

The week from 28 Apr to 04 May 2025

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the procurement of 26 Rafale Marine jets from France, enhancing India's maritime strike capabilities amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions. Rafale Marine is the carrier-borne variant of Dassault Aviation's 4.5-generation Rafale fighter jet and will operate from INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier.

After 30 years, 20 critically endangered red-crowned roofed turtles (batagur kachuga) were successfully reintroduced into the Ganga River under the Namami Gange Mission, marking a key biodiversity milestone. Its native river ranges are the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Chambal rivers and is mandated the highest protection under the Indian Wildlife Act.

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam has issued India's first certified Green Municipal Bond, raising ₹150 crore to develop a Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP). A Green Municipal Bond is a debt instrument issued by urban local bodies (ULBs) to fund environment-friendly infrastructure projects such as water treatment, clean energy, or waste management. It aligns with Green Bond Principles and is certified for sustainability compliance.

WAVES (World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit) 2025, being held in Mumbai, has facilitated over ₹250 crore worth of media and entertainment deals in just 1.5 days and announced several landmark international collaborations. It is an initiative by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) connecting content creators with investors, buyers, and collaborators from around the world, aiming to position India as a strategic hub for content commerce.

Amazon launched the first 27 satellites of Project Kuiper via the Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral, USA. It is a satellite-based broadband initiative by Amazon to provide high-speed internet globally via Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites in accordance with a Satellite-Internet Constellation.

The Sacred Relics of Lord Buddha arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, ahead of UN Vesak Day 2025. The Buddha's teachings and spiritual enlightenment of Gautama Buddha are preserved and curated by the National Museum of India. In order to strengthen cultural diplomacy, India has shared relics with Mongolia, Thailand, and now Vietnam.

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