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NOVEMBER

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. PM unveils Asia's Tallest Lord Ram Statue in Goa

- PM Narendra Modi unveiled a majestic 77-foot bronze statue of Lord Shree Ram at the Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Partagali, in South Goa. Ram V Sutar, the legendary sculptor, crafted the statue.
- This was part of the 550th-year celebrations of the Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math. It is one of the oldest and most prominent Dvaita Vaishnava institutions in India.
- Dvaita Vaishnavism is a Hindu philosophical tradition founded by the 13th-century saint-philosopher Madhvacharya, which teaches that God and the soul are two separate realities. In this tradition, Lord Vishnu is the supreme God, and his avatars, which include Ram and Krishna, are central to worship.
- The Partagali Math, founded over 550 years ago, is the first Vaishnava institution for the Gaud Sarasvatis and Brahmins. It sits on the banks of the Kushavati in South Goa's Canacona, close to the Maharashtra border. The Math, for centuries, been a refuge for Saraswat Hindus from Goa, coastal Maharashtra.
- Alongside the statue, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated a Ramayana Theme Park, released a commemorative coin, and a commemorative coin.

Key Points

Goa Chief Minister —

2. First Fully Digitised National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Launched

- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, George Kurian, officially launched the household enumeration phase of the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).
- The census will be fully digital and will utilise the VYAS app to provide real-time, geo-referenced data collection.
- The ICAR-CMFRI serves as the nodal agency, while the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is the operational partner. Both have been appointed to conduct the MFC with a budget allocation of ₹16.2 crore.

- The census will involve thousands of trained field staff covering over 1.2 million fisher households across 4,000 marine fishing villages in nine coastal states, and four Union Territories.
- This edition represents a significant technological shift as it marks the first fully digitised data collection in the history of Indian fisheries.

Key Points

Headquarters, ICAR — CMFRI- Kochi, Kerala

3. India Unveils MWh-Scale Vanadium Flow Battery

- India has unveiled a 100-MWh-scale Vanadium Flow Battery (VFB) system at the National Energy Research and Testing Agency (NETRA) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The system developed by the National Energy Research and Testing Agency (NETRA) is a significant step for long-duration energy storage in India, aiming to support the integration of renewable energy sources, and enhance grid stability.

The VFB is seen as a safer, scalable, and longer-lasting alternative to lithium-ion batteries, promoting energy independence by diversifying storage technology, and reducing reliance on imported lithium.

4. UIDAI Unveils 'Aadhaar Vision 2032' For Future Digital ID

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) unveiled the Aadhaar Vision 2032 framework to strengthen future-proof digital identity through Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, quantum computing, and advanced encryption.
- The framework will provide a comprehensive roadmap to redefine India's digital identity ecosystem, and accelerate next-generation digital governance for the next decade.
- The framework has been guided by a high-level expert committee, chaired by Neelkanth Mishra, Chairperson, UIDAI.

5. CAG to Establish Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit in Hyderabad

- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, K Sanjay Murthy, launched the Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit (CoEFA) at Audit Bhawan, Hyderabad.

- CoEFA has been established to realise the CAG of India's vision of creating a knowledge-driven platform that transforms the landscape of financial auditing in the public sector.
- The center has a focused mandate covering: Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs), Autonomous Bodies (ABs), and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

6. India Launches BIRSA 101, First Indigenous CRISPR Gene Therapy For Sickle Cell Disease

- Union Science and Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, launched India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for Sickle Cell Disease, which primarily affects the country's tribal population.
- The therapy, named BIRSA 101, is dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, whose 150th anniversary was observed on November 15, 2025.
- The breakthrough has demonstrated the country's capability to produce pathbreaking therapies at a fraction of global costs, potentially replacing treatments priced at 20-25 crore rupees overseas.
- This innovation carries deep national significance, especially for tribal communities in central and southern India, where the disease burden is highest.
- Sickle Cell Disease is a chronic, single-gene disorder that causes a debilitating systemic syndrome by chronic anaemia, acute pain, stroke, infarction, and chronic organ damage, significantly reducing life expectancy. It affects the entire life of a person, causing various severe health complications.

7. PM Modi launches Skyroot's Launch Vehicle Facility

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Indian space startup Skyroot's Infinity Campus in Hyderabad via video conferencing.
- He also unveiled Skyroot's first orbital rocket, Vikram-I, with the capability to launch satellites to orbit. The state-of-the-art facility will have around 2 lakh square feet of workspace for designing, developing, integrating, and testing multiple launch vehicles, with a capacity to build one orbital rocket every month.
- Skyroot is India's leading private space company, founded by Pawan Chandana and Bharath Dhaka, both alumni of the Indian Institutes of Technology and former scientists of ISRO turned entrepreneurs.

- In November 2022, Skyroot launched its sub-orbital rocket, Vikram-S, becoming the first Indian private company to launch a rocket to space.

8. India Sets Three Guinness World Records Under "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan"

- India has achieved three Guinness World Records under the nationwide 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' (SNSPA), a campaign focused on preventive and women-centric healthcare, while promoting early disease detection and access to essential health services.
- The records include the highest number of people registering for a healthcare platform in one month, with more than 100 million registrations.
- The second record is for the most people signing up for a campaign online in a single week, with 1.25 lakh participants.
- The third record is for the most people signing up for a campaign online at the state level within 1.25 lakh participants.

Health Minister — JP Nadda

9. Gogabael Lake In Bihar Declared Newest Ramsar Site

- Gogabael Lake in Bihar was declared India's 94th Ramsar site, making it the sixth Ramsar site in the state.
- It is situated in the Katihar district of Bihar, between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers. It serves as a crucial habitat for numerous bird species and vulnerable animals like the Lesser Adjutant Stork and Smooth-coated Otter. It also plays a vital role in flood mitigation and groundwater recharge.
- A Ramsar site is a wetland designated to be of international importance under the intergovernmental Ramsar Convention.

10. PM Modi launches Year-Long Celebration Marking 150 Years of India's National Song 'Vande Mataram'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long commemoration of the National Song "Vande Mataram" on November 7, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- He also released a Commemorative Stamp and Coin on the occasion.

- Our national song "Vande Mataram", by Bankimchandra Chatterji was written during the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Navami, which was on November 7, in 1875. Vande Mataram first appeared in the literary journal Bangadarshan as part of his novel Anandamath.
- The song, invoking the Motherland as the embodiment of strength, prosperity, and divinity, gave poetic expression to India's awakening spirit of unity and self-respect.

11. Khangchendzonga National Park, rated 'Good' by IUCN

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has rated the Khangchendzonga National Park site as "good" in its latest review of natural World Heritage Sites, making it the only Indian park to receive such recognition.
- The park covers an area of 1,784 square kilometres, extending from subtropical forests at the foothills to the summit of Mount Khangchendzonga, rising 8,586 metres, the world's third-highest peak.
- It is home to 280 glaciers and 70 glacial lakes as a significant population of snow leopards, red pandas, blue sheep, and Hoolock gibbons. Over 550 bird species, such as the tragopan, also inhabit the park.

12. PM Modi Inaugurates India's First Museum Of Tribal Freedom Fighters

- PM Modi inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Museum, and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.
- The museum, built at a cost of ₹10 crore on around 10 acres of land, pays tribute to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, the landlord of Sonakhan and the first martyr freedom fighter from Chhattisgarh, who led the revolt against British oppression.
- The facility also chronicles the region's major tribal uprisings, including the Halba Rebellion, Sarguja Revolt, Bhopalpatnam, Paralkot, Tarapur, Lingagiri, Koie, Meria, Muria, Rani Chauris, Bhumkal, and Sonakhan movements, along with the Jhanda and Jungle Satyagrahas.

13. Supreme Court Orders Jharkhand To Declare Saranda Forest A Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Supreme Court has ordered the Jharkhand government to declare 31,468.25 hectares of the

Saranda forest as a wildlife sanctuary within three months, reinstating the 1968 Bihar Game Sanctuary notification.

- The ruling prohibits mining within the sanctuary and its one-kilometer buffer zone and ensures that tribal rights are not violated.
- The court criticised the state for delaying the process and attempting to reduce the protected area.

14. India Undertakes Operation Sagar Bandhu

- India has launched Operation Sagar Bandhu, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) initiative, to support Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah triggered severe flooding, landslides and disruption across the country.
- An Indian naval ship carrying around 12 tonnes of relief material, including tents, tarpaulins, and ready-to-eat food items

provided food, essentials and medical support to help neighbouring countries manage crises. INS Vikrant and INS Tarkash handed over relief material at Colombo.

15. Odisha Prepares for UNESCO World Heritage Nomination

World-class tourist amenities are being developed at Sirpur, a prominent archaeological site in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh.

- Sirpur is home to Buddhist sites and the iconic 7th-century Laxman Temple. It lies on the banks of the Mahanadi River, opposite the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, and is around 85 km from Raipur.
- All 34 identified monuments and archaeological sites in Sirpur will be divided into four thematic clusters to streamline site management and enhance tourist experience, with each cluster featuring essential amenities such as rest shelters, drinking water points, interpretive signage, pathways, and sanitation facilities.
- This will ensure its cultural and historical character remains intact, in view of its proposed UNESCO World Heritage nomination.

16. ISRO Launches Its Heaviest Communication Satellite To Date, CMS-03

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its heaviest communication satellite to date, CMS-03, from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This

marked a crucial leap for India's independent satellite capabilities and maritime security.

- It is a 4,410 kg satellite and rode into a geosynchronous transfer orbit aboard the robust LVM-3 rocket, also known as 'Bahubali of Indian rockets'.
- CMS-03, also referred to as GSAT-7R, is tailor-made to serve as the backbone of the Indian Navy's communication network across the Indian Ocean.
- The satellite is loaded with multi-band payloads, including C, extended C, and Ku bands, that enable secure, high-capacity voice, data, and video transmissions between warships, submarines, aircrafts, and shore-based command centers.
- The satellite is a critical node in the Navy's Maritime Domain Awareness grid—which allows coordinated responses to threats, improved fleet coordination, and secure information flow across vast oceanic distances.

Key Points

ISRO's headquarters — Bengaluru, Karnataka

ISRO's chief — Dr. V. Narayanan

News in Short

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted dhwaja on the spire of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. This marks the completion of the temple's construction.
- Mukhi — the first Indian-built satellite in 33 months — has given India a landmark moment for its space initiative.
- The Supreme Court has directed the Centre to create a National Tribunal Commission within four months, striking down provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021. The Court found these provisions unconstitutional because they gave the government excessive control over tribunals, violating judicial independence and the separation of powers.
- The Supreme Court held that the Court cannot impose any timelines for decisions of the President and the Governor on granting assent to Bills under the Constitution.
- The Southern Railway would operate a 'coast-to-coast' parcel express train service across Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This initiative, a first of its kind by the Indian Railways, marks a significant step toward strengthening regional parcel mobility.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the International Arya Mahasammelan on October 31, 2025, in New Delhi, an event marking the 150th anniversary of the Arya Samaj and the 200th birth anniversary of its founder, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati. During the event, he also released a special commemorative coin and postal stamp.
- A new scientific study has raised red flags over the presence of uranium in the breastmilk of lactating mothers across six districts of Bihar, indicating potential health risks for infants who rely exclusively on breastmilk during their early months of life. The research, published in *Scientific Reports*, is the first assessment of uranium contamination in breastmilk in the Ganges-Brahmaputra region — a region already known for toxic metals like arsenic, lead and cadmium.
- 'Jhado', a traditional handcrafted communities, has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, marking a major step in the preservation of the state's indigenous products.

