

'Time to Shift from Chief Justice-Centric Supreme Court' says Supreme Court Judge

The Judge observed that SC must instead function more democratically, like the High Courts which work through committees and administrative bodies.

Stature of the Chief Justice of India (Case law: State of Rajasthan v. Prakash Chand)

- **The Chief Justice of India (CJI)** is the highest-ranking officer of the Indian judiciary. In his capacity as a judge, the CJI is '**primus inter pares**' ('the first among equals').
- **In the discharge of his other functions**, the CJI occupies a position which is '**sui generis** – in a class by itself.

The "disproportionate" power of the Chief Justice of India

- **Master of the Roster:** CJI has the prerogative to constitute benches and allocate cases, significantly influencing judicial outcomes (**Case law: In Shanti Bhushan Vs Supreme Court of India, 2018**).
- **Constitution Bench Assignment:** CJI often assigns Constitution Bench cases to themselves, thus controlling major decisions.
 - ⊕ **For instance:** CJI is almost never in the minority in Constitution Bench cases (Only 14 dissents since 1950).
- **Control Over Case Listing:** CJI can delay case hearings by withholding bench constitution, effectively avoiding decisions on controversial matters, impacting timely justice.
- **The administrative power** for determining the work structure of the Court and the Registry exclusively vests in the Chief Justice of India.

Steps Taken to Democratised the Supreme Court

- **Judges' Roster Made Public (2018):** The then CJI made the judges' roster public after concerns over case allocation, alongside the introduction of a subject-wise roster system.
- **CJI Declared a 'Public Authority' (2019):** A five-judge Constitution Bench declared the CJI's office a 'public authority' under the RTI Act (**Subhash Chandra Agarwal Case**).
- **Public Declaration of Judges' Assets:** For the first time, SC mandated the **public declaration of judges' assets** on the website.
- **Transparency in Judicial Appointments (2025):** SC uploaded the **judicial appointment process** for High Courts and the SC on its website, promoting public awareness.

Kerala Declared Emergency After Container Ship Capsized Near Its Coast

Indian Coast Guard are concerned about a potential ecological disaster along the Kerala **coast due to an oil spill** and the presence of **Calcium Carbide aboard the Liberian ship**.

- **Calcium Carbide** is a hazardous chemical that reacts violently with seawater to produce highly flammable acetylene gas.

What is an oil spill?

- **Definition:** An oil spill is the release of a **liquid petroleum hydrocarbon** into the **environment**, especially **marine areas**, due to **human activity**.
- **Source:** Crude oil, diesel, petroleum, etc. from tankers, offshore platforms, drilling rigs or wells, etc.
- **Impact:**
 - ⊕ **Oil poisons algae**, disrupting food chains & reduce edible crustacean yield.
 - ⊕ **Fish hatcheries are endangered**, & **commercially valuable fish** flesh gets contaminated.
 - ⊕ **Fish larvae and free-swimming** organisms suffer.
 - ⊕ **Tar particles** affect benthic organisms. **E.g.**, clams and mussels.

Key Technologies to Clean Oil Spills

- **Bioremediation:** **E.g.**, Oilzapper & Oilivorous-S, developed by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); use bacteria to convert **harmful hydrocarbons** into **harmless carbon dioxide** and **water**.
- **Sorbents:** **E.g.**, Milkweed plant's fiber, commonly found in Rajasthan, can be effectively used as a sorbent material.
- **Oil Boom:** Involves using large floating booms with skirts extending into the water to physically isolate the spill area.
- **Skimmers:** These machines scrape oil from the water surface. They first concentrate the oil and later skim it efficiently.

Key Framework on Oil Spills

Regulatory Mechanisms for Marine Oil Pollution Control

INDIA



Merchant Shipping Act (1958)

Regulates shipping, includes pollution control provisions, and adopts MARPOL conventions for comprehensive maritime governance.



National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (1996)

Indian Coast Guard coordinates oil spill response in India's maritime zones as a nodal agency.

GLOBAL



MARPOL (1973)

International convention preventing marine pollution from ships, featuring comprehensive annexes specifically addressing oil pollution prevention and control



BUNKER Convention (2001)

Holds shipowners liable for bunker oil pollution, ensures comprehensive victim compensation, and mandates compulsory insurance coverage.

India overtakes Japan to become 4th Largest Economy

As per the recent **World Economic Outlook of the IMF**, India has surpassed Japan to become 4th largest economy worldwide.

