

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

₹40,000 Crore Subsea Gas Pipeline: India has fast-tracked the proposed deep-sea gas pipeline project connecting Oman/UAE to Gujarat to strengthen its long-term energy security.

10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD): Hosted by India in New Delhi. It is a premier Track 1.5 forum under the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). India holds the Chairship of IORA for the 2025–27 period.

US Drops Graft Charges against Gautam Adani

Adani: According to a report by the NY Times, the United States decided to drop graft charges against billionaire Gautam Adani involving alleged bribes for solar contracts.

NATIONAL & STATE AFFAIRS

Cabinet Approves Semi High-Speed Rail Project: The Union Cabinet approved the **Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project** with an estimated cost of **₹20,667 crore**.

New Kerala Chief Minister: Congress leader **V.D. Satheesan** has been named the new Chief Minister of Kerala following the United Democratic Front's (UDF) victory, winning 102 out of 140 seats, ending 10 years of LDF rule.

Assam Cabinet Approves Draft UCC Bill: The Assam Cabinet approved the draft **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill** to bring legal uniformity to marriage, divorce, and property succession.

Karnataka Revokes Hijab Ban: The Government of Karnataka officially revoked its 2022 order banning the hijab in educational institutions.

LEADS 2025 Report Released: Union Minister Piyush Goyal released the 7th edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report. Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Delhi were

categorized as '**Exemplars**' for outstanding logistics performance.

IP Catalyst Initiative: Launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) along with its digital platform (cipie.in) to accelerate intellectual property commercialization.

ECONOMICS, BANKING & FINANCE

Kotak Mahindra Bank's Major Stakes: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved Kotak Mahindra Bank's request to acquire up to a **9.99% stake** each in **AU Small Finance Bank** and **Federal Bank**.

Ban on Sugar Exports: India extended its ban on sugar exports until **September 30, 2026**, to stabilize domestic buffer stocks and secure a projected domestic demand of 280 lakh tonnes.

MSP Hiked for Kharif Crops: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif Crops for the 2026–27 marketing season.

- Highest absolute increase: Sunflower seeds (₹622/quintal), followed by Cotton (₹557/quintal).

Fuel Prices Hike: Fuel prices were hiked by ₹3 per litre across India due to prolonged supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and the escalating global energy crisis.

AWARDS, HONORS & APPOINTMENTS

P. Kumaran Takes Charge: Senior diplomat P. Kumaran officially took charge as India's new **High Commissioner to London, United Kingdom**.

LEAPS Awards 2025: Organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to celebrate exceptional achievements in supply chain and logistics.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

"From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization": Released as an official report/compendium by MeitY during the National IP Conference to guide tech start-ups and researchers in intellectual property handling.

DEFENSE NEWS

INS Sunayna Participates in PASSEX: The Indian Navy's Saryu-class Off-Shore Patrol Vessel (OPV), **INS Sunayna**, visited Bangladesh and engaged in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the Bangladesh Navy to enhance maritime interoperability.

Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi: A tripartite agreement was signed to construct a mega facility under the National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park Tamil Nadu (NSHIP-TN). It targeting an annual capacity of 2.5 Million Gross Tonnage (MGT) under the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.

Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar: Approved by the Union Cabinet at a cost of ₹1,570 crore, to be co-developed by the Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited in Gujarat.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

₹37,500 Crore Coal Gasification Scheme: The Union Cabinet approved a financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore for the **Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects** to cut down LNG imports. Financial incentives are capped at 20% of plant costs.

Mizoram Ginger Mission: Launched by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mizoram CM Lalduhoma with an outlay of **₹189.79 crore** to elevate ginger cultivation and its supply chain.

Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC) Platform: Unveiled by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. Developed by BHEL and NPCI, this serves as a national unified EV

charging network. 1,243 EV stations were cleared for Karnataka.

Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) in Andhra Pradesh: Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) under the DoT signed an agreement with the AP Government to execute the next phase of rural internet connectivity through APBIL.

MOUS

I4C and RBIH Partnership: The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the MHA signed an MoU with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) to utilize AI for intercepting financial fraud and mapping fraudulent "mule accounts".

IndiaAI Mission & Karya: IndiaAI (under MeitY) tied up with Bengaluru-based NGO Karya to build high-quality regional datasets, ensuring an inclusive AI ecosystem across Indian languages.

Gol and IFAD: Launched a collaborative **8-year rural livelihoods programme** alongside the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to boost agrarian economies.

IMPORTANT DAYS & ENVIRONMENT FOCUS

International Day of Families (15th May): Celebrated globally to emphasize the role of families in social and economic development.