- India's first privately built Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C55), a joint venture between state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and conglomerate Larsen & Toubro Ltd, will be launched by early 2026.
- Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated India's first all-in-one Tesla Motors facility in Gurugram, asserting that the state is prepared to become the company's primary manufacturing base in India.
- According to the World Health Organisation's Global TB Report 2025, the number of TB patients in the country has come down from 237 per lakh population in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024. India's total tuberculosis cases have reduced by 21% over the last decade, which is almost double the global average of 12%.
- India's average temperature rose by nearly 0.9 degrees Celsius in the last decade (2015-2024), with the number of warm days increasing across most of the country. The hottest day of the year also registered a temperature rise of 1.5-2 degrees Celsius in the western and northeast India since the 1950s.
- India is preparing for the 2026 All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), the world's largest wildlife survey, which will involve a multi-phase process combining ground surveys with advanced technology. The survey goes beyond counting tigers to assess the overall health of

tiger habitats by measuring prey density, forest quality, and human impact. The last census was conducted in 2022.

- United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (Ulfa-I) secretary Arunodoi Dahotia, also known as Arunodoi Asom alias Bijit Gogoi, who served as the outfit's finance secretary, surrendered before security forces at a remote location in Arunachal Pradesh along the India-Myanmar border.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal ticket and a special coin on behalf of the central government and a coffee-table book published by the Haryana government, dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- The Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, recently opened its new center in Bengaluru. This new facility is designed to support the packaging sector through education, research, testing, and consultancy services, featuring infrastructure like material and

chemical analysis labs.

- A bust of B R Ambedkar was unveiled at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on the occasion of the Constitution Day of India.
- Manohar Lal Khattar, Union Minister of Power, Housing and Urban Affairs, released a commemorative coin of ₹50 to commemorate 50 years of NHPC and NHPC's Comic Book "Chhota Bheem aur Bada Bandh" at New Delhi.
- Mounjaro became India's top-selling drug in October 2025, generating approximately ₹100 crore in sales for the month and surpassing other medications like Augmentin. The injectable weight-loss drug from Eli Lilly has seen a significant increase in demand, driven by the growing diabetes population and its efficacy in controlling blood sugar and weight.
- India's first revamped Gen Z Post Office opened at its first revamped Gen Z Post Office at IIT Delhi campus, marking efforts to modernise postal spaces in institutions.

GOVERNMENT

1. Centre Notifies New Deep-Sea Fishing Rules

- In a major step towards realising a prosperous and inclusive future, the Government of India notified the "Rules for Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)".
- The Rules give priority to registered Fisherfolk Organisations (FFPOs) for undertaking a range of fishing operations and managing technologically advanced vessels.
- The EEZ Rules will not only facilitate deep-sea fishing but will also contribute to enhancing seafood exports by emphasising value addition, traceability, and certification.
- This initiative is expected to open new horizons for the Indian Marine Fisheries sector through the creation of modern infrastructure and the introduction of the mother-and-child vessel concept, allowing mid-sea transhipment under an effective monitoring mechanism of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations.
- In island regions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, which together account for 49% of

India's EEZ area, the use of mother and child vessels will give a boost to the export of high-quality fish.

2. Operation Crystal Fortress Uncovers Major Meth Trafficking Network

- In an important breakthrough, Narcotics Control Bureau (OPS Branch) in collaboration with Special Cell, (CI) Delhi Police has busted a trans-national trafficking network with seizure of about 328 kilograms of high-quality Methamphetamine under Operation Crystal Fortress.
- It was a coordinated intelligence-driven crackdown, targeting high-volume synthetic drug networks.

3. India Launches AMR 2.0, A Major Push To Combat Drug-Resistant Infections

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, launched the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2025-29).
- AMR is a major public health concern that can only be addressed through collective action. The journey began in 2010 with initial discussions, followed by the launch of the first NAP-AMR in 2017.
- NAP-AMR 2.0 addresses the gaps identified in the first

NAP-AMR by increasing the ownership of AMR-related efforts, strengthening inter-sectoral coordination and ensuring stronger engagement with the private sector.

- AMR has been identified as a global health threat with serious health, political and economic implications. It leads to delays in treatment, thus increasing the risk of spreading resistant microorganisms and health-care costs and the economic burden to families and societies.

4. UIDAI Launches New Aadhaar App

- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new Aadhaar app. The app brings new features, allowing users to carry their Aadhaar card digitally on their smartphones.
- The app is also secured with biometrics and face unlock, ensuring your information remains private.
- For privacy, users will also get the option to hide information that may not be required at any given time.
- The new Aadhaar app will use facial recognition to verify your identity when you set up the app. It is mandatory to confirm your identity and reduce the possibility of potential misuse.

5. PM Modi Inaugurates Safran Aircraft India Facility

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the French aerospace and defence major Safran's CFM LEAP engine repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- SAESI is Safran's dedicated MRO centre for Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion- LEAP engines, which power the Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft.
- Earlier, the Prime Minister formally inaugurated the dedicated LEAP MRO Centre through video conferencing. This facility is one of the largest global aircraft engine MRO facilities. It is the first time that a global engine OEM (original equipment manufacturer) has set up an MRO operation in the country.

6. Union Cabinet Gives Nod to ₹7,280-Crore Initiative for Rare Earth Magnet Manufacturing

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹7,280 crore "Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets" to promote the manufacturing of sintered Rare-Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM).

- This marks India's first attempt to build an integrated domestic supply chain for the critical material.
- The scheme aims to create a production capacity of 6,000 tonnes of REPM a year to meet growing demand from sectors such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence, ultimately boosting local manufacturing competitiveness and the broader energy transition.
- Under the scheme, five beneficiaries will be selected through a global competitive bidding process, with each eligible for up to 1,200 tonnes per annum capacity.
- It includes ₹6,450 crore in sales-linked incentives for five years and ₹1,200 crore as capital subsidy for setting up manufacturing facilities.

7. India Unveils AI Governance Framework

- India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National Institute of Advanced Interdisciplinary Research (NIAR) have unveiled the 'AI Governance Guidelines'. The guidelines aim to ensure safe, inclusive, and responsible AI development and use across sectors.

This marks a key milestone ahead of the 1st AI Impact Summit 2026, as India strengthens its leadership in responsible AI governance.

The framework comprises four key components:

- Seven guiding principles (Sutras) for ethical and responsible AI.
- Key recommendations across six pillars of AI governance.
- An action plan mapped to short, medium, and long-term timelines.
- Practical guidelines for industry, developers, and regulators to ensure transparent and accountable AI deployment.

8. DRAP,UiWIN Launched To Clear Dumpsites By 2026

- Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched two flagship initiatives- the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP) and the Urban Investment Window (UiWIN) in a major step towards building sustainable and investment-ready cities across India.
- The move marks a major leap in India's urban transformation, with DRAP targeting the elimination of legacy waste dumpsites by September next year, and UiWIN aiming to unlock private and multilateral

investments to fuel infrastructure growth in cities, in line with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'

9. Odisha Sets Global Standard As Two Beaches Win Blue Flag Again

- Odisha's Sunapur and Puri Golden beaches have again received the prestigious Blue Flag certification for 2025–26, affirming their global standards for cleanliness, safety, and sustainability.
- The certification, awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), recognises the beaches for meeting 33 strict criteria across environmental management, water quality, and safety.
- This is a repeat achievement for the state, with Puri Golden Beach now securing the award for seven consecutive years.
- The Blue Flag is a globally recognised eco-label awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable tourism operators that meet strict environmental, educational, and safety standards.

10. India's Digital Personal Data Protection (D² Rules, 2025

- India's Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, operationalise the 2023 Act, creating a comprehensive data protection framework that impacts businesses and individuals.
- The rules aim to safeguard privacy, innovation, and build trust in the digital space.
- It is applicable not only to Indian companies which process data of Indian individuals, but also to foreign companies that process data outside India in connection with offering goods or services to individuals in India.
- The key aspects include mandatory consent, new obligations for data fiduciaries like data erasure deadlines and security safeguards, special protections for children, the creation of a digital-first Data Protection Board, and an 18-month compliance window for companies.

11. Historic Labour Reform: Centre Implements All Four Labour Codes

- The Central Government consolidated 29 labour laws into four comprehensive Labour Codes – namely, the Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

- This historic reform ensures that workers gain easier access to security, dignity, health, and welfare measures, reinforcing India's commitment to a fair and future-ready labour ecosystem.
- The second National Commission on Labour had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four/ five Labour Codes on a functional basis.
- The Code on Wages, 2019, replaces four acts and provides a statutory universal minimum wage and timely payment of wages to all workers. It introduces a national floor wage that states cannot go below.
- The Industrial Relations Code, 2020, amalgamates three laws to regulate rules on trade unions, working conditions, and resolution. It allows for fixed-term employment, benefits equal to permanent workers, a threshold for layoffs and mergers, and establishments from 100 to

100 workers. The Social Security Code, 2020, merges nine existing laws to provide social security benefits (PF, ESIC, etc.) to all workers, including unorganised, migrant, and platform workers, for the first time.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, consolidates 13 acts to ensure a safe and healthy working environment across various sectors. It mandates free annual health check-ups for workers over 40 and allows women to work night shifts with proper safety measures and consent.

News in Short

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has directed State and Union Territory Food Safety Authorities to immediately remove from sale all fruit-based beverages, ready-to-serve drinks, energy drinks, electrolyte beverages, and similar products that are being marketed using the term ORS in their brand.
- India has exported 20 metric tonnes of Fortified Rice from Chhattisgarh to Papua New Guinea. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority facilitated the export.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has now recognised the modalities for covering crop loss due to Wild Animal Attacks and Paddy Inundation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
- Bengaluru launched an awareness drive called the 'Garbage Dumping Festival' to discourage littering by returning collected garbage to the homes of those caught dumping waste on the streets.

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare JP Nadda has inaugurated 10 new AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) pharmacies across India, marking a significant step towards enhancing affordable access to essential medicines and medical supplies for patients nationwide.
- UIDAI has signed an agreement with Behavioural Insights Limited, a research consultancy, to enhance the adoption of Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) among children. The agreement aims to address behavioural, logistical, and awareness-related barriers to ensure timely updates, enabling seamless access to services and benefits linked to Aadhaar.
- Gujarat has become the first state in India to launch a large-scale genome sequencing project focused on tribal communities.
- The Jharkhand government launched its annual public-service outreach campaign 'Aapki Yojana-Aapki Sarkar-Aapke Dwar', through camps held across districts.
- The Assam Satra Preservation and Development Commission Bill, 2025, seeks to establish the Assam Satra Preservation and Development Commission, a specialised, quasi-judicial body to protect, manage, maintain, and regulate Satras. They will be able to entertain appeals against orders of District Commissioners and encroachment, and take measures for heritage sites.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) for the assessment of crash safety performance of cars. While the Bharat NCAP of 2023 is valid till September

30, 2027, the new draft expands the scope of safety assessments, introduces new mandatory tests, updates test verticals, and revises the scoring structure.

- The Tamil Nadu state government launched India's first "Women's Wellness on Wheels (WWW)" initiative. This project uses mobile medical units to provide free cancer screenings for breast and cervical cancer, with a specific focus on rural and semi-urban areas. It is part of a larger project to improve women's health across the state.
- Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, along with Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, laid the foundation stone for the Irrawaddy Riverfront Development of the Sohra Tourism Circuit. The project seeks to transform Sohra tourism by strengthening local livelihoods, and preserving cultural and ecological heritage.
- Assam became India's first state to implement a menstrual leave policy for all women in both government and private sectors, entitling them to one paid day off per month (12 days a year).
- The Union government has launched ₹1,500 crore in new projects for the modernisation of New Mangalore Port during its Golden Jubilee celebrations. The initiative includes 16 infrastructure projects and 113 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects focused on areas like healthcare, logistics, and sustainability.
- The Government has launched YUVA AI for ALL, a free national course to help everyone understand Artificial Intelligence. It is a completely free, 4.5-hour self-paced national course aimed at making Artificial Intelligence accessible and understandable to every Indian.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. **Oman Joins UNESCO's Man And The Biosphere (MAB) Council**
 - Oman has been elected to UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme Council for 2025–2029.
 - This position strengthens Oman's international environmental leadership and aligns with its national goals outlined in Vision 2040.
 - Oman has already designated two major sites as part of UNESCO's world network of biosphere reserves

and has been actively involved in environmental conservation, making this a natural progression of its commitment.

2. **China Building World's First Nuclear-Resistant Floating Artificial Island**
 - China is in the process of building a 78,000-tonne artificial island designed to withstand nuclear blasts. It is a mobile, semi-submersible, twin-hull platform that could support 238 people for four months without the need for new supplies.

- It is officially named the “Deep-Sea All-Weather Resident Floating Research Facility”, and is set to be operational by 2028.
- It can withstand rough seas with 6-9 metre waves and typhoons of category 17, the most powerful rated tropical cyclones.
- Its stated purpose is for long-term deep-sea research, but it is also expected to enhance China’s strategic presence in the ocean.

3. OmanSat-1: Oman’s First National Communications Satellite Launched

- Oman launched its first-ever communications satellite, OmanSat-1, a major leap in national digital sovereignty and space capability.
- It was developed in partnership with Airbus Defence and Space.
- The satellite will expand high-speed, secure communications across Oman and the wider region, strengthen critical infrastructure, and establish the foundation for a fully Omani-operated space program that advances technological expertise and the national space economy.

4. China Achieves First-Ever Thorium-Conversion In TMSR

- China has successfully completed the conversion of thorium to uranium in a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (MSR).
- It is a major milestone for the next-generation nuclear energy system developed by the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics (SINAP).
- This achievement in their national TMSR-LF1 reactor confirms the technical feasibility of a thorium-uranium fuel cycle and paves the way for cleaner and more efficient nuclear power generation.
- The technology offers advantages such as lower waste and the potential for a more stable and abundant energy supply.

5. China Launches Shenzhou 22 in Emergency Rescue Mission

- China has deployed a replacement return capsule to its space station, marking the first emergency launch in its crewed space programme.
- The Shenzhou-22 spacecraft, loaded with 600 kg of supplies, including food and material needed to repair a damaged return vehicle.

- It linked up with the Tiangong space station in under four hours.

- According to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA), this is the first emergency launch mission in the country’s manned space programme.

6. Ethiopia’s Hayli Gubbi Volcano Erupts After 12,000 Years

- The Hayli Gubbi volcano, located in the Afar region about 800 km northeast of Addis Ababa, remained quiet for nearly 12,000 years. It erupted for several hours and blanketed the neighbouring village of Afdera in ash.
- The eruption sent ash clouds up to 14 km into the sky, affecting Yemen, Saudi Arabia, India, and northern Pakistan, according to the US-based Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre.

7. Italy Unveils 'Michelangelo Dome'

Company Leonardo has unveiled 'Michelangelo Dome', Italy's new AI-driven multi-layer defence system. It is designed to protect against modern air, missile, drone, cyber and space-based threats.

The system aims to enhance Europe's security through AI-driven integration and NATO-aligned multi-layer protection.

- The unveiling comes at a moment when European nations are racing to reinforce their military postures following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and increasingly frequent cyber intrusions.

8. Antarctic Ozone Hole Shrinks to One of the Smallest in Decades

- The ozone hole over the Antarctic is significantly smaller in 2025 than in previous years, ranking as the fifth-smallest it's been since 1992.
- The ozone hole reached its greatest one-day extent for 2025 in early September, measuring 8.83 million square miles, about 30% smaller than the largest hole on record in 2006.
- The so-called “ozone hole” is not an actual hole in the planet's ozone layer, but rather a large region of Earth's stratosphere with extremely low ozone concentrations.
- The regulations are established by the Montreal Protocol, which went into effect in 1 January 1989.

9. Maldives Enacts World's First Generational Smoking

Ban

- The Maldives has become the first country in the world to introduce a generational ban on tobacco use, in a move aimed at creating a smoke-free generation.
- The legislation, which came into effect on November 1, 2025, prohibits the sale and use of tobacco products by anyone born after January 1, 2007 — including visitors to the country.
- The new provision also extends to electronic cigarettes and vaping products, which remain banned for import, sale, distribution, possession, and use across all age groups.

10. China Launches Third Aircraft Carrier 'Fujian'

- China has commissioned its third and most advanced aircraft carrier, the Fujian, which features cutting-edge technology like an ElectroMagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS).
- EMALS was previously only used by the U.S Navy's USS Gerald R. Ford.
- It is a conventionally powered carrier and is named after the province near Taiwan.
- It has a flat deck and is significantly larger than the two previous carriers, Liaoning and Shandong.
- The commissioning marks a major step in China's naval modernisation, boosting its maritime power.

11. US AFGSC Conducts Missile Launch

- The US Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) has conducted a test launch of a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.
- The test designated as GT 254 aimed to assess the reliability, operational readiness, and accuracy of the ICBM weapon system.
- The launch was initiated by AFGSC Airmen from the 625th Strategic Operations Squadron, who used the Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS) while aboard a US Navy E-6B Mercury aircraft. This procedure tested both the ICBM and the ALCS, which serve as a backup command and control system for the missile force.
- The 377th Test and Evaluation Group, the dedicated ICBM test organisation, managed all aspects of preparation and execution for this launch.

12. New Gas Discovery In Egypt's Western Desert

- The Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has announced a new natural gas discovery in the Badr-15 area in the Western Desert.
- The field has been immediately added to the production map with a rate of 16 million cubic feet of gas per day.
- The discovery is expected to add around 15 billion cubic feet of gas to the reserves, coming from the Lower Bahariya reservoir.

13. Pakistan's 27th Amendment

- Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, which was earlier approved by both houses of parliament. After his approval, it has now become part of the constitution.
- Under the new amendment, the army chief, Field Marshal Syed Aslam Hussain, will have sweeping new authority to oversee the military as the constitutional changes give him control over all branches of the armed forces. It also weakens the judiciary's independence.
- President of Pakistan will both enjoy immunity from prosecution, shielding them from future legal cases or challenges.
- Under the revised appointment system, the President will now be able to directly appoint the army chief and the chief of defence forces on the Prime Minister's advice. The army chief, in turn, will appoint the head of the national strategic command in consultation with the PM.

14. UAE Executes First-Ever Digital Dirham Transaction In Record Time

- The UAE has officially made the Digital Dirham a legal form of money, marking a major step in its push toward a fully digital financial system.
- According to the new federal law, the e-Dirham is placed on the same level as cash, giving the Central Bank of the UAE the authority to issue and regulate it.
- The move is part of the country's wider Digital Dirham Policy for 2025.
- The government completed its first payment using the Digital Dirham, settling a cross-border transaction on the mBridge platform in less than two minutes.

15. GCC Approves 'One-Stop' Travel System To Transform Gulf Travel

- In a major step toward deeper regional integration, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—comprising the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait,

Qatar, and Oman—has approved a groundbreaking “one-stop” travel system that will dramatically simplify movement across member nations.

- The one-stop travel system is part of the GCC's ambitious push to eliminate redundant travel procedures and foster stronger cooperation between member states.
- By streamlining border formalities and simplifying checks, the system aims to make intra-Gulf travel faster, smoother, and more connected than ever before.

16. GAVI, UNICEF Secure Affordable Malaria Vaccine Deal

- Vaccine alliance Gavi and children's agency UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) have struck a new pricing deal that will sharply cut the cost of a key malaria vaccine and make it possible to protect nearly seven million additional children by 2030.
- Under the agreement, the price of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine will fall to \$2.99 per dose within a year – a reduction expected to save up to \$90 million. The savings should allow countries to secure more than million extra doses over the next five years.

17. The US Names Saudi Arabia A Major Ally (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation)

- President Donald Trump has formalized Saudi Arabia as a major non-NATO ally, reinforcing security and defense ties between Washington and Riyadh.
- The declaration came during a meeting between Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the Crown Prince comm. investments in the United States, increasing Saudi Arabia's economic output to USD 600 billion.
- Trump also confirmed plans to sell F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, which would make it the first West Asian nation after Israel to acquire the advanced aircraft.
- The United States currently maintains 19 major non-NATO allies across the world, including several in the region, though Taiwan remains outside the formal designation.

18. Russia Launches Khabarovsk Submarine

- Russia has launched its newest nuclear submarine 'Khabarovsk', designed to carry the underwater nuclear drone 'Poseidon'.
- It is also known as 'doomsday missile', and is capable

of intercontinental travel and immense destruction.

- It will enhance Russia's strategic defense capabilities and protect its national interests in the world's oceans using advanced underwater weapons and robotic systems.
- The submarine was designed by the Rubin Central Design Bureau of Marine Engineering.

19. Bangladesh Becomes the First South Asian Nation To Join UN Water Convention

- Bangladesh has become the first South Asian country, and 56th overall, to accede to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and Internationally Shared Watercourses (UN Water Convention).
- It is a country characterised by its extensive transboundary rivers.
- The challenges facing regional cooperation, including challenges exacerbated by climate change, are being addressed through a legal framework for managing the Ganges and Brahmaputra.

will host the COP31 climate summit in Antalya after reaching a compromise with Australia. As of the agreement, Turkey will hold the presidency of the event, while Australia will lead the government negotiations.

- Parasocial has been named Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2025, reflecting the increasing trend of one-sided emotional bonds people form with celebrities, influencers, and AI chatbots.
- According to the WHO (World Health Organisation), Cervical cancer, the fourth most common cancer in women globally, claims over 3,50,000 lives each year.
- The EU's highest court ruled that same-sex marriages must be respected throughout the bloc and rebuked Poland for refusing to recognise a marriage between two of its citizens that took place in Germany.
- Ukraine's largest mobile operator Kyivstar has become the first in Europe to launch Starlink's direct-to-cell satellite technology in a bid to keep millions connected amid wartime blackouts and disrupted infrastructure.
- Ukraine-born wrestler Aonishiki Arata is the first from his country to win an elite-level sumo championship in Japan.
- Guinness World Records lists the Riyadh Metro as the

longest driverless metro network, recording a total system length of 176 km (109 miles).

- Malaysia has announced plans to bar children under 16 from social media.
- China and the United Arab Emirates have jointly completed their first-ever cross-border payment using central bank digital currency, or CBDC, via the JISR network, marking a breakthrough in global financial innovation and bilateral financial cooperation.
- Google has opened its largest AI infrastructure hardware engineering center outside the United States in Taipei, Taiwan. This new facility will focus on designing, developing, and testing AI hardware systems that support its global data centers and cloud services.
- The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) included Seychelles as the sixth member state, with the grouping gaining momentum as a key architecture to ensure stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- A Bangladesh court sentenced deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to 21 years in jail in three corruption cases.

cases related to irregularities in the allocation of land in a government housing project.

- OpenAI has signed a \$38 billion agreement with Amazon to use AWS cloud services over the next seven years. The partnership will provide OpenAI with access to advanced Nvidia GPUs and Amazon's large-scale infrastructure to train and deploy its artificial intelligence models.
- PayPal and OpenAI have partnered to integrate PayPal's digital wallet into ChatGPT, enabling users to purchase goods and services directly through an AI chatbot starting next year.
- Astronomers have they may have discovered evidence of a new structure far beyond Neptune, hidden in the Kuiper Belt. This new finding could help us understand what the early solar system was like years ago.
- Announced the passing of Gramma, a giant tortoise found in the Galápagos Islands, Gramma was brought to the Bronx Zoo before joining the Bronx Zoo between 1928 and 1931.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1. India To Receive First Taliban Diplomatic Envoy

- After the Taliban took power, the new appointed regime has reportedly appointed a formal diplomat to India, marking the first official diplomatic presence in New Delhi.
- This follows the October appointment of a new ambassador to India by the Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister, Mullah Khan Muttaqi. The appointment indicates a calibrated thawing in bilateral relations.
- India has not officially recognised the Taliban government but has maintained a technical mission in Kabul and continued to provide humanitarian support.
- The move allows India to protect its interests — preventing Afghan territory from being used for terrorism, safeguarding minority communities, and maintaining regional influence.