Key drivers for India's Economic Leap

- **Structural:** Urbanization and rising aspirations leading to rise in per capita income and lifestyle consumption, **demographic dividend** (India's current median age is ~29 years), **strong domestic demand** (private consumption contributes nearly 70% to GDP), etc.
- **Policy:** Taxation and business reforms (implementation of GST, IBC, Corporate Tax cuts, etc.), push for infrastructure (National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti, etc.), Atmanirbhar Bharat and Production-linked incentive, etc.
- **Technological:** Digital Public Infrastructure (UPI, JAM Trinity, etc.), strong global demand for Indian IT, software exports, and consulting services, etc.
- **External and global factors:** Increased FDI inflows, Global supply chain rebalancing with strategies like 'China Plus One' and **Supply Chain Resilience Initiative**, etc.

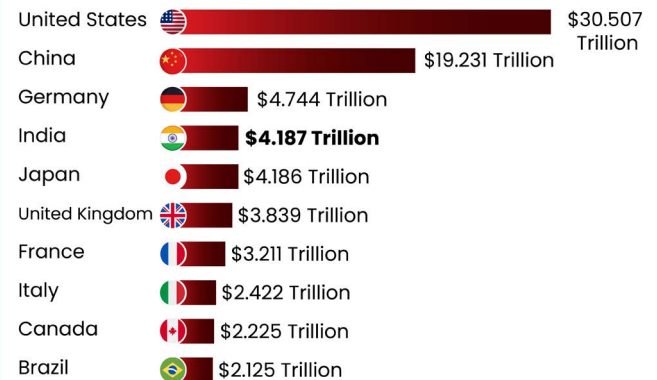
Future prospects for the Indian Economy

India is well positioned to become 3rd largest economy in the coming 2.5 to 3 years due to factors like:

- **Energy transition:** Rapid growth in renewable energy capacity (targeting 500 GW by 2030) and leadership in global platforms like the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** positions India as a green growth leader.
- **Regulatory stability:** Reforms in banking sector (e.g., bank recapitalization) and strong regulatory institutions like RBI ensure macroeconomic stability.



India Powers Past Japan- 4th Largest Economy in the World!



India-WHO Partners to Mainstream AYUSH Globally through a Landmark Agreement on Traditional Medicine

The agreement marks **the beginning of a dedicated Traditional Medicine module under the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)**.

- The new traditional medicine module under ICHI grants global recognition to **Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, and Siddha systems**, standardizing their therapies, such as Panchakarma and Yoga, into **globally recognized scientific terms**.

About the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI)

- **Definition:** ICHI is a common tool for reporting and analysing health interventions for clinical and statistical purposes. It complements WHO's ICD-11 (**See box**)
 - ⊕ **Health intervention:** An act performed for, with or on behalf of a person or a population whose purpose is to assess, improve, maintain, promote or modify health, functioning or health conditions.

- **Developed by:** World Health Organization (WHO) and WHO Family of International Classifications (WHO-FIC).

- **ICHI covers all sectors of the health system:** Acute care, Mental health, Primary care, Rehabilitation, Prevention, Public health, Traditional medicine, etc.

Dedicated Traditional Medicine module under ICHI brings multiple benefits:

- **Transparent billing** and fair pricing for Ayush services.
- **Smoother integration of Ayush treatments** in health insurance coverage.
- **Enhanced hospital management**, clinical documentation, and health research.
- **Greater global accessibility** to Ayush interventions.

ICD-11

International Classification of Diseases, Eleventh Revision



Definition & Purpose

ICD-11 is the international standard for systematic recording, reporting, analysis, interpretation and comparison of mortality and morbidity data.

It allows countries to count and identify their most pressing health issues using an up-to-date and clinically relevant classification system.

Adoption Timeline: ICD-11 was adopted by the 72nd World Health Assembly in 2019 and came into effect on 1st January 2022



Key Statistics

17K

Diagnostic Categories

100K+

Medical Diagnostic Index Terms

First Fully Electronic ICD
Complete digital accessibility and integration

Traditional Medicine

TM-2 Module Integration

AYUSH Ministry & WHO collaboration for Traditional Medicine classification

Covered Systems:



Ayurveda -
Traditional
system of Indian
medicine



Siddha -
Traditional Tamil
medicine



Unani -
Greco-Arabic
medicine

Global Health Classification Standard | World Health Organization

Northeast Emerging as a Strategic Trade Bridge and Gateway to ASEAN: Prime Minister

Highlighting the importance of **Northeast India's strategic location**, Prime Minister also gave the **Vision of EAST (Empower, Act, Strengthen, and Transform)** as a policy framework for Northeast.

