

NATIONAL

▪ **Saudagari Block Print from Ahmedabad Gets GI Tag Recognition**

The traditional Saudagari block print from Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, honoring its rich handcrafted textile heritage and cultural significance in Gujarat.

▪ **Kumbakonam Betel Leaf and Thovalai Garland Receive GI Tag**

The Government of India has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to the Kumbakonam betel leaf from Thanjavur and the Thovalai flower garland from Kanyakumari, raising Tamil Nadu's total GI products to 62.

▪ **Sivasubramanian Ramann Appointed New PFRDA Chairperson**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Sivasubramanian Ramann's appointment as Chairperson of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for a five-year term. He currently serves as Deputy CAG and Chief Technology Officer at the CAG of India.

▪ **Chapata Chilli Gets GI Tag, Boosting Warangal Farmers**

The Chapata Chilli, also known as Tomato Chilli, has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition is set to benefit around 20,000 farmers in Warangal by enhancing market demand and improving their income.

▪ **J&K Launches Free Bus Service for Women to Promote Inclusive Mobility**

On April 1, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir government introduced a free bus service for women across the Union Territory. The initiative, flagged off by CM Omar Abdullah in Srinagar, offers free travel on smart city e-buses and JKRTC buses, aiming to boost women's safety, accessibility, and empowerment through barrier-free transportation.

▪ **Andhra Pradesh Launches 'Zero Poverty – P4 Policy' Under Swarna Andhra-2047 Vision**

On Ugadi (March 30, 2025), the Government of Andhra Pradesh will launch its 'Zero Poverty – P4 Policy,' a flagship initiative under the Swarna Andhra-2047 vision aimed at eradicating poverty by 2047. The 'P4' model emphasizes Public, Private, and People Partnership to drive inclusive socio-economic development. The policy will empower families with housing, sanitation, 100% tap water, LPG, electricity, high-speed internet, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

- **India Leads Climate Cooperation at 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting**

At the 11th BRICS Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Brasilia on April 3, 2025, India, represented by Shri Amandeep Garg (MoEFCC), called for stronger climate collaboration among BRICS nations. Emphasizing the urgency of the 2030 Climate Agenda, India advocated mobilizing USD 1.3 trillion through the “Baku to Belem Roadmap” to support NDCs. Key focuses included Just Transition, climate finance, energy diversification, and global leadership in sustainability through initiatives like the Clean Rivers Programme and the Green Grids Initiative.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Autism Awareness Day 2025 Highlights Neurodiversity and SDGs**

The UN observed World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2025 with the theme “Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

- **International Mine Awareness Day 2025 Observed**

International Mine Awareness Day was observed on April 4, 2025, with the theme “Safe Futures Start Here.”

INTERNATIONAL

- **SpaceX Fram2 Mission Makes History with Polar Orbit Human Spaceflight**

On March 31, 2025, SpaceX launched its Fram2 mission from Kennedy Space Center, marking the first human spaceflight to orbit Earth over the poles. Aboard Crew Dragon Resilience, the all-civilian crew will spend 3–5 days conducting 22 experiments, including the first space x-ray and mushroom growth in microgravity. The mission also features SpaceX's first crew recovery on the U.S. West Coast.

- **Bangladesh Takes Over BIMSTEC Chairmanship**

Bangladesh assumed the chairmanship of the regional grouping – Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) – for the next two years, succeeding Thailand. Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus pledged to make BIMSTEC more inclusive and action-oriented. The Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok adopted the Bangkok Declaration and BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision to guide future cooperation and sustainable development among member countries. The theme of the summit was “Prosperous, Resilient and Open BIMSTEC.”

SPORTS

- **Aryna Sabalenka Wins First Miami Open Title, Claims 19th WTA Trophy**

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka captured her first Miami Open title by defeating Jessica Pegula 7-5, 6-2 in the final. The win marks her 19th WTA title, including eight WTA 1000s and three Grand Slams, cementing her dominance after a flawless, set-free tournament run.

- **India Bags 10 Medals at 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship**

India concluded the 2025 Senior Asian Wrestling Championship in Amman with an impressive haul of 10 medals. Manisha Bhanwala secured the lone gold (Women's 62kg), while Deepak Punia, Udit, and Reetika Hooda earned silver. Bronze medals went to Antim Pangal, Mansi Lather, Muskan, Dinesh, Dinesh Kumar, and Nitesh, showcasing India's growing strength in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling.

AWARDS

- **MyNaa Swamy to Receive Ugadi Award for Contributions to History and Social Service**

Historian and archaeologist MyNaa Swamy will receive the prestigious Ugadi Award from Andhra Pradesh for his exceptional contributions to historical research and social service. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will present the award at a ceremony in Vijayawada.

- **Dalai Lama Receives Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability**

On April 1, 2025, the Dalai Lama was honored with the Gold Mercury Award for Peace and Sustainability at his residence in Dharamshala. The award was presented by Gold Mercury International for his contributions to peace and sustainable development.

- **PM Modi Conferred Sri Lanka's Highest Civilian Honour**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Mithra Vibhushana, Sri Lanka's highest civilian honour, from President Anura Kumara Disanayake in Colombo. The award recognises his key role in strengthening the historic India-Sri Lanka ties and reflects the enduring friendship between the two nations.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Mohsin Naqvi Takes Over as President of Asian Cricket Council**

Mohsin Naqvi, Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Interior Minister of Pakistan, has become the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva. He pledged to strengthen Asian cricket's global impact.

OBITUARIES

- **Legendary Actor Manoj Kumar Passes Away at 87**

Veteran Bollywood icon Manoj Kumar, famed for his patriotic films, passed away at 87 due to heart complications and liver cirrhosis at Kokilaben Hospital.