2. PM Modi Concludes Two-Day State Visit to Bhutan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a two-day state visit to Bhutan. The visit was held at the invitation of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

The visit further deepened the long-standing partnership between the two countries through key announcements, joint inaugurations, and high-level discussions on cooperation in energy, connectivity, technology, culture, and sustainable development.

- During the visit, PM Modi participated as the Guest of Honour in celebrations marking the 70th birth anniversary of the Fourth King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, at Thimphu's Changlimithang Stadium.
- He also joined the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival, presided over by the Je Khenpo (Chief Abbot of Bhutan), which drew over 30,000 participants, including international visitors.
- A key highlight of the visit was the joint inauguration of the 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, attended by PM Modi and the Bhutan King in the presence of the sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha. Once operational, it will become the largest jointly developed hydroelectric project between India and Bhutan.
- India announced ₹40 billion concessional Line of Credit to support new energy projects and ongoing infrastructure initiatives.

- PM Modi also announced the establishment of an Immigration Check Post at Hatisar in Assam to facilitate the movement of investors and visitors to Bhutan's visionary Gelephu Mindfulness City project.

3. India–France Defence R&D Pact Strengthens Strategic Partnership

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Directorate General of Armaments (DGA), France, have signed an agreement to deepen collaboration in defence research and development.
- This strategic partnership aims to leverage the combined expertise and resources of both nations/entities to develop innovative solutions for future defence challenges.
- It provides a formal framework for joint research and training programs, testing activities, exchange of information, organisation of workshops, seminars, etc., to enhance the skills and knowledge in defence R&D.
- Under the agreement, the transfer of equipment, know-how and technologies will be available to both countries.

4. India, Australia & Canada Launch ACITI Ar*

- India, Australia and Canada have announced a trilateral framework – the Australia–Canada–India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) framework – to enhance cooperation in critical technologies.
- The announcement came from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the conclusion of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg.
- The joint initiative seeks to strengthen collaboration in sectors including clean energy, diversified and resilient supply chains, particularly in critical minerals.
- The three sides will also explore ways to accelerate the development and mass adoption of artificial intelligence to improve the lives of their citizens.
- ACITI aims to advance shared goals on the path to net-zero emissions, support diversification of global supply chains, and promote a secure, sustainable, and resilient technological ecosystem.

5. India-UK Launch Their Science & Technology Partnership Dashboard

- Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and the National Technology Adviser to the United Kingdom, Dr. David

Warren Smith, unveiled the pilot version of India–United Kingdom Science and Technology Partnership (IN-UK-STP) Dashboard.

- The pilot version of the IN-UK-STP dashboard, jointly developed by the Office of PSA and the British High Commission in India, covers 143 bilateral projects jointly supported and implemented by various stakeholders from India and UK, from 2018 onwards.
- The dashboard maps the projects in terms of funding value, implementing partners and funding agencies from both sides.
- The project mapping is also done with respect to the India-UK Science and Innovation Council (SIC) goals, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and broad areas of cooperation to understand the synergy with the high-level bilateral.

6. P. J. Kurmu Visits Angola

Groupadi Murmu went on a four-day visit to Angola. She was officially welcomed at the Presidential Palace here by Angolan President Joao Goncalves Loureno, starting with a 21-gun salute and a ceremonial guard of honour. This is the first visit by an Indian president to Angola.

Angola and India signed five legal instruments to strengthen cooperation in fisheries, biofuels, wildlife conservation, consular affairs, and aviation.

- India is Angola's second-largest trading partner, accounting for 10% of its foreign trade, mainly through crude oil exports.

7. Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav Inaugurated at University of Colombo

- Bharat – Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav was jointly organised by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Sri Lanka's Ministry of Education, the Central Sanskrit University, and the India-Sri Lanka Foundation.
- The festival celebrates Sanskrit as the timeless language of wisdom, harmony, and knowledge.
- It included workshops, lectures, and performances underscoring Sanskrit's vitality as a shared civilisational legacy.

8. India And Nepal Sign Letter Of Exchange To Boost Rail-Based Trade Connectivity

- India and Nepal have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to boost their rail-based trade, amending the Protocol to the Treaty of Transit to allow direct rail freight

movement between Joggan (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal).

- This agreement also expands key transit corridors, including Kolkata–Joggan, Kolkata–Nutanwa, and Visakhapatnam–Nutanwa, which is expected to improve multimodal trade and logistics between the two nations.
- This will strengthen multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and Nepal's trade with third countries.

9. India To Source 10% of Annual LPG Imports From US Under First-Ever Deal

- India has signed its first structured, long-term contract to import liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from the United States.
- This will strengthen India's energy security and diversify supply sources at a time of rising global volatility.
- Indian PSU oil companies have finalised a one-year deal to import around 2.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for the calendar year 2026.
- The contract is India's first-ever structured purchase agreement with the US, and is to Mont Belvieu, the key US pricing

10. India And Bahrain Partner For Border Payments Via Upi

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Bahrain's leading fintech and electronic payment transactions company, have entered into a partnership to enable real-time cross-border remittances between India and Bahrain.
- This new partnership connects India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Bahrain's Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS), specifically through the Fawri+ service, enabling users in both countries to send and receive money, instantly and securely.
- The collaboration, developed under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Bahrain, represents a key milestone in strengthening financial connectivity and promoting digital financial inclusion between the two countries.
- It reflects the shared vision of both sides to enhance cooperation in the area of fintech and digital payments.

11. Botswana Gifts India Eight Cheetahs For The Next Phase of Project Cheetah

- India and Botswana formally announced the translocation of eight Cheetahs from the African nation during the State visit of President Droupadi Murmu.
- President Murmu, along with the President of Botswana, H.E. Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, visited the Mokolodi Nature Reserve in Botswana, where five of the eight captured cheetahs were released into a quarantine facility. This marked the symbolic handing over of the hunting cats to India by Botswana as part of 'Project Cheetah' and under a mutual initiative for wildlife conservation.
- The eight cheetahs are expected to reach India in a few months, after quarantine procedures.
- Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, who is on a three-day State visit to Botswana, will be welcomed by an Indian President on her visit to southern Africa. Botswana is a desert, whose 70% landmass is covered

12. UPI-TIPS Integration To Boost India-EU Cross-Border Payments

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) have been engaging with the European Central Bank on the initiative to connect UPI with the TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS), the instant payment system operated by the Eurosystem.
- The proposed UPI-TIPS interlinkage aims to facilitate cross-border remittances between India and the European Union, and is expected to benefit users in both jurisdictions.

News in Short

- India and Afghanistan are restarting direct air cargo flights after months of Pakistan-imposed border and airspace restrictions, reviving stalled trade routes and opening a fresh chapter in their economic partnership.
- External affairs minister S Jaishankar held talks with Afghanistan's industry and commerce minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, with focus on strengthening trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties.
- India and Vietnam have established a formal framework, through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), to assist each other in submarine-related emergencies.
- India recently exported its first shipment of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) to Costa Rica.

- Canada and India have agreed to resume negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), targeting USD 50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.
- India proposed a G20 critical minerals circularity initiative to promote recycling, urban mining, second life batteries, and related innovations.
- Jamaica and Cuba have thanked India for standing with them after Hurricane Melissa tore through the Caribbean, leaving widespread destruction and a rising death toll. India has sent humanitarian relief support to the two countries to accelerate recovery efforts following Hurricane Melissa.
- India has been unanimously re-elected to the Codex

Executive Committee (CCEEXEC) for the Asia region until 2027, a term that will conclude with the 50th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48). This re-election reinforces India's leadership in global food governance, with a focus on areas such as improving food safety data, using modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence, and ensuring fair global trade.

- India has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals after a five-year suspension that began after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, marking a step toward re-establishing diplomatic ties and boosting tourism. This decision follows the restoration of direct passenger flights between the two countries earlier in 2025 and is supported by India's diplomatic engagement.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND TRADE

1. HDFC Bank Tops India's Brand Value Rankings for 2025

- According to the 2025 Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands report, the Financial services giant HDFC Bank has been named as India's most valuable brand. It carries a brand value of \$44.9 billion.
- HDFC Bank has seen its brand value rise in the first BrandZ India Report with Kantar BrandZ calculates brand value using a range of financial matrices: the size of the brand's worth attributed to the bank, which captures how well it is perceived and supports premium pricing.
- The bank has surged past IT behemoth Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

Key Points

Chairman, HDFC bank — Atanu Chakraborty
Headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra

2. BHIM Launches "UPI Circle Full Delegation" Empowering Families And Young Adults

- NPCI BHIM Services Limited (NBSL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) introduced UPI Circle Full Delegation on the BHIM Payments App.
- This new feature allows users to authorise trusted contacts to make UPI payments from their account within a predefined monthly spending limit, simplifying

old financial management while complete transparency and control.

- UPI Circle Full Delegation, a primary user can authorise a secondary user to initiate and complete UPI payments directly from the primary user's account.
- A primary user can set a monthly spending limit of up to ₹15,000 and an expiry duration up to 5 years.
- This enables smoother day-to-day digital payments among families, dependents, or staff while maintaining clear oversight of all transactions.
- The UPI Circle with Full Delegation promotes financial empowerment by enabling trusted users to participate securely in digital payments without requiring their own bank-linked UPI ID or bank account.

3. India's GDP Grows By 8.2% In Q2, Highest In Six Quarters

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is one of the primary indicators of overall economic performance which reflects the rate at which the country is expanding.
- According to the latest data, India's real GDP, adjusted for inflation, is estimated to grow by 8.2% in Q2 of FY 2025-26, compared to a growth rate of 5.6% during Q2 of FY 2024-25. The GDP in Q1 of FY 2025-26 grew at 7.8% against the growth rate of 6.5% during Q1 of FY 2024-25.
- Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 8.7% in Q2 of FY 2025-26. Each sector of the economy is playing a pivotal role in the growth of the country.

- The primary sector experienced the year-on-year Real GVA growth rate of 3.1% in Q2 FY 2025-26. Similarly, the Secondary (8.1%) and Tertiary Sector (9.2%) have boosted the Real GDP growth rate in Q2 of FY 2025-26.
- CPI eased to 0.25% in October 2025 in comparison to October 2024, decrease of 119 basis points in comparison to September 2025.
- Labour Force Participation Rate climbed to a six-month high, reaching 55.4% in October 2025.

4. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signs MoU with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

- IPPB, a 100% Government of India-owned entity under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to its pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (EPS'95).
- Pensioners can now contact their local postman or visit a nearby post office to have their life certificate generated digitally at home using Aadhaar, biometric or face authentication, with no bearing the cost of the service.
- This initiative is intended to provide an accessible way for pensioners, especially in rural areas, to complete the process without visiting an office or bank.

Key Points

- Headquarters — New Delhi
- Chairman IPPB — Vandit Singh
- MD & CEO IPPB — R. Viswanathan
- Headquarters, EPFO — New Delhi
- CEO, EPFO — Ramesh Krishnamurthi

5. SEBI Warns Investors About Risks In Unregulated Digital Gold.

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a strong warning to investors about the rising popularity of digital gold, a product that lets users buy small amounts of gold online through apps starting from ₹10 or ₹100. The platform claims to store the equivalent of physical gold in a secure vault on behalf of the buyer.
- The digital gold does not qualify as a security, deposit or derivative, which means SEBI has no control over how these platforms operate or store investors' gold.

These online gold products are not regulated under any of their frameworks and therefore carry significant risks.

Key Points

- SEBI's headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairperson — Tuhin Kanta Pandey

6. 'C-grade' For India's National Account Statistics

- In its annual staff report for India for 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) retained its C-grade for India's national account statistics, or GDP data. This means the data provided to the Fund has "some shortcomings" that may hamper surveillance".
- The assessment of the IMF's annual bilateral discussions, according to the Article IV consultation, is that an IMF staff team visits the country to discuss economic and financial information, and officials the country's economic and policies. A report is prepared after consultations.
- The report also contained the Indian government's defense, which was that work was ongoing to improve official statistics, with the new GDP and CPI series set to be launched in February 2026.
- While national accounts received a C rating, the overall rating was B due to the rest of the aspects – prices, government finance statistics, external sector statistics, monetary and financial statistics, and inter-sectoral consistency – all receiving Bs.

Key Points

- IMF's headquarters — Washington, DC, US
- Managing Director — Kristalina Georgieva

7. SBI Joins India Bullion Exchange As Special Category Client

- State Bank of India (SBI) executed its inaugural gold trade as a special category client (SCC) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IFSC) Ltd.
- This event heralds a transformative era for bullion imports in India, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accessibility for the industry, particularly the MSME jewellers.
- SBI was also the first bank to become a Trading-cum-Clearing (TCM) Member at the India International Bullion Exchange in 2024.

- As a special category client, SBI is positioned to facilitate seamless bullion transactions, supporting jewellers, bullion dealers, and other stakeholders in importing gold through IIBX and meeting the escalating demand for precious metals across the country.

Key Points

SBI Headquarters — Mumbai, Maharashtra
Chairman — C. Sreenivasulu Setty

8. PSU Banks Record 9% Growth In Profit To Record ₹49,456 Cr Profit In Q2

- State Bank of India-led public sector banks posted a record cumulative profit of ₹49,456 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, reflecting a 9% year-on-year growth despite two lenders reporting a decline.
- All 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together made a profit of ₹45,547 crore in the September quarter of FY25. Thus, the increase in profit in absolute terms was ₹3,909 crore as compared to the same quarter of the previous financial year.
- Market leader SBI alone contributed 40% to the earnings of ₹49,456 crore, as per the published numbers on stock exchanges.
- SBI logged a net profit of ₹20,160 crore in Q2, higher than the same period of the previous year.
- In percentage terms, Chennai-based SBI Bank reported the highest net profit at ₹1,226 crore, followed by Central Bank with a 33% rise to ₹1,213 crore.

9. Amit Shah Launches Two New Digital Apps for Urban Cooperative Banks

- Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently launched two new digital applications for urban cooperative banks: Sahakar Digi Pay and Sahakar Digi Loan. The apps are designed to modernise the sector, promote digital transactions, and enhance efficiency.
- Sahakar Digi Pay enables real-time digital payment facilities, including UPI and card-based transactions, allowing even the smallest urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to join the digital payment ecosystem.
- Sahakar Digi Loan platform facilitates an end-to-end paperless digital lending process, from loan application to disbursal.

10. Reliance And Google Join Forces To Strengthen India's AI (Artificial Intelligence) Infrastructure

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and Google have

announced a broad strategic partnership to expand access to artificial intelligence (AI) in India and create local compute capacity for the country's growing digital ecosystem.

- A key part of the initiative is a mass-scale AI inclusion drive. Jio users aged 18-25 will receive 18 months of free access to Google Gemini Pro, a plan worth ₹35,100 per user.
- This follows Reliance's earlier attempts to broaden access to digital technology through affordable data and smartphones.
- The aim is to make advanced AI tools available to all, not just premium enterprise users.

Key Points

Chairman — C. Sreenivasulu Setty

New

- India (RBI) has returned Jana Yojana's application to become a universal bank after fulfilment of criteria.

The number of demat accounts surpassed 100 million by October 2025, driven by a surge in retail investor interest fuelled by a recent IPO frenzy and increased financial awareness. This record growth is linked to improved digital onboarding, more robust market infrastructure, and a greater desire for wealth creation among the public.

- Google has launched an on-device AI scam detection feature in India for its Pixel phones, using Gemini Nano to analyse call patterns for potential fraud in real-time without recording audio or sharing data.
- The government data showed that the gross GST collections jumped to ₹1.96 trillion in October 2025, compared to their earlier level of ₹1.87 trillion in the same period of the previous year.
- UPI transactions reached a record ₹27.28 lakh crore in October 2025, driven by increased festive spending and an average of 668 million daily transactions. The total volume of transactions also hit an all-time high of 20.7 billion, representing a 16% year-on-year increase in value, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- As per the latest Government data, the total balance in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts stood at ₹2,75,057 crore as on October 22, 2025, while the total number of beneficiaries (accounts) reached 56.85 crore. The public sector banks have a lion's share

of total deposits at ₹2.15 lakh crore, followed by the Regional Rural Banks with a balance of ₹51,489 crore. The private banks could mobilise only ₹8,149 crore.

- The S&P Global Ratings anticipate that India's GDP will grow by 6.5% in fiscal year 2026 and 6.7% in 2027.
- Moody's expects India to remain a growing G20 economy through 2026 with growth rate of 6.4% and 6.5% in 2027.
- India Ratings & Research has raised India's FY26 GDP growth estimate to 7% due to strong first-quarter data and impact of US tariffs.

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched the SBI STAR (Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Recognition) awards to honor employees' talents and achievements in areas outside of their professional banking duties, such as arts, literature, sports, and social work.
- Tata Power is planning to build India's largest solar wafer and ingot manufacturing plant with a capacity of 10 GW to strengthen its position in the solar supply chain and reduce India's reliance on imports.
- Amaravati has been designated as India's first integrated Financial City.

DEFENCE NEWS

1. BSL Signs Agreement With DRDO (Defence Research And Development Organisation) To Produce Military-grade Steel.

- Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) has signed a technology transfer agreement with the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) under DRDO to produce military-grade steel, specifically DMR 249A steel sheets.
- This partnership allows BSL to manufacture specialised steel sheets at scale for use in land-based defense platforms, strengthening indigenous defense manufacturing.
- The steel is crucial for defence vehicles used in ships like the INS Vijayanta.

Key Points

DRDO headquarters
Chairman — Samir V. K.

2. India Quietly Withdraws From Ayni Airbase In Tajikistan

- India no longer operates its erstwhile overseas airbase in Tajikistan that gave it a strategic heft in central Asia.
- In 2022, India started quietly withdrawing its military personnel and equipment from the Ayni airbase in Tajikistan, which it had built and maintained for the last two decades.
- Ayni was India's only full-fledged overseas base, and its location offered India a military foothold in central Asia and leverage over Pakistan. The base's strategic location, just 20 km from Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor and close to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and China's Xinjiang province, gave India a crucial vantage point for surveillance and regional influence.

- Its presence in the region like Russia and China.

3. Indian Army Signs Contract With Larsen & Toubro For Indigenous Production Of BvS10 Armoured Vehicles

- Army has signed a contract with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for the indigenous production of BvS10 armoured vehicles - an advanced, all-terrain armoured platform designed for India's diverse terrain.

L&T will manufacture the vehicles at its Armoured Systems Complex in Hazira with technical and design support from BAE Systems Hägglunds, the original manufacturer of the BvS10 platform.

- The contract includes a comprehensive logistics support package covering deployment, maintenance, and life-cycle sustainment.
- The BvS10 Sindhu is a customised version of the proven BvS10 articulated all-terrain vehicle, adapted specifically for Indian conditions - from high-altitude snowfields to desert and marshland environments. It also features amphibious capabilities, allowing the vehicle to operate in flooded and coastal regions.
- BAE Systems and L&T will work under a licensing and technology transfer model. This deal marks a major milestone in India's push for self-reliance in defence under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Key Points

Chief of the Army Staff — Upendra Dwivedi
Chief of Defence Staff — General Anil Chauhan
Union Defence Minister — Rajnath Singh

4. Tejas Aircraft Crashes At Dubai Air Show

- Tejas Mk-1 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) crashed at the Dubai Air Show, which resulted in the tragic death of Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Wing Commander Namansh Syal. He had performed the negative G manoeuvre with the Tejas aircraft seconds before it crashed.
- Negative G in aviation refers to forces acting on an aircraft and its contents in the opposite direction of normal gravity. These forces are typically experienced during aerobatic manoeuvres, sudden descent, or severe turbulence. If not properly managed, negative G can lead to disorientation or loss of consciousness due to blood pooling in the head. Pilots undergo specific training to manage and mitigate the effects of negative G forces during flight operations.
- The crash was the second such incident involving the Tejas light combat aircraft since it joined the Indian Air Force fleet 10 years ago. The previous crash that happened in Jaisalmer last year saw the pilot eject safely.
- The air show was on its final day, hosted at Al Mra'at International Airport at Dubai World Central.

Key Points

Chief of Air Staff — Air Chief Marshal Singh

5. Indian Navy Commission Submarine Vessel Mahā

- The Indian Navy has delivered the first vessel of the Mahe-class Shallow Water Craft, at the Nayan Shipyard in Mumbai. This marks a significant milestone in the induction of a new generation of indigenous, shallow-water combatants.
- The Cochin Shipyard Limited built INS Mahe, and it will serve as a Silent Hunter on the Western Seaboard.
- With over 80% indigenous content, the vessel reflects the nation's technological progress in warship design, construction, and systems integration.
- Mahe is named after the historic coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast. The ship's crest features an 'Urumi', the flexible sword of Kalaripayattu, symbolising agility, precision, and lethal grace.

Key Points

Chief of Naval Staff — Admiral Dinesh Tripathi

6. India-France Defence Deal To Produce HAMMER Smart Weapons In India

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Safran Electronics and Defence (SED), France, have signed a Joint Venture Cooperation Agreement (JVCA) for the production of Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) Smart Precision Guided Air-to-Ground Weapon in India.
- The JVC shall be formed as a private limited company with 50:50 shareholding. It will localise the manufacturing, supply, and maintenance of HAMMER to meet the operational needs of the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army.
- The indigenous content will progressively increase upto 60% in the assembly, electronics, and mechanicals, manufactured locally.
- The final assembly, testing, and

combat-proven, precision-guided munition known for its high accuracy and design, making it adaptable for multiple roles, including the Rafale and Light Combat Aircraft Tejas. This JVCA underscores BEL's commitment to strengthening India's defence industrial base and aims at leveraging SED's extensive experience in manufacturing of smart precision-guided air-to-ground weapon.

7. India Signs ₹7,995 Crore With US for Support Of Indian Navy's Sikorsky Seahawk Helicopters

- The Ministry of Defence has finalised a ₹7,995-crore agreement with the United States Government to provide comprehensive sustainment support for the Indian Navy's fleet of MH-60R multi-role helicopters.
- It is a five-year agreement and was inked under the US Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme.
- It encompasses "Follow on Support" and "Follow on Supply Support", ensuring the long-term operational readiness of these Sikorsky Seahawk helicopters.
- Sikorsky MH-60 Seahawk helicopters are all-weather helicopters which play significant roles in anti-submarine warfare and other naval missions.
- MH-60R Seahawk is a state-of-the-art anti-submarine warfare helicopter that will see improved operational availability through this support package. It was introduced in March 2024. These helicopters, a part

of the forming INAS 334 squadron, are designed for multi-mission, all-weather operations and play a crucial role in India's maritime security strategy. Under a 2020 FMS agreement, India has contracted 24 MH-60R helicopters.

News in Short

- For the first time, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi paid homage to soldiers

who laid down their lives during Operation Pawan, the 1987 Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) mission in Sri Lanka.

- INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, and the indigenous frigate INS Udaygiri are participating in the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 hosted by the Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo. The event is part of the Sri Lanka Navy's 75th anniversary and includes ships, delegations, and observers from several countries.

| Name of the Exercise | Countries Involved | Highlights |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| AUSINDEX 2025 | India and Australia | Northern Pacific Region |
| Maru Jwala | Indian Armed Forces | Thar Desert of Rajasthan |
| VINBAX | Vietnam and India | oi |

APPOINTMENTS

| Name | Position |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Amit Agarwal | DoT (Department of Telecommunications) Secretary |
| Justice Surya Kant | 53rd Chief Justice of India |
| Justice Vikram Nath | Executive Director, National Legal Services Authority |
| Raj Kumar Arora | First Secretary (tenth time) |
| Nitish Kumar | Head of Defence Accounts |
| Vishvajit Sahay | Material in the Indian Navy |
| Vice Admiral B Sivakumar | Ambassador of Paradeep Phosphates |
| Rahul Dravid | Chairman, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) |
| Sanjay Garg | Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs |
| Anurag Arora | Chairman and General Manager, Dell India |
| Neville Tata & Bhaskar Bhat | Trustees of Tata Trusts |
| Vivek Chaturvedi | First Indian president of Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA) |
| S Krishnan | Part-time chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) |
| Keerthy Suresh | UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate for Child Rights |
| Rakshit Hargave | CEO and Executive Director of Britannia Industries |
| Shafali Verma | Brand ambassador of Haryana State Women's Commission |
| Jitendra Gohil | Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Bajaj Alternate Investment Management Ltd. |
| Neeraj Mittal | Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) |
| Sunil Kumar Chugh | Executive Director, Canara Bank |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Amresh Prasad | Executive Director, Union Bank of India |
| Amit Kumar Srivastava | Executive Director, Punjab National Bank |
| Mini TM | Executive Director, Indian Bank |
| Sunil Paliwal | Chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) |
| Sandip Pradhan | Whole-Time Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) |
| Rajeev Juneja | President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) |
| Prabhat Kiran | Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra |
| Fatima Bosch | Miss Universe 2025 |
| John Furner | Walmart CEO (from February 1, 2026) |
| Javier Milei | President of Argentina |
| Dr. Patrick Herminie | President of the Republic of Seychelles |
| Colonel Michael Randrianirina | President of Madagascar |
| Zohran Mamdani | Mayor of New York City |
| Sergio Gor | US Ambassador to India |
| Ghazala Hashmi | First Muslim and South Asian woman to be Lieutenant Governor of Virginia |
| Shaikha Nasser Al Nowais | First woman to be appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the World Bank |

BOOKS

| Name of the Book | Author |
|--|--|
| Lithuanian novel 'The Last Day' translated by Dr. Poonam Tiwari | Original author- Jaroslavas Melnikas, Dr. Poonam Tiwari (Translator) |
| The Master of Unfinished Thoughts by A. P. Venkateswaran | Translated by Anita Gopalan; Author- Geet Chaturvedi (Hindi) |
| Aria and the Magic Apropos by Pooja Dhingra | Pooja Dhingra |
| Railsong by Rahul Bhattacharya | Rahul Bhattacharya |
| Soul Forest and the Children Who Know the Earth's Secrets by Sathyia Raghu | Sathyia Raghu |
| A woman of no consequence by Kalpana Karunakaran | Kalpana Karunakaran |

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

| Name | Occupation |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sulakshana Pandit | Veteran Singer-Actor |
| Kumari Kamala | Indian dancer and actress |
| Dharmendra | Actor |
| Manuel Frederick | Hockey player |
| Kamini Kaushal | Actress |
| Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja | Indian-British billionaire and chairman of the Hinduja Group |
| Saalumarada Thimmakka | Environmentalist and Padma Shri awardee |

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

| Name | Occupation |
|----------------|--|
| Udo Kier | Renowned German actor |
| James D Watson | Molecular biologist (Co-discoverer of DNA) |
| Paul Costeloe | Irish fashion icon |
| Kim Yong Nam | Former head of state, North Korea |
| Charles Coste | French Olympic gold medallist and oldest living champion |
| Lee Soon Jae | South Korean actor |
| Tom Stoppard | English playwright and screenwriter |

DAYS AND THEMES

| Date | Day | Theme |
|----------------|---|---|
| November 1 | World Vegan Day | |
| November 1 | Haryana Day | |
| November 1 | Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka F | |
| November 2 | International Day to Prevent Crimes against Journalists | At GBV: Raising Awareness on AI-facilitated Gender-Based Violence against women journalists |
| November 3 | World Jellyfish Day | |
| November 5 | World Tsunam | Be Tsunami Ready: Invest in Tsunami Preparedness |
| November 6 | International Day Against Exploitation of Children | ...ing the Child in War and |
| November 7 | National Stress Day | United by Unique |
| November 7 | Infant Pre | Protecting, promoting, and developing infants |
| November 8 | World Radiog | Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen |
| November 9 | National Legal Services Day | |
| November 10 | World Immunisation Day | Immunisation for All is Humanly Possible |
| November 10 | World Science Day for Peace and Development | Trust, transformation, and tomorrow: The science we need for 2050 |
| November 10-14 | World Quality Week | Quality: think differently |
| November 11 | National Education Day | AI and Education - Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation |
| November 12 | World Pneumonia Day | Child Survival |
| November 12 | Public Service Broadcasting Day | |
| November 13 | World Kindness Day | |
| November 14 | World Diabetes Day | Diabetes across life stages |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| November 14 | Children's Day | |
| November 15 | Jharkhand Foundation Day | |
| November 15 | International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organised Crime | Follow the money. Stop organised crime |
| November 16 | International Day for Tolerance | |
| November 16 | National Press Day | |
| November 16 (Third Sunday of November) | World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims | |
| November 17 | International Students Day | |
| November 17 | World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day | Act Now Cervical Cancer |
| November 17 | National Epilepsy Day | |
| November 18- 24 | World AMR Awareness Week | Present, Secure Our Future. |
| November 18 | World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence | |
| November 19 | World Toilet Day | In a changing world |
| November 19 | International Men's Day | Creating Men and Boys |
| November 19 | Women's Entrepreneur Day | |
| November 19 to 25 | World Heritage Week | |
| November 20 (Third Wednesday of November) | World Chronic Disease Day | |
| November 20 | World Philosophy Day | Philosophy and Global Dialogue in the Digital Era |
| November 20 | Universal Human Rights Day | My day, my rights |
| November 21 | World Fisheries Day | |
| November 21 | World Fisheries Day | India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports |
| November 23 | Fibonacci Day | |
| November 23 | National Cashew Day | |
| November 24-28 | Aviation Safety Awareness Week | |
| November 25 | International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women | Unite to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls |
| November 26 | Constitution Day or Law Day | "Hamara Samvidhan – Hamara Swabhiman" ("Our Constitution – Our Pride") |
| November 26 | World Sustainable Transport Day | |
| November 26 | National Milk Day | |
| November 29 | International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People | |

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

1. Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026

- Germanwatch published CRI 2026 and it ranked India ninth among the countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.
- The report notes India's vulnerability to disasters such as floods, cyclones, and heatwaves, which resulted in over 80,000 deaths, 1.3 billion people affected, and approximately \$170 billion in economic losses over the period.
- Globally, extreme weather events caused over 832,000 deaths and \$4.5 trillion in economic losses between 1995 and 2024.

2. Global Commitment To Development Index (CDI) 2025

- India ranked 36th in CDI 2025, with strong performance in Environment (8th) but weak areas in Trade and Development Finance (both 38th).
- The Centre for Global Development (CGD), a non-profit think tank based in Washington, London, evaluates a country's overall commitment to development through eight policy areas: development finance, exchange policy, migration and trade, and global areas of environment, health.
- Sweden topped the index in environment, second in development finance, and fourth in health. India had weak performance in technology.
- Germany ranks at second place, followed by Norway in third place.
- The largest economies, like the United States and China, rank 28 and 34, respectively.

3. India Emerges as the World's Sixth-Largest Patent Filer

- India has now emerged as the world's sixth-largest patent filer with over 64,000 patents, out of which more than 55% are by resident Indian innovators.
- This is a sharp departure from the earlier trend of innovators depending on foreign institutions for research, mentorship, and project completion.
- This reflects a significant boost in domestic innovation, attributed to policy reforms, increased research incentives, and a strengthened innovation ecosystem,

which has also led to India's rise in the Global Innovation Index.

4. QS Asia Rankings 2026

- Global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds released the 2026 rankings for Asian universities. It was topped by the University of Hong Kong, followed by Peking University in second position, and the third place was jointly shared by the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University.
- India now has 10 universities in the QS Asia Rankings, making it the fourth largest after China, which has 395 universities.
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras is 1st, followed by IIT Bombay: 64th, IIT Delhi: 70th, IIT Kanpur: 77th, and Delhi University: 95th.

Amongst private universities, Chandigarh University improved to 109th from 120th in 2025.

5. Asia Power Index 2025

- Australia-based think tank, Lowy Institute, recently released its annual Asia Power Index, which assesses the ability of nations, particularly of those in the Asian continent, to influence their external environment.
- India has secured third ranking in the Asia Power Index 2025, while the U.S. and China occupy the first and second spots.
- The Index evaluates the power of 27 countries and territories across Asia, based on 131 indicators across eight thematic measures, including Military Capability and Defence Networks, Economic Capability and Relationships, Diplomatic and Cultural Influence, as well as Resilience and Future Resources.

News in Shorts

- According to Time Out's City Life Index, Mumbai has been ranked as Asia's Happiest City for 2025, followed by Beijing and Shanghai at the second and third positions.

- The Swachh Survekshan 2025 report lists Madurai as the dirtiest city in India, followed by Ludhiana, Chennai, Ranchi, and Bengaluru. It exposes ongoing sanitation and waste management challenges in Indian cities, despite campaigns like Swachh Bharat Mission.
- According to the Hurun Research Institute, New York

leads the world as the city with the 119 billionaires, followed by London with 92 billionaires. Mumbai, India's financial and commercial capital, has climbed to third place globally with 92 billionaires. New Delhi has entered the top ten list for the first time, ranking ninth with 57 billionaires.

EVENTS

1. 2025 G20 Johannesburg summit

- The 20th Heads of State and Government Summit of the Group of 20 (G20) took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme 'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability'. It is the first-ever summit to be held in the South African continent.
- The world leaders adopted the G20 declaration despite the US boycott.
- The G20 2025 declaration focused on solidarity, equality, and sustainability, incorporating the African philosophy of Ubuntu (recognising shared global responsibility and interconnectedness).
- The key highlights include commitments to set up climate finance and operationalising a damage fund, reforms for debt sustainability, rating frameworks, a global AI governance framework, and the Nelson Mandela Bay Taxonomy for unemployment.

2. Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th Anniversary

- The 350th anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur was observed on November 25. He is the ninth Sikh Guru and was executed on November 25, 1675 in Delhi, making him the first Sikh Guru to be executed by the Mughal regime.
- He is widely honoured for defending the rights of Kashmiri Pandits, who faced forced conversions. His bold decision to stand up to Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb became a defining moment in India's spiritual and social history.
- His ultimate sacrifice earned him the honour of being called "Hind Di Chadar", a title that reflects his role as a guardian of religious freedom and interfaith dignity.
- To mark the 350th Shaheedi Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the Delhi Government announced a public holiday on November 25.

3. NAFCUB- COOPKUMBH 2025

- NAFCUB- COOPKUMBH 2025 is a prestigious international conference aimed at strengthening the Urban Cooperative Credit Sector through collaboration, innovation, and advancements.
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister Amit Shah at Vigyan Bhawan and was organised by the National Association of Urban Cooperative Banks (NAFCUB) under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India. The event celebrates the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.

4. National Urban Conclave 2025

Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Parrikar, inaugurated the National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.

- It was centred around the theme "Sustainable Urban Development and Governance" through intensive brainstorming sessions across six thematic areas.
- The two-day conclave brought over 2500 participants from various domains, including policymakers, urban planners, experts, and stakeholders.
- There were several major initiatives that were launched during the event, including the Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP), the Urban Invest Window (UiWIN), and the Swachh Bharat Mission – Knowledge Management Unit (KMU).

5. Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada (1st-15th November 2025)

- In a spirited tribute to the valour, vision, and contributions of tribal heroes, Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada commenced across the country with great enthusiasm.
- It is a fortnight-long celebration that forms a part of the year-long Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh observance,

which marks the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. He was one of India's most revered tribal freedom fighters and an enduring symbol of resistance against colonial oppression.

- The Government of India institutionalised Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15th November each year, ensuring that the legacy of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal freedom fighters continues to inspire future generations.

