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Tamil Nadu records highest marine fish landings in 2025



- Tamil Nadu emerged as India's leading state in marine fish landings in 2025, overtaking Gujarat, according to the latest assessment released by the ICAR–Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- Tamil Nadu recorded an estimated 6.85 lakh tonnes of marine fish landings in 2025, registering a 1% increase over 2024.
- India's total marine fish landings stood at 3.57 million tonnes in 2025, compared to 3.47 million tonnes in the previous year, reflecting a 3% national increase.
- Gujarat slipped to second position with 6.43 lakh tonnes following a 15% decline caused by adverse weather conditions, extended fishing bans and Cyclone Shakti.
- Tamil Nadu retained the top position despite disruptions caused by Cyclone Montha and Cyclone Ditwah, which temporarily affected fishing activities along the coast.
- Kanniyakumari district accounted for the highest share of marine fish landings at 23%, followed by Thoothukudi at 16% and Pudukkottai at 14%.
- Chennai Fisheries Harbour contributed around 12% of Tamil Nadu's total marine fish landings.

- Lesser sardines remained the leading marine fish resource for the fifth consecutive year, contributing around 0.70 lakh tonnes despite a 9% decline from the previous year.
- Cephalopods and threadfin breams also emerged as significant contributors to marine fish landings.
- Mechanised single-day trawl nets contributed 44% of the total catch, followed by motorised gillnets at 18% and multi-day trawl nets at 16%.
- Karnataka recorded a 44% increase in marine fish landings, contributing to the growing prominence of India's southwest coast fisheries sector.
- Marine fish landings in India were valued at ₹69,254 crore at landing centres and ₹97,702 crore at the retail level, highlighting the sector's economic significance.

Top 5 States in Marine Fish Landings (2025):

Rank	State	Marine Fish Landings (2025)	Year on Year (YoY) Change
1	Tamil Nadu	6.85 lakh tonnes	+1%
2	Gujarat	6.43 lakh tonnes	-15%
3	Kerala	6.24 lakh tonnes	+2%
4	Karnataka	5.78 lakh tonnes	+44%
5	Maharashtra	5.56 lakh tonnes	+10%

Sixth Nilgiri-class frigate joins fleet, boosting naval firepower



- Indigenous stealth frigate INS Mahendragiri (Yard 12654), the sixth ship of the Nilgiri-class (Project 17A), was delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), Mumbai, on 30 April 2026.
- INS Mahendragiri is the fourth Nilgiri-class stealth frigate constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL).
- Project 17A (P-17A) involves the construction of seven advanced guided-missile stealth frigates for the Indian Navy, named after Indian hill ranges.
- The seven Project 17A frigates are INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, INS Udaygiri, INS Dunagiri, INS Taragiri, INS Vindhyagiri and INS Mahendragiri.
- Under Project 17A, four ships are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, and three ships at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Project 17A frigates are designated as Nilgiri-class stealth frigates and are designed as advanced multi-mission warships for maritime operations.

- INS Nilgiri was the first ship under Project 17A and was launched in September 2019 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai.
- The frigates were designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and represent a major advancement in indigenous warship design, stealth technology, automation and survivability.
- INS Mahendragiri is equipped with advanced anti-surface, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare systems along with modern sensors and weapon suites.
- The frigates operate on a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion system integrated with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP) and an Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- The project achieved around 75% indigenous content, reflecting India's progress towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing.
- More than 200 MSMEs participated in the Project 17A programme, generating employment for around 4,000 people directly and over 10,000 indirectly.

Global launch of 'Padma Doree' A Cross-Regional Textile Initiative Linking Northeast India and Madhya Pradesh

- The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC), a CPSE under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER), launched the 'Padma Doree' textile initiative on 1 May 2026.
- Padma Doree is a cross-regional textile initiative that blends the Eri (Ahimsa) silk traditions of Northeast India with the Chanderi weaving heritage of Madhya Pradesh.
- The initiative aims to promote a sustainable, artisan-centric and innovation-driven textile ecosystem in India.
- The programme was officially launched by MDoNER Secretary Sanjay Jaju and is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat."
- Padma Doree combines ethically produced Eri silk with the intricate craftsmanship and motifs of Chanderi textiles.
- The launch event featured a fashion show, curated textile exhibitions and live craft demonstrations by artisans from Northeast India and Madhya Pradesh.
- A three-day interactive exhibition was organized to showcase the textile journey from fibre to fabric and encourage direct engagement between artisans and visitors.
- The initiative highlights the role of indigenous knowledge systems, traditional crafts and sustainable luxury in contemporary textile markets.
- The event also included regional culinary experiences reflecting the cultural diversity of the participating regions.



