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NATIONAL NEWS

Indian Wolf Now Recognised as Distinct Canis Species

- In a first-ever global assessment, the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), one of the most ancient and elusive wolf lineages in the world, has officially entered the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Red List of Threatened Species as 'Vulnerable'.
- According to the assessment, only 2,877–3,310 mature individuals are estimated to be surviving in the wild.
- The assessment was led by scientists across India, including Dr Shaheer Khan and Dr Bilal Habib of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in collaboration with Dr Yadvendradev Vikramsinh Jhala, a former WII dean and one of India's foremost wolf ecologists, known for his decades-long research on the species. Dr Lauren Hennelly, assistant professor, Rice University, worked as a co-collaborator.
- This was conducted between 2023 and 2024 and represents the first formal IUCN evaluation of the Indian wolf.
- The IUCN assessment estimates a decline in the past three generations due to habitat loss, human persecution, disease and hybridisation with feral dogs.

IUCN Recognises India's First Dugong Conservation Reserve

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognised India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, Tamil Nadu.
- It was established on September 21, 2022, by the Tamil Nadu government under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The Reserve covers 448.34 sq. km. in northern Palk Bay and is home to over 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows, vital feeding grounds for dugongs (Dugong dugon), a species listed as Vulnerable to Extinction on the IUCN Red List.
- Seagrasses also support a host of other marine species, making the reserve ecologically significant.
- The motion, proposed by the Omcar Foundation and adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, won support from members worldwide.

Five Maharashtra Beaches Awarded Blue Flag Certification

- Five beaches in Maharashtra have received the international Blue Flag certification. The list includes the Shrivardhan and Nagaon beaches in Raigad district, the Parnaka beach in Palghar and the Guhagar and Ladghar beaches in Ratnagiri district.
- The Blue Flag certification is awarded by Denmark's Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) to beaches that meet 33 criteria related to cleanliness, beauty and environmental sustainability.
- The evaluation covers aspects such as environmental education, water quality, safety, environmental management and public amenities.

Three Major Indian Ports Recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs Under National Mission

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has formally recognised three major ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- These ports are Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority in Tamil Nadu and Paradip Port Authority in Odisha.
- This recognition marks a significant step towards creating an integrated hydrogen ecosystem and advancing India's transition towards clean energy.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to position India as a global hub for the production, utilisation and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- The Mission promotes the development of large-scale hydrogen hubs to serve as focal points for production and consumption.

WHO Flags Regulation Gaps After India Child Deaths from Cough Syrups

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has voiced 'deep concern' over gaps in India's drug safety regulations, following the deaths of at least 20 children from contaminated cough syrups.
- The deaths, reported from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan states over the past month, have been linked to three cough syrups, samples of which have been found to contain diethylene glycol (DEG)—a toxic substance found in industrial solvents.

- The three contaminated cough syrups are: Coldrif (Sresan Pharmaceuticals) Respifresh (Rednex Pharmaceuticals) and ReLife (Shape Pharma).

Himachal Pradesh Snow Leopard Population Surges Significantly

- The wildlife wing of the Himachal Pradesh forest department concluded the state-wide assessment to estimate the snow leopard population.
- The results showed approximately 83 individuals, suggesting an increase in the population of snow leopards from the first population estimation exercise held in 2021, which estimated 51 individuals.
- The survey employed a large-scale camera trapping exercise across six sites representative of the 26,000 km² snow leopard habitat in the state.
- It was a second of its kind survey after 2021.
- This study was carried out by the wildlife wing of the Himachal forest department in partnership with the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), Bengaluru.
- The snow leopard density, as per the study, ranges as 0.16–0.53 individuals per 100 km², with the trans-Himalayan regions of Spiti and Pin valley, followed by Upper Kinnaur and Tabo, recording the highest densities.

Chandrayaan-2 Observes Lunar Exosphere Changes

- In a landmark scientific breakthrough, the lunar orbiter of Chandrayaan-2 has made the first-ever observation of the effects of the Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) from the Sun on the Moon using its onboard scientific instrument.
- This observation would help understand the lunar exosphere, the thin atmosphere of the Moon and the impact of space weather on its surface.
- Launched on July 22, 2019, from Sriharikota using the GSLV-MkIII-M1 rocket, Chandrayaan-2 carried eight experiment payloads. On August 20, 2019, Chandrayaan-2 was successfully inserted into the elliptical orbit around the Moon. Although communication with the Vikram lander was lost during its landing attempt on September 7, 2019, the Orbiter remains fully operational and continues to function in a 100 km x 100 km orbit around the Moon.

Jammu and Kashmir Revives 150-Year-Old Darbar Transfer

- The historic tradition of the Darbar Transfer, in which the administrative machinery of Jammu and Kashmir

shifts between the two capitals, Jammu and Srinagar, has resumed after a four-year pause.

- The practice, which dates back 150 years, had been suspended due to the enormous cost involved, estimated at approximately ₹200 crore annually.
- The Darbar Transfer, also known as the 'Darbar Move', traditionally occurred twice a year. Srinagar served as the summer capital, while Jammu functioned as the winter capital. Offices would move to Srinagar before summer and return to Jammu before winter.
- The practice was halted in 2021 by the Lieutenant Governor's administration amid criticism of its high cost and logistical challenges.
- The tradition was introduced in 1872 by Maharaja Gulab Singh, the first Dogra ruler of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. At a time when road connectivity was poor, the move aimed to bring the administration closer to people living in remote areas, particularly in Kashmir and Ladakh and to ensure timely governance and supply distribution before winter snows blocked access to Ladakh.

Government Introduces Standards for Navigation with NavIC

- The Indian government has introduced comprehensive standards for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) receivers.
- It promotes the use of NavIC, a satellite navigation system, in all location-based services, navigation devices and mobile apps in India.
- The new framework, developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), will ensure that all NavIC-compatible devices consistently meet accuracy, testing and performance benchmarks.
- The BIS standards for NavIC receivers define the parameters for signal acquisition, tracking capability, positioning accuracy, timing precision and resistance to interference.
- This technical foundation ensures uniform and reliable performance across sectors like transportation, disaster management, agriculture and digital infrastructure.
- The plan is part of India's broader strategy to create a self-reliant satellite navigation ecosystem after being denied access to high-precision GPS data during the 1999 Kargil conflict.
- The introduction of standards for NavIC receivers places India alongside other major economies with

their own satellite navigation systems, such as the US (GPS), Europe (Galileo), Russia (GLONASS) and China (BeiDou).

India Builds World's Highest Motorable Road at 19,400 Ft In Ladakh

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has laid a route across Mig La Pass at an altitude of 19,400 feet (5,913 metres), overtaking the agency's own record at Umling La.
- The road, part of the Likaru-Mig La-Fukche alignment, links the Hanle region with Fukche village near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- The feat was executed under Project Himank by a team led by Brigadier Vishal Srivastava. To mark the completion, the Indian national flag and the BRO flag were hoisted at the windswept pass.
- Mig La Pass is taller than both the South Base Camp of Mount Everest in Nepal (17,598 feet) and the North Base Camp in Tibet (16,900 feet). The earlier record-holder, Umling La, stands at 19,024 feet.

Key Points

Director General BRO — Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan

Sindhu's Historic Voyage

- In a landmark event, the passenger vessel 'Sindhu' completed its first voyage to Barren Island, marking India's entry into structured volcano-based tourism.
- The vessel 'Sindhu' has a carrying capacity of 500 passengers. It sailed at almost full capacity, including 125 government school students from different parts of the archipelago.
- It is an initiative launched by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and it aims to promote sustainable maritime tourism and provide public access to India's only active volcano.
- Barren Island, part of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, is the only active volcano in South Asia and one of the few known in the Indian Ocean. It is 140 km away from Port Blair by sea and lies at the junction of the Indian and Burmese tectonic plates.

Buddha's Holy Relics travel to Russia's Kalmykia Republic for a 'First Exposition'

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), National Museum, Indira Gandhi

National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) organised for the first time an exposition of the sacred Buddha Relics that are enshrined in the National Museum at the third International Buddhist Forum held in Elista, the capital of Russia's Kalmykia Republic.

- The highlight of the forum, themed 'Buddhism in the New Millennium', were the Shakyamuni's Sacred Relics from India.
- The Relics were enshrined in the main Buddhist monastery in Elista, the capital of Kalmykia, known as the Geden Sheddup Choikorling Monastery, also called the 'Golden Abode of Shakyamuni Buddha.'
- This is a significant Tibetan Buddhist centre, opened for the public in 1996 and is surrounded by the Kalmyk steppe.

News in Short

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, took a sortie in a Rafale aircraft at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana). She is the first President of India to have taken a sortie in two fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. Earlier, she took a sortie in Sukhoi 30 MKI in 2023.
- A new species of the genus *Ophiorrhiza echinata* was discovered in the Idukki District of Kerala, Western Ghats, India. It was found in the shola forests at Devikulam.
- Balod district in Chhattisgarh has become India's first officially declared child marriage-free district, having maintained zero child marriage cases for two consecutive years and undergone thorough verification.
- In a major step towards promoting women's leadership in core industrial sectors, South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), inaugurated the company's first fully women-operated the Central Store Unit at its Central Workshop, Korba.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has waived charges for Aadhaar biometric updates for children aged 5–17 years.
- President Droupadi Murmu interacted with members of the Siddi community, a primitive tribal group with African roots, in the Junagadh district of Gujarat. She expressed happiness that the Siddi tribal community, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group, has achieved a literacy rate of over 72%.