6. International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025)

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) hosted the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. It is part of the Indian Government's efforts to advance the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).
- The conference featured senior representatives from the Ministries of New and Renewable Energy, Power, Ports, Steel, Fertilisers, and Science & Technology.
- International delegations will include the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), France, Europe, the H2 Global Foundation, the Korean Hydrogen Alliance and the Port of Rotterdam.

7. International Sahodaya Conference

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) organised the first International Sahodaya Conference, with the theme 'Rising with Vision: Re-imagine through the National Education Policy 2020'.
- The conference brought together over 1,000 educators from CBSE-affiliated schools worldwide to discuss themes like implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, school leadership, and educational innovation.
- Some of the key outcomes included the unveiling of the Holistic Progress Card (HPC) and the announcement of a global curriculum rollout in April 2026.

8. Kalachakra ceremony

- During PM Modi's visit to Bhutan, he attended the Kalachakra ceremony in Bhutan.
- It is one of the most sacred rituals in Tibetan Buddhism. Rooted in the Kalachakra Tantra, also known as the

"Wheel of Time" teaching, it represents the cycles of time and existence, both cosmic and personal, and the path to liberation beyond them.

- The teachings of the Kalachakra are divided into three aspects known as the "wheels" of time. The Outer Wheel explains the cycles of the universe, the planets, seasons, and historical eras. The Inner Wheel focuses on the human body and mind. The Alternative Wheel guides practitioners through the path of tantric practice.
- The ritual also includes sacred dances, prayers, and empowerment rites where initiates receive vows and blessings from the presiding teacher. The ceremony is often conducted as a public event to bless large gatherings.

9. National Constitution Day Celebrations

- The National Constitution Day (Constitution Day) commemorated on 26 November 2025, with a ceremony held in the Central Hall of Parliament, re-affirming India's collective commitment to the ideals and values of the Constitution. As part of the observance, the following digital releases were made:

The Constitution of India in nine languages—Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Punjabi, Bodo, Kashmiri, Telugu, Odia and Assamese—was prepared by the Legislative Department.

II. Commemorative booklet titled "भारतीय संविधान से कला और कलागारी" published by the Ministry of Culture.

- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, in collaboration with MyGov, is also hosting a nationwide campaign featuring an essay and blog writing competition on "Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhiman", an online quiz on the same theme, and activities such as reading the Preamble, encouraging wide citizen participation.
- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, as the nodal ministry, also observed Constitution Day with great enthusiasm.

News in Short

- The United Kingdom was named the country partner for the Hornbill Festival 2025. This partnership aims to enhance cultural exchange, promote tourism, and boost the global visibility of the festival.

AWARDS

1. 6th National Water Awards (NWAs)

- The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti announced the 46 winners, including joint winners, for the 6th National Water Awards for the year 2024 in 10 categories.
- NWAs focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- The awards create awareness among the people about the importance of water and motivate them to adopt best water usage practices.
- In the category of Best State, the first prize has been conferred upon Maharashtra, with Gujarat securing the second position, and Haryana securing the third position.
- Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh, Khargone in Madhya Pradesh, Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu, and Sepahijala in Tripura were recognised as the best-performing districts.
- Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra topped the local bodies, while IIT Gandhinagar and ICAR-CCARI, Goa shared the award.
- The Best Village Panchayat award was given to Dubbiganipalli in Andhra Pradesh.

Kerala, Apollo Tyres Ltd (Tamil Nadu), Hero MotoCorp Ltd (Haryana), and Jhajjar Power Ltd (Haryana) were honoured in the industry category, while individuals from Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh were recognised for excellence in the water sector.

2. David Szalay Wins The 2025 Booker Prize

- David Szalay has won the 2025 Booker Prize for his novel *Flesh*, marking a historic moment as the first Hungarian-British author to receive the award.
- His novel explores the life of a working-class immigrant through the lens of a travelling. He received the trophy.
- The Booker Prize is a literary award conferred each year on a single work of sustained fiction written in English language, which is published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

Puraskar 2025

Shanti Akademi hosted the annual Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 ceremony at the Triveni Auditorium in New Delhi. The event celebrates excellence in children's literature across 24 Indian languages.

- Each awardee receive a cheque of ₹50,000 and a bronze plaque in recognition of their outstanding contributions to children's literature. The winners are:

| TITLE | GENERE | AUTHOR | LANGUAGE |
|--|---------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Mahabharathar Padya | Poetry | Surendra Mohan Das | Assamese |
| Echhara Gaye Katha Daye | Stories | Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay | Bengali |
| Khanthi Boronn Ang Abhu Duhui | Stories | Binay Kumar Brahma | Bodo |
| Nachi Tor | Poetry | PL.Parihar "Shaad" | Dogri |
| Dibakar Sinha Indian Myths and Fables Retold | Stories | Nitin Kushalappa MP | English |
| Trivak | Poetry | Kirtida Brahmabhatt | Gujarati |
| Ek Kaley Bara | Stories | Sushil Shukla | Hindi |
| Notebook | Short Stories | K. Shivalingappa Harisdhal | Kannada |
| Shure Ta Toturu Gyash | Short Stories | Ishar Mubaashir | Kashmiri |
| Betekaddo Shankar Aani Haar Karyo | Stories | Nayima Adankar | Konkani |
| Oudika | Short Stories | Murari Kanaik | Maithili |
| Rangamandalache Yaadravadi | Novel | Sreejith Moolkodan | Malayalam |
| Anganganginage Shamahungsida | Play | Shanta M. | Manipuri |

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|--|------------|
| Aathamanga | Poetry | Sudish Sawant | Marathi |
| Shanti Van | Novel | Sangmu Lepcha | Nepali |
| Kete Phula Phutachi | Poetry | Rajkishore Parhi | Odia |
| Jadoo Patka | Novel | Pal Khadim, Bhagwant Singh, Daryopal Kailash | Punjabi |
| Panahravansh Ni Pira | Drama | Jitendra Sharma | Rajasthani |
| Balviyaam | Poetry | Preeti Pujara | Sanskrit |
| Sona Mou-ag Sandesh | Poetry | Hansda Murmu | Santali |
| Asman Hari | Poetry | Heena Agranis "Veer" | Sindhi |
| Ottrai Sirago Orva | Novel | Vishuguram Sarvanain | Tamil |
| Kakurla Devatha | Story | Ganjarotti Sivakumar | Telugu |
| Quami Sitare | Articles | Ghazanfar Iqba ¹ | Urdu |

4. 56th International Film Festival Of India 2025

- The 56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held at Panaji, Goa, and this year's edition featured more than 240 films from 81 countries, including 13 world premieres, 4 international premieres, and 46 Asian premieres.
- The festival received a record 2,314 submissions from 127 countries, reaffirming IFFI's growing stature on the global film festival circuit.
- Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, L Murugan inaugurated the WAVES (Worli Art & Visual Expressions) at the 56th IFFI. The Film Bazaar is a meeting point for filmmakers, festival programmers, and industry partners to explore and financial partnership.
- The awards presented were as follows:

- Golden Peacock for Best Director - Santosh Davakhar, Director of Marathi film 'Gon...hal'
- Silver Peacock for Best Director - Ubeimar Rios, Lead Actor of Spanish film 'A Poet'
- Silver Peacock for Best Female Actor - Jara Sofija Ostan, Lead Actor of Slovenian film 'Little Trouble Girls'
- Special Jury Award - Akinola Davies Jr, Director of 'My Father's Shadow'
- Best Debut Feature Film of a Director Award - Hesam Farahmand for Persian film 'My Daughter's Hair (Raha)' and Tõnis Pill for Estonian film 'Frank'
- Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film Award - Karan Singh Tyagi, Director of Hindi film 'Kesari Chapter 2'

VIII. Best Director Award - Bandish Bandits
IX. Best Actor Award - Norwegian film

Medal - Norwegian film
directed by Eirik Svensson
X. A confers Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika
Awards

Minister for Communications and Development
North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya Scindia,
awarded the Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika
Awards at a ceremony in Guwahati.

Six eminent personalities from the region were
felicitated for their contributions to literature, music,
film, scholarship, and cultural preservation — Yeshe
Dorjee Thongchi (Arunachal Pradesh), Laishram
Mema (Manipur), Rajni Basumatary (Assam), L. R.
Sailo (Mizoram), Dr. Surjya Kanta Hazarika (Assam),
and Prof. David R. Siemlieh (Meghalaya).

6. Michelle Bachelet Awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

- Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet was presented with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development.
- The award was presented to her by the Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi, who is also the chairperson of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, which confers the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize.
- Bachelet made history when she was elected President of her country on two separate occasions.

7. National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and

Dairying has announced the winners of the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025. The NGRA is one of the highest national honours in the livestock and dairy sector.

Best Dairy Farmer (Indigenous Cattle/Buffalo Breeds)

- I. Non-North Eastern Region (NER): Aravind Yashavant Patil, Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- II. NER/Himalayan Region: Vijay Lata, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

Best Dairy Cooperative Society/Milk Producer Company/Dairy FPO

I. Non-NER: Meenan Gadi Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangham Ltd, Wayanad, Kerala

II. NER/Himalayan Region: Kulha Dudh Udpadhadhak Sahkari Samiti, Udhampur Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand

Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)

I. Non-NER: Dillip Kumar Pradhan, Anugul, Odisha

II. NER/Himalayan Region: Deluwar Hasan, Barpeta, Assam

For the Best Dairy Farmer and Best Dairy Cooperatives categories, the NGRA 2025 includes certificate, memento, and cash prizes: ₹5 lakh for first place; ₹3 lakh for second place; ₹2 lakh for third place; and ₹2 lakh special award for NER/HJ.

8. Sons Of The Soil Awards 2025: Excellence

- The Union Minister of Port, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, presented the Soil Emerging Talents from Assam at the Soil Conservation Awards Assam 2025.
- These were hosted by Care India, New Delhi.
- These awardees were recognised for demonstrating excellence, dedication, and innovation in their respective fields.
- The Emerging Achievers Award was presented to Sukrita Baruah (Media & Communication), Sanghamitra Kalita (Entrepreneurship), Isharani Baruah (Sports), Himjyoti Talukdar (Art & Culture), and Dr. Debjani Borah (Conservation).

9. International Emmy Awards 2025

- The International Emmy Awards 2025 were held in New York City, United States
- India's Amar Singh Chamkila was nominated for Best Actor (Diliit Dosanjh) and Best TV Movie/Mini-Series.

However, it didn't win the award in either category. The list of winners is as following:

I. Arts Programming Award: RYUICHI SAKMOTO: Last Days

II. Best Performance by an Actress: Anna Maxwell Martin (Until I Kill You)

III. Best Short-Form Series: 'La Mediatrice' (The Mediator)

IV. Emmys for Current Affairs: 'Dispatches: Kill Zone: Inside Gaza'

V. Best Sports Documentary: It's all over: 'The Kiss That Changed The Spanish Football'

VI. International Emmy for News: 'Gaza, Search For Life'

VII. Best International Emmy for Children: 'Lost Boys and Fairies'

VIII. International Emmy for Entertainment: 'Shaolin in the Nation: Bluey'

IX. International Emmy for Kids: 'Emmy for Kids: Live-Action: Fallen Angel & Entertainment: 'Auf Fritzi's Spuren - War Das So In Der Ddr?' [On Fritzi's Traces - What Was It Like in the Gdr?]

X. International Emmy for Comedy: 'Ludwig'

XI. Best Performance By An Actor: Oriol Pla in 'Yo, adicto' [I, Addict]

XIV. International Emmy for Documentary: Hell Jumper

XV. International Emmy for Telenovela: The Good and The Bad

XVI. International Emmy for Drama Series: Rivals

10. National Book Awards 2025

- The National Book Awards are organised by the National Book Foundation, US. They recognise the best of American literature across five categories: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Young People's Literature, and Translated Literature.
- I. Rabih Alameddine: Won the Fiction award for 'The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother)'.
- II. Patricia Smith: Won the Poetry award for her collection 'The Intentions of Thunder'.
- III. Omar El Akkad: Won the Non-fiction prize for 'One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This'.
- IV. Daniel Nayeri: Won the award for Young People's Literature for 'The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story'.

