates about 30 tonnes of green waste daily, with volumes increasing to 60–70 tonnes during autumn. The plant is equipped to handle this variability efficiently.

Chapter 2

International Affairs

Armenia and Azerbaijan agree to a peace treaty after nearly four decades of war

- Armenia and Azerbaijan announced an agreement on a peace treaty aimed at ending nearly four decades of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a region internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan but controlled by Armenian separatists for decades.
- The peace agreement is described as "ready for signing," with both sides confirming the completion of negotiations.
- Azerbaijan demands that Armenia amend its constitution to remove any claims against Azerbaijan's sovereignty before signing the treaty.
- About Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict: This region, primarily inhabited by ethnic Armenians, declared independence from Azerbaijan in the late 1980s, leading to prolonged hostilities and significant loss of life.

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano erupts

- The Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano in south-central Indonesia erupted three times on March 21, 2025, sending an ash column approximately 8,000 meters (26,200 feet) high.
- Hundreds of earthquakes and increased visible volcanic activity have been recorded in the past week.
- The recent eruption follows a previous eruption in November 2024, which resulted in nine fatalities and numerous injuries.
- Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki is part of a twin volcano system alongside Mount Lewotobi Perempuan, located in Flores Timur district.

Donald Trump Announces English as the Official Language of the United States

- On March 1, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order declaring English the official language of the United States. This is the first such declaration in the country's history.
- The order overturns a mandate by former President Bill Clinton, which required federally funded organizations to offer language assistance to non-English speakers.

China announced 7.2% increase in its national defense budget

- On March 5, 2025, China announced a 7.2% increase in its national defense budget, allocating approximately 1.784 trillion yuan (about $249 billion) for the year.
- This marks the 10th consecutive year of single-digit growth in military spending.
- The increase aims to bolster China's military capabilities amid escalating regional tensions and ongoing territorial disputes.
- China's defense expenditure remains the second largest globally, following the United States, and supports the world's largest navy.

Iceberg A23a ran aground near South Georgia Island

- In March 2025, Iceberg A23a, the world's largest iceberg, ran aground near South Georgia Island in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- Covering approximately 3,460 square kilometers—about the size of Rhode Island—the iceberg weighs nearly one trillion tons.
- A23a calved from Antarctica's Filchner Ice Shelf in 1986 and remained stationary in the Weddell Sea for over three decades before beginning its drift in 2020.

China deployed LPAR system, near the China-Myanmar border

- China deployed a Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) system in Yunnan Province, near the China-Myanmar border.
- This advanced radar boasts a detection range exceeding 5,000 kilometers, enabling China to monitor extensive areas, including the Indian Ocean Region and deep into Indian territory.
- The LPAR enhances China's capability to detect and track ballistic missile launches in real-time, raising security concerns in India regarding the surveillance of its missile programs and strategic assets.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced the UN80 Initiative

- On March 12, 2025, UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced the UN80 Initiative, aiming to enhance the United Nations' efficiency and cost-effectiveness as it approaches its 80th anniversary.
- This initiative addresses challenges like shrinking resources and a liquidity crisis amid global uncertainty.
- A dedicated task force, led by Under-Secretary-General Guy Ryder, will focus on identifying operational improvements, reviewing mandates, and optimizing resource allocation to ensure the UN remains responsive to global needs.

Chapter 3

Economic Affairs

NPCI International expands UPI payments in Singapore through HitPay partnership

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with Singapore-based HitPay to expand UPI acceptance in Singapore.
- The collaboration aims to enhance the payment experience for Indian travelers through QR code-based transactions.
- The service will be rolled out to over 12,000 merchants, including tourist attractions, restaurants, and retail outlets.
- Approximately 1.2 million Indian visitors are expected in Singapore in 2024, making this partnership significant for both travelers and local businesses.

Cabinet approves Incentive scheme for promotion of low-value BHIM-UPI transactions

- On March 19, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved an Incentive Scheme to promote low-value BHIM-UPI transactions for the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- With an outlay of ₹1,500 crore, the scheme offers an incentive of 0.15% per transaction for payments up to ₹2,000 made to small merchants.
- This initiative aims to boost digital payments, encourage small merchant adoption of UPI, and advance financial inclusion.

SEBI partners with DigiLocker to reduce unclaimed assets in the Indian securities market

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a circular titled "Harnessing DigiLocker as a Digital Public Infrastructure for Reducing Unclaimed Assets in the Indian Securities Market" to address the issue of unclaimed financial assets.
- The initiative allows investors to store and access information about their demat and mutual fund holdings in DigiLocker.

Government e Marketplace Surpasses ₹5 Lakh Crore GMV Before FY 2024-25 Year-End

- Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has surpassed ₹5 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), achieving this milestone over 18 days before the end of the financial year 2024-25.
- GeM serves over 1.6 lakh government entities and has rapidly grown as a primary tool for public procurement.
- Over 29,000 startups and 1.8 lakh Udyam-verified women-led businesses have been onboarded.
- GeM has facilitated cumulative public savings exceeding ₹1,15,000 crore, with a broad base of registered government buyers across various levels of governance.

About GeM:

- **Launched:** 2016
- **Objective:** To facilitate transparent and efficient procurement of goods and services by government organizations.
- **Operated by:** Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- **Features:** Online marketplace, competitive bidding, direct procurement, and reverse auctions.

Reliance subsidiary acquires 100% stake in NTPL

- Reliance Industries Ltd's subsidiary, Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL), acquired a 100% equity stake in Nauyaan Tradings Private Limited (NTPL) for ₹1,00,000 from Welspun Tradings Ltd.
- NTPL was incorporated on March 3, 2025, and has not yet commenced business.
- Post-acquisition, NTPL entered into a share purchase agreement with Welspun Corp Ltd (WCL) to acquire a 74% equity stake in Nauyaan Shipyard Private Limited (NSPL) for ₹382.73 crore.
- NSPL's enterprise value is ₹643.78 crore, with total debt and liabilities of ₹126.57 crore; its 100% equity value is ₹517.21 crore.