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever air shipment of GI tagged Indi and Puliyanakudi Limes from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to the United Kingdom. The Puliyanakudi Lime, particularly the Kadayam variety, is characterised by its thin peel, strong acidity, high ascorbic acid content and juice percentage of approximately 55%.
- A bust of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, created by renowned Chinese sculptor Yuan Xikun, was unveiled at the Indian Embassy in Beijing underscoring the deep and enduring cultural links between India and China.
- Prime Minister, Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for development projects worth ₹1219 crore in Kevadia on the eve of Sardar Patel's 150th Jayanti. The projects include the Birsa Munda Bhavan – an iconic centre dedicated to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and a Bonsai Garden. He also released a special commemorative coin and postage stamp in tribute to the Iron Man of India.
- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated India's first cooperative-based Compressed Bio-Gas (CNG) and Spray Dryer Potash Granule Project at the Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Cooperative Sugar Factory in Kopergaon, Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra.
- India plans to have approximately ten marine fish and shrimp varieties achieve the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification by 2026, with the first batch to be submitted for certification next year.
- Haryana has set a new 100-metre height criterion to define the Aravali hills. The revised definition now requires that landforms must rise at least 100 metres above the surrounding land and be composed of rocks at least one billion years old from the Aravali and Delhi supergroups to be officially considered Aravali Hills
- India observed International Snow Leopard Day with a unique initiative titled '#23for23', encouraging people across the country to engage in physical activities for 23 minutes to raise awareness about the conservation of snow leopards and their fragile habitats.
- A team from Arunachal Pradesh's State Horticulture Research and Development Institute (SHRDI) has discovered a new Begonia species with sparkling red leaves in Basar, Laparada district. The plant has been named Begonia Chowna Buku Chulu (Aryarakta), meaning 'Noble Red', in honour of Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.
- Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, along with Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, inaugurated the Namchik Namphuk Coal Mine in Changlang district, marking a historic milestone as the state's first commercial coal mining project. This event opens a new chapter in Arunachal Pradesh's economic journey, positioning it firmly on India's coal and energy map.
- In a major milestone towards building a Naxal-free India, the number of districts most affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) has been brought down to just three, marking a significant decline from six districts earlier. The most affected districts now remain Bijapur, Sukma and Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh.
- The Indian government invoked the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) with Singapore to seek cooperation in the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) formally sent a request to Singapore to secure evidence and testimony vital to the case, which is being investigated by a 10-member Special Investigation Team in Assam.
- The Indian Embassy in Jakarta gifted Prussian Blue Capsules to support Indonesia's mitigation efforts for potential nuclear or radiological emergencies, specifically contamination involving Cesium-137.
- Kerala will build its first-ever underwater tunnel, connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi, covering a distance of 3 km. It will run beneath the sea, cutting down the current 16 km road distance
- Bajrang Setu, India's first 132-metre cable glass bridge, Rishikesh, has entered its final construction stage and the total cost of its construction is estimated at ₹68–70 crores.
- In the first Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Omar Abdullah's National Conference secured three of the four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, while the opposition BJP claimed one.
- The Government of Tamil Nadu has allocated ₹1 crore to conserve four lesser-known endangered species: the lion-tailed macaque, Madras hedgehog, striped hyena and hump-headed mahseer fish. The funds will support habitat monitoring, research, conservation

breeding and habitat restoration, with special measures like canopy bridges for macaques and in-situ breeding programs for the mahseer.

- Union Minister of Roads, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first commercial electric truck battery swapping and charging station at the Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) in Panchi Gujran village on the GT Road near Ganaur in Sonipat.
- The Botanical Survey of India discovered a new, giant fungus species called *Bridgeoporus kanadii* in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Green Sea Turtles have officially been reclassified from 'Endangered' to 'Least Concern' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- In a major milestone, the 624 megawatt Kiru hydroelectric project, under construction on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, has reached a significant milestone with the completion of 10 lakh cubic metres of dam concreting, out of a total target of 12 lakh cubic metres.
- India has witnessed a remarkable increase in the female workforce participation rate. The Labour and Employment Ministry said that the female labour force participation rate has increased from 23% in 2017–18 to around 42% in 2023–24.
- Nagaland University (NU) researchers have identified a naturally-occurring plant compound called 'Sinapic acid' as a powerful therapeutic agent capable of significantly accelerating wound healing in diabetic conditions. The discovery marks a major advancement that could result in safe, natural and effective treatments for diabetic wound management. This is the first study globally to demonstrate that Sinapic acid, when administered orally, can accelerate diabetic wound healing in preclinical models.
- The government has launched a 'Live Cases' dashboard, an extension of the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS), to track government court cases in real-time. The dashboard enhances transparency and efficiency by providing a live, unified platform for ministries and departments.
- Ayodhya has set a new Guinness World Record by lighting 26.17 lakh earthen lamps along the Saryu River during its annual Deepotsav celebrations. The event also saw a record for the largest simultaneous aarti with 2,128 priests.
- On October 1, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) entered its centenary year, celebrating 100 years of merit-based recruitment in India's civil services.
- The Union Cabinet decided to celebrate 150 years of the national song, 'Vande Mataram', across India. 'Vande Mataram' was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and first publicly sung by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896 at the Indian National Congress (INC) Session. It first appeared in the novel Anandamath in 1882.
- India has announced a \$77 billion plan to build over 200 hydroelectric projects in the Brahmaputra River basin to tap into its potential and counter China's large dam project on the same river.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated Sonik Integrated Logistics Hub and flagged off two new Door-to-Door Freight and Parcel Services. Sonik has become the first integrated logistics hub offering this facility.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged devotees to have darshan of the holy 'Jore Sahib', the sacred footwear of the tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singh and his wife Mata Sahib Kaur. The 'Jore Sahib' have been in the custody of the family of Hardeep Puri for 300 years. They will be permanently placed at the birthplace of the tenth Sikh Guru in Takht Sri Patna Sahib, where the devotees will be able to pay their obedience.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Kapas Kranti Mission Launched

- The central government has launched the ₹600 crore 'Kapas Kranti Mission' to modernise cotton farming by promoting high-yield, long-staple cotton cultivation through techniques like High-Density Plantation (HDP).
- This initiative aims to increase productivity, improve quality and empower farmers by introducing new scientific methods, training programmes and the 'Kapas Kisan App' to streamline procurement and ensure fair pricing.
- The mission seeks to replicate HDP methods from Maharashtra in Telangana to increase cotton productivity.

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and DP World launch 'We Rise' initiative

- NITI Aayog's WEP and DP World announced a joint initiative, 'We Rise – Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises'.
- This programme under the aegis of WEP's Award to Reward (ATR) initiative, aims to help women entrepreneurs in India to scale their businesses globally through trade facilitation, mentorship and strategic partnerships.
- Under this ATR programme, women-led Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India with high growth potential will be identified and mentored to expand globally.
- Using its global logistics network and trade expertise, DP World will collaborate with WEP to design interventions that enhance the export readiness of 100 women entrepreneurs, enabling them to meet global trade requirements and strengthen business capacity.
- WEP, incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018 as an aggregator platform, transitioned into a public-private partnership in 2022.

Key Points

Mission Director, WEP	— Anna Roy
CEO, NITI Aayog	— B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Centre approves Adani Power's plan to link Godda plant

- The Centre has approved Adani Power Limited (APL), a large thermal power producer, to lay an overhead transmission line to connect its Godda Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plant with the Indian grid through a Line-In Line-Out (LILO) arrangement of the Kahalgaon A–Maithon B 400 KV line.
- As of now, the Godda plant supplies electricity exclusively to Bangladesh.
- For laying the proposed transmission line, which will pass through 56 villages of two tehsils — Godda and Poreyahat — in Godda district of Jharkhand, the Centre has conferred the same powers to the APL, as that possessed by the telegraph authority possesses under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, for placing telegraph lines and posts.
- Under the Act, the authority can, from time to time, place and maintain a telegraph line under, over, along or across and posts in or upon, any immovable property.

e-NAM Adds 9 New Commodities to Boost Trade

- The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, has further strengthened the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) by expanding its coverage with the inclusion of nine additional commodities.
- The nine commodities are- Green Tea, Tea, Aswagandha Dry Roots, Mustard Oil, Lavender Oil, Mentha Oil, Virgin Olive Oil, Lavender Dried Flower and Broken Rice.
- This will take the total number of tradable agricultural commodities on the platform to 247. This significant step has been taken in response to the continuous demand from farmers, traders and other stakeholders for wider commodity coverage and deeper market integration.
- The initiative aims to enhance opportunities for farmers and traders by enabling them to access a transparent and competitive digital trading platform that connects markets across India.

PM Modi Launches ₹35,440 Crore Agriculture Schemes

- PM Modi launched the ₹24,000-crore 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' (PM-DDKY) and the ₹11,440-crore 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses'. Both the schemes will be implemented from the upcoming rabi (winter) season till 2030–31.
- Dalhan Aatmanirbharta Mission targets raising pulses production from the current 252.38 lakh tonne to 350 lakh tonne by 2030–31, thereby reducing import dependency.
- PM-DDKY is designed to transform 100 low-performing agricultural districts across India. It aims to boost agricultural productivity, encourage crop diversification, promote sustainable farming practices, enhance post-harvest storage at the local level, improve irrigation facilities and ensure better access to long and short-term credit.
- He also inaugurated projects valued at over ₹5,450 crore in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and food processing sectors, while laying the foundation stone for additional projects worth approximately ₹815 crore.

ANRF Approves RDI Fund Guidelines, Launch Imminent

- In a transformative step to bolster India's research and innovation ecosystem, the Union Cabinet approved the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme with a corpus of ₹One lakh Crores.

- The scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in RDI.
- It has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of the private sector and seeks to provide growth & risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness.

India Launches ₹1,500 Crore Critical Mineral Recycling Scheme

- The Ministry of Mines has issued detailed guidelines for the ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme for promoting critical mineral recycling.
- The scheme aims to develop the nation's recycling capacity for the recovery and production of critical minerals from secondary sources such as e-waste, spent lithium-ion batteries and other scrap materials.
- The guidelines outline the scheme's modalities, including methodology for incentive allocation, procedures for application and evaluation and mechanisms for institutional oversight and performance review.
- The scheme provides support for both large and small recyclers, including start-ups, in setting up new facilities or expanding existing ones.