Strategic Significance of Northeast

- **Regional Connectivity:** Northeast serves as **India's gateway to Southeast Asia**, strengthening **India's Act East Policy**.
 - ⊕ E.g., Major projects like the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** and **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** are enhancing regional connectivity.
- **Economic Integration:** With rapid expansion of local infrastructure projects like **Sela Tunnel (Arunachal Pradesh)** and **new Semiconductor Plant (Assam)**, the region can further boost India-ASEAN trade from **current \$125 billion to \$200 billion in a decade**.
- **Security:** The region **borders China, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Bhutan**, making it a frontline for national security.
 - ⊕ E.g., the **Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck)** is a critical link to the rest of India.
- **Others:** Prime Minister, while **describing the region's eight States as 'Ashta Lakshmis' (eight forms of Goddess Lakshmi)**, listed the **bio-economy, bamboo, tea production, petroleum, sports and eco-tourism** as some of the areas where the region is an emerging hub.

Key Regional Initiatives for boosting connectivity of Northeast

- **BIMSTEC:** Established in 1997 under the Bangkok Declaration, it connects Northeast India with Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand.
- **Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC):** Launched in 2000, it is an initiative by 6 countries India, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for cooperation in tourism, culture, education, etc.
- **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement:** Signed in 2015, it facilitates seamless cross-border transportation and creation of regional supply chains, including in Northeast India.

IMD declares early onset of Monsoon over Kerala

India Meteorological Department (IMD) declared the early monsoon onset, **eight days ahead of its normal date schedule**.

- **Southwest monsoon normally sets in over Kerala around 1st June.** The last such early onset occurred in **2009**.

Factors for early onset of Monsoon

- **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO):** An atmosphere-ocean coupled phenomenon in the tropics that **enhanced cloud and wind patterns**, favouring early rainfall.
- **Mascarene High:** High-pressure system near **Mascarene Islands** (in south Indian Ocean) intensified **monsoon flow towards India**.
- **Convection:** An increased convective activity i.e. the **vertical transport of heat and moisture** in the atmosphere, also brings rainfall.
- **Somali jet:** A low-level, cross-equatorial wind band **originating near Mauritius and north Madagascar** that strengthened monsoon currents over the Arabian Sea.
- **Heat-low:** Intense heat low (pressure departure is below normal) along the **continent surrounding the Arabian Sea** creates a shallow low-pressure zone which acts as a suction device, pulling moist air along the monsoon trough and **enhancing rainfall over India**.
- **Monsoon trough:** It is an elongated **low-pressure area extending from the heat low to the North Bay of Bengal**. Its **southward shift** leads to active monsoon conditions across India.

Essential criteria to declare early onset of monsoon as per IMD Guidelines

- **Rainfall:** If 60% of the available 14 stations enlisted, such as Minicoy, Amini, Thiruvananthapuram etc., **report rainfall of 2.5 mm or more for two consecutive days**.
- **Wind field:** Depth of westerlies should be maintained upto 600 hPa and zonal wind speed in range of 15 – 20 Kts at 925 hPa.
 - ⊕ **Westerly winds** blow from West to East in the 30 to 60 degree latitudes, both in the northern and southern hemispheres.
- **Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR):** Satellite (INSAT) derived OLR value should be below 200 Watts per square metre.
 - ⊕ **OLR** is a measure of the amount of energy emitted to space by earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere.

Also In News



Governing Council NITI Aayog

Prime Minister recently chaired the **10th Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog**.

- **NITI Aayog** is a government advisory body (think tank) set up by a Union Cabinet decision. It is **not a Constitutional or statutory body**.

About Governing Council

- **Members:** Prime Minister of India (Chairperson); Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories with Legislature; Lt Governors of other UTs, etc.
- **Genesis:** First constituted in 2015 and reconstituted in 2021.
- **Objective:** Ensure cooperative federalism and presents a platform to discuss inter- sectoral, inter-departmental and federal issues to accelerate the implementation of the national development agenda.



Moringa

Experts note that despite Moringa's immense nutritional and economic value, farmers in Tamil Nadu have yet to fully capitalize on its business potential.

About Moringa (Moringa oleifera)

- **Origin and Distribution:** Native to India, Moringa is now widely cultivated in Asia, Africa, and tropical regions of Central America.
- **Nickname:** Often called **"The Miracle Tree"** for its wide range of uses, high nutritional value, and medicinal properties.
- **Ideal Growing Conditions**
 - ⊕ **Soil:** Thrives in deep sandy loam with a pH of 6.5 to 8.
 - ⊕ **Temperature:** Grows best at 25–30°C, supporting lush development.

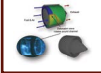


Karni Mata Temple

Prime Minister visits Karni Mata temple in Rajasthan.