V. Gabriela Cabezón Cámará: Won the award for Translated Literature for 'We Are Green and Trembling' (translated by Robin Myers).

News In Shorts

- For the Padma Awards 2026, Olympic medalists Abhinav Bindra and Leander Paes have reportedly been recommended for the Padma Vibhushan. Neeraj Chopra and Gagan Narang have been recommended for the Padma Bhushan. These nominations from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and national sports federations recognise their contributions to Indian sports.
- UNESCO has designated Lucknow as a Creative City of Gastronomy in recognition of its rich culinary heritage, particularly its Awadhi cuisine.
- The Indian School of Business (ISB) honoured Azim Premji, founder of Wipro, with the ISB Research Catalyst Award for his commitment to India's research and education ecosystem.
- Google co-founder Larry Page is now the second richest person in the world, just after Tesla CEO Musk.
- The third edition of the Manohar Parrikar Scientist Award 2025 was awarded to Gopalakrishnan, an associate professor of Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, where he leads a research group that has the highest citation rate in science and engineering in the country.
- Bollywood singer Palak Muchhal has been honoured in the 'Hall of Fame' by the Guinness Book of World Records for raising funds to help over 3,800 underprivileged children receive heart surgeries.
- Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor

Company, has been awarded the CII Quality Ratna Award 2025 for his contributions to manufacturing excellence and quality leadership in India.

- Tom Cruise received an honorary Oscar at the 2025 Governors Awards for his lifetime of contributions to cinema.
- Renowned Indian art director Thota Tharani was awarded France's prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) recognising his significant contributions to art and culture.
- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was awarded the 2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award by the Boston Globe (BGF) and AI World Society (AIWS). The award recognises his contributions to global peace, conflict zones and promoting peace through the Art of Living.

Mahila Sahakari Bank (RCMS Bank), based in Belgaum, has been awarded the Best Microfinancing Bank in Belagavi District for 2025.

Velamala Simmanna has become the first Indian rum to win 'Rum of the Year' at The Spirits Business Awards 2025 in London, United Kingdom.

Velamala Simmanna has been selected for the Lok Nayak Foundation (LNF) Literary Award 2025. He has written over 100 books and is a former Head of the Department of Telugu at Andhra University.

- IIM Ranchi has received the prestigious Association of MBAs (AMBA) international accreditation and was awarded 4 Palms in the Eduniversal 2025 rankings. This recognition highlights the institute's commitment to meeting rigorous global standards in management education, placing it among the top two percent of business schools worldwide.

SPORTS NEWS

- India Clinch ICC Women's World Cup 2025 With 52-Run Win Over South Africa**
India beat South Africa by 52 runs to win the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 final at the Dr. DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. The Indian side was led by Harmanpreet Kaur. Shafali Verma was named the Player of the match. She became the youngest batter, male or female, to score a

fifty in the history of ODI World Cups. She reached her half-century in 49 balls and went on to record her highest individual score in World Cups.

- FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy Renamed After Viswanathan Anand**
The FIDE World Chess Cup trophy is named after Indian legend Viswanathan Anand, honoring his remarkable contributions to chess. He is a five-time

world champion, an Indian chess legend and India's first grandmaster.

- The trophy was unveiled during a grand opening ceremony attended by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Goa Chief Minister - Pramod Sawant, and FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich in Panjim, Goa.
- Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest player to win the Chess World Cup when he beat China's Wei Yi in the final's tiebreak.

3. World Boxing Cup Finals 2025

- India concluded their debut campaign at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 with a stunning haul of nine gold medals on the final day in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Indian Women boxers Jaismine Lamboria, Nikhat Zareen, Parveen Hooda, Arundhati Choudhary, Preeti Pawar, Minakshi Hooda, and Nupur Sheoran delivered a golden sweep with 7 gold medals, marking a historic achievement for the country.
- In Men's section, Sachin Siwach and Hitesh Gulia clinched gold medals in their categories. Indian boxers secured four silvers also.

4. Women's Kabaddi World Cup

- India beat Chinese Taipei 35–28 in its second straight Women's Kabaddi World Cup, finishing the tournament unbeaten.
- India maintained an unbroken winning streak in the tournament and beat Iran 35–27.
- This year's tournament was the 11th edition of the Women's World Cup, with 11 countries taking part in the tournament.

5. India Clinch Inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup Title

- India has won the first-ever Blind Women's T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka, defeating Nepal by seven wickets in the Final.
- The final of the Blind Women's T20 World Cup was held at the P Sara Oval in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- India and Sri Lanka co-hosted the event, with fixtures in Delhi, Bengaluru, and Colombo.
- Eleven players make up a blind cricket team and play with a white plastic ball packed with ball bearings that rattle as it rolls, allowing it to be heard by the players.
- Deepika TC is the captain of India's Women's Blind Cricket Team.

6. Ahmedabad Ready to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

- Ahmedabad has been formally awarded hosting rights of the 2030 Commonwealth Games. The decision was approved by delegates from 74 Commonwealth nations at the General Assembly in Glasgow, United Kingdom.
- This has paved the way for staging the event second time as New Delhi hosted the game in 2010.
- The decision also bolstered country's ambition to be an Olympic host in 2036.

7. Young Prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan Wins UK Women's Blitz Title

- Young chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan, just ten years old, triumphed in the UK Women's Blitz Championships, clinching the title and a £500 prize.
- Her victory earned her a score of 7.5/9.

8. Swimmer Penny Oleksiak Faces Ban

Most decorated Olympian, swimmer Penny Oleksiak, has accepted a two-year ban from competing due to three whereabouts failures. She is a seven-time Olympic medallist. She shot to national prominence at the Rio 2016 Games, becoming Canada's youngest Olympic champion at the age of 16. She can return to competition in July 2027.

- In its World Anti-Doping Code, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) defines a whereabouts failure as any combination of three missed drug tests or "failing" in 12 months. Athletes are required to provide daily location details and a specific one-hour testing window to allow officials to conduct out-of-competition drug tests.

9. Italy Won Its Fourth Davis Cup (Tennis) Title

- Italy won its fourth Davis Cup title with a 2-0 victory over Spain, sealing a third straight championship on home soil.
- Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli delivered in the singles, giving Italy an unbeatable lead.
- Italy is the first team after the United States to win three consecutive Davis Cups.

10. Sir David Beckham Received Knighthood Honour

- England football legend David Beckham was knighted by King Charles III at Windsor Castle.

- Beckham, 50, received the honour for his services to football and British society, as well as his long-standing charity work.
- Beckham made his Manchester United debut at 17 in 1992, won six Premier League titles, two FA Cups, the FA Charity Shield twice, and the 1999 UEFA Champions League during his time at Old Trafford. He later joined Real Madrid, where he won La Liga in his final season before moving to the United States.
- On the international stage, Beckham made his England debut on 1 September 1996, at the age of 21, and went on to earn 115 caps, serving as captain for six years.

11. South Africa Set World Record With 408-Run Win Over India in Guwahati

- South Africa made history by defeating India by 408 runs in the second Test held at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati. They surpassed Australia's previous record of a 342-run victory in Nagpur.
- India had a target of 549 runs to chase. However, it crumbled on Day 5, resulting in a total of just 140 runs.
- Having lost the first Test, India concluded the series with a 2-0 defeat, marking their second clean sweep within a year.

12. FIFA Launches Annual Peace Prize

- FIFA has created a new annual Peace Prize – Football Unites individuals who use football to hope. The prize will be awarded at the World Cup draw in Washington, D.C., the United States, Canada, and Mexico, on 11 to July 19.

13. Rohan Bopanna Announces Retirement After Two Decades Long Career

- In Tennis, Rohan Bopanna, a former World No. 1 in doubles, announced his retirement after a 20-year-long career.
- He won 26 ATP doubles titles, including the 2024 Australian Open with Matthew Ebden, which made him the oldest player to reach No. 1 at age 43.
- Bopanna, who began his career in 2003, earned 539 tour-level wins and partnered with 15 different players.
- He reached two US Open finals, finished runner-up at the ATP Finals twice, and claimed a mixed doubles Grand Slam at Roland Garros in 2017.

14. Asian Archery Championships 2025

- India topped the medal table at the 2025 Asian Archery Championships with a record haul of ten medals, including six gold, three silver, and one bronze.
- The Asian Archery Championships was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- This victory marks a historic achievement for India, including rare individual and team gold medals in the Olympic recurve category and dominance in the compound events.

15. Ravindra Jadeja Creates History

- Ravindra Jadeja became the fourth cricketer in history to achieve the double of scoring over 4000 runs and taking 50 wickets in Test cricket.
- He also became the first Test against South Africa to score 500 runs.
- He is the first cricketer to score 500 runs in the same exclusive list as Botham, and Daniel Vettori.

James First Player To Hit International Centuries Against All 12 Test-Playing Nations

James First Player To Hit International Centuries Against All 12 Test-Playing Nations

- James captain Shai Hope etched his name in history after becoming the first player to score international centuries against all 12 Test-playing nations across formats.
- The landmark came during the rain-affected second ODI against New Zealand in Napier, where the right-hander struck an unbeaten 109 off 69 balls with 13 fours and four sixes.

News in Short

- The ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 will be co-hosted by Zimbabwe and Namibia from 15 January to 6 February 2026.
- Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly host the 2026 women's and men's hockey World Cups simultaneously.
- Marco Bezzecchi wins Valencia MotoGP, secures Aprilia's first back-to-back victories and maiden championship top-three finish.
- Max Verstappen won the Las Vegas Grand Prix marking his 69th career victory and second win in four races.
- Chennai's 16-year-old Ilamparthy AR has become India's 90th Grandmaster, achieving his final norm at the Bijeljina Open.

- Raahul V S became India's 91st Grandmaster by winning the 6th ASEAN Individual Open Chess Championship.
- American athlete Jammie Booker has been disqualified as the 2025 World's Strongest Woman after organisers said they discovered she is "biologically male".
- All-rounder Shardul Thakur will lead Mumbai in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy (SMAT).
- India international Rohit Sharma was named the ICC Brand Ambassador for the 2026 T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.
- Giovanna de Sequeira has earned international acclaim, winning a bronze medal at the World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi, competing in the below 28kg Infant/Girls Gi category.
- Rohit Sharma has regained the top position in the ICC ODI batting rankings ahead of India's ODI series against South Africa. He briefly dropped down from the number 1 position, losing his spot to New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell after he had struck a match-winning century against West Indies in the first of that series.
- Indian para archer Sheetal Devi has achieved a milestone after being selected for the compound team to compete at the Para World Cup in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She will line up alongside Rajendra Salve and Vaidehi Hirani. Both finished first and second respectively in the women's individual competition.
- Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen secured his first title of the 2025 season by defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka at the Australian Open Super 500 tournament.
- Roger Federer was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2026 in his first year of eligibility, capping a legendary career that included 20 Grand Slam titles and a lasting impact on the sport.
- Curaao has become the smallest country ever to qualify for a FIFA World Cup finals after a draw against Jamaica on the final night of the Concacaf qualifying campaign. Curaao sealed their place at the 2026 tournament alongside Haiti and Panama after a dramatic conclusion across the region.
- Ten-year-old Sivanandan from Harrow Primary School in the UK has won the women's first prize of £500 at the British Judo Championships in Leamington Spa.
- The 10th European Shooting Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025 was held in Austria from November 6 to 18, 2025. The competition saw 1000 participants from 35 countries, with Germany winning several of the medals.
- Formula 1 driver Lando Norris received Australia's prestigious Donington Award for his exceptional 2025 Formula 1 season, which included multiple Grand Prix victories and consistent podium finishes that have established him as a leading contender.
- The 5th edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) was inaugurated with grandeur at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