India's First Red List Unveiled at IUCN Congress

- India has launched the National Red List Assessment (NRLA) initiative to fulfil commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- NRLA is a comprehensive framework prepared by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), in close collaboration with IUCN-India and the Centre for Species Survival, India.
- ZSI and BSI will serve as the nodal agencies.
- NRLA will establish a nationally coordinated red-listing system, a tool for accurate assessment, conservation planning and informed policy development.
- This vision outlines roadmap for a nationally coordinated, inclusive and science-based system to assess and monitor the conservation status of our species.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launches the National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) Digital University

- Union Minister of Railways, Electronics and Information Technology and Information and Broadcasting,

Ashwini Vaishnaw, inaugurated the NIELIT Digital University (NDU) platform in New Delhi.

- The platform has been designed to democratise access to high-quality digital education.
- It will offer industry-focused programmes in niche technologies such as AI, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Semiconductors and allied fields. It will provide flexible digital learning modes and virtual labs to equip youth with future-ready skills.
- He also virtually inaugurated five new NIELIT Centres at Muzaffarpur (Bihar), Balasore (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu) and Lunglei (Mizoram).
- NIELIT, an Autonomous Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, has been a pioneer in skill development and digital empowerment.

PM Modi Launches Major Youth Skilling Initiatives

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs), a centrally sponsored scheme with an investment of ₹60,000 crore. The scheme envisages the upgradation of 1,000 Government ITIs across the country in a hub-and-spoke model comprising 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs.
- He inaugurated 1,200 Vocational Skill Labs established in 400 Navodaya Vidyalayas and 200 Eklavya Model Residential Schools across 34 States and Union Territories.
- He launched Bihar's revamped Mukhyamantri Nishchay Svyam Sahayata Bhatta Yojana, under which nearly five lakh graduate youth every year will receive a monthly allowance of ₹1,000 for two years, along with free skill training.
- He also launched the redesigned Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme, which will provide completely interest-free education loans of up to ₹4 lakh, significantly easing the financial burden of higher education.
- PM Modi inaugurated the Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Skill University in Bihar.
- He laid the foundation stone for new academic and research facilities in four universities of Bihar, namely Patna University, Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University in Madhepura, Jai Prakash Vishwavidyalaya in Chapra and Nalanda Open University in Patna,

under the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan).

- Together, these projects, with a total allocation of ₹160 crore, will benefit more than 27,000 students by enabling modern academic infrastructure, advanced laboratories, hostels and multidisciplinary learning.

India's First-Ever Animal Birth Control Training Centre Launched in Lucknow

- In a major step toward humane and effective street dog population management, the Lucknow Municipal Corporation and Humane World for Animals India (formerly called Humane Society International India) have signed an MoU to run a dedicated training centre for Animal Birth Control programs in Jarhara, Lucknow.
- It will serve as a training hub for veterinarians, para-veterinarians, animal handlers and animal welfare organisations across India, engaged in or preparing to begin street dog ABC work.
- It will offer 15-day training module that will integrate both theoretical and hands-on modules.

GIS Mapping Boosts Jal Jeevan Mission Progress

- The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N), an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.
- The platform will also support the creation and mapping of Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes (RPWSS), enabling unique scheme-level IDs and allow for granular monitoring of water delivery at the household level, facilitating convergence with other rural infrastructure initiatives.
- Under the agreement, BISAG-N will provide end-to-end support, including database design, map creation, data migration, software development and systems integration.
- The platform will also incorporate advanced features such as ground control surveying, digital photogrammetry, vector data capture and thematic mapping.

India Launched 'Online National Drug Licensing System (ONDLS)'

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) created a Digital Monitoring System on the ONDLS portal.

- The system will track the supply chain, quality and testing of high-risk solvents that are frequently used in drug formulations - especially cough syrups.
- All manufacturers of pharmaceutical-grade solvents must obtain a manufacturing licence through the ONDLS portal. Manufacturers who already hold licences must register and upload their data under the 'Old Licence Management' section.
- The move comes after several reports of diethylene glycol (DEG) contamination in cough syrups, which raised serious safety concerns and prompted nationwide scrutiny of pharmaceutical manufacturing practices.

Key Points

Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi — Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)

Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, inaugurated the FTI-TTP at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode and Amritsar airports through video conferencing.
- FTI-TTP enhances both convenience and national security. The programme was launched in 2024 from Delhi, followed by its implementation at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi and Ahmedabad airports.
- Travellers now experience no long queues or manual checking, receiving immigration clearance in just 30 seconds without delays. Approximately 3 lakh travellers have registered on this portal, of which 2.65 lakh have utilised it during travel and efforts should be made to continuously increase this number.

Alliance Air Launches 'Fare Se Fursat' Initiative for Affordable Travel

- The government-owned regional carrier Alliance Air launched a new airfare scheme known as 'Fares Se Fursat' under which passengers will be relieved from the stress of fluctuating airfares.
- The initiative will be implemented on a pilot basis from 13 October to 31 December this year across selected routes. Through this process, the operational feasibility

and passenger response will be determined. The scheme also aims to make flying more convenient for first-time travellers from smaller towns.

- The scheme will offer passengers a single, fixed fare and will ensure that rates remain constant regardless of the booking date – even on the day of departure.

GalaxEye to launch India's First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite

- Space-tech startup GalaxEye is planning to launch its maiden 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of calendar year 2026.
- The launch will also mark the beginning of GalaxEye's satellite constellation programme, comprising 8–12 satellites to be launched successively until 2029, aiming to achieve near-real-time Earth observation for global applications.
- It will offer the world's first multi-sensor integration combining Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and optical imaging, thereby ensuring 24 × 7, all-weather monitoring.
- It will weigh 160 kg and will be India's largest privately built satellite and also the highest-resolution satellite developed in the country.

India's First Private Helicopter Line Launched by Airbus and Tata

- Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) have launched India's first private helicopter assembly line in Vemagal, Karnataka, to manufacture the Airbus H125 helicopter.
- This facility is a partnership between the two companies and the first 'Made in India' helicopters are expected to be delivered by 2027.
- The project aims to support both civil and defense needs in India and for export to South Asia.

Bhupender Yadav Launches Five Wildlife Conservation Projects

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav launched five major wildlife conservation initiatives during the Wildlife Week 2025 celebrations in Dehradun. The initiatives focus on species protection, habitat restoration and mitigating human-wildlife conflict.
- The five projects launched are:
 - I. Project Dolphin (Phase II) – This phase focuses on monitoring, protection and habitat restoration for dolphins across India.

II. Project Sloth Bear – This initiative aims to protect sloth bears through a new national framework involving habitat restoration and population monitoring.

III. Project Gharial – A plan to restore the critically endangered gharial population in key river systems.

IV. Centre of Excellence for Human-Wildlife Conflict Management (CoE-HWC) – A new centre at SACON for research and policy support on mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

V. Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves Initiative (TOTR) – This project addresses human-tiger conflict in areas outside protected reserves, initially in 40 forest divisions across nine states.

Union Health Minister J P Nadda Launches New Initiatives for the Tele MANAS App

- On the occasion of World Mental Health Day 2025, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda, launched several new initiatives for the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS).
- The new initiatives include launch of Tele MANAS App Enhancements (Multi-lingual UI, Chatbot, Accessibility, Emergency Module). Tele MANAS App will now be available in 10 regional languages, in addition to the English and Hindi languages.
- This step is towards providing mental health support in regional languages for enhancing accessibility.
- In addition, recognising that persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups face barriers in accessing digital health services, the app now includes accessibility features to make the interface more user-friendly for visually impaired users.
- A chatbot feature ('Asmi') has also been introduced, allowing users to engage with the app and seek information or help regarding mental health. Furthermore, emergency response content has been incorporated to ensure timely guidance and support during emergencies.

India Approves Maitri II Antarctic Research Station

- The Finance Ministry has approved Maitri II, India's next-generation research station in eastern Antarctica, scheduled for completion by January 2029.
- Maitri II will be India's fourth research base in eastern Antarctica. At present, there are two active research stations of India – Maitri (established in 1989) and Bharati (commissioned in 2012).

- The National Center for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences is the nodal agency responsible for its operation.
- It is aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047 and this initiative aims to strengthen India's scientific presence, advance climate and polar research.
- It will enhance the nation's strategic and diplomatic leadership in global polar governance.

FSSAI Bans Use of ORS on Labels

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned food companies from using 'ORS' on labels to prevent the sale of sugary drinks falsely marketed as rehydration solutions.
- This was an outcome of eight years of advocacy of Dr. Sivaranjani Santosh. The Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) is a medical product developed by Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.
- It has saved millions of lives during the war by reducing mortality rates from 30% to 1% during a cholera epidemic in refugee camps.
- The WHO approved formulation contains sodium chloride, glucose anhydrous, potassium chloride and trisodium citrate dihydrate in 1 liter of water. This composition works through the sodium glucose co transport system

Operation Chakra-V Uncovers Major Online Investment Fraud

- In a major crackdown on cyber-enabled financial crimes, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted extensive searches at 10 locations across Delhi, Hisar, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune and Nashik as part of Operation Chakra-V.
- The raids were linked to a sophisticated organised investment fraud scheme targeting unsuspecting individuals through fake mobile apps and WhatsApp groups.
- During the searches, the CBI recovered substantial incriminating material, including digital devices and documents, which shed light on the inner workings of the syndicate.

News in Shorts

- Kerala has unveiled up to ten new 'Spice Route tourism circuits' that link ancient ports, heritage sites and spice plantations to promote heritage and spice-based

tourism. This initiative, launched under the Muziris Projects Limited and with support from UNESCO, aims to revive intangible heritage and historical trade routes by offering diverse experiences that connect with the region's past as a major hub for the spice trade.