GST collections rise to all-time high of Rs 2.43 lakh crore in April

- India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections touched an all-time high of ₹2.43 lakh crore in April 2026.
- GST collections increased from ₹2 lakh crore in March 2026 and ₹2.23 lakh crore recorded in April 2025.
- Gross GST collections registered a year-on-year growth of 8.7% in April 2026.
- Net GST revenue stood at ₹2.11 lakh crore, reflecting a 7.3% increase compared to the previous year.
- Gross domestic GST revenue rose 4.3% year-on-year to ₹1.85 lakh crore.
- Import-related GST revenue surged 25.8% to ₹57,580 crore, indicating that the rise in collections was largely driven by external trade.
- Total GST refunds increased 19.3% to ₹31,793 crore during April 2026.
- Domestic refunds recorded a sharp 54.6% increase, while export-related refunds declined by 14%.
- Monthly GST collections have steadily increased from around ₹1.67 lakh crore in April 2022 to ₹2.43 lakh crore in April 2026.
- Despite the West Asia crisis and rising crude oil prices, GST collections maintained growth momentum during the period.
- Brent crude oil prices crossed USD 126 per barrel on 30 April 2026 amid fears of renewed hostilities in the Iran-Israel-US region.
- The data indicated moderation in domestic consumption growth, while import-led revenues contributed significantly to the record GST collections.



India Again on US Priority Watch List for IP Rights 'Violations'

- India was placed on the Priority Watch List in the 2026 Special 301 Report released by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on 30 April 2026.
- India has remained on the USTR Priority Watch List since the 1990s over issues related to pharmaceutical intellectual property (IP) protection.
- Other countries on the 2026 Priority Watch List are Chile, China, Indonesia, Russia and Venezuela.
- Vietnam was designated as a “Priority Foreign Country” in the 2026 Special 301 Report.
- The USTR raised concerns regarding Section 3(d) of India’s Patents Act, which prevents patent ever greening without enhanced therapeutic efficacy.
- Section 3(d) was upheld by the Supreme Court in the Novartis v. Union of India case.
- The report also highlighted India’s compulsory licensing provisions under patent law.
- India granted its first compulsory licence in Bayer Corporation v. Natco Pharma Ltd.
- India maintains that its patent framework is compliant with WTO-TRIPS (World Trade Organization – Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) provisions and supports affordable access to generic medicines.
- India is known as the “Pharmacy of the World” and supplies nearly 20% of global generic medicines.



Sikkim becomes India's first state with fully paperless judiciary

- Sikkim became the first Indian state to adopt a completely paperless judiciary system.
- The announcement was made by Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant during the Conclave on Technology and Judicial Education held in Gangtok on 1 May 2026.
- The initiative was implemented under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project of the Indian judiciary.
- The paperless judiciary system includes e-filing, digital case records, virtual hearings and electronic court management processes.
- The initiative aims to improve transparency, efficiency and accessibility in judicial administration, particularly in geographically challenging regions.
- Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court Justice A. Muhamed Mustaque also participated in the conclave.
- Sikkim's paperless judiciary model is expected to reduce paperwork, speed up case management and strengthen technology-driven justice delivery systems.

India-UAE trade crosses \$100 billion under free trade pact

- India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) crossed USD 100 billion in bilateral trade after the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in May 2022.
- India-UAE bilateral trade reached USD 101.25 billion in 2025-26.
- India's exports to the UAE rose to USD 37.36 billion, while imports stood at USD 63.89 billion during 2025-26.
- India recorded a trade deficit of USD 26.53 billion with the UAE in 2025-26.
- Major sectors contributing to trade growth include gems and jewellery, engineering goods, electronics and agriculture.
- The India-UAE CEPA acts as a gateway for trade expansion into Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Africa, CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries and parts of Europe.
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the UAE into India stood at USD 2.45 billion during April–December 2025-26. It was \$4.34 billion in 2024-25.



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis Inaugurates 13.3-Km Missing Link On Mumbai-Pune Expressway

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the 13.3-km-long Missing Link Project on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway on 1 May 2026.
- The project was developed by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) at a cost of ₹7,000 crore.
- The Missing Link Project connects Khopoli in Raigad district with Kusgaon near Lonavala in Pune district.
- The project aims to bypass the steep and accident-prone Khandala/Bhor Ghat section of the Mumbai-Pune Expressway.
- The new corridor is expected to reduce travel distance by around 6 km and cut travel time between Mumbai and Pune by 20–30 minutes.
- The project includes two tunnels, two viaducts and a cable-stayed bridge over Tiger Valley.
- The tunnel constructed under the project is claimed to be the widest road tunnel in the world and has been included in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- The 650-metre viaduct features India's tallest road cable-stayed bridge with pylons rising 182 metres high.
- The tunnels were constructed using the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM) in the Sahyadri ranges.
- Initially, only light motor vehicles and buses will be allowed on the Missing Link stretch, while heavy vehicles will continue to use the existing ghat route.
- The project is expected to boost connectivity, industrial growth and economic activity along the Mumbai-Pune corridor.