LIC Ranked World's 3rd Strongest Insurance Brand

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been ranked third strongest insurance brand globally.
- LIC achieved a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 88 out of 100, as per the Brand Finance Insurance 100 (2025) report.
- Poland-based PZU is ranked first with a BSI score of 94.4.
- China Life Insurance holds the second position with a BSI score of 93.5.
- SBI Life ranks 76th, making LIC and SBI Life the only two Indian insurers in the top 100.

India Becomes the Top Source of FDI into Dubai

- India's foreign direct investment (FDI) in Dubai reached 3.018 billion in 2024, a fivefold increase from 589 million in 2023.
- India became the top investor in Dubai, accounting for 21.5% of total FDI, followed by the US (13.7%), France (11%), UK (10%), and Switzerland (6.9%).
- The proportion of Greenfield FDI projects remained stable at 73.5% in 2024, while reinvestment FDI projects rose to 3.3% from 1.2% in 2023.
- The number of announced Indian FDI projects increased to 275 in 2024, up from 249 in 2023, moving India from third to second place in project count.

RBI Inaugurated Digital Payments Awareness Week 2025

- The RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra inaugurated the 5th Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2025.
- The 5th Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) is being observed from March 10 to 16, 2025, under the theme "India Pays Digitally," aimed at promoting the importance and safe usage of digital payments.
- DPAW is an initiative to highlight the impact and importance of digital payments and to create awareness about safe usage of digital payment products.

RBI and NCFE Launched Nationwide Campaigns to Boost Financial Literacy

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) have launched nationwide campaigns to enhance financial literacy in India.
- Guidelines have been established for setting up Financial Literacy Centres (FLCs) by Lead Banks to conduct special camps targeting various groups.
- The "RBI Kehta Hai" public awareness campaign is multi-media and multilingual, aimed at educating the public on safe banking practices.
- NCFE, in collaboration with the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL), conducts Financial Education (FE) programmes targeting individuals under 18 years and over 60 years.

SEBI Launches Centralized Database for Corporate Bonds

- Markets regulator SEBI has launched a centralized database portal for corporate bonds in a bid to create a single, authentic source of information on such securities.
- The portal -- Bond Central-- has been developed by Online Bond Platform Providers Association (OBPP Association) in collaboration with Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) comprising stock exchanges and depositories.
- The portal is designed to enhance transparency and facilitate informed decision-making among investors and market participants.

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) – January 2025 Report

- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 4.6% in January 2025 compared to January 2024.
- Positive growth was recorded in the production of Cement, Refinery Products, Coal, Steel, Fertilizers, and Electricity in January 2025.
- The ICI measures the performance of eight core industries: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- These eight core industries represent 40.27% of the weight in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The final growth rate for the Index of Eight Core Industries in October 2024 was 3.8%.

Amazon Web Services commits to invest $8.2 billion in Maharashtra by 2030

- Amazon Web Services (AWS) has committed to invest $8.2 billion in Maharashtra over the coming years, specifically by 2029-30.
- The investment aims to deploy the latest technology and cloud management solutions in India.
- AWS plans to introduce advanced technologies, including the latest graphic processing units (GPUs), to enhance cloud services in the region.

CRISIL projects FY26 GDP growth to be steady at 6.5%

- CRISIL forecasts India's GDP growth for FY26 to be 6.5%, slower than the previous fiscal's 9.2%.
- This growth maintains India's status as the fastest-growing large economy, close to the pre-pandemic average of 6.6% from 2011 to 2020.
- Expectations for FY26 include a normal monsoon and soft commodity prices, boosting private consumption recovery.

CCI Approves JSW Energy's 100% Acquisition of KSK Mahanadi Power Company Ltd

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100% shareholding in KSK Mahanadi Power Company Limited (KMPCL) by JSW Energy Limited (JSWEL).
- JSWEL is a publicly listed company with diversified assets in power generation, transmission, trading, coal mining, and power equipment manufacturing.
- JSW Thermal Energy One Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of JSWEL, was incorporated in October 2024 specifically for this acquisition and currently has no independent business activities.
- KMPCL, established in 2009, operates a thermal power plant with a capacity of 6 x 600 MW located in Janjgir-Champa District, Chhattisgarh, and is currently undergoing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).

CCI Approves Ambuja Cements' Proposal to Acquire Up to 72.8% Stake in Orient Cement Ltd

- The Competition Commission of India has approved Ambuja Cements Limited's acquisition of up to 72.8% shareholding in Orient Cement Limited.
- Ambuja Cements is involved in the manufacture and sale of grey cement, including Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC), Pozzolona Portland Cement (PPC), and Pozzolona Composite Cement (PCC).
- The company operates 22 integrated cement plants, 10 bulk cement terminals, and 21 grinding units across India.
- Orient Cement Limited manufactures grey cement, including PPC and OPC, with three manufacturing facilities located in Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

IRCTC, IRFC get 'navratna' status

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) were granted 'Navratna' status by the Government of India on March 3, 2025, becoming the 25th and 26th Navratnas among Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- IRCTC has an annual turnover of ₹4,270.18 crore, a profit after tax (PAT) of ₹1,111.26 crore, and a net worth of ₹3,229.97 crore for FY 2023-24.
- IRFC reports an annual turnover of ₹26,644 crore, a PAT of ₹6,412 crore, and a net worth of ₹49,178 crore for FY 2023-24.

Govt Launched New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs as announced in Union Budget 2024-25

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary launched a New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs in Vishakhapatnam.
- The model is based on scoring digital footprints of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enhance credit assessment capabilities.
- Announced during the Union Budget 2024-25, the model allows Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to develop in-house credit assessment capabilities, moving away from reliance on external evaluations.

Chapter 4

Science and Technology

ISRO chairman V Narayanan launches thermal research centre at IIT-M

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) inaugurated the Shri S. Ramakrishnan Centre of Excellence in Fluid and Thermal Science Research at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
- The center aims to enhance India's self-reliance in advanced space technologies and attract global talent and research funding.
- It is located within the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Madras and focuses on thermal management for spacecraft and launch vehicles.