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated India's first cooperative-based Compressed Bio-Gas (CNG) and Spray Dryer Potash Granule Project at the Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe Cooperative Sugar Factory in Kopargaon, Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra.
- The Uttar Pradesh government launched the Gomti Rejuvenation Mission to restore the Gomti River by intercepting 95% of urban sewage. It will be achieved through diverting drains to existing sewage treatment plants (STPs) and building new ones. The mission also involves ecological restoration through measures like creating new wetlands, removing encroachments, beautifying ghats and promoting green corridors along the entire river basin from Pilibhit to Ghazipur.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have sanctioned over 5.79 lakh loans, amounting to ₹10,907 crore, under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. This government initiative provides financial assistance to households for installing rooftop solar panels.
- India is set to launch the National Critical Mineral Stockpile (NCMS) to secure rare earth supplies vital for electric vehicles, wind energy and green technologies amid global supply risks.
- India will introduce Model Youth Gram Sabhas in rural schools to educate children about their rights and responsibilities in democracy. The program aims to engage students in mock governance sessions, fostering awareness and participation in local decision-making.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 to address the misuse of synthetically generated content, including deepfakes.
- Uttarakhand will implement a green tax on vehicles entering from other states starting December 1, 2025. This measure aims to curb pollution and protect the Himalayan environment, with charges varying by vehicle type. The state plans to use Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras for enforcement.

- Union Minister of Roads, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first commercial electric truck battery swapping and charging station at the Delhi International Cargo Terminal Private Limited (DICT) in Panchi Gujran village on the GT Road near Ganaur in Sonapat, Haryana.
- In a major breakthrough under its ongoing 'Operation Fire Trail', the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), has successfully busted a sophisticated smuggling attempt involving the illegal import of Chinese-origin fireworks and firecrackers into India.
- The Union Ministry of Cooperation and the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) have jointly launched Bharat Taxi, the country's first government-backed cooperative cab service, which is expected to provide affordable and driver-friendly transportation, competing directly with private ride-hailing apps such as Ola and Uber. The pilot phase will begin in November 2025 with an initial fleet of 650 cabs.
- India's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) has surpassed its targets, attracting investment commitments of over ₹1.15 lakh crore, nearly double the initial ₹59,350 crore goal.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched QR code signboards across major routes like the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Golden Quadrilateral. These digital boards allow travelers to scan and access real-time details on emergency contacts, nearby facilities and road projects.
- The Union Agriculture Ministry has withdrawn approval for the sale of 11 biostimulants derived from animal sources — from chicken feathers and pig tissue to bovine hide and cod scales — due to 'religious and dietary restrictions'.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is planning to launch the National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI) — a national mission aimed at reversing the steady decline in India's camel population.
- In a landmark development for India's tech sector, India's first Semiconductor Innovation Museum opened in Hyderabad.
- A pilot bamboo plantation project has been launched in Mullagutta 2 village, Adilabad district (Telangana), to support the Kolam tribal community. The initiative, part of the Green India Challenge, aims to restore livelihoods and combat environmental degradation.
- The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) in 23 states, covering 20,933 km of National Highways (NHs), for the collection, processing and analysis of road inventory and pavement condition data. These specialised vehicles will enable it to collect necessary data related to road and pavement condition, including all relevant road defects such as surface cracking, potholes and patches.
- The Ministry of Minority Affairs signed an MoU for a skilling project under the Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan (PM VIKAS) scheme with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad, Kerala. Under this collaboration, IIT Palakkad will be the implementation partner of the Ministry to train 400 candidates with a focus on minority communities.
- The Ministry of Labour & Employment has unveiled the draft Shram Shakti Niti 2025, a national labour and employment policy aiming to create a more inclusive, tech-driven and future-ready workforce.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the Goa government's flagship welfare programme 'Mhaje Ghar' Yojana. The scheme aims to regularise houses built on government and community lands and to grant ownership rights to long-time residents. It represents a landmark housing reform aimed at ensuring dignity, stability and legal ownership for thousands of Goan families.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs has issued a cautionary message to online shoppers regarding 'Dark Pattern Drip Pricing', a deceptive practice increasingly seen across e-commerce platforms. Drip pricing occurs when platforms initially display an attractive price, only to include additional costs such as service fees, packaging charges or convenience fees at the final stage of payment.
- The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet decided to procure kodo and kutki (Millets) from farmers in major millet-producing districts for the first time.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched Chief Minister's Foreign Language Initiative for Global Human Talent (CM-FLIGHT) to train youth in foreign languages for global employment.
- Chennai launched India's first real-time flood forecast system, providing street-level inundation alerts for vulnerable urban areas.
- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh adopted the Gaj Rakshak App to monitor elephants, prevent

human-elephant conflict and boost conservation efforts.

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) plans to replicate India's solar pumps initiative, known as the PM-Kusum (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) scheme across developing nations, especially in Africa and small island states, according to Union Minister of New and Renewable

Energy Pralhad Joshi, who is also the President of the ISA Assembly.

- Aurangabad Railway Station in Maharashtra will be renamed as the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Railway Station, after the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The move comes three years after Aurangabad city was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia Conducts Nuclear Readiness Drill Amid Rising Global Tensions

- Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile and will work towards deploying the weapon.
- Valery Gerasimov, chief of the general staff of Russia's armed forces, claimed the Burevestnik missile remained airborne for about 15 hours and covered a distance of approximately 14,000 kilometres (8,700 miles).

South Korea to Deploy Hyunmoo-5 Ballistic Missile

- South Korea is ready to deploy its 'monster missile' Hyunmoo 5 at the end of the year, marking a significant conventional arsenal upgrade against its northern counterpart in the Korean peninsula.
- Hyunmoo 5 is a high-powered ground-to-ground ballistic missile, which has been dubbed the 'monster missile' for its size. It weighs around 36 tonnes.
- It is capable of carrying eight-tonne bunker buster warheads, which can also penetrate underground fortified bunkers. The missile is about 16 metres long and has a variable range of 600–5,000 km.

OpenAI Launches ChatGPT Atlas Browser

- OpenAI has launched ChatGPT Atlas, which is a new web browser powered by AI. It is built around the company's popular ChatGPT chatbot.
- The main objective of this browser is to make web browsing more interactive and efficient, allowing users to complete their tasks, do research and access information faster

Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System

- In a landmark labour reform, Saudi Arabia has officially scrapped the decades-old Kafala (sponsorship) system that tied foreign workers' employment and residency to their employers.
- The Kafala system required foreign workers to have a

Saudi sponsor, usually their employer, who controlled their visa and legal status.

- This meant that workers couldn't change jobs, leave the country, or even renew their residence permits without the sponsor's consent.
- The move is part of the kingdom's broader Vision 2030 reforms. It is expected to reshape the rights of more than 10 million migrant workers, including over 2.5 million Indians.

Astronomers Observe Rings Forming Around Icy Celestial Body Chiron

- Scientists have observed for the first time a ring system in the process of formation and evolution, comprising four rings and diffuse material, surrounding a small icy body called Chiron that orbits the sun in the expanse between Saturn and Uranus.
- Chiron is part of a class of objects called centaurs that populate the outer solar system between Jupiter and Neptune, displaying characteristics of both asteroids and comets.
- It has a diameter of approximately 200 kilometres and takes about 50 years to complete one orbit around the sun. Centaurs are composed mainly of rock, water ice and complex organic compounds.
- In the new research, scientists obtained their best data on Chiron in 2023 using a telescope at the Pico dos Dias Observatory in Brazil, along with data from 2011, 2018 and 2022.

Iran Joins UN Treaty Against Terror Financing To Ease Sanctions Pressure

- Iran ratified a law joining a United Nations convention against terror financing. This was an effort to bring Iran into line with the demands of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which monitors money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Iran has for years provided support to the Palestinian Hamas group, Lebanon's Hezbollah group and Yemen's

Houthis, all designated as 'terrorist' groups by the United States, along with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

- Iran was returned to the FATF blacklist of non-cooperative countries in 2020, which includes North Korea and Myanmar.
- Along with heavy international sanctions, particularly by the United States, Iran's inclusion on the blacklist has isolated the country's financial sector and severely restricted its access to the international banking system.

Sevilla Forum on Debt Launched to Address Global Sovereign Debt Crisis

- During the 16 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD16), UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Minister of Economy, Trade and Business of Spain Carlos Cuerpo, the Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Rebeca Grynspan and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Li Junhua announced the creation of the Sevilla Forum on Debt.
- It is a Spanish-led initiative, supported by UNCTAD and UN DESA, to create an open, inclusive platform for dialogue and action on global debt challenges.
- It will be a new dialogue hub on debt, bringing together all stakeholders, creditors, borrowers, international financial institutions and academia on debt sustainability, management and innovative solutions.

China's CR450 Becomes World's Fastest High-Speed Train

- China has begun pre-service trials for the CR450, hailed as the world's fastest bullet train. During trials on the Shanghai-Chongqing-Chengdu high-speed railway line, the train reached a top speed of 281 mph (450 km/h).
- The CR450's prototype was designed to hit speeds of up to 249 mph (400 km/h) and has since undergone rigorous testing across multiple performance metrics.
- The train is expected to begin its commercial service in 2026 after completing 600,000 kilometres of operational testing.
- The CR450 incorporates a series of structural innovations to achieve its record-breaking speed. Its nose cone has been lengthened from 12.5 metres to 15 metres, while fully enclosed bogies and aerodynamic lower skirt panels further reduce drag by 22%.

- The train is also 20 centimetres shorter and 55 tonnes lighter than previous models, boosting acceleration and efficiency.

- It was developed by the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC) subsidiaries.

Earth has a New Quasi-Moon, Arjuna 2025 PN7

- Astronomers have confirmed the discovery of a new 'quasi-moon' orbiting alongside Earth. It is a small asteroid named 2025 PN7 that follows our planet through space on a synchronised journey around the Sun.
- First spotted in August 2025 by the Pan-STARRS observatory in Hawaii, the asteroid is roughly 20 metres wide and has likely been accompanying Earth for about 60 years.
- A quasi-moon, also called a quasi-satellite, is not a true moon.
- Unlike our Moon, which is gravitationally bound to Earth and orbits it directly, a quasi-moon actually revolves around the Sun, just like Earth does.
- The new quasi-moon shares nearly the same orbital period as Earth, completing one revolution around the Sun in about a year.