'Lion' Species Spotlight Programme: Launched at Sasan Gir, Gujarat by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, spotlighting Asiatic Lion conservation (population stood at 891 in recent counts).

Kallakkadal Swell Surge Warning: The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) deployed a Coastal Flood Monitoring System near Kollam Harbour, Kerala, to track sudden, storm-driven Kallakkadalflooding.



Asola Bhatti Sanctuary Invasive Crisis:

Environmental reports highlighted that the invasive plant species *Prosopis juliflora* (Mexican thorny shrub) has colonised over 63% of the Delhi-based sanctuary.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Q1. India has recently fast-tracked a proposed deep-sea gas pipeline project to strengthen its long-term energy security. Which country/countries does this pipeline connect to Gujarat?

- A) Iran
- B) Oman and UAE
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Qatar

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** India has accelerated the development of a ₹40,000 crore subsea gas pipeline project designed to transport natural gas directly from Oman and the UAE to the coast of Gujarat. This bypasses volatile land routes, providing a secure maritime energy corridor.

Q2. The 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) was hosted in New Delhi. India holds the Chairship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for which of the following tenures?

- A) 2024–2026
- B) 2025–2027
- C) 2026–2028
- D) 2023–2025

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue, a prominent Track 1.5 forum, was hosted by India in New Delhi. This event coincides with India's official tenure as the Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) spanning from 2025 to 2027.

Q3. According to international media reports in mid-May 2026, which country's authorities decided to drop high-profile graft and bribery charges against billionaire Gautam Adani regarding solar energy contracts?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Australia

- C) United States
- D) Sri Lanka

- **Correct Answer: C**
- **Explanation:** The United States Department of Justice dropped the bribery and graft charges against Indian billionaire Gautam Adani. The legal case originally alleged corrupt practices related to securing lucrative solar energy contracts.

NATIONAL & STATE AFFAIRS

Q4. The Union Cabinet approved the Ahmedabad (Sarkhej)–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project. What is the total estimated cost of this infrastructure development?

- A) ₹12,450 crore
- B) ₹15,000 crore
- C) ₹20,667 crore
- D) ₹25,310 crore

- **Correct Answer: C**
- **Explanation:** To boost connectivity within the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), the Union Cabinet sanctioned the Ahmedabad–Dholera Semi High-Speed Double Line rail project with a massive fiscal outlay of ₹20,667 crore.

Q5. Who has been named the new Chief Minister of Kerala following the United Democratic Front's (UDF) landslide victory in the 2026 Assembly Elections?

- A) Pinarayi Vijayan
- B) V.D. Satheesan
- C) K. Sudhakaran
- D) Ramesh Chennithala

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Senior Congress leader V.D. Satheesan has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Kerala. The UDF historic victory secured 102 out of 140 assembly seats, effectively ending a decade of Left Democratic Front (LDF) governance.

Q6. Which state cabinet approved a crucial draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill on May 15, 2026, to institutionalize uniform legal standards for marriage, divorce, and property succession?



- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Assam
- C) Gujarat
- D) Madhya Pradesh

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Following Uttarakhand's implementation, the Assam State Cabinet officially cleared its draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill. The bill aims to standardize laws governing marriage, divorce, inheritance, and asset succession across all communities in the state.

Q7. The Government of Karnataka officially revoked its controversial 2022 administrative ban on which of the following?

- A) Mid-day milk schemes
- B) Hijab in educational institutions
- C) Private vehicle carpooling
- D) Commercial night shifts for women

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** In a major policy reversal, the newly enacted government of Karnataka completely rescinded the previous 2022 state directive that banned the wearing of the hijab inside schools and pre-university colleges.

Q8. In the 7th edition of the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 report released by Union Minister Piyush Goyal, which of the following groups of states achieved the 'Exemplars' classification?

- A) Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa
- B) Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Delhi
- C) Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
- D) Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The LEADS 2025 report evaluated states on logistics infrastructure, services, and regulatory environments. Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, and Delhi emerged at the top, earning the title of 'Exemplars'.

Q9. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the 'IP Catalyst'

initiative. What is the URL of the official digital portal launched alongside it?

- A) meity-ip.gov.in
- B) cipie.in
- C) indianpatents.nic.in
- D) ip-catalyst.org

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** MeitY introduced the IP Catalyst initiative to help startups and researchers commercialize tech patents. The centralized digital platform for managing and cataloging these intellectual properties is hosted at cipie.in.

ECONOMICS, BANKING & FINANCE

Q10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted approval to Kotak Mahindra Bank to acquire equity stakes of up to 9.99% each in which two commercial banking entities?

