





India slips to 131st position out of 148 countries in Global Gender Gap Index 2025

In the 19th edition of **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025**, India slipped two places from its position last year (129th).

- Also, India's overall gender parity score of **64.4%** is among the lowest in South Asia.
 - ⊕ **Bangladesh emerged as the best performer** in South Asian countries, jumping 75 ranks to reach the 24th position globally.
- Overall, **no economy has yet achieved full gender parity**.
 - ⊕ **Iceland** leads the rankings for the 16th year running, followed by **Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom and New Zealand**.
- With the **global gender gap** improving from 68.4% in 2024 to 68.8% in 2025. It will take **123 years to reach full parity globally**.

India's Overall Performance (2025):

- **Global Gender Gap Index** annually benchmarks the current state and evolution of **gender parity across four key dimensions** (sub-indexes).

Key dimensions	India's Overall Performance (2025)
 Economic Participation and Opportunity	Indian economy's overall performance improved in absolute terms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic participation improves marginally by 0.9% to 40.7 per cent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ With parity in estimated earned income rises. • Labour-force participation rate remains the same (45.9%), India's highest level achieved to date.
 Educational Attainment	India scores 97.1%, reflecting positive shifts in female shares for literacy and tertiary education enrolment.
 Health and Survival	India also records higher parity in Health and Survival, driven by improved scores in sex ratio at birth and in healthy life expectancy . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, parity is obtained despite an overall reduction in men's and women's life expectancy.
 Political Empowerment	India records a slight drop in parity (-0.6 points) in Political Empowerment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female representation in parliament fell from 14.7% to 13.8% in 2025, lowering the indicator score for the second year in a row. • The share of women in ministerial roles fell from 6.5% to 5.6%.

CBI gets India's First Ever Silver Notice published by Interpol in French embassy visa 'fraud' case

The Interpol has issued the first Silver notice on India's request to **track the global assets of former French Embassy officer Shubham Shokeen**, who is **wanted in connection with a visa fraud**.

About INTERPOL

- **Genesis:** Established as **International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC)** during 2nd International Police Congress in Vienna in **1923** and **established as INTERPOL** in 1956.
- **Members:** **196 countries** including **India** as one of the **founding members**.
- **Headquarters:** Lyon, France.
- **National Central Bureau (NCBs):** Established by member countries as a **point of access for INTERPOL affairs**.
 - ⊕ **CBI is India's NCB** to the INTERPOL.
 - ⊕ **Bharatpol portal** developed by CBI to provide all Indian law enforcement agencies with a seamless connection to Interpol.
- **Governing Bodies:** The General Assembly and Executive Committee.
- **Notices:** INTERPOL's **colour-coded notices** are **international requests for cooperation or alerts** allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information.

⊕ For instance, **Red** is for **detaining a fugitive**, **Blue** for seeking **additional information**, **Black** for **unidentified bodies** and **Yellow** for **missing persons**.

⊕ Notices are **published by the General Secretariat** at the request of a NCB and are made available to all member countries.

INTERPOL SILVER NOTICE

Asset Recovery & International Cooperation



What is Silver Notice?

International tool for asset recovery and information sharing

◆ Cross-Border Asset Recovery

- Agencies in India can collect information on assets of fugitives and key accused even if assets are parked in other countries



◆ India's Participation

- India is among 51 member countries in the first phase
- Pilot project continues till November



◆ First Silver Notice

- Published in January 2025 on behalf of Italy



◆ Request Allocation

- Each member nation can request up to 9 notices during the pilot project phase



Global Trends Report: Forced Displacement in 2024 released by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Forced Displacement refers to situations of persons who leave their homes due to **factors like persecution, violence, human rights violations, disasters etc.**

Key Highlights

- **Estimated 123.2 million people worldwide** were forcibly displaced at the end of 2024 (Children account for 40% of all forcibly displaced people).
- Slightly **more than one-third of all** forcibly displaced people globally were **Sudanese, Syrian, Afghan or Ukrainian**.
- **73.5 million people** remained internally displaced at the end of 2024.