EU Introduces New Biometric Entry-Exit System

- The European Union (EU) has launched a new biometric entry-exit system (EES) for non-EU nationals entering the Schengen Area to replace manual passport stamping.
- The system will be rolled out gradually over six months, with full implementation expected by April 10, 2026 and will register travellers' fingerprints and facial images to track their entry and exit, enhance security and combat illegal migration.
- The travelers who refuse to provide biometric data will be denied entry.
- It applies to non-EU nationals who do not need a visa for short-term stays (up to 90 days) in the Schengen Area.

Russia Withdraws from the Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement (PMDA)

- Russia's lower house of parliament approved a move to withdraw from a landmark agreement with the United States aimed at reducing vast stockpiles of weapons-grade plutonium left over from thousands of Cold War nuclear warheads.

- PMDA, signed in 2000, committed both the United States and Russia to dispose of at least 34 tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium each, which US officials said would have been enough for as many as 17,000 nuclear warheads. It came into force in 2011.
- The PMDA aimed to dispose of the weapons-grade plutonium by converting it into safer forms – such as mixed oxide (MOX) fuel or by irradiating plutonium in fast-neutron reactors for electricity production.
- Russia and the United States are by far the world's biggest nuclear powers and together they control about 8,000 nuclear warheads, though far less than the peak of 73,000 warheads in 1986.

Palau Hosts World's First Live Underwater Interview

- President of Palau Surangel Whipps Jr, interviewed Estonian Olympic swimmer and activist Merle Liivand as the world's first-ever live underwater interview.
- This was done in a bid to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the ocean.
- The undersea chat was facilitated by technology called the LiFi Talking Mask, which uses light to transmit sound underwater.
- Palau is an archipelago of approximately 340 islands east of the Philippines and is extremely vulnerable to rising seas. Whipps has acknowledged that some of his country's atolls could be lost in the coming years.
- Earlier, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed made history in 2009 when he held an underwater cabinet meeting with scuba-clad officials.
- In 2019, former Seychelles President Danny Faure interviewed a submersible craft in the Indian Ocean.

UNESCO Launches Virtual Museum of Stolen Artifacts

- In a digital first, UNESCO has opened a virtual museum that tracks the world's stolen art and cultural treasures.
- Its newly launched Virtual Museum of Stolen Cultural Objects brings together art and artefacts that were taken from their rightful homes, many during colonial rule and scattered across the world.
- The online platform uses artificial intelligence to recreate artefacts lost through theft and colonial-era looting, offering countries a new way to reconnect with their displaced heritage.
- The virtual space is designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Francis Kr, who based its layout on the image

of a baobab tree, a symbol of African identity and endurance.

Sharm El-Sheikh Summit (2025 Gaza Peace Summit)

- The Sharm El-Sheikh summit was co-hosted by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi of Egypt and President Donald Trump of the United States. It was a diplomatic meeting to implement the first phase of a peace plan to end the Gaza War that began in 2023.
- The summit was attended by leaders and officials representing 25 countries from across the world, aside from the US and Egypt.
- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, European Council President Antonio Costa and Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit participated in the summit as well.
- During the summit, the leaders of the US, Egypt, Qatar and Türkiye, who assume the role of mediators in Gaza's ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, signed a document referred to as 'The Trump Declaration for Enduring Peace and Prosperity'.

News in Shorts

- A significant armed conflict occurred between Hamas and the powerful Doghmush clan in Gaza City, resulting in dozens of deaths and highlighting severe internal tensions in the Gaza Strip after a ceasefire with Israel.
- Mount Taftan in southeastern Iran, long considered extinct for 710,000 years, has begun to show signs of awakening
- Uruguay's Senate passed a law on 15 October 2025 decriminalising euthanasia. This makes Uruguay the first predominantly Catholic Latin American country to legalise euthanasia by legislation.
- The United States has confirmed supplying Pakistan with AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).
- Japan's Financial Services Agency (FSA) has approved its first yen-pegged stablecoin, JPYC, ushering in a new era for regulated digital assets in one of the world's most advanced financial markets. JPYC is designed to operate under Japan's amended Payment Services Act, which regulates the issuance and custody of fiat-backed stablecoins.
- In a landmark public health achievement, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has validated the

Maldives for eliminating mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of hepatitis B, while maintaining its earlier validation (in 2019) for EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. This makes the Maldives the first country in the world to achieve 'triple elimination'.

- Armenia has joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as its newest State Member. This membership strengthens Armenia's environmental commitment by providing access to global expertise and partnerships to accelerate its conservation goals.
- Israel's parliament has given preliminary approval to a bill extending Israeli law to the occupied West Bank, a step viewed internationally as annexation of land Palestinians claim for a future state.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the US against supplying Tomahawk missiles to neighbour Ukraine as the war inches towards its fourth year.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global sustainable fuel use could quadruple by 2035 if current policies are fully implemented. This growth, driven by biofuels, biogases and low-emissions hydrogen, is expected to reduce fossil fuel dependence and could generate up to \$1.5 trillion in investment and 2 million new jobs.
- French President Emmanuel Macron has reappointed Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu to his post, despite accepting his resignation following the collapse of his overnight government.
- The Government of Tuvalu has officially joined the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as its 90th State Member.
- Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is planning to build dams and restrict water to Pakistan, according to the Afghan Information Ministry. The order to build a dam on the River Kunar 'as fast as possible' came from Taliban Supreme Leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada.
- An international team of scientists, including researchers from Penn State University, has discovered a potential 'super-Earth' located less than 20 light-years from Earth. The newly identified exoplanet, named GJ 251 c, is believed to be nearly four times more massive than our planet and is likely composed of rocky material.
- Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the Alzheimer's drug lecanemab (Leqembi) for treating early-stage Alzheimer's disease in patients with specific genetic profiles (ApoE ε4 non-carriers or heterozygotes) and confirmed amyloid plaques in the brain.
- North Korea has unveiled its latest and most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-20 at a military parade presided over by the country's leader Kim Jong Un. The Hwasong-20, described as the strongest nuclear strategic weapon of North Korea, is believed to be capable of targeting the US mainland.
- The Philippines has launched Southeast Asia's first coral larvae cryobank to preserve coral biodiversity and restore threatened reefs. The University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute established this facility that freezes and stores coral larvae at ultra-low temperatures to protect them from threats like climate change and bleaching. This initiative is part of a regional network under the Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform.
- Dictionary.com has chosen '67', pronounced 'six seven,' not sixty-seven, as its 2025 Word of the Year. 67 is an ambiguous slang term made popular by Gen Alpha on social media and in schools and friend groups across the country.
- Thailand and Cambodia have officially signed the 'KL Peace Accord', a landmark agreement aimed at ending decades of border tensions between the two Southeast Asian nations. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of U.S. President Donald Trump, who described the accord as a 'historic step towards lasting peace and prosperity' in the region.
- The Trump administration authorised a \$20 billion financial lifeline for Argentina as it faces an economic crisis.
- In a shocking heist, thieves stole eight pieces of French crown jewellery from the Louvre's Apollon Gallery in a seven-minute operation. While some of the stolen items were later recovered, including a damaged tiara belonging to Empress Eugénie, the incident has highlighted major security flaws at the museum and sparked a national investigation.
- U.S. President Donald Trump and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese signed a critical minerals agreement aimed at countering China.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer visit India

- At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, paid an official visit to India. This was Prime Minister Starmer's first official visit to India.
- Both the Prime Ministers signed agreements furthering the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) and a £350 million contract for the U.K. to supply missiles to India.
- The British Film Institute (BFI) hailed a pact agreed with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) during Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to Mumbai. The MoU is expected to boost co-productions and joint projects between two countries.

India-UK Launch Connectivity And Innovation Centre to Boost 6G and Digital Ties

- India and the UK announce a landmark strategic partnership to advance digital inclusion and shape the future of secure and innovative communications.
- The India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre will bring together complementary strengths in UK and Indian innovation in advanced connectivity – linking cutting-edge research at universities, with lab testing and field trials, through to market deployment.
- The initiative will create new commercial opportunities by enabling industry partners to innovate, test and scale products with a pathway to market adoption.
- India and the UK have committed a combined initial £24 million over four years to advance this initiative. This funding will support applied research among established UK and Indian research centres, industry-academic partnerships, joint testbeds and targeted collaboration in global technical standards development.

India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement 2025

- The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed in March 2024 and effective from October 1, 2025, is a comprehensive free trade agreement.
- It includes a binding pledge from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) to invest \$100 billion in India over 15 years.

- It aims to create one million jobs and expand market access for both Indian exports (92.2% of tariff lines) and EFTA exports (82.7% of tariff lines), while protecting key sectors like dairy and coal in India.
- The agreement also strengthens cooperation in areas like services, technology and sustainability.

Mongolian President Visits India as Nations Celebrate 70 Years of Friendship

- The Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa visited India in October 2025 to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations and a decade of strategic partnership.
- During the visit, the leaders discussed strengthening cooperation in areas like defense, culture and development and signed several new Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).
- The key outcomes included a digital cooperation MoU, a joint statement to strengthen the partnership and the signing of a commemorative stamp featuring Indian and Mongolian cultural symbols.
- A new MoU was signed to advance e-governance and digital public infrastructure.
- The shared Buddhist heritage was emphasised, with plans to link Nalanda University and Gandan Monastery and to send Buddha relics to Mongolia.
- A special postal stamp featuring the Indian Ramlila and Mongolian Biyelgee dance was released to symbolise 70 years of friendship.

India-US sign ten-year defence pact

- India and the US have signed a framework agreement to expand defence cooperation over the next 10 years.
- The pact was announced after a meeting between US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh in Kuala Lumpur.
- The agreement will enhance 'coordination, information sharing and tech cooperation' and advance 'regional stability and deterrence'.
- It comes as the two countries are trying to close a trade deal and tide over tense ties after US President Donald Trump slapped 50% tariffs on India, including a 25% penalty for buying Russian oil and arms.