Astronauts Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore return to Earth after nine months

- NASA astronauts Sunita "Suni" Williams and Barry "Butch" Wilmore have safely returned to Earth after spending over nine months aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- Their mission, initially planned for just over a week, was extended due to technical issues with their original return spacecraft, Boeing's Starliner capsule.
- Williams and Wilmore launched to the ISS in June 2024 on Boeing's Starliner for its first crewed test flight.
- The Starliner had propulsion system malfunctions, leading to a need for an alternative return plan.
- They returned aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule, named 'Freedom,' which undocked from the ISS on March 18, 2025, and splashed down off Tallahassee, Florida.

Union IT Minister launched the IndiaAI Compute Portal and AIKosha

- On March 6, 2025, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the IndiaAI Compute Portal and AIKosha: IndiaAI Datasets Platform during the IndiaAI Mission anniversary in New Delhi.
- The IndiaAI Compute Portal offers access to 14,000 GPUs, with an additional 4,000 GPUs forthcoming, providing affordable AI compute services to startups, researchers, and developers.
- AIKosha serves as a secure repository of datasets, AI models, and use cases, featuring an integrated development environment with tools and tutorials to foster AI innovation.

NASA launched SPHEREx space telescope

- On March 11, 2025, NASA launched the SPHEREx space telescope from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- SPHEREx aims to map the entire sky over its two-year mission, collecting data on over 450 million galaxies and more than 100 million stars in the Milky Way.
- SPHEREx stands for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer.

Google introduced Gemma 3 multimodal AI model

- On March 12, 2025, Google introduced Gemma 3 multimodal AI model designed to enhance developer capabilities across various platforms.
- Building upon the technology of Gemini 2.0, Gemma 3 offers support for over 140 languages and features an expanded context window of up to 128,000 tokens.
- The model is available in sizes ranging from 1 billion to 27 billion parameters, enabling deployment on devices from mobile phones to workstations.

India Earns $143 Million from Launching 393 Foreign Satellites Since 2015

- Between January 2015 and December 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) generated approximately $143 million and €272 million in foreign exchange revenue by launching 393 foreign satellites from 34 countries.
- These launches utilized ISRO's PSLV, LVM3, and SSLV vehicles.
- Notably, 232 satellites were from the United States, 83 from the United Kingdom, and others from nations including Singapore, Canada, and Germany.

ISRO Unveils Indigenous High-Speed Microprocessors for Space Applications

- In March 2025, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in collaboration with the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh, unveiled two indigenously developed 32-bit microprocessors: VIKRAM3201 and KALPANA3201.
- These processors are tailored for space applications, enhancing onboard navigation, guidance, and control systems of launch vehicles.
- VIKRAM3201, an advancement of the earlier 16-bit VIKRAM1601, supports floating-point computations and high-level language compatibility, notably with Ada.

Bellatrix Aerospace Partners with Astroscale Japan for Space Debris Removal

- On March 21, 2025, Bellatrix Aerospace, a Bengaluru-based space mobility company, signed an MoU with Astroscale Japan to collaborate on active debris removal, satellite servicing, and sustainable in-orbit mobility.
- This partnership aims to address opportunities within India's growing space market and expand into international markets, contributing to a cleaner and safer orbital environment.
- The collaboration will leverage both companies' expertise to enhance space sustainability efforts globally.

Chapter 5

Sports Affairs

India Wins ICC Champions Trophy 2025 defeating New Zealand in Final

- On March 9, 2025, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium, India secured the ICC Champions Trophy by defeating New Zealand by four wickets.
- Batting first, New Zealand posted 251/7 in their 50 overs. India chased the target, reaching 254/6 in 49 overs, with Rohit Sharma scoring 76 runs and earning the Player of the Match award.
- This victory marked India's third Champions Trophy title [2002 (shared with Sri Lanka) and 2013 (defeating England)] and their second consecutive global tournament win, following the previous year's Twenty20 World Cup triumph.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) rewarded the team with a $6.72 million bonus for their achievement.
- Rachin Ravindra (263 Runs) from New Zealand was declared Player of the Tournament.

Mumbai Indians win 2nd WPL title by beating Delhi by 8 runs

- Mumbai Indians clinched their second Women's Premier League (WPL) title by defeating Delhi Capitals by eight runs in the 2025 final at Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium.
- Opting to bat first, Mumbai Indians posted a total of 148/7 in their 20 overs.
- Captain Harmanpreet Kaur led the charge with a vital 37 runs, while Nat Sciver-Brunt contributed a quickfire 32.
- Mumbai Indians' Nat Sciver-Brunt is the Orange Cap holder with most runs (523).
- New Zealand's Amelia Kerr who won the Purple Cap with 18 wickets

India secures 33 medals at Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025

- India concluded the Special Olympics World Winter Games 2025 in Turin, Italy, with a remarkable haul of 33 medals, comprising 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze.
- The final day of competition saw India clinch 12 additional medals across four events.
- In Snowshoeing, India secured 4 more medals, contributing to a total of 10 medals in this event, with Vasu Tiwari, Shalini Chauhan, and Tanya winning silver medals in the 25m Snowshoeing event, and Jahangir taking home a bronze.
- The Alpine Skiing segment featured strong performances, with Radha Devi and Nirmala Devi winning silver medals in the Intermediate Slalom (F01 and F04 categories), and Abhishek Kumar also claiming silver in the Novice Slalom (M02 category).

- Akriti earned a bronze medal in Cross Country Skiing in the 100m Classical Technique (F02 category).
- India's Women's Traditional Floorball Team demonstrated teamwork and skill, winning a bronze medal.

India Masters clinch inaugural IML title, beat WIM by 6 wickets

- India Masters clinched the inaugural International Masters League (IML) title with a 6-wicket victory over West Indies Masters, at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.
- Led by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, India Masters delivered a comprehensive performance.
- The bowlers restricted the West Indies Masters to 148/7 in their 20 overs.
- Ambati Rayudu anchored the chase with a stellar 74 off 50 balls, featuring nine boundaries and three sixes. His innings ensured a smooth pursuit of the target.

