

NATIONAL

▪ **World Press Freedom Index 2025**

Reporters Without Borders published 2025 World Press Freedom Index, India has improved its ranking by 8 spots, rising to 151st from 159th in 2024.

▪ **India Launches First Genome-Edited Rice Varieties**

India has become the first country globally to develop and release genome-edited rice varieties, DRR Dhan 100 Kamala and Pusa DST Rice 1, developed by ICAR (Indian agricultural research institute). Aimed at boosting productivity and resilience, DRR Dhan 100 matures faster and yields 25% more, while Pusa DST Rice 1 is salt-tolerant and offers 30% higher yields in saline conditions.

▪ **ECI to Launch ECINET: One-Stop App for All Electoral Services**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is set to launch ECINET, a unified digital platform integrating over 40 existing mobile and web apps to offer seamless electoral services for citizens, officials, and political stakeholders. With a user-friendly interface and enhanced data accuracy, ECINET aims to simplify access, improve efficiency, and strengthen cybersecurity. It will serve nearly 100 crore electors and lakhs of electoral personnel nationwide, replacing apps like Voter Helpline, cVIGIL, and Suvidha 2.0.

▪ **India to Establish First Inter-State Cheetah Corridor**

Rajasthan will collaborate with Madhya Pradesh to create India's first inter-state cheetah conservation corridor, connecting Kuno National Park, Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, and Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve. This move marks a significant expansion of Project Cheetah, India's flagship effort to reintroduce and protect cheetahs, originally launched in 2022 with support from the Wildlife Institute of India and NTCA (National Tiger Conservation Authority).

▪ **Andhra Pradesh to Build India's First Transmedia Entertainment City**

Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with Creativeland Asia Pvt. Ltd. to establish *Creator Land* — India's first "Transmedia Entertainment City." The initiative, inspired by the WAVES Summit 2025, aims to boost the state's role in digital innovation, tourism, and creative industries. The city will feature AI-based virtual studios, immersive AR/VR entertainment zones, a global cinema co-production hub, and a training academy for youth in VFX, gaming, and animation.

▪ **India's First Edu City to Come Up in Navi Mumbai**

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis announced India's first Edu City in Navi Mumbai, where global universities like the University of York (UK) and Western Australia University will set up campuses. MoUs worth ₹3,000 crore were signed at the WAVES Summit 2025. The project aligns with NEP 2020, aiming to bring world-class education to India, reduce student migration abroad, and make Navi Mumbai a global academic and innovation hub.

- **India Rises in Human Development and Gender Equality Rankings**

India climbed to 130th rank (from 133) out of 193 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) 2023, as per the UNDP Human Development Report 2025. On the Gender Inequality Index (GII), India improved from 108th to 102nd position, indicating strides in reducing gender disparity. The report's theme was "A matter of choice: People and possibilities in the age of AI".

- **Kerala Launches 'Jyothi' Scheme for Migrant Children's Education and Welfare**

The Kerala government has introduced the 'Jyothi' scheme to enroll children of migrant workers into schools and anganwadis, focusing on their educational inclusion, health, and overall welfare, addressing barriers like relocation and lack of documentation.

- **India's First High-Altitude Geothermal Well Drilled in Arunachal Pradesh**

The Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS) has successfully drilled India's first geothermal production well in Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh, marking a major step toward sustainable energy in the northeastern region. The project is set to enable eco-friendly heating and agricultural processing in high-altitude areas.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Asthma Day 2025**

World Asthma Day 2025 observed on, 6 May, under the theme "Make inhaled treatments accessible for all".

- **World Athletics Day 2025**

Observed globally on May 7, World Athletics Day 2025 continued its mission of encouraging youth engagement in sports and promoting active lifestyles.

- **World Thalassaemia Day 2025**

On May 8, 2025, the world marked World Thalassaemia Day to spread awareness about thalassaemia, a genetic blood disorder.

- **World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2025**

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, observed on May 8, 2025, marked the birth anniversary of Jean Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross Movement and first Nobel Peace Prize laureate. The theme, "Keeping Humanity Alive," highlighted the invaluable contributions of Red Cross volunteers, particularly in conflict zones and during disasters.