News in Shorts

- India has been re-elected to the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for

the 2025–2028 term, securing its place in Part II of the Council, which represents states making the largest contributions to international civil air navigation.

- Ocean Sky 2025 marked a historic milestone by hosting the Indian, Russian-built Sukhoi Su-30 for the first time. This participation not only made India the first non-NATO nation to join the exercise but also provided the main, highly valuable tactical attraction of this edition. Ocean Sky was held at Gando Air Base, Canary Islands.
- India, in a bold and calculated geopolitical move, has re-established its full diplomatic mission in Kabul for the first time since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan

in August 2021. Karan Yadav, an Indian Foreign Service officer, has taken over as Chargé d'Affaires.

- India has been elected unopposed to the UN Human Rights Council for a three-year term from 2026 to 2028, marking its seventh time on the council.
- India has been elected as the Co-Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for the 2025–2028 term.
- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has announced plans to form a 'strategic alliance' with India to strengthen political, economic and technological cooperation between the two nations.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

RBI Incentive Scheme to Clear Unclaimed Deposits

- The Reserve Bank of India announced a year-long incentive scheme for banks to reduce the volume of unclaimed deposits.
- Under the 'Scheme for Facilitating Accelerated Payout' Inoperative Accounts and Unclaimed Deposits', banks will be eligible to get a differential payout depending on the period of an account remaining inoperative and the amount of deposits in it.
- The objective of the scheme is to encourage banks to actively pursue customers/ depositors for reactivation of their inoperative accounts and return of their unclaimed amounts lying with Depositors Education Awareness (DEA) Fund to the rightful claimant in a timely and efficient manner.
- It aims to reduce both the stock of existing unclaimed deposits and the fresh accretion of flows to the DEA Fund.
- Unclaimed money in accounts that are inoperative for more than 10 years goes into the DEA fund, but a depositor can reclaim the money later as well.

Key Points

RBI Governor	—	Sanjay Malhotra
Headquarters	—	Mumbai

Reserve Bank of India Constitutes Payments Regulatory Board

- RBI constituted a six-member Payments Regulatory Board (PRB), comprising three nominees from the Central government, to oversee the functioning of payment systems in the country.

- The Board is chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- In December 2016, the Watal Committee report recommended that the government make the regulation of payments independent of the central banking functions of the RBI.

Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) launched

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched FCSS at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- It means that transactions in foreign currency by entities within GIFT IFSC can now be settled in real time or near real time, instead of the current delays of 36–48 hours under traditional correspondent banking.
- This positions GIFT City among the select group of global financial centres (such as Hong Kong, Tokyo and Manila) that have local infrastructure to settle foreign currency transactions. With this infrastructure in place, the system aims to reduce settlement time dramatically, enhance liquidity management, lower settlement risk and improve operational efficiency.
- Currently, foreign currency transactions in GIFT IFSC are processed via correspondent banking routes. This means an initiating bank uses multiple Nostro account relationships (accounts held with foreign banks) and intermediaries to route funds. That chain of relay can lead to settlement lags of 36–48 hours.

Reliance and Meta Form ₹855 Crore Joint Venture to Form Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL)

- Reliance Industries has formed a new joint venture with Meta in a deal worth ₹855 crore to build and

scale enterprise Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions for customers in India and select international markets.

- The new entity, REIL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Intelligence Limited, which is a joint venture by Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries and Meta Platforms.
- The venture will focus on developing, marketing and distributing enterprise AI services across India.

Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry Launched LEAPS 2025.

- The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched Logistics Excellence, Advancement and Performance Shield (LEAPS 2025).
- It is a flagship initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to benchmark and promote excellence in India's logistics sector.
- This programme aims to recognise innovation, efficiency and leadership through awards across various categories, with a focus on sustainability, ESG practices and collaboration between government, industry and academia.
- The initiative is a part of India's efforts to become a global logistics powerhouse and aligns with the National Logistics Policy and the PM GatiShakti Master Plan.

India Adopts Real-Time Digital e-Bank Guarantees

- In a major step toward strengthening digital governance and ease of doing business, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate digital document execution for electronic bank guarantees (e-BGs).
- Under this partnership, NeGD's cloud-based Entity Locker platform – an extension of the DigiLocker initiative – will integrate with NeSL's Digital Document Execution (DDE) platform.
- This will enable seamless, paperless and secure execution of contracts, including legally enforceable e-BGs.
- The integration allows beneficiaries and applicants to securely access digitally executed bank guarantees from NeSL's e-BG repository directly through their Entity Locker accounts.

- This digital workflow promises faster turnaround, increased transparency and enhanced legal compliance.

RBI Launches Unified Interface to Tokenise Assets

- In a step towards asset tokenisation, the RBI has developed a Unified Markets Interface (UMI), which is envisioned as a new next-generation financial market infrastructure.
- Asset tokenisation converts real-world assets into digital tokens on blockchain, creating fractional ownership and global trading opportunities.
- It offers new possibilities for the financial markets in expanding access, improving transparency and enhancing settlement efficiency through smart contracts.
- This new financial market infrastructure aims to increase efficiency, transparency and accessibility for assets like government securities, corporate bonds and money market instruments, allowing for real-time trading and settlement.

NPCI Launches AI-Powered 'UPI Help' to Streamline Digital Payment Assistance

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a new AI-powered assistant, 'UPI Help', to simplify digital transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- The tool is designed to assist users with queries, manage payment mandates and address grievances related to UPI payments.
- NPCI aims to make digital transactions more efficient by reducing the dependence on manual customer support.
- UPI Help will allow users to receive quick responses for issues encountered during UPI transactions. Users can check transaction statuses, report failed or pending payments and raise complaints directly through the assistant.
- The system interacts with banks to give faster dispute resolution under the UPI Dispute Resolution (UDIR) framework, which could help resolve payment-related concerns efficiently.

NPCI and RBI launch Biometric UPI Authentication

- NPCI has launched a biometric authentication for Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments instead of the present PIN-based system.

- The biometric authentication will be performed on-device and can be used in place of the PIN that has been in use since the popular digital payments system was launched in April 2016.
- A biometric authentication is a more seamless, secure and user-friendly alternative to PIN-based UPI authentication and can be used for setting or resetting the PIN apart from using it for cash withdrawal at ATMs using UPI.
- The facility will be made available to customers who choose to opt in, giving them control over their preferred mode of authentication.
- The introduction of biometrics for UPI payments could also make onboarding easier for senior citizens and first-time users.
- Each transaction is independently verified by the issuing bank using robust cryptographic checks, ensuring the highest level of safety while keeping the experience simple and seamless.
- While the primary initiative on alternative payment authentication began more than three years ago, the urgency now stems from the Reserve Bank's concern about multiple UPI scams that continue to occur due to PIN-related fraud.

Google's Willow Chip Achieves First-Ever Verifiable Quantum Advantage

- In a historic leap for computing technology, Google has announced that its Willow quantum processor has achieved the world's first verifiable quantum advantage.
- The breakthrough centres on a new algorithm, Quantum Echoes, which runs 13,000 times faster than one of the world's most powerful supercomputers,

marking a moment long anticipated by scientists and technologists alike.

Key Points

Sundar Pichai — CEO of Google and Alphabet

News in Shorts

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that India will continue to be one of the fastest-growing 'emerging market and developing economies' in 2025–26, growing at a rate of 6.6%, according to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.
- The World Bank has raised India's growth forecast to 6.5% for the financial year 2026 from its earlier projection of 6.3% in June, citing resilient domestic demand, strong rural recovery and the positive impact of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered its GDP growth forecast for India for 2026-27 by 20 basis points (bps) to 6.2%, days after the World Bank announced a similar cut.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman to inaugurate dhaRti BioNest Incubation Centre at IIT Dharwad. The incubation centre will support start-ups and other entrepreneurs in the areas of biotechnology, deep tech and healthcare. The Incubation Centre has supported 15 start-ups as of now that have received the benefit of the Elevate Karnataka scheme with a seed money of 50 lakh rupees.
- State Bank of India was named World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 at Global Finance's Washington, D.C. Awards for delivering innovative, accessible and secure banking to millions

DEFENCE NEWS

India issues NOTAM (Notice To Air Men)

- India has issued a NOTAM for a large-scale Indian Air Force (IAF) exercise along its northeastern border with China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- NOTAM is a critical safety measure issued when a specific airspace needs to be cleared of civilian air traffic.
- The exercise will involve extensive combat training, coordinated sorties and logistics exercises across various forward bases and air stations in the region.

The air drill will be conducted on six specific dates, from November to January 2026.

- The fresh NOTAM comes amidst India's launch of 'Trishul 2025' exercise, a 12-day tri-service military drill along the Pakistan border, which is the country's first major war games since 'Operation Sindoor' six months ago. The drill aims to demonstrate joint capabilities, Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) and technological innovation. IAF has named its component of the exercise 'Gajraj'.

- Pakistan issued a naval navigational warning for a firing exercise in the same area where India is conducting its major tri-services drill, Exercise Trishul, a move analysts see a part of calibrated military signalling and mutual deterrence between the two nations.