- A) Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank
- B) AU Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank
- C) Bandhan Bank and South Indian Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank and City Union Bank

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The RBI approved Kotak Mahindra Bank's strategic investment plans, allowing it to purchase minority equity stakes (up to 9.99% each) in both AU Small Finance Bank and the Federal Bank.

Q11. The Government of India extended its restrictive ban on the export of sugar until which date to ensure domestic price stability?

- A) December 31, 2026
- B) March 31, 2027
- C) September 30, 2026
- D) June 30, 2026

- **Correct Answer: C**
- **Explanation:** To protect local consumers from rising food inflation and safeguard a domestic buffer stock requirement projected at 280 lakh tonnes, India extended its blanket ban on sugar exports until September 30, 2026.

Q12. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP)



for 14 Kharif Crops for the 2026–27 season. Which crop received the highest absolute financial hike per quintal?

- A) Paddy (Common)
- B) Cotton (Long Staple)
- C) Sunflower Seeds
- D) Ragi

- **Correct Answer: C**
- **Explanation:** In the freshly revised MSP lists for the Kharif marketing season, Sunflower seeds observed the highest absolute price jump at ₹622 per quintal, followed directly by Cotton at ₹557 per quintal.

Q13. Fuel prices were hiked across India by ₹3 per litre. What geopolitical trigger is primarily cited for this sudden domestic price inflation?

- A) Trade embargoes in the South China Sea
- B) Supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz
- C) Pipeline damages in the North Sea
- D) Economic sanctions on Venezuelan ports

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Domestic oil marketing companies raised retail fuel rates due to severe, ongoing maritime disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, which is a vital global chokepoint for crude oil tankers.

AWARDS, HONORS & APPOINTMENTS

Q14. Senior Indian diplomat P. Kumaran officially assumed office as India's new High Commissioner to which country?

- A) United States
- B) United Kingdom
- C) Canada
- D) Australia

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Experienced diplomat P. Kumaran has officially taken charge as the High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom, positioned in London, succeeding the previous diplomatic administration.

Q15. The LEAPS Awards 2025, which recognize exemplary performance and innovations in supply chain logistics, are organized under the aegis of which central department?

- A) Department of Expenditure
- B) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- C) Department of Economic Affairs
- D) Department of Commerce

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The LEAPS (Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shields) Awards are organized by the DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to award operational excellence in India's logistics network.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Q16. The official compendium titled "From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization" was released by which entity during the National IP Conference?

- A) NITI Aayog
- B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- C) CSIR
- D) ISRO

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** To provide clear operational blueprints for deep-tech start-ups, researchers, and academic inventors, MeitY compiled and released the actionable report titled "From Patent to Product: Accelerating IP Commercialization"

DEFENSE NEWS

Q17. INS Sunayna recently engaged in a bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) to enhance maritime interoperability. INS Sunayna belongs to which class of naval ships?

- A) Visakhapatnam-class Destroyer
- B) Saryu-class Off-Shore Patrol Vessel
- C) Kalvari-class Submarine
- D) Talwar-class Frigate

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** INS Sunayna, an indigenously built Saryu-class Off-Shore Patrol Vessel (OPV), visited Bangladesh and executed a joint PASSEX with the Bangladesh Navy to

advance security protocols in the Bay of Bengal.

Q18. A major agreement was signed to set up a massive Greenfield Shipyard under the National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park in which district of Tamil Nadu?

- A) Chennai
- B) Thoothukudi
- C) Cuddalore
- D) Nagapattinam

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Under the ambitious Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 tripartite MoU was finalized to establish a high-tech Greenfield Shipyard at Thoothukudi, targeting an industrial capacity of 2.5 Million Gross Tonnage (MGT) annually.

Q19. The Union Cabinet approved a new Ship Repair Facility at Vadinar at a cost of ₹1,570 crore. Which two organizations are co-developing this coastal defense asset?

- A) Mumbai Port Authority and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B) Deendayal Port Authority and Cochin Shipyard Limited
- C) Paradip Port Authority and Garden Reach Shipbuilders
- D) Visakhapatnam Port Authority and Hindustan Shipyard

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Located in Gujarat, the Vadinar Ship Repair facility is set to be co-developed via an infrastructure partnership between the Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Q20. The Union Cabinet cleared a ₹37,500 crore financial package for the Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects. Financial incentives for private or PSU developers under this scheme are capped at what percentage of total project costs?

- A) 10%
- B) 20%

- C) 30%
- D) 50%

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** To drastically cut down expensive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and chemical imports, the government approved a ₹37,500 crore coal gasification policy. The financial incentives offered are capped strictly at 20% of the initial capital plant costs.