Challenges posed by Forced Displacement

- **Vulnerable to food insecurity:** Due to disrupted livelihoods, dependency on aid, and logistical challenges in refugee camps or conflict zones.
- **Public expenditure shock:** Increase in government spending on the part of host government.
- **Social Tensions:** Competition over scarce resources can lead to tensions between host communities and displaced populations.
- **Unemployment Issue:** Changes in labor and consumer market results in loss of employment/wages for informal, low-skilled, young and female workers of host country.

Initiatives Undertaken for Forced Displacement

- **Global Compact for Migration (2018):** Adopted by majority of UN Members, Provides framework for **international migration**.
 - ⊕ It is **non-legally binding**.
- **Global Program on Forced Displacement (GFPD):** Established in 2009 by World Bank to enhance the global development response to forced displacement.

About UNHCR

- **HQ:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Genesis:** Established by General Assembly of United Nations in 1950.
- **Purpose:** Protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.
- **Achievement:** It Received Noble Peace prize in 1954 and 1981.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Declares Iran in Breach After 20 Years

19 out of 35 IAEA Board members voted to censure Iran for failing to meet nuclear non-proliferation commitments.

- The resolution was moved by **France, UK, Germany (E3)** and the **US**.
- The move follows an IAEA report noting Iran has enough **60% enriched uranium** to potentially make **nine nuclear bombs**.
- The issue may now go to the **UN Security Council**, which could **reimpose sanctions** under the 2015 nuclear deal.

About the 2015 Nuclear Deal (JCPOA)

- **Participants:** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was **signed between Iran and P5+1** (China, France, Germany, Russia, UK and US).
 - ⊕ In 2018, the US withdrew from the deal, and **since 2019, Iran has increasingly breached restrictions**
- **Purpose:** To **limit Iran's nuclear program** in return for **sanctions relief**.
- **UN Endorsement:** Endorsed by **U N Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)**.
- **Iran's Key Obligations:** **Uranium Enrichment Cap** and allow **IAEA inspections** under the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**.
- **Sanctions Relief for Iran:** Removing Weapons Ban and Nuclear Ban by EU, UN, and US.

In response to the current tensions surrounding Iran's nuclear activities. **Israel has launched "Operation Rising Lion"** targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites.

NOTE: To know more about IAEA, please refer News Today of 16th May 2025.

Iran's Major Nuclear Facilities



Solar Orbiter spacecraft obtains first images of the Sun's Poles

It was made possible by the **tilted orbit** of the **Solar Orbiter**, enriching our **understanding of the Sun's magnetic field, solar cycle** etc.

- The **Solar Orbiter** is a **joint solar mission** between the **European Space Agency (ESA)** and **NASA** launched in **2020**
 - ⊕ With the objective to take **close-up images** of the Sun, observe **solar wind** and the **Sun's Polar Regions**.

Significance of Studying Sun's Poles

- **1st Polar Views:** Aid in improved understanding of the **Solar Cycle**. Current models are unable to **predict exactly when and how powerfully** the Sun will reach its **most active state**.
 - ⊕ **Solar Cycle** is the **natural cycle (~11 years)** of the Sun as it **transitions between low (solar minimum) and high activity (solar maximum)**.
 - ⊕ During **solar maximum**, explosions of **light, energy, and solar radiation** affect the **space weather**.
- **Sun's magnetic field:** Measurements show that **both north and south polarity magnetic fields** are present at the **Sun's South Pole** during **solar maximum**.
 - ⊕ The Sun's magnetic north and south poles do flip, roughly every **11 years**.
- **Tracking movement of Particles:** **Imaging spectrographs** tracked particle movements in form of **solar winds** and **solar storms** away from Sun's equator. This will improve **space weather forecasts**.