▪ **India Celebrates 164th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**

India observed the 164th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, the Bard of Bengal, on May 7, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL

▪ **Anthony Albanese Secures Historic Re-Election as Australian PM**

Anthony Albanese has won a landmark second term as Australia's Prime Minister in the 2025 elections.

▪ **PAP Wins Decisive Mandate in Singapore's 2025 Elections Under PM Lawrence Wong**

On May 3, 2025, Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP), led by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, secured a decisive victory by winning 87 out of 97 parliamentary seats and obtaining 65.57% of the popular vote.

▪ **Yemen Appoints New Prime Minister Salem Saleh Bin Braik**

On May 5, 2025, Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council named long-time Finance Minister Salem Saleh Bin Braik as the new Prime Minister, following the resignation of Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak.

▪ **Cardinal Robert Prevost Elected as 267th Pope, Takes Name Pope Leo XIV**

Roman Catholic Church, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost from the United States was elected as the 267th pope on May 8, 2025. He assumed the name Pope Leo XIV, becoming the first pontiff from the U.S. He succeeds Pope Francis.

▪ **UN Launches Global Victims of Terrorism Advocacy Network**

On April 28, 2025, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) launched the Victims of Terrorism Advocacy Network (VoTAN), establishing a global platform to support and empower individuals and communities affected by terrorism

SPORTS

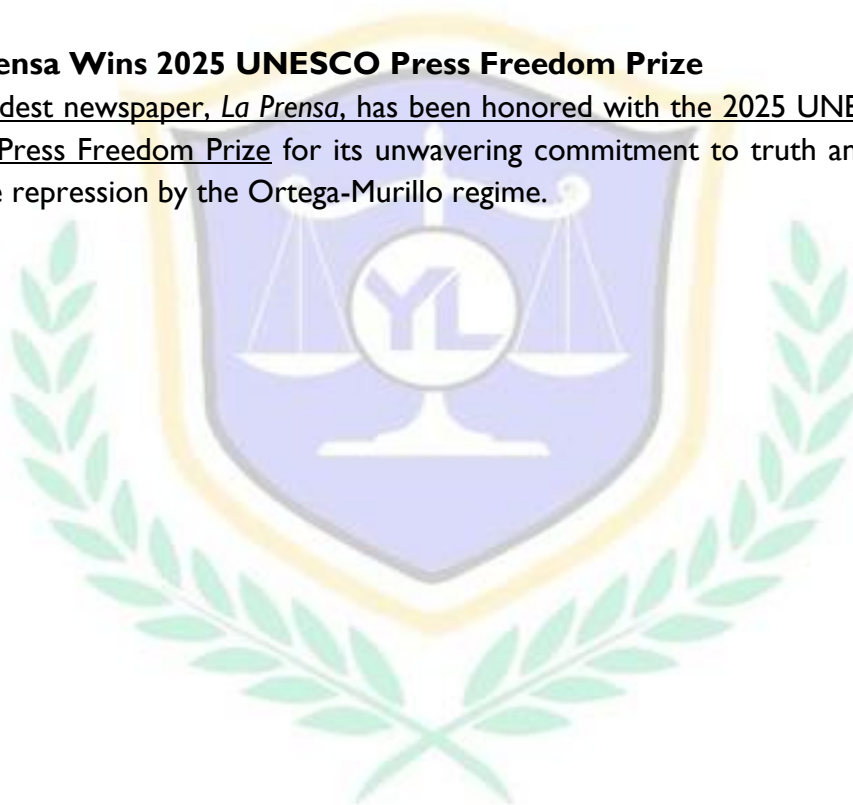
- **Khelo India Youth Games 2025 Inaugurated in Bihar, Esports Debuts as Demo Event**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 7th Khelo India Youth Games in Patna, Bihar—marking the state's first hosting of a major multi-sport event. This edition introduces esports as a demonstration event and sepaktakraw as a new medal discipline.

AWARDS

- **La Prensa Wins 2025 UNESCO Press Freedom Prize**

Nicaragua's oldest newspaper, La Prensa, has been honored with the 2025 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize for its unwavering commitment to truth and accountability despite severe repression by the Ortega-Murillo regime.



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