Q21. The central government alongside Chief Minister Lalduhoma launched the 'Ginger Mission' with an outlay of ₹189.79 crore. Which state is the sole beneficiary of this agricultural modernization mission?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Mizoram
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mizoram CM Lalduhoma launched the Mizoram Ginger Mission. With an outlay of ₹189.79 crore, it is focused on establishing organic processing hubs and processing machinery for ginger farmers.

Q22. The Ministry of Heavy Industries unveiled the Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC) Platform to integrate the national EV ecosystem. Which two public entities co-developed this software architecture?

- A) NIC and ISRO
- B) BHEL and NPCI
- C) C-DAC and Jio
- D) BEL and SBI

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The Unified Bharat e-Charge (UBC) platform is an open-access EV charging portal co-developed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to ensure unified digital discovery and payment processing across EV charging brands.

Q23. Under the newly structuralized BharatNet Programme (ABP), which entity signed the critical administrative agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government to deploy widespread rural optical fiber connectivity?

- A) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)
- B) Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN)
- C) Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)
- D) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** The Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), which replaced the old Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) under the new Telecommunications Act, signed the administrative agreement with AP Broadband Project Limited (APBIL) for the state's fiber rollout.

- **Explanation:** The partnership between IndiaAI (under MeitY) and the NGO Karya is designed to build high-quality, ethically sourced local-language datasets. This ensures future AI models can accurately comprehend non-English Indian dialects.

Q26. The Government of India finalized an 8-year collaborative rural livelihoods project to boost agrarian infrastructure. Which international financial institution is partnering on this project?

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- D) New Development Bank (NDB)

- **Correct Answer: C**
- **Explanation:** The Government of India signed a long-term agreement with the United Nations' specialized agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), targeting structural livelihood improvements and weather-resilient farming techniques over 8 years.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUS)

Q24. The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) signed an agreement to utilize advanced Artificial Intelligence for tracing and cutting off fraudulent "mule accounts". Which body did they partner with?

- A) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
- B) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- C) Data Security Council of India (DSCI)
- D) NITI Aayog Frontier Lab

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** To stop instantaneous financial cyber fraud, the Ministry of Home Affairs' I4C wing entered an MoU with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). The initiative leverages AI to immediately freeze accounts flagged for money laundering or phishing.

Q25. The IndiaAI Mission partnered with Bengaluru-based social impact organization Karya. What is the fundamental purpose of this institutional tie-up?

- A) Building localized quantum computing chipsets
- B) Creating diverse regional datasets across Indian languages
- C) Designing military-grade encryption algorithms
- D) Training drone pilots in rural districts

- **Correct Answer: B**

IMPORTANT DAYS & ENVIRONMENT FOCUS

Q27. The International Day of Families is observed globally every year on which calendar date?

- A) May 12
- B) May 15
- C) May 20
- D) May 18

- **Correct Answer: B**
- **Explanation:** Declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, May 15 is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Families to spotlight the social, demographic, and economic processes affecting families.

Q28. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the 'Lion' Species Spotlight Programme at Sasan Gir. According to recent wildlife census counts, what is the approximate population of the endangered Asiatic Lion in Gujarat?

- A) 523
- B) 674
- C) 891
- D) 1,125

• **Correct Answer: C**

- **Explanation:** While the 2020 census estimated the numbers at 674, recent advanced ecological counts mentioned by the Ministry during the launch pegged the Asiatic Lion population in the greater Gir landscape at approximately 891.

Q29. The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) issued a coastal warning regarding dangerous 'Kallakkadal' flooding near Kollam. What exactly is Kallakkadal?

- A) Volcanic Tsunami waves
- B) Flash floods caused by heavy riverine discharge
- C) Swell surge waves formed by distant southern ocean storms
- D) Tidal bores occurring during solar eclipses

• **Correct Answer: C**

- **Explanation:** Kallakkadal refers to flash flood events caused by sudden swell surges. These waves are generated by strong, distant storms in the Southern Indian Ocean that travel thousands of kilometers north to submerge coastlines during calm local weather.

Q30. According to recent environmental assessments, over 63% of Delhi's Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary has been colonised by which highly destructive invasive plant species?

- A) Lantana camara
- B) Prosopis juliflora
- C) Eichhornia crassipes
- D) Parthenium hysterophorus

• **Correct Answer: B**

- **Explanation:** Prosopis juliflora (commonly known as the Mexican thorny shrub or Vilayati Kikar) was introduced during the colonial era. It has systematically overrun 63% of the Asola Bhatti sanctuary, depleting the local water table and crowding out native vegetation.