Other Solar Missions

- **ESA-NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO)** (1995)
- **NASA Parker Solar Probe** (2018): First spacecraft to "touch" the Sun's corona.
- China's **Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S)** (2022)
- India's **Aditya-L1** (2023)
- NASA's **PUNCH (Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere)** mission (2025)

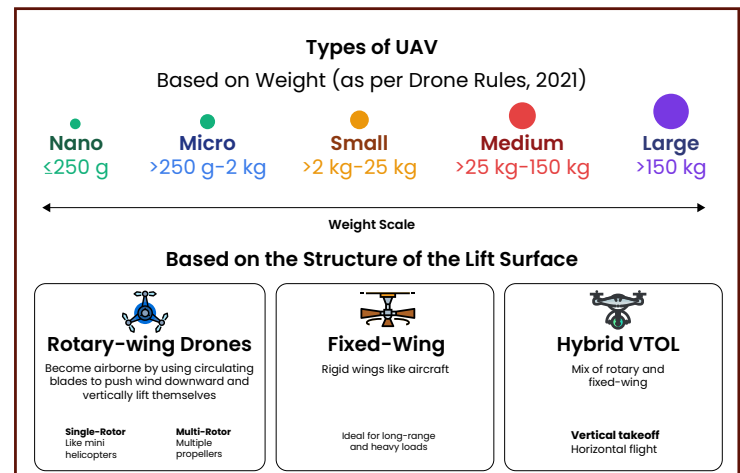
Successful Trial of the Hybrid Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Rudrastra Conducted at Pokhran, Rajasthan

Rudrastra demonstrated **vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL)** capabilities, **extended flight range**, **real-time surveillance**, and **accurate target engagement** over a range of **50 kilometres**.

- It marks a significant step forward in India's efforts to strengthen **indigenous military technology** under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

About Rudrastra

- It is a **Hybrid Vertical Take-Off and Landing (VTOL)** UAV manufactured by **Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL)**.
 - ⊕ A UAV is an **unmanned aircraft system** that is either **controlled remotely** or can fly **autonomously** without the need for a **pilot**.
 - ⊕ **VTOL UAVs** can take off and land **vertically**, **eliminating the need for runways**, and providing **manoeuvrability** and **versatility** in operations.
- **Features:**
 - ⊕ **Total range** (including loitering over the target) is **170 km**, with an estimated **endurance of 1.5 hours**.
 - ⊕ Equipped with **precision-guided anti-personnel warheads** with mid-altitude release capability.
 - ⊕ Can relay back **live video** and **return** to the launch position in **automated mode**.



Also In News



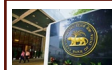
Cosmic Dawn

With the help of **Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS)** telescope, **located high in the Atacama Desert of Chile**, scientists have captured a faint **13-billion-year-old microwave signal from the Cosmic Dawn**.

- This research provides new **insights into how the first stars influenced the early universe**.

About Cosmic Dawn

- Cosmic Dawn refers to the period roughly between **50 million and one billion years after the Big Bang**.
- This is the time when the **first stars, black holes, and galaxies** are believed to have formed.



RBI Bond buyback

RBI bond buyback has seen strong demand recently.

What is RBI Bond Buyback?

- A bond buyback is when the RBI purchases government securities (G-Secs) from banks before maturity.

Objectives:

- **Infuses liquidity into the banking system:** Especially when credit growth needs a push.
- **Reduce Gross Borrowing:** By retiring high-cost or short-term bonds early.



Mayday Call

During Ahmadabad-London Air India Airplane crash, the Air Traffic Control (ATC) received a Mayday call from pilots minutes after takeoff.

About Mayday Call:

- The word '**Mayday**' was coined in the early **1920s** by **Frederick Stanley Mockford**, a radio officer in London.
- It is the phonetic **equivalent of the French phrase m'aider** ("help me").
- It became part of **international radio communication for pilots and mariners by 1923**, and was formally adopted in 1927 alongside the Morse "SOS".
- **First flight use (1923)**: Croydon-Le Bourget flights began using "Mayday."
- **Aviation standard (1927)**: The International Radiotelegraph Convention formalised it.
- **Meaning**: When a pilot says "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday", they're **declaring a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate help**.



Zero-Coupon Bond

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has withdrawn its **zero-coupon bond** issuance.