About Karni Mata Temple

- Located in **Bikaner district, Rajasthan**.
- Dedicated to **Karni Mata**, believe is an **incarnation of Goddess Durga**.
- **Establishment:** **Rao Jaitasi** built this temple, to commemorate the **victory of Bikaner King over the Mughal King Kumaran**.
- **Religious Sect:** The temple belongs to **Shakta Sampradaya**.
- **Unique Feature:** In the whole world this is a unique temple where **thousands of rats** freely move out.
 - ⊕ Despite the presence of the rats in great numbers, there was no incidence of plague at all.



Rotating Detonation Engine

Chinese scientists have reportedly tested a **Rotating Detonation Engine** capable of propelling vehicles at hypersonic speeds - over five times the speed of sound.

About Rotating Detonation Engine

- It is a **ring-shaped engine** where a **detonation wave moves in circles**, continuously burning a mix of fuel and oxidizer.
- This type of combustion increases pressure and **provide better propulsion efficiency** than regular gas turbine engines.
- RDEs are also compact, operate at high frequencies, and **have no moving parts**, making them more efficient and simpler than traditional engines.
- It enables a **wide range of military applications** including air-to-ground, air-to-air and surface weapons.



National Sports Repository System Portal

Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports plans to start massive talent identification drive across the country wherein any citizen can upload videos of a player's performance on **National Sports Repository System (NSRS)** portal.

About NSRS Portal

- It is a **digital Management Information System (MIS)** operated by **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** under the aegis of **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**
 - ⊕ Part of **Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports Scheme**.
- Envisages providing a comprehensive digital solution **for all the major stakeholders** such as Athletes, Coaches, Sports Scientists, Sports Training Centers, Federations and Administrators.
- Issues a **Unique number (KID - Khelo India ID)** on registration by Athletes, Coaches and Academies.



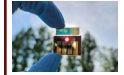
Arhgap36

Researchers in the US and Japan have discovered that the **Arhgap36 gene is responsible for the unique orange fur in cats**.

- This finding opens avenues for **further research into feline health, behavior, and genetics**.

About Arhgap36 Gene

- Found on the **X chromosome in mammals**, including cats and humans.
- **Function:** Plays a role in **regulating cellular processes**, particularly those **involving pigmentation**, and is active in tissues such as skin, brain, and hormone glands.
 - ⊕ **Orange cats lack a portion in their DNA sequence of this gene**, making it stimulating the production of light-colored pigments.



Semi-transparent Perovskite Solar Cell

IIT Bombay researchers have developed a semi-transparent perovskite solar cell (PSC) with a **25–30% efficiency boost** over conventional solar cells, potentially **halving costs**.

About Semi-Transparent Perovskite Solar Cell

- **Structure:** It is layered over a traditional silicon-based solar cell, forming a **4-terminal (4T) tandem structure**.
- **Material and Technology Used:** Silicon technology at the bottom sub-cell, while the top sub-cell features an indigenously developed **halide perovskite semiconductor**.
 - ⊕ This enables **high light absorption and efficient energy conversion**.
- **Advantages:** Perovskite is **locally producible with long lifespan**, and **not reliant on geopolitically sensitive raw materials** (unlike those controlled by China).



Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)

ONGC makes promising **oil, gas discoveries in Mumbai offshore basin**.

- The discoveries named **Suryamani and Vajramani** have been made in blocks awarded **under the OALP regime**.
- **Mumbai offshore basin** is located about 165 km off the west coast of India in the Arabian Sea.

About Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP)

- **Genesis:** Introduced as a **part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** in 2017.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- **Objective:** To accelerate the **Exploration and Production (E&P)** activities.
 - ⊕ Gives **exploration companies the option to select the exploration blocks** on their own, without having to wait for the formal bid round from the Government.

Personality in News



Kartar Singh Sarabha (1896 - 1915)

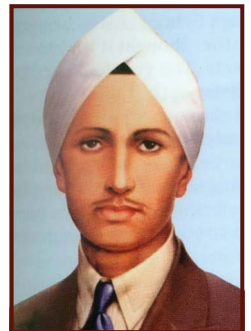
Eminent freedom fighter Kartar Singh Sarabha was remembered on his birth anniversary on May 24.

About Kartar Singh Sarabha

- He was an **Indian revolutionary** born in the village of Sarabha, Ludhiana (Punjab).
- **Key Contributions**
 - He became a **member of Ghadar Party** (founded in Oregon in 1913 to overthrow British rule) **at the age of 15** and was one of its most active members.
 - ⊕ He put together the **Punjabi issue of the Ghadar newspaper**.
 - On returning to India, he **focused on mobilising Indian soldiers to revolt** and set up a **small scale arms manufacturing unit** in Ludhiana.
 - He was **charged with sedition in Lahore Conspiracy Case** and was executed in 1915, along with his compatriot **Vishnu Ganesh Pingle**.

Values

- Bravery, Courage, Activism, Commitment, etc.



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI