

NATIONAL

▪ **Telangana Becomes First State to Implement SC Sub-Categorisation**

Telangana became the first Indian state to enforce Scheduled Castes (SC) sub-categorisation, following Supreme Court approval. Through the Telangana Scheduled Castes (Rationalization of Reservations) Act, 2025, the state restructured its 15% SC reservation by dividing 59 sub-castes into three groups based on backwardness, aiming for fairer benefit distribution.

▪ **Delhi IGI Airport Ranked 9th Busiest Globally in 2024**

Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi has earned the 9th spot among the world's busiest airports for 2024, according to Airports Council International (ACI) World. Handling 77 million passengers, IGI is the only Indian airport in the top 10, highlighting its growing global connectivity and strong infrastructure development.

▪ **Banaras Shehnaï Granted GI Tag**

The Banaras Shehnaï has been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, celebrating its cultural and spiritual significance. Known worldwide through Ustad Bismillah Khan, this recognition honors the traditional artisans of Varanasi and affirms their craftsmanship and cultural heritage.

▪ **CPCB Introduces 'Blue Category' for Essential Environmental Services to Boost Pollution Control**

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has introduced a 'Blue Category' for industries involved in essential environmental services (EES), such as waste-to-energy plants, biomining, and compressed biogas plants. These industries will receive extended consent validity as an incentive for their contribution to pollution management. This move aims to streamline pollution control, better regulate these industries, and promote sustainable practices.

▪ **Surat's Cap-and-Trade Programme Shows Major Environmental and Economic Success**

A study published in *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* has shown that Surat's cap-and-trade programme for particulate matter emissions has significantly reduced pollution levels and improved regulatory compliance. As the world's first emissions trading scheme (ETS) for particulate matter and India's first pollution trading system, the initiative has also lowered abatement costs, proving the effectiveness of market-based approaches in regions with limited state capacity.

- **India Launches Athlete Passport Management Unit to Strengthen Anti-Doping Efforts**

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) at the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) in New Delhi. This new initiative enhances India's commitment to clean sports by aligning with international anti-doping standards. The APMU will track athletes' biological markers under the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) system, helping detect doping patterns.

- **India to Host International Big Cat Alliance Headquarters, Strengthening Wildlife Conservation Efforts**

India has signed a historic agreement with the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to host its headquarters and secretariat, reinforcing its leadership in global wildlife conservation. The IBCA, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2023, focuses on protecting the world's seven major big cat species. This collaboration aims to promote global cooperation for conservation, research, and habitat preservation of these endangered species.

- **Bhagavad Gita Manuscripts and Natyashastra Added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**

India has achieved a significant cultural milestone with the inclusion of the Bhagavad Gita manuscripts and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. This addition acknowledges India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Blue Origin's Historic All-Female Spaceflight Marks a Milestone in Commercial Space Travel**

Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket successfully completed a groundbreaking suborbital spaceflight with an all-female crew, the first since Valentina Tereshkova's historic flight in 1963. Launched from Van Horn, Texas, the mission featured six prominent women from various fields, including Katy Perry, Gayle King, and Lauren Sánchez. The 10-minute flight reached the Kármán line, the edge of space, and showcased significant progress in gender representation in aerospace.

- **Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa Wins Re-election Amid Controversy**

Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa won the second-round presidential election, securing a full four-year term by defeating Luisa Gonzalez.

- **General Brice Oligui Nguema Wins Gabon Presidential Election After Coup**

General Brice Oligui Nguema won Gabon's presidential election with over 90% of the vote.

- **UAE Elected Chair of INTERPOL Committee on Governance**

The UAE has been elected as the Chair of INTERPOL's Committee on Governance, with Lt. Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzouqi securing 67% of the vote. This marks a significant step in UAE's global security leadership.

- **New York Proclaims April 14 as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day**

New York City Mayor Eric Adams declared April 14, 2025, as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day to honor the Indian Constitution's architect on his 135th birth anniversary. The announcement, made at a UN event attended by global dignitaries and addressed by Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's enduring legacy in human rights, justice, and equality.

SPORTS

- **Mohun Bagan Clinches Historic ISL Title at Home**

Mohun Bagan Super Giant made history by defeating Bengaluru FC 2-1 on April 13, 2025, at Kolkata's Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, becoming the first team to win an ISL final at home. They also secured a season double by winning both the ISL League Shield and the ISL title, marking a landmark achievement in Indian football.

AWARDS

- **Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy Honored with 'Legends of Endoscopy' Award in Japan**

Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, Hyderabad, received the esteemed 'Legends of Endoscopy' award from Japanese gastroenterologists at Tokyo Live Global Endoscopy 2025. Recognized for his pioneering contributions to GI Endoscopy, Dr. Reddy also showcased advanced procedures live at SHOWA Medical University, highlighting his global influence in the field.

- **Meghalaya Bags UIDAI Awards for Excellence in Aadhaar Implementation**

Meghalaya was honored by UIDAI as the best-performing state for child biometric updates and adult Aadhaar verification. The awards, received by Aadhaar nodal officer Shai Kupar War on April 8, 2025, reflect the state's strong Aadhaar implementation despite opposition from protest groups.

- **Five Military Personnel Honoured with MacGregor Memorial Medal for Exceptional Contributions to Reconnaissance and Adventure**

Five military personnel received the MacGregor Memorial Medal for 2023 and 2024 for their outstanding contributions to military reconnaissance and adventure. The awards were presented by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan in New Delhi. The 2023 recipients were Wing Commander D. Panda and Electrical Artificer Rahul Kumar Pandey, while the 2024 recipients were Chief Electrical Aircraft Artificer Ram Ratan Jat, Sergeant Jhumar Ram Poonia, and Colonel Ranvir Singh Jamwal. The event also featured the launch of *Bravest of the Brave* by Lt. Gen. Satish Dua, highlighting the heroic journey of Naib Subedar Chunni Lal.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Mirabai Chanu Appointed Chairperson of Indian Weightlifting Federation's Athletes Commission**

Saikhom Mirabai Chanu, India's Olympic silver medallist, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF).

OBITUARIES

- **Kathak Legend Kumudini Lakhia Passes Away at 94, Leaving a Lasting Legacy**
Kumudini Lakhia, a pioneering Kathak dancer, passed away at the age of 94. Known for redefining Kathak, she challenged the traditional focus on narrative and literary content, introducing abstract forms, ensemble choreography, and contemporary themes. With a career spanning over seven decades, Lakhia mentored generations of dancers and reshaped the future of classical dance with her fearless vision and innovative approach.