About Zero-Coupon Bond

- Also known as **discount bonds**.
- They **do not pay interest** to the holder.
- They are **purchased at a deep discount** to face value, but they're repaid at full face value or par at maturity.
- They are **more sensitive to interest rate changes** than bonds that pay interest on a periodic basis.



Agent AI

India's first agent AI, Kruti, launched by Krutrim, can book cabs, pay bills, and perform other tasks.

About Agent AI

- It refers to **AI systems** that can **autonomously make decisions, take actions and adapt to changing environments**.
- It **ingests vast amounts of data from multiple data sources** and third-party applications to **analyse challenges, develop strategies, and execute tasks independently**.
- It can enable companies to **deliver higher value** through a 'service-as-a-software' shift from 'software-as-a-service'.



Price Support Scheme (PSS)

Government approves procurement of summer Moong under PSS for summer crop season.

- Government is implementing **integrated scheme Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)**, which encompasses PSS, Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS), Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF).
- The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (**DA&FW**) implements PSS, PDPS and MIS whereas the **Department of Consumer Affairs** implements PSF.

About PSS:

- **Notified Pulses, Oilseeds and Copra** are procured at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** directly from the pre-registered farmers by the Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) (through the State level agencies) given they conform to the prescribed Fair Average Quality (FAQ).
- **Aim**: To provide the remunerative price to the farmers.



Servants of India Society (SIS)

June 12 marked the **120th anniversary** of the establishment of the **Servants of India Society (SIS)**.

About Servants of India Society

- **Genesis**: Founded in **1905** in **Pune (Maharashtra)**
- **Founders**: **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** with **G.K. Devadhar**, **A.V. Patwardhan**, and **N.A. David**.
⊕ **Mahatma Gandhi** regarded **Gokhale** as his **mentor** and was a **member of SIS**.
- **Mission**: To **train young Indians to serve the nation** by becoming selfless and dedicated servants of the people.
- **Objectives**: Promote Education, encourage social service, foster civic engagement.
- **Nature**: The organisation was **non-political and non-sectarian**.



PASSEX

PASSEX, a **joint naval exercise** between the Navies of **India** and the **UK**, is being held in the northern Arabian Sea.

Personality in News



Srimanta Sankardev (1449 -1568)

Renowned Indian classical dancer **Sonal Mansingh** honoured with **Srimanta Sankardeva Award (One of Assam's highest cultural honours)**

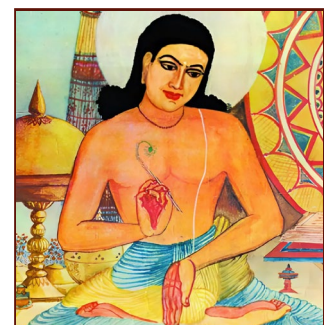
About Srimanta Sankardeva:

- 15th-century **saint-reformer**, Born in Aali-pukhuri situated in Nagaon district of Assam.
- Pioneer of the **Ekasarana Dharma**, a **Neo-Vaishnavite movement** emphasizing devotion to Lord Krishna.

Contributions:

- **Kirtana Ghosha**: A devotional scripture composed in Assamese, focusing on the glorification of Lord Krishna.
- **Gunamala**: A condensed version of the Bhagavata Purana.
- **Ankiya Naat**: A form of one-act play combining dance, music, and storytelling.
- **Bhaona**: A traditional theatrical performance originating from Ankiya Naat, often performed in Satras (Vaishnavite monasteries).
- **Sattriya Dance**: A classical dance form developed within the Satras, recognized as one of India's eight classical dance forms.
- **Literary works**: Bhakti Pradipa, Bhakti Ratnakara, Kirtana-ghosha, etc.

Values: Spiritualism, Syncretism, humanism, etc



AHMEDABAD



BENGALURU



BHOPAL



CHANDIGARH



DELHI



GUWAHATI



HYDERABAD



JAIPUR



JODHPUR



LUCKNOW



PRAYAGRAJ



PUNE



RANCHI