Saudi Arabia plans global T20 cricket league with $500 million investment

- The league will consist of eight teams and aims to replicate the format of tennis's Grand Slams, featuring matches in four different locations each year.
- The initiative is led by Australian cricket figure Neil Maxwell, who is working with the Australian Cricketers' Association to ensure the league supports Test cricket financially.
- The structure of the league will fit within existing cricket calendars to minimize disruption to other major T20 leagues like the IPL and BBL

Govt partners with Meta on digital consumer protection initiative

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has partnered with Meta to launch the "Be an Empowered Consumer" campaign.
- This initiative aims to enhance digital literacy and protection for online consumers.
- The campaign operates under the existing "Jago Grahak Jago" framework and was announced by Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Meta's Chief Global Affairs Officer Joel Kaplan.
- It focuses on educating users about recognizing online threats and promoting digital safety habits, such as using strong passwords and verifying online information.

Sunil Chhetri makes surprise return to football at 40

- Sunil Chhetri, legendary Indian footballer, has come out of retirement from international football.
- His return followed a discussion with Indian head coach Manolo Marquez.
- Chhetri has been included in the 26-member Indian squad for the March FIFA International Window.
- Chhetri's return is crucial as India prepares for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers against Bangladesh on March 25.
- Chhetri is the fourth-highest international goal scorer with 94 goals.
- He had previously announced his retirement from the national team in June 2024.

Bangladesh all-rounder Mahmudullah retires from international cricket

- Mahmudullah, a veteran Bangladeshi cricketer, announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He previously retired from Test cricket in 2021 and T20Is in 2024.
- Mahmudullah is Bangladesh's fourth-highest ODI run-scorer with 5,689 runs at an average of 36.46, including four centuries in ICC tournaments.
- Mahmudullah played a total of 239 ODIs, 50 Tests, and 141 T20Is over his 17-year career.

Jharkhand beat Haryana to win 15th Hockey India Women National Championship

- Hockey Jharkhand won the 15th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship.
- They defeated defending champions Hockey Haryana 4-3 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw in regulation time.
- Pramodni Lakra scored for Jharkhand in the 44th minute.
- Captain Rani Rampal scored for Haryana in the 42nd minute.
- In the bronze medal match, Hockey Mizoram defeated Hockey Maharashtra 2-1, with Manju Chorsiya scoring the late winner in the 59th minute.

Indian Table Tennis great Sharath Kamal announces retirement from the sport

- Achanta Sharath Kamal, India's iconic table tennis star, announced his retirement from professional table tennis.
- His final competition will be the WTT Star Contender event in Chennai from March 25 to 30, 2025.
- He is currently India's second-ranked player, with a narrowing gap between him and emerging players.

Bangladesh cricketer Mushfiqur Rahim retires from ODI

- Mushfiqur Rahim, a long-serving cricketer for Bangladesh, announced his retirement from ODI cricket following the team's exit from the ICC Champions Trophy 2025.
- He debuted in ODI cricket in August 2006 and played 274 matches, scoring 7,795 runs with an average of 36.42, including nine centuries and 49 fifties.
- Bangladesh's performance in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 was disappointing, as they faced defeats against India and New Zealand, and their final match against Pakistan was abandoned due to rain.
- Rahim's notable achievements in ODIs included an impactful unbeaten 56 runs against India in 2007.

Chapter 6

Defence Affairs

Pravaig's 'Veer' undergoes military trials, wins iDEX defence award

- Pravaig, a Bengaluru-based EV startup, has developed the all-terrain stealth vehicle named Veer, the world's first operational electric vehicle (EV) for tactical defense use.
- Veer has successfully undergone military trials and has been awarded the prestigious iDEX Award by India's Ministry of Defence.
- The vehicle is designed for forward patrolling, reconnaissance, and ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) operations, highlighting its advanced stealth capabilities.
- Atima Corporation, a subsidiary of Pravaig, received the iDEX Award from the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), which emphasizes deepening India's sovereignty through cutting-edge defense technologies.

DAC clears capital acquisition proposals worth over Rs 54,000

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, approved Acceptance of Necessity (AoNs) for eight capital acquisition proposals totaling over Rs 54,000 crore.
- AoN granted for the procurement of 1350 HP Engines to upgrade the existing 1000 HP Engines for T-90 Tanks.
- This upgrade aims to improve the battlefield mobility of tanks, particularly in high-altitude areas by enhancing the power-to-weight ratio.

Ministry of Defence signs $ 248 million Deal for procurement of engines for T-72 Tanks for Indian Army

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a $248 million contract with Rosoboronexport (RoE) from the Russian Federation.
- The contract is for the procurement of 1000 HP engines for T-72 tanks.

- The engines will be delivered in fully formed, completely knocked down, and semi knocked down conditions.
- The deal includes a Transfer of Technology (ToT) from RoE to Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (Heavy Vehicle Factory) located in Avadi, Chennai.

India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII Begins in Kyrgyzstan

- The 12th edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR-XII is scheduled from March 10 to March 23, 2025, in Kyrgyzstan.
- This annual training event has been held since 2011 and alternates locations between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- The last exercise took place in India in January 2024.
- The aim of the exercise is to exchange experiences and best practices in Counter Terrorism and Special Forces Operations in various terrains.

Rajnath Singh becomes first Raksha Mantri to visit IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine in Bengaluru

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) in Bengaluru, becoming the first Raksha Mantri to do so.
- He was briefed on IAM's role in pilot training, medical evaluation, and aeromedical research.
- Shri Rajnath Singh inspected the Dynamic Flight Simulator, High Performance Human Centrifuge for high-G training, and the Spatial Disorientation Simulator.
- He Launched the Indian Council of Medical Research's project on 'Space Psychology' aimed at astronaut selection and behavioural health training for Indian space missions.

DRDO conducts high-altitude trials of Indigenous Integrated Life Support System for LCA Tejas

- The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory (DEBEL) conducted successful high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft on March 4, 2025.

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- The OBOGS-based ILSS generates and regulates breathable oxygen for pilots, removing reliance on traditional liquid oxygen cylinder systems.
- Rigorous testing was performed on the LCA-Prototype Vehicle-3 aircraft, meeting strict aeromedical standards at altitudes up to 50,000 feet and during high-G maneuvers.
- The ILSS features 10 Line Replaceable Units, including systems for low-pressure breathing, emergency oxygen, and advanced sensors, facilitating real-time oxygen generation to enhance pilot endurance.

Chapter 7

Awards and Honours

Vijay Sankar honoured with Denmark's Knight's Cross for consular services

- Vijay Sankar, Chairman of The Sanmar Group and Honorary Consul General of Denmark in Chennai, has been honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by His Majesty, the King of Denmark.
- This prestigious accolade recognizes his exceptional contributions to Indo-Danish relations and his distinguished consular services.
- The award was presented by Denmark's Ambassador to India, Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, during a ceremony in Chennai.
- The Order of Dannebrog, established in 1671, is one of Denmark's highest honors, bestowed upon individuals for meritorious civil or military service, for a particular contribution to the arts, sciences, or business life, or for those working for Danish interests.

Mauritius PM bestows country's highest honour on PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored with Mauritius' highest civilian award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GCSK).
- Mauritian PM Navinchandra Ramgoolam announced this accolade during a community event in Port Louis, stating that Modi is the first Indian and the fifth foreign national to receive this distinguished recognition.
- The GCSK award acknowledges individuals who have made significant contributions to strengthening ties between Mauritius and other nations.
- Past recipients include notable figures such as Nelson Mandela, who was honored in 1998.

Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025: Jejurikar of M&M is CEO of the Year

- The Forbes India Leadership Awards 2025 took place at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, honoring top leaders for innovative and transformative leadership.
- Key awards included:
  - **Emerging Innovator Award:** BugWorks Research, emphasized the impact of innovation.
  - **Outstanding Startup Award:** BrowserStack, recognized for powering major airlines and banks.
  - **Icons of Excellence:** Ajay Singh (SpiceJet) and Katrina Kaif (Kay Beauty) acknowledged for their unique business approaches.
  - **Fireside Chat:** Katrina Kaif discussed branding and self-expression in business.
  - **Business & Economy Panel:** Leaders discussed global trade challenges and MSMEs' role; Rajesh Jejurikar highlighted India's global importance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' Award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' award from the Barbados government.
- He expressed gratitude for the award, dedicating it to the 1.4 billion Indians and the strong ties between India and Barbados.
- The award was conferred in recognition of Modi's exemplary work during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Union Minister Pabitra Margherita presented the award on behalf of PM Modi to Barbados President Dame Sandra Mason.

Chapter 8

Appointments and Resignation

Shivkumar Kalyanaraman Takes Charge As CEO Of Anusandhan National Research Foundation

- Shivkumar Kalyanaraman has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), India's leading research funding agency focused on universities.
- He assumed office on March 17, 2025, succeeding Abhay Karandikar, who was acting as CEO.
- ANRF was established two years ago and aims to promote research and development, fostering a culture of innovation in universities, colleges, and research institutions across India.
- Prior to his new role, Kalyanaraman served as Chief Technology Officer for Microsoft's Energy Industry in Asia.

Reserve Bank of India appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as Executive Director

- Indranil Bhattacharyya has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective March 19, 2025.
- In his role, he will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research.
- Prior to this appointment, Bhattacharyya served as an adviser in the Monetary Policy Department of the RBI.
- Bhattacharyya also worked as an economic expert in the Technical Office of the Governor at Qatar Central Bank from 2009 to 2014.

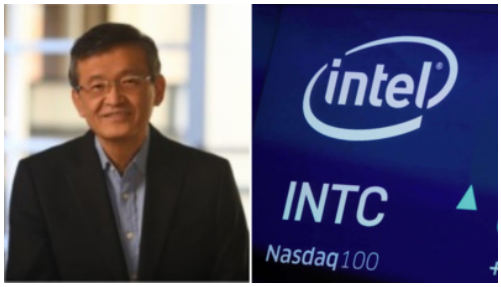
RBI approves re-appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as IndusInd Bank chief for 1 year

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted a one-year extension to Sumant Kathpalia as MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank, effective from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2026.
- The extension is shorter than the three-year term requested by the bank's Board, marking the second consecutive instance of the RBI approving a limited tenure for Kathpalia.
- Kathpalia has been in charge since March 2020 and received a two-year extension in March 2023 despite a three-year term being approved by the Board at that time.

Saina Nehwal joins Naarica as investor and brand ambassador

- Badminton player Saina Nehwal has become an investor and brand ambassador for the menstrual hygiene brand Naarica.
- The collaboration aims to promote sustainable menstrual care solutions in India, where many women lack access to sanitary products.
- Naarica specializes in absorbent menstrual underwear as an alternative to traditional sanitary pads, combining international design with Indian manufacturing for eco-friendly products.
- India's menstrual hygiene sector is growing at a 16% CAGR and is projected to reach $522 million by 2025, but access remains challenging in underserved communities.

Intel Appoints Lip-Bu Tan as New CEO Amidst Strategic Shift



- Intel Corporation has appointed Lip-Bu Tan as its new Chief Executive Officer.
- Tan, a seasoned leader in the semiconductor industry, previously served as CEO of Cadence Design Systems and was a member of Intel's board until August 2024.
- This leadership change follows the departure of former CEO Pat Gelsinger in December 2024, after which David Zinsner and Michelle Johnston Holthaus served as interim co-CEOs.
- Zinsner will continue as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, while Johnston Holthaus will remain CEO of Intel Products.

Government appoints Vikas Kaushal as CMD of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited

- Vikas Kaushal has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for a five-year term.
- He previously served as the global leader for energy and process industries at Kearney.
- Kaushal is the first private sector executive to lead a state-run oil refinery in India.
- The Indian government has faced challenges in appointing heads for several public sector companies, including ONGC, IOCL, and BPCL.

Federal Bank appoints Vidya Balan as brand ambassador

- Federal Bank appointed actress Vidya Balan as its first brand ambassador during a ceremony in Mumbai.
- The announcement was made by Mr. K.V.S. Manian, Managing Director & CEO of Federal Bank.
- The appointment is seen as a significant milestone in enhancing the bank's market position.
- The collaboration aims to communicate the bank's story and strengthen relationships with stakeholders.

Takashi Nakajima appointed as Honda Cars India's new President & CEO

- Takashi Nakajima has been appointed as the new president and CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL), effective April 1, 2025.

- He will succeed Takuya Tsumura, who is moving to Honda's head office in Japan after a three-year tenure in India.
- Takashi Nakajima has over 30 years of experience with Honda, having joined in 1994.
- Since 2021, Nakajima has served as President of Honda Motor, Russia, and was responsible for product planning and marketing in the domestic Japan market.

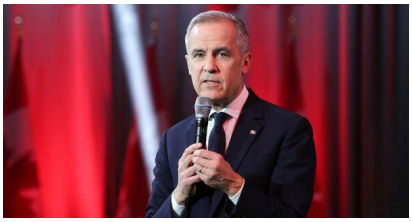
Arun Mammen elected as new ATMA chairman

- Arun Mammen, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), the national industry body representing India's automotive tyre sector.
- He succeeds Arnab Banerjee, Managing Director and CEO of CEAT Ltd.
- Mammen holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from Ashland University, USA, and became Managing Director of MRF Ltd in 2004, later advancing to Vice Chairman and Managing Director in 2017.

N Ganapathy Subramaniam appointed as Chairman of Tata Communications

- Tata Communications Ltd appointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam as Chairman of the Board of Directors, effective March 14, 2025.
- Subramaniam's appointment follows a recommendation from the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.
- He joined Tata Communications Board as a Non-Executive Director on December 2, 2021.
- Subramaniam has over 40 years of experience in the IT industry, primarily with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Mark Carney sworn in as Canada's 24th Prime Minister



- Mark Carney has been sworn in as Canada's 24th prime minister amid an ongoing trade war with the US.
- He replaced Justin Trudeau after winning the Liberal Party leadership vote overwhelmingly.
- He formed a smaller cabinet of 24 members, appointing Francois-Philippe Champagne as finance minister and Dominic LeBlanc for international trade.
- Carney's government will focus on protecting Canadian workers and stimulating the economy.
- He is the first prime minister since 1867 to assume office without holding a seat in Parliament (except for Canada's first prime minister).

Ajay Bhadoo Appointed as CEO of Government e Marketplace

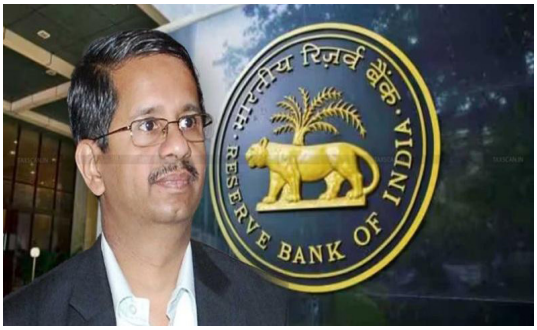
- Ajay Bhadoo has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Government e Marketplace (GeM) effective from March 3, 2025.
- He continues to hold his position as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- The appointment coincides with GeM's transition to a next-generation digital marketplace, supported by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- Bhadoo is a 1999 batch IAS officer from the Gujarat cadre with over 20 years of experience in policy formulation and implementation.

Himanshu Pathak assumes charge as ICRISAT Director-General

- Himanshu Pathak has become the new Director-General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), located in Hyderabad.
- He previously served as the Union Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Research and Education and as the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Reserve Bank appoints Ajit Ratnakar Joshi as new executive director

- Dr. Ajit Ratnakar Joshi has been appointed as the Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective March 3, 2025.



- Prior to this promotion, he served as Principal Adviser in the Department of Statistics and Information Management (DSIM).
- He has been a faculty member at the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) in Hyderabad and has contributed to various committees and working groups on macroeconomic statistics and policy issues.

Chapter 9

Index and Reports

World Happiness Report 2025

- Finland has been named the happiest country in the world for the eighth consecutive year, according to the World Happiness Report 2025.
- Other Nordic countries, specifically Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden, also maintained their high rankings, highlighting their strong social support systems and overall quality of life.
- The happiness rankings are based on self-assessed life evaluations compiled through surveys conducted by Gallup in collaboration with the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- India ranked 118th on the happiness index, while Pakistan ranked 109th, indicating that Pakistan has a stronger sense of social support despite facing significant challenges.
- Afghanistan remains the unhappiest country for the fourth consecutive year, ranked 147th, especially impacting women.
- Other countries at the bottom of the rankings include Sierra Leone (146th), Lebanon (145th), Malawi (144th), and Zimbabwe (143rd).

Indian cities among world's top 10 most polluted list

- Swiss air quality technology company IQAir has released the 'World Air Quality Report 2024'.
- The report by IQAir reveals that six of the ten most polluted cities globally are located in India, with New Delhi ranked as the most polluted capital city.
- Thirteen of the world's twenty most polluted cities are located in India, with Byrnihat in Assam ranking as the most polluted city globally.
- India is ranked as the fifth most polluted country in 2024, an improvement from third place in 2023.
- Six of the top ten most polluted cities globally are situated in India, with Delhi's annual PM2.5 level at 91.6 micrograms per cubic metre, relatively stable from 92.7 in 2023.
- The 13 Indian cities noted among the top 20 most polluted include Byrnihat, Delhi, Mullanpur, Faridabad, Loni, New Delhi, Gurugram, Ganganagar, Greater Noida, Bhiwadi, Muzaffarnagar, Hanumangarh, and Noida.
- Chad holds the title for the worst air quality worldwide, with PM2.5 levels more than 18 times the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline.

India emerges as 3rd largest digitised economy: Report

- According to a latest report by Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India has emerged as the third largest digitalised country in the world, behind the United States and China.
- India ranks 11th in AI research and 16th in infrastructure, highlighting the need for greater investment to compete globally, revealed the third edition of the 'State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2025' report by the ICRIER-Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy (IPCIDE).
- The SIDE 2025 report showed that India has the world's second largest mobile and internet network by number of users.

