

NATIONAL**▪ Saaral Vizha 2025 Inaugurated in Courtallam**

The annual Saaral Vizha was inaugurated on 20th July 2025 by Revenue Minister K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran in Tenkasi district. Held in the monsoon season, the festival showcases cultural performances, traditional arts, and public events, highlighting Tamil Nadu's commitment to cultural preservation and community engagement.

▪ Fit India Sundays on Cycle Promotes Health and Empowerment

The 32nd edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle was held at BHU, Varanasi, with over 3,000 participants, including Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Led by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the initiative promotes fitness, drug de-addiction, and youth empowerment, supporting the vision of a *Viksit Bharat*.

▪ India's First Indian Institute of Creative Technology Inaugurated in Mumbai

India's creative economy took a significant step forward with the inauguration of the first campus of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology (IICT) in Mumbai. Aimed at strengthening the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics & Extended Reality) ecosystem, the institute will offer world-class training to develop industry-ready talent.

▪ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Resigns, Triggers Key Constitutional Process

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned unexpectedly on July 21, 2025, just three years into his term. As the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, his resignation impacts parliamentary functioning and has initiated the constitutional process to elect a new Vice President within a set timeframe.

- **Tamil Nadu Approves Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation**

The Tamil Nadu government has approved the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Hornbill Conservation at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Coimbatore, the initiative aims to protect hornbill species in the Western Ghats.

- **National Sports Governance Bill 2025: A Game-Changer for Sports Administration in India**

The National Sports Governance Bill, 2025, introduces major reforms to enhance transparency and accountability in Indian sports, bringing the BCCI under the RTI Act and recognising it as a National Sports Federation. It establishes a National Sports Tribunal, Board, and Election Panel, mandates athlete and women representation, and sets age and term limits, aligning governance with Olympic norms and bolstering India's 2036 Olympics bid.

- **Jharkhand to Launch India's First Mining Tourism Project**

Jharkhand will become the first state in India to introduce a Mining Tourism Project, offering guided mine tours and cultural experiences to highlight its mineral legacy. Led by the state government and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), the initiative aims to promote tourism, raise awareness about mining operations, and celebrate the region's industrial and cultural heritage.

- **CSMIA Among World's Top 10 Airports in 2025**

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has secured a spot in the world's top 10 international airports in the Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards 2025 with a score of 84.23, marking its third consecutive year on the list.

- **PM Modi Becomes India's Second-Longest Serving Leader**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi surpassed Indira Gandhi's record of 4,077 consecutive days in office, becoming the second-longest serving Prime Minister in a single uninterrupted term in India's history.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Largest Martian Meteorite Sold for \$5.3 Million**

The Martian meteorite NWA 16788, discovered in Niger's Sahara Desert in 2023, was auctioned at Sotheby's for a record \$5.3 million. Weighing 24.5 kg, it is the largest known Martian rock found on Earth.

- **Replica of Ashoka Pillar Unveiled in Sri Lanka to Boost Cultural Ties**

A replica of the Ashoka Pillar was inaugurated at Waskaduwa Sri Subhuthi Viharaya in Kalutara, Sri Lanka, highlighting India's commitment to strengthening spiritual and cultural diplomacy. The move honours Emperor Ashoka's contributions to Sri Lankan Buddhism and reinforces India's role in promoting shared Buddhist heritage across the region.

- **China Starts World's Largest Hydropower Dam in Tibet**

China has begun building the Motuo Hydropower Station on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, expected to generate three times the output of the Three Gorges Dam. Featuring five cascading stations and 20 km tunnels.

SPORTS

- **India Secures 7th Rank at International Mathematical Olympiad 2025**

India achieved a remarkable 7th place at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025 held in Sunshine Coast, Australia. Competing with 110 countries, the six-member Indian team won three gold, two silver, and one bronze medal, earning a national record score of 193 out of 252. The performance highlights India's rising global standing in mathematics and the strength of its Olympiad training framework.

- **Shi Yuqi and An Se-young Triumph at Japan Badminton Open 2025**

Japan Badminton Open 2025 in Tokyo, China's Shi Yuqi clinched the men's singles title after a win over France's Alex Lanier. In women's singles, South Korea's Olympic gold medallist An Se-young secured the title.

▪ **England to Host ICC World Test Championship Finals in 2027, 2029 & 2031**

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has been awarded hosting rights for the next three ICC World Test Championship Finals in 2027, 2029, and 2031. Announced at the ICC Annual Conference 2025 in Singapore.

▪ **India to Host FIDE World Cup 2025**

India will host the prestigious FIDE World Cup 2025 from October 30 to November 27, featuring 206 top chess players in a knockout format.

▪ **Tanvi Sharma & Vennala Kalagotla Create History at Badminton Asia Juniors 2025**

Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla made history by becoming the first Indian duo to win two women's singles medals in a single edition of the Badminton Asia Junior Championships, marking a milestone for India's rising junior shuttlers.

APPOINTMENTS

▪ **Gita Gopinath to Step Down from IMF, Return to Harvard in August 2025**

Indian-American economist Gita Gopinath will step down as First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF in August 2025 to rejoin Harvard University as a professor of economics. During her tenure, she played a key role in navigating global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

▪ **Prof. Uma Kanjilal Becomes First Woman Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU**

Prof. Uma Kanjilal, a veteran in Open and Distance Learning with over 30 years of experience, has been appointed as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU.

AWARDS

- **Suhani Shah Becomes First Indian to Win 'Best Magic Creator' at FISM 2025**

Mentalist Suhani Shah from Rajasthan made history by becoming the first Indian to win the 'Best Magic Creator 2025' award at the FISM World Championship held in Torino, Italy. She was honored in the online magic category.

- **Dr. V. Narayanan Wins GP Birla Memorial Award 2025**

ISRO Chairman and Department of Space Secretary Dr. V. Narayanan received the GP Birla Memorial Award 2025 for his exceptional contributions to India's space programme and leadership in advancing cutting-edge space technologies.

- **Geetanjali Shree Wins PEN Translates Award 2025**

International Booker Prize-winning Hindi author Geetanjali Shree has received the PEN Translates Award 2025 from English PEN for her latest novel Once Elephants Lived Here, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell.

OBITUARIES

- **Legendary Lyricist Alan Bergman Passes Away at 99**

Renowned American lyricist Alan Bergman passed away at the age of 99. Alongside his wife Marilyn Bergman, he created iconic songs over a career spanning five decades, earning three Academy Awards, three Emmy Awards, and leaving a lasting legacy in film and television music.

- **Wrestling Icon Hulk Hogan Passes Away at 71**

Hulk Hogan, born Terry Gene Bollea, legendary six-time WWE Champion and global face of professional wrestling in the 1980s and 1990s, passed away on July 24, 2025, at 71 due to cardiac arrest.