Key Points

Chief of Defence Staff — General Anil Chauhan

Indian Navy Advances Submarine Rescue Capabilities

- The Indian Navy demonstrated its growing prowess in submarine rescue operations during Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 (XPR-25), hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- The Navy's Submarine Rescue Unit (East), embarked on INS Nistar, successfully executed multiple international rescue operations, marking a significant milestone in India's submarine rescue journey.
- Over three successive days, India's Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Tiger X achieved three successful matings with foreign submarines — including the Republic of Korea Navy's Shin Dol-Seok (S-082) and RSN's RSS Invincible. This included the Indian DSRV's first-ever dive outside the Indian Ocean Region, establishing India among the front-runners in global submarine rescue capability.
- A multinational three-asset rescue drill (R3) was executed for the first time in Pacific Reach history. INS Nistar played a central role, localising and surveying the distressed submarine before India's remotely operated vehicle and DSRV were deployed, achieving successful mating within an hour.
- ICGS Akshar is fitted with indigenously developed two Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP) and gearboxes, offering superior manoeuvrability, operational flexibility and enhanced performance at sea. Its weaponry includes a 30 mm CRN 91 gun and two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote-Controlled Guns (SRCG), integrated with fire-control systems. The vessel also features an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS) and Automated Power Management System (APMS), thereby augmenting operational efficiency and automation.
- The vessel will be deployed for surveillance of maritime zones and undertaking other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter.
- The name 'Akshar' means 'imperishable', symbolising the ICG's steadfast resolve and commitment to ensuring safe, secure and clean seas.

Key Points

Director General, Indian Coast Guard — Paramesh Sivamani

Mission Sudarshan Chakra

- India's 'Mission Sudarshan Chakra' is a project to create a nationwide, multi-layered air defense shield by 2035 that integrates thousands of radars, satellites and directed energy weapons.
- This ambitious initiative is intended to protect both strategic assets and civilian populations from aerial threats like aircraft, drones and missiles.
- The mission's name is inspired by the mythological weapon of Lord Krishna, symbolising its intended precision and accuracy.
- Mission Sudarshan Chakra will not only neutralise the enemy's attack, but will also hit back at the adversary 'many times more', points at the impending expansion of India's conventional (non-nuclear) arsenal of ballistic and cruise missiles.
- The system will involve a network of thousands of radars, satellites and directed energy weapons (DEWs). These new missiles will include the induction of the new 500-km range quasi-ballistic missile Pralay and the 1,000-km range subsonic long-range land-attack cruise missile. The increase in strike range of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from 450 km to 800 km is also on the anvil.
- INS Sutlej completed a joint hydrographic survey with the Mauritius Hydrographic Service, covering an

Key Points

Chief of Naval Staff — Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

Indian Coast Guard Ship Akshar Commissioned 2025

- Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Akshar, the second in a series of eight Adanya-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), was commissioned at Karaikal, Puducherry.
- It is a 51-metre-long vessel that has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited, embodying the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. It has over 60% indigenous content.
- The ship displaces approximately 320 tons and is propelled by two 3,000 KW diesel engines, enabling a maximum speed of 27 Knots. It has an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles at an economical speed.

extensive area of approximately 35,000 square nautical miles.

- It is a specialised hydrographic survey vessel of the Indian Navy that arrived at Port Louis to undertake the 18th Joint Hydrographic Survey at Mauritius.

DRDO Unveils Indian Radio Software Architecture 1.0

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Tri-Services, formally released Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) standard 1.0 to enable interoperability in Military Communication.
- IRSA is a comprehensive software specification for Software Defined Radios (SDR), defining standardised interfaces, APIs, execution environments and waveform portability mechanisms.
- It is designed to ensure waveform portability, SDR Interoperability, Certification and Conformance.
- The IRSA initiative traces its origin to 2021, when the critical role of SDRs in modern military communication was highlighted and the need for a national software standard was felt.

Key Points

Chairman DRDO — Dr Samir V Kamat

India Marks 93rd Indian Air Force Day

- On October 8, 2025, the Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 93rd Air Force Day, which honours over a century of discipline and service.
- The citizens nationwide were able to witness India's aerial prowess in action as the main event, which took place at the Hindon Air Force Base in Ghaziabad, UP, and was broadcast live on official platforms.
- At Hindon Air Base, the IAF commemorated Air Force Day 2025 by displaying a range of fighter jets, including the Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI and MiG-29, showcasing India's aerial strength and operational preparedness. The successes of Operation Sindoor were also showcased during the IAF parade.

Key Points

Chief of Air Staff — Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

India Extends Astra Mark 2 Missile Range Beyond 200 km

- India is set to significantly boost its air power as DRDO upgrades the Astra Mk-2 air-to-air missile.
- The missile's range is being extended to over 200 km, a substantial increase from its previous 160 km range.

- Following this upgrade, IAF plans to place an initial order of approximately 700 missiles. These will be deployed on frontline fighter jets such as the Sukhoi-30MKI and Tejas.
- This move will not only bolster the air force's strength but also position India among the few nations capable of launching Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missiles over distances exceeding 200 km.
- The Astra Mk-2 missile will enhance India's standoff strike capability, allowing Indian pilots to target enemy aircraft over 200 kilometres away without entering the enemy's air defence zone.
- This upgrade is viewed as a direct countermeasure to China's PL-15 missile. While the maximum strike capability of Pakistan's PL-15E missile is approximately 145 kilometres, India's new Astra Mk-2 will surpass this range.
- The dual pulse solid rocket motor technology being integrated into the Astra Mk-2 enables it to compete with any modern missile. The first pulse accelerates the missile to high speeds, while the second pulse provides a new burst of energy in the final launch phase to accurately target enemy aircraft.
- This technology is also employed in the American AMRAAM missile.

Key Points

Chief of Army Staff — General Upendra Dwivedi

Military Combat Parachute System Completes 32,000-Foot Combat Jump

- The Indian Air Force successfully tested the Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) in a combat freefall jump from an altitude of 32,000 feet.
- The parachute, indigenously developed by DRDO, is the only system currently in operational use by the Indian armed forces capable of deployment above 25,000 feet.
- The MCPS was developed by DRDO laboratories—Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra and Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory, Bengaluru.
- It features several advanced tactical features like a lower rate of descent and superior steering capabilities, enabling paratroopers to safely exit aircraft, deploy parachutes at predetermined altitudes, navigate accurately and land at designated zones.

- Further, the system has compatibility with Navigation with Indian Constellation, providing the freedom of use against any adversary of our choice and is not susceptible to interference/denial of service by outside parties/nations.
- The success of the test will ensure maximum utility of parachute system over its lifetime due to minimal turnaround time for routine maintenance and repair compared to imported equipment.

Key Points

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) — Amar Preet Singh

India's First Indigenous Anti-Submarine Vessel 'Mahe' Delivered to Navy

- India's naval strength got a major boost with the delivery of 'Mahe', the first in a new series of advanced anti-submarine warships built entirely in the country.
- Mahe is the first of eight such Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts that will join the Indian Navy's fleet in the coming years. It is constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi.
- It is named after the historic port town of Mahe in Puducherry.
- Mahe is 78 metres long and weighs approximately 1,100 tonnes and Mahe is compact but powerful.
- It carries torpedoes, multi-functional anti-submarine rockets and sophisticated radar and sonar systems that allow it to detect underwater threats with precision.
- The ship can also perform underwater surveillance, lay naval mines if required and take part in smaller-scale coastal operations known as Low Intensity Maritime Operations.

BSF Takes Lead to Train Indian Dog Breeds in K9 Units

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has started training 150 dogs of the indigenous Rampur and Mudhol Hound breeds.

- These dogs will be used in BSF's border guarding duties, counterinsurgency operations and special tasks.
- The Rampur Hound is a native Indian dog breed originating from Rampur in Uttar Pradesh and this dog breed was highly valued by the Mughal nobles and local kings. It was primarily bred to hunt large animals such as jackals, foxes and leopards. This breed is tall, muscular agile and can run long distances without getting tired. These dogs usually live for 12–14 years.
- The Mudhol Hound, also known as the Caravan Hound, is a native Indian dog breed that comes from the Deccan Plateau in southern India, especially Karnataka. It was traditionally used by local hunters and the Maratha armies for hunting and guarding due to its unmatched speed and sharp eyesight. It was one of four Indian dog breeds featured on a set of postage stamps released by the Indian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in 2025 to celebrate the country's canine heritage.

Key Points

Director General, BSF — Daljit Singh Chaudhary

News in Shorts

- The Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Sahyadri made a port call at Kemaman, Malaysia, as part of its operational deployment to the Indo-Pacific, strengthening ties through naval cooperation, professional exchanges and cultural events.
- India is expanding defense ties with Brazil, offering to supply its indigenous Akash missile system during recent talks in New Delhi. The Akash system is a surface-to-air missile designed to neutralise enemy aircraft, drones and cruise missiles.

Name of the Exercise	Countries Involved	Highlights
Exercise Konkan	India and the United Kingdom	India's western coast
Exercise Samudra Shakti	India and Indonesia	Visakhapatnam
Exercise India-South Korea Naval Bilateral Exercise (IN-RoKN)	India and South Korea	Busan Naval Base, South Korea

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Praveen Kumar	Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
Praveer Ranjan	Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla	Brand Ambassador of Buildathon 2025
Major General G. Srinivas	Commandant of College of Defence Management, Secunderabad
Vivek Menon	Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC)
Rajeev Verma	Chief Secretary, Delhi
Gaurav Banerjee	MD & CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India
Lt Gen Virendra Vats	Director General, National Cadet Corps.
Neeraj Chopra	Lieutenant Colonel in Territorial Army
Sanjay Chalke	CEO, Capgemini India
Asheesh Pandey	MD-CEO of Union Bank
Kalyan Kumar	MD-CEO of Central Bank of India
Akkai Padmashali	First transgender person from Karnataka to join a Supreme Court-appointed committee on equal opportunity policy for transgender rights
Sherry Singh	India's first-ever Mrs Universe
Sanju Samson	English Premier League's ambassador in India
Nirmal Minda	President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
Anant Goenka	President elect of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
Saugata Basuray	Interim CEO, Castrol India
Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat	MD & CEO, Karnataka Bank
Sanjay Kumar Hansda	Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India
Tarun Garg	MD & CEO of Hyundai India
Rajeev Juneja	President of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)
General Ruphin Fortunant Dimbisoa Zafisambo	Prime Minister of Madagascar
Justice Prathiba Singh	Chair of WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) Advisory Board
Rishi Sunak	Adviser at Microsoft and Anthropic
Dan Katz	First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Karthik Narain	Chief Product and Business Officer at Google Cloud
Sanae Takaichi	First female Prime Minister of Japan
Khaled El-Enany	First Arab Director-General of UNESCO
Dame Sarah	First Woman to Lead the Church of England
Rodrigo Paz	New President of Bolivia
Catherine Connolly	President of Ireland
Paul Biya	President of Cameroon, World's Oldest President at 92