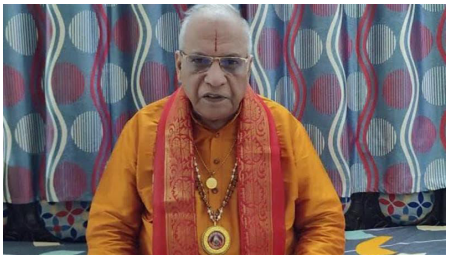
CSE and DTE Released 12th Edition of State of India's Environment Report

- The State of India's Environment 2025 report was released by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down To Earth (DTE) magazine.
- The report provides comprehensive documentation of significant developments in environmental issues such as climate change, waste management, air and water pollution, and food safety.
- Sections within the report focus on critical themes like plastics, biodiversity, health, and specific issues such as the impact of climate change on the Thar desert and the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

Chapter 10

Obituaries

Classical singer Garimella Balakrishna Prasad passes away



- Renowned classical musician and composer Garimella Balakrishna Prasad passed away at the age of 76, due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- Prasad was instrumental in composing and rendering over 1,000 Annamacharya Sankeerthanas, blending them into various Indian musical genres such as classical, semi-classical, light, and folk styles.
- He authored several publications, including "Anjaneya Krithi Manimala," "Sri Ganesh Krithi Manimala," and "Navagrahadi Krithi Manimala," contributing significantly to music literature.
- Prasad served as the Asthana Vidwan (court scholar) for TTD and was associated with the Annamacharya Project from 1978 to 2006, playing a pivotal role in preserving and propagating Annamacharya's spiritual legacy.
- In recognition of his immense contributions to Indian classical music, he was honored with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2020.

Boris Spassky, renowned Soviet chess grandmaster, passes away

- Boris Spassky, the renowned Russian chess grandmaster and former World Chess Champion, has passed away at the age of 88.
- Spassky's early life was marked by the hardships of World War II.
- He discovered chess at the age of five during his evacuation from Leningrad and quickly demonstrated exceptional talent.
- By 18, he had become a grandmaster, setting a record later surpassed by his future rival, Bobby Fischer.
- He was a World Chess Championship candidate on seven occasions (1956, 1965, 1968, 1974, 1977, 1980, and 1985).
- In addition to his candidates wins in 1965 and 1968, Spassky reached the semi-final stage in 1974 and the final stage in 1977.

Australian tennis legend Fred Stolle passes away

- Fred Stolle, a two-time major tennis winner and member of three Davis Cup-winning teams, has passed away at the age of 86.
- Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley described him as an "iconic figure" in tennis, both as a player and commentator.
- Tiley noted Stolle's contributions to tennis during its transition from amateurism to professionalism in the 1960s.
- Stolle lost his first five Grand Slam singles finals before winning the French Open in 1965 and the US Open in 1966.
- He was a successful doubles player, winning 10 men's doubles titles and seven mixed doubles titles at Grand Slams.

Chapter 11

Summits and Conferences

PM Modi inaugurated 10th Raisina Dialogue

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon jointly inaugurated the 10th edition of the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics.
- The event, hosted annually by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), has become a key platform for global leaders, policymakers, academics, and industry experts to deliberate on pressing international issues.
- The three-day conference features participation from around 125 countries, including deputy prime ministers and foreign ministers from nearly 20 nations.
- The conference was held in New Delhi from March 17 to March 19, 2025.
- The theme for this year's dialogue is "Kalachakra: People, Peace, Planet,".

India Participates in 353rd Governing Body Meeting of ILO in Geneva

- India actively participated in the 353rd Governing Body Meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) from March 10 to March 20, 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Key highlights included India's achievements in social protection, fair migration, living wages, and responsible business conduct.
- India reaffirmed its commitment to labour welfare, social justice, and quality employment generation.

CCI Organises 10th Edition of National Conference on Economics of Competition Law

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) organized the 10th National Conference on Economics of Competition Law in New Delhi.
- The conference has been an annual event since 2016, focused on bringing together scholars, practitioners, and experts in competition law.
- Smt. Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson of CCI, delivered a Special Address discussing the evolving regulatory landscape and the importance of balancing innovation with competition, particularly with respect to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

9th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks held in New Delhi

- The ninth edition of India-Australia Defence Policy Talks took place in New Delhi on March 17, 2025.
- The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, while the Australian side was led by Mr. Bernard Philip.
- Both countries noted sustained progress in bilateral defence cooperation, including more frequent and complex defence exercises and exchanges.

Chapter 12

Books and Authors

P.S. Raman launched his book, 'Leo: The Untold Story of Chennai Super Kings'

- On March 16, 2025, in Chennai, P.S. Raman, former vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, launched his book, 'Leo: The Untold Story of Chennai Super Kings'.
- The book chronicles CSK's journey in the Indian Premier League (IPL), highlighting their resilience through triumphs and setbacks, including a two-year suspension and subsequent comeback.

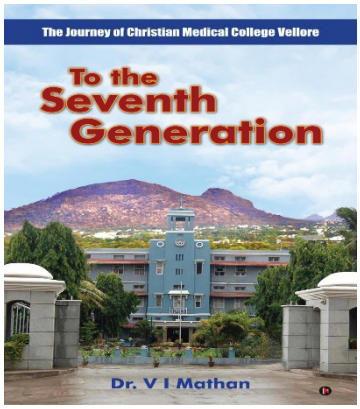
Kailash Satyarthi's autobiography 'Diyaslai' launched at IGNCA

- The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) hosted a literary discussion on Kailash Satyarthi's autobiography, Diyaslai.
- Diyaslai explores themes of social justice, child rights, and global compassion.
- Diyaslai is the autobiography of Kailash Satyarthi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate.
- The book narrates his life struggles and activism focused on eradicating child labor.
- It details his journey from humble beginnings in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, to leading the Global March Against Child Labour, which reached 186 countries.

'March of Glory' Book Released to Celebrate India's 1975 Hockey World Cup Triumph

- On March 18, 2025, at Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi, the book 'March of Glory' was launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of India's 1975 Hockey World Cup victory.
- Co-authored by hockey historian K. Arumugam and journalist Errol D'Cruz, the book provides a detailed account of India's journey to clinching the title in Kuala Lumpur on March 15, 1975.
- It features match details, player quotes, and over 250 rare photographs, capturing the team's resilience and triumph.

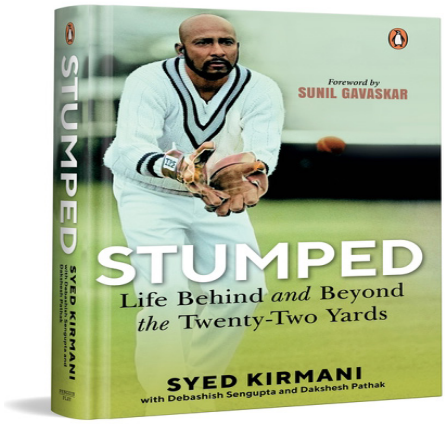
Dr. V.I. Mathan launched his book "To the Seventh Generation"



- On March 20, 2025, in Chennai, Dr. V.I. Mathan, former director of Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore, launched his book, "To the Seventh Generation: The Journey of Christian Medical College Vellore".
- The book chronicles the historical development of CMC Vellore, offering insights from its founder, Ida Scudder, and reflecting Dr. Mathan's 50-year association with the institution.

Syed Kirmani's Autobiography 'Stumped' Revisits 1983 World Cup Triumph and Kapil Dev's Iconic 175

- On December 29, 2024, legendary Indian wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani released his autobiography, 'Stumped: Life Behind and Beyond the Twenty-Two Yards'.
- In the book, Kirmani provides an insider's perspective on India's historic 1983 World Cup victory, particularly highlighting Kapil Dev's unbeaten 175-run innings against Zimbabwe—a pivotal moment that propelled India into the semi-finals.



- Kirmani, who partnered with Kapil during that match, offers detailed accounts of this and other significant events from his cricketing career.

Chapter 13

Important Days

National Vaccination Day

- National Vaccination Day is observed annually on March 16, highlighting India's commitment to public health through immunisation.
- The day underscores the importance of eliminating vaccine-preventable diseases and ensuring universal vaccination coverage.
- The day was established on March 16, 1995, when the first dose of the oral polio vaccine was administered under the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme.
- This programme was pivotal in combating poliomyelitis, leading to India being declared polio-free by the WHO in 2014.

World Sparrow Day

- World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20th annually.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the declining population of house sparrows and promote conservation efforts.
- Initiated in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society, an Indian bird conservation organization.
- The theme for the World Sparrow Day 2025 is 'A Tribute to Nature's Tiny Messengers'.

World Forest Day

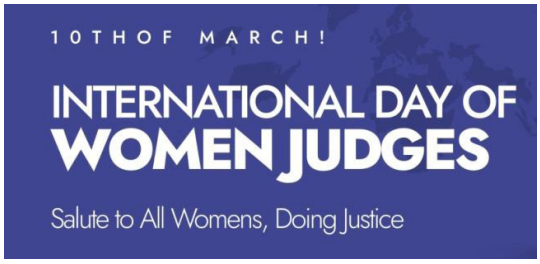
- Every year, March 21 is observed as the International Day of Forest (IDF) by the United Nations to commemorate the green cover around the world and reiterate its importance.
- The theme of the 2025 IDF is "Forests and Food", celebrating the crucial role played by forests in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- The Day is celebrated by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and other relevant organisations in the field.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

International Women's Day

- International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8, recognizing women's achievements across various boundaries.
- The theme for International Women's Day 2025 is "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment," emphasizing the need for equal rights and opportunities.
- The year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a significant document for women's rights.

International Day of Women Judges

- International Day of Women Judges is observed annually on March 10.



- The day celebrates the contributions of female judges in the fight against social injustice and aims to enhance the legitimacy of courts.
- The initiative highlights the importance of women's participation in decision-making for democracy and equality.
- Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) following an international conference in Doha, Qatar, in February 2020.
- The first observance of the International Day of Women Judges took place on March 10, 2022.

World Consumer Rights Day

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated annually on March 15.
- It emphasizes the importance of upholding consumer rights and protection.
- The day promotes respect for consumers' basic rights.
- First observed in 1983, it commemorates President John F. Kennedy's 1962 address recognizing consumer rights.
- The theme for 2025 is "A Just Transition to Sustainable Lifestyles."

International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness

- Every year on March 5, the world observes International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day.
- The day promotes global awareness and understanding of disarmament issues, particularly among the youth.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established this day in 2021 to encourage education and advocacy regarding disarmament and non-proliferation.
- The first International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness Day was commemorated on March 5, 2023.

National Dentist's Day

- March 6th is recognized as National Dentist's Day in India and other countries.
- This day highlights the importance of maintaining good oral hygiene.
- National Dentist's Day promotes awareness of oral health and the necessity of regular dental checkups.

Jan Aushadhi Diwas

- Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed annually on March 7 to promote the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- This scheme aims to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, especially for economically weaker sections.

Chapter 14

Government Schemes and Programs

Cabinet approves Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD)

- The Union Cabinet approved the Revised National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The revised NPDD has an increased budget of Rs. 2790 crore for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26), with an additional Rs. 1000 crore allocated.
- The initiative aims to modernize and expand dairy infrastructure, enhancing growth and productivity in the dairy sector.

Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs upgraded National Youth Parliament Scheme

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has launched NYPS 2.0, an upgraded National Youth Parliament Scheme web portal.
- NYPS 2.0 is now open to all citizens, allowing participation regardless of economic status, gender, caste, creed, religion, race, region, or place.
- The scheme offers three modes of participation: Institution Participation, Group Participation and Individual Participation.

Chapter 15

Persons and Places in News

Levi's ropes in Diljit Dosanjh as global ambassador

- Levi's has announced Diljit Dosanjh as their newest global brand ambassador, making him the first Punjabi artist to join the brand's community of creative talent.
- This collaboration follows the success of Dosanjh's record-breaking Dil-Luminati Tour and his debut performance at Coachella.
- The partnership celebrates the merging of Levi's timeless appeal with Diljit's influential journey in music and style, emphasizing bold choices in self-expression.
- The partnership will showcase Levi's expanding menswear line, including new styles like Loose and Relaxed fits, combining music and fashion.

Mughal ruler Aurangzeb's 17th-century tomb in Khuldabad

- In March 2025, Nagpur, Maharashtra, witnessed significant public unrest as Hindu nationalist groups demanded the demolition of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's 17th-century tomb in Khuldabad, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar.
- The site is protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act), 1958, limiting the government's authority to demolish it.
- Aurangzeb (Alamgir), the son of Shahjahan, was the sixth Mughal emperor (after Babur, Humayun, Akbar, Jahangir and Shahjahan) who ruled from 1658 to 1707.
- Sambhaji Maharaj (1657–1689), the eldest son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Saibai Nimbalkar, ascended the Maratha throne in 1681.