

## International

### India ranks 99th on the 2025 SDG Index.

According to the U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Network's 10th and latest Sustainable Development Report (SDR), India has for the first time secured a place among the top 100 out of 193 countries ranked for their progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India ranks 99th on the 2025 SDG Index with a score of 67, while China ranks 49th with 74.4 and the US 44th with 75.2 points.

European countries, especially the Nordic nations, continue to top the SDG Index, with Finland ranking first, Sweden second, and Denmark third.

### Iran attacks US military installation in Qatar.

Iran has launched ballistic missile attacks at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the largest US military installation in West Asia, in retaliation for recent American bombing of its nuclear facilities. The primary target was Al Udeid, located southwest of Doha, but reports also indicate that Iran has targeted the Ain al-Assad base in Iraq.

Meanwhile, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the UAE have reopened their airspaces after temporarily closing them in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on the air base in Qatar.

### Droughts will be 35% more costly by 2035: OECD report.

According to the Global Drought Outlook, published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the progressive intensification of droughts is steadily increasing their social, economic and ecological costs. The economic impacts of these extreme weather events are expected to increase by at least 35% by 2035, compared to current levels.

The report points out that the land area affected by droughts has doubled since 1900, and that in recent decades nearly 40% of the planet has suffered an increase in both the frequency and intensity of these events.

The exacerbation is such that, under a +4°C global warming scenario, droughts could be up to seven times more frequent and intense than in the absence of climate change.

## National

### India, Pakistan extend airspace ban for each other till July 24.

India has extended the closure of its airspace for flights operated by Pakistan Airlines by another month, till July 24. The Indian airspace has been closed for planes operated, owned, or leased by Pakistan airlines and operators, including military flights, since April 30. The ban was imposed as part of various measures taken by the Indian Government against Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people on April 22.

### DRDO offers 28 indigenous weapon systems to defence forces.

In line with the union government's self-reliance push, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has offered 28 existing weapon systems that it designed and developed for emergency procurement by the armed forces.

Under emergency procurement, all three forces — the Army, Navy, and the Air Force — are allowed to add new and replenish existing weapon systems as per their requirement. There is a long list of weapons like rockets, missiles, grenades, anti-drone missiles, and many more that the DRDO is offering to defence forces.

### 'Beej Utsav' highlights role of indigenous seeds in agricultural sustainability.

A four-day-long 'Beej Utsav' (seed festival) held in the tribal belt at the tri-junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat earlier this month highlighted the role of indigenous seeds in agricultural sustainability. Tribal farmers took a pledge to rebuild community-led seed systems.

Over 9,400 members of tribal communities, including women and children, participating in the events during the festival, learned the techniques of preserving indigenous seeds for use in different crop seasons. They were apprised of the significance of seed heritage, biodiversity, and climate consciousness.

### Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas to be observed On June 25.

Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas (Constitution Murder Day) will be observed on June 25. It serves as a reminder of what happened when the

Constitution of India was trampled on 25th June 1975. The day commemorates the massive contributions of all those who endured the inhuman pains of the 1975 Emergency. Last year, the central Government had declared 25th June as Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas to pay tribute to all those who suffered.

## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI trims PSL target for small finance banks from FY26.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the priority sector lending (PSL) requirements for Small Finance Banks, reducing the overall PSL target from 75% to 60% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent of Off-Balance Sheet Exposures (CEOBE), whichever is higher. The revised norms will be applicable from the financial year 2025-26 onwards.

The decision marks a shift from the earlier mandate, which required SFBs to dedicate 75% of their lending towards sectors classified under PSL. Of this, 40% had to be mandatorily allocated to specific sub-sectors like agriculture, micro-enterprises, education, housing, and others, while the remaining 35% could be channelled flexibly into any PSL sub-sectors where the bank had a competitive advantage.

### **Oman plans to impose personal income tax from 2028, first among Gulf States.**

Oman plans to levy personal income tax as part of a broader push to move the sultanate's economy away from reliance on hydrocarbons. The tax would be a first among the six-member oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council. The 5% tax will start in 2028 and will only be required of those who make upward of \$109,000 annually — the top 1% of earners in Oman.

### **S&P raises India's FY26 GDP growth estimates to 6.5%.**

S&P Global Ratings has raised India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.5% assuming a normal monsoon, lower crude oil prices, and monetary easing.

It also flagged rising risks to the global economy due to the turbulence in the Middle East, saying long-lasting major increases in oil prices could have a significant economic impact in Asia-Pacific.

### **Adani commissions India's 1st off-grid green hydrogen pilot plant.**

Adani Group has commissioned India's first off-grid 5 megawatt green hydrogen pilot plant in Kutch, Gujarat. An off-grid green hydrogen plant is a facility that produces hydrogen using electrolysis powered by renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind, and is not connected to the main electrical grid. This means the plant relies entirely on its own renewable energy generation for the hydrogen production process.

## **Sports**

### **Dilip Doshi, former India left-arm spinner, dies**

Dilip Doshi, the former India left-arm spinner, has died aged 77. Doshi, who bowled with a classical left-arm's action, took 114 Test wickets in 33 appearances, including six five-wicket hauls. He also picked up 22 wickets in 15 ODIs at an economy rate of 3.96. Doshi also played first-class cricket for Saurashtra, Bengal, Warwickshire, and Nottinghamshire.

### **Indian forward Lalit Upadhyay retires from international hockey.**

Indian forward Lalit Upadhyay announced his retirement from international hockey after India finished its FIH Pro League season with a 4-3 win over Belgium. Lalit made his international debut in 2014 and played a pivotal role in India's historic bronze medal finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Four years later, he was also part of India's bronze medal-winning squad at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

In 179 international appearances, Lalit scored 41 goals for the country.

### **EU approves MotoGP takeover by F1 owner Liberty Media**

The acquisition of MotoGP by Liberty Media, the American group that owns Formula One, received the green light from The European Commission. The deal is now expected to close no later than July 3, 2025. Colorado-based Liberty said it would acquire 84 per cent of MotoGP with Dorna, a Madrid-based company, retaining 16 per cent in a deal that valued the company at 4.3 billion euros (\$5 billion).