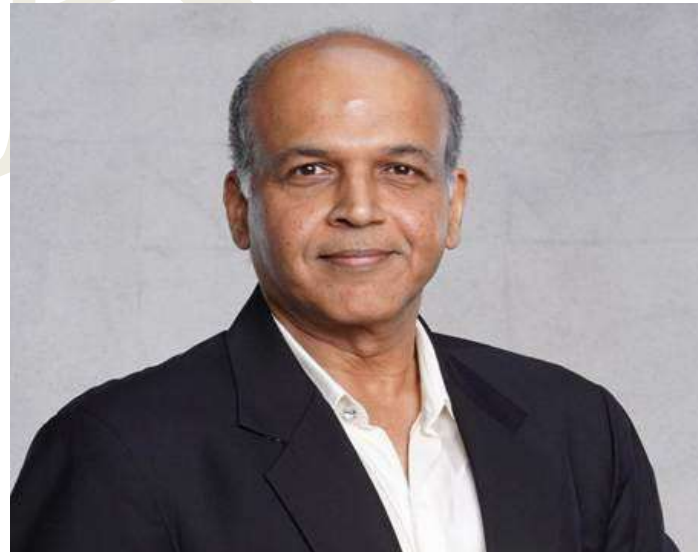
Karnataka government launches India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers

- Karnataka launched India's first digital grievance redressal system for gig workers to provide structured support and protection for platform-based workers.
- The system was developed by the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers' Board in collaboration with the Department of e-Governance.
- Gig workers can file complaints through the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS).
- The platform allows workers to raise issues related to wages, working conditions and platform-specific disputes.
- Complaints will be forwarded to the Internal Dispute Resolution Committees (IDRCs) of respective aggregator platforms for resolution within a fixed timeframe.
- Under the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act and Rules, every aggregator platform must establish an Internal Dispute Resolution Committee (IDRC).
- Platforms such as Namma Yatri and Yulu have already integrated their IDRC details with the government portal.
- Around 12 lakh gig workers have been identified in Karnataka, and a unique identification system is being developed to remove duplicate records.
- The Karnataka government is designing welfare schemes based on type of work, working hours and worker contribution.
- The initiative aims to transform the gig economy from an informal sector into a structured and accountable system.
- Aggregator platforms will contribute 1% towards gig worker welfare, with implementation scheduled from 5 July 2026.



Shri Ashutosh Gowariker Appointed as Festival Director for 57th International Film Festival of India

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appointed noted filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker as the Festival Director for the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- The 57th edition of IFFI will be held in Goa in November 2026.
- Ashutosh Gowariker previously served as Jury President for International Cinema at IFFI 2024.
- The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was established in 1952 and is South Asia's oldest film festival.
- IFFI is jointly organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Entertainment Society of Goa.
- IFFI is regarded as one of Asia's premier film festivals promoting global cinema and cultural exchange.
- Major highlights of IFFI include international competitions, country focus segments, masterclasses, tributes and the WAVES Film Bazaar.



HAL appoints Kota Ravi as Chairman and MD as D K Sunil steps down

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) appointed Kota Ravi as its 22nd Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- Kota Ravi succeeded Dr D. K. Sunil, who stepped down from the post on 1 May 2026.
- Prior to this appointment, Kota Ravi served as Director (Operations) at HAL.
- He played a key role in securing Maharatna status for HAL.
- He currently serves as Nominee Director on the board of Multi-Role Transport Aircraft Ltd.
- He earlier held key positions including Executive Director and General Manager of the LCA Tejas Division and Executive Director (Corporate Planning).
- He was associated with major defence contracts including the supply of 180 LCA Tejas aircraft to the Indian Air Force and 156 LCH Prachand helicopters to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- Kota Ravi contributed to increasing indigenous content and expanding production capacity under the LCA Tejas programme.
- He also promoted outsourcing of major fuselage assemblies to private sector firms to strengthen India's aerospace manufacturing ecosystem.



World Tuna Day Observed on May 2

- World Tuna Day is observed annually on 2 May to raise awareness about tuna conservation and sustainable fishing practices.
- The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and has been observed since 2017.
- Tuna is an economically important fish species that supports global food security, trade and livelihoods.
- Tuna populations have declined significantly due to overfishing and illegal fishing activities.
- World Tuna Day promotes sustainable management of tuna stocks to prevent depletion and extinction risks.
- Thailand is among the world's largest producers of tuna.