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
They Will Shoot You, Madam	Harinder Baweja
Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment	T. N. Khoshoo
Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II: Shaping a Future Ready Force	Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan
Above and Beyond – Exploring the Amazing World of Aviation	Shiv Kumar Mohanaka
Wings Of Valour: True Stories of the Indian Air Force's Daring Operations	Swapnil Pandey

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Piyush Pandey	Indian advertising professional
Satish Shah	Actor
Pandit Chhannulal Mishra	Renowned Hindustani vocalist
Dr Eknath Vasant Chitnis	Indian space scientist
Dr. G G Parikh	Veteran freedom fighter and Gandhian
Rishabh Tandon	Singer
Dr. Mathangi Ramakrishnan	Surgeon
Asrani	Actor and Comedian
Varinder Ghuman	Body Builder and Punjabi Actor

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Mother Sirikit	Queen of Thailand
Dickie Bird	Cricket Umpire

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being and Our Rights
October 1	International Coffee Day	
October 1	World Vegetarian Day	
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti	
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	
October 2	Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti	
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day	Save Animals, Save the Planet

October 4-10	World Space Week	Living in Space
October 5	World Teacher's day	
October 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Unique and United
October 6 (First Monday of October)	World Habitat Day	Urban Crisis Response
October 6	World Smile Day	Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile
October 7	World Cotton Day	
October 8	Indian Air Force Day	Modernisation and Operational Readiness
October 9	World Postal Day	Post for People: Local Service. Global Reach
October 9	Indian Foreign Service Day	
October 9 (Second Thursday of every October)	World Sight Day	Love Your Eyes
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies
October 11	International Day of the Girl Child	The girl I am, the change I lead
October 11	World Migratory Bird Day	Creating bird-friendly cities & communities
October 12	World Arthritis Day (WAD)	Achieve Your Dreams
October 13	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Fund Resilience, Not Disasters
October 14	World Standards Day	Shared Vision for a Better World
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All
October 15	Global Handwashing Day	Be a Handwashing Hero!
October 16	World Food Day	Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future
October 16	World Anaesthesia Day	Anaesthesiology in Health Emergencies
October 17	International Day for Eradication of Poverty	Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families
October 20	World Statistics Day	Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	It's Unacceptable!
October 21	World Iodine Deficiency Day/Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day	
October 22	International Stuttering Awareness Day	A Diverse Stuttering Community – Meeting Challenges With Strengths
October 24	United Nations Day	
October 24	World Development Information Day	
October 24	World Polio Day	End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere
October 28	International Animation Day (IAD)	

October 24-31, 2025	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	'Minds Over AI' - MIL in Digital Spaces
October 31	World Cities Day	People-Centred Smart Cities.
October 30	World Thrift Day	Conquer Your Tomorrow
October 31	National Unity Day (India) or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas – Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhai Patel	

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

Farmer Suicides in India

- According to the report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 10,786 farmers and agricultural workers committed suicide in 2023 and the largest number of them were from Maharashtra (38.5%), followed by Karnataka (22.5%).
- Of the 10,786 suicides from the farming sector, 4,690 were farmers or cultivators and 6,096 were agricultural workers. The farm suicides accounted for 6.3% of total suicides (1,71,418 suicides in 2023) in the country.
- Out of the 4,690 farmers who committed suicide, 4,553 were male and 137 were female and out of the 6,096 suicides by farm workers, 5,433 were male and 663 were female.
- West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Chandigarh, Delhi and Lakshadweep reported no suicides from the farm belt.

IUCN Releases 2025 World Heritage Conservation Outlook

- The IUCN has released its 2025 World Heritage Conservation Outlook, which reports a global decline in the conservation health of natural World Heritage sites, with only 57% having a positive outlook, down from 63% in 2020.
- The report warns that 43% of natural sites now face severe climate-related risks, surpassing all other pressures, while invasive alien species impact 30% of sites.
- The number of sites affected by wildlife and plant diseases has also increased sharply, rising from 2% in 2020 to 9% in 2025.
- The key threats include climate change, invasive species and unsustainable tourism, leading to a rise in sites with 'significant concern'.

- The report highlights climate change as the single greatest threat and notes specific sites in India, like the Western Ghats, are now of 'significant concern'.

Key Points

Dr. Grethel Aguilar — IUCN Director General

2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI)

- India is ranked 102nd among the 123 countries assessed with a GHI score of 25.8 which is classified as serious.
- The Irish humanitarian organisation Concern Worldwide, the German aid agency Welthungerhilfe and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) published GHI.
- Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula that combines four indicators that together capture the multidimensional nature of hunger-Undernourishment, Child stunting, Child wasting and Child Mortality.
- The 2025 GHI shows that global progress in reducing hunger has stalled, with the global score only slightly decreasing from 19.0 in 2016 to 18.3.
- The situation is considered 'alarming' in seven countries and 'serious' in 35 others, with hunger increasing in 27 countries since 2016.
- Conflict, climate shocks and economic fragility are the main drivers and at the current rate, many countries will miss the 2030 'Zero Hunger' goal.

Status of Elephants in India: DNA-based Synchronous All-India Population Estimation of Elephants (SAIEE 2021-25)

- According to India's first DNA-based census, which was conducted from 2021-2025, India's elephant population is estimated at 22,446. It came down from 29,964 in 2017.
- The exercise was led by the Wildlife Institute of India. It marked a shift from older counting techniques to

- a more scientifically robust DNA marker capture method.
- The wild elephant population fell by approximately 25% in eight years, underscoring growing threats from shrinking forests and rising conflict with humans.

India Drops to 85th in 2025 Henley Passport Index

- According to the 2025 Henley Passport Index, India has fallen five places to rank 85th, granting visa-free access to 57 destinations around the world.
- In 2024, the Indian passport held the 80th position, offering visa-free travel to 62 countries. India's strongest performance on the index came back in 2006, when it was ranked 71st.
- The Henley Passport Index is a global ranking that measures the strength of passports based on the number of destinations their holders can enter without obtaining a visa in advance. It is compiled using exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and updated monthly by Henley & Partners.
- The 2025 index compares 199 passports and 227 travel destinations, serving as a key reference for travellers and governments alike to gauge international mobility and travel freedom.

Hurun India Rich List 2025

- Mukesh Ambani and his family have regained the title of India's richest, with a remarkable net worth of ₹9.55 lakh crore. They are followed by Gautam Adani and family, whose wealth stands at a staggering ₹8.14 lakh crores.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra and family have entered the top three for the first time, with a net worth of ₹2.84 lakh crore, making her the wealthiest woman in India.
- The 2025 list also highlights how India's billionaire population is growing rapidly. The total number of billionaires in the country has now crossed 350, six times more than when the list was first released 13 years ago. Together, the wealth of all these billionaires adds up to ₹167 lakh crore, which is almost half of India's total GDP.
- Aravind Srinivas, 31, the founder of Perplexity, has become India's youngest billionaire with a fortune of ₹21,190 crore.
- The youngest individual on the list is Kaivalya Vohra, aged 22, co-founder of Zepto, while his business partner Aadit Palicha, 23, is the second youngest billionaire.

- Mumbai continues to be the top city for billionaires in India, with 451 individuals listed. It is followed by New Delhi with 223 billionaires and Bengaluru with 116. Sector-wise, the pharmaceutical industry leads, with 137 billionaires, followed by industrial products (132) and chemicals & petrochemicals (125).
- Shah Rukh Khan has also secured the top position among Bollywood stars on the M3M Hurun India Rich List.

India Among World's Top Ten Forest Carbon Sinks: FAO Report

- The FAO released a report titled 'Forest Emissions and Removals - Global, Regional and Country Trends 1990–2025'.
- It stated that during 2021–2025, global forests sequestered 3.6 billion tonnes of CO₂ per year on forest land. Between 2021 and 2025, the strongest forest carbon sinks were in Europe and Asia, removing 1.4 billion tonnes and 0.9 billion tonnes of CO₂ per year, respectively.
- The Americas and Africa recorded the largest emissions from deforestation, at 1.8 billion tonnes and 0.7 billion tonnes per year.
- India ranked among the world's top ten countries with the largest forest carbon sinks, absorbing approximately 150 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year between 2021 and 2025.
- The report said that globally, forests acted as a net carbon sink during this period, removing about 0.8 billion tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere annually.
- However, this was partially offset by emissions from net forest conversion (a proxy for deforestation), estimated at 2.8 billion tonnes annually. As a result, global forests removed 0.8 billion tonnes of CO₂ per year from the atmosphere during this period.
- The Russian Federation had the largest carbon sink at 1,150 Mt CO₂ per year, followed by China (840 Mt), the US (410 Mt), Brazil (340 Mt), India and Belarus (150 Mt each), South Africa (75 Mt), Ghana (55 Mt), the Republic of Korea (45 Mt) and Honduras (35 Mt).
- Together, these top 10 countries accounted for nearly 90% of global forest carbon sequestration.

Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) Report 2025 – India Ranks 9th in Forest Area

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s GFRA, India has achieved a significant

milestone in global forest statistics by advancing to the 9th position worldwide in terms of total forest area.

- In the previous assessment, India was ranked 10th. India has also maintained its 3rd position globally in the annual net gain of forest area.
- According to the report world's total forest area stands at approximately 4.14 billion hectares, accounting for approximately 32% of the total land area, which is approximately 0.5 hectares of forest per person.
- Globally India accounts for approximately 72,739 thousand hectares of forest area which is roughly 2% of the world total.
- More than half (54%) of the world's forests are in only five countries – the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada the United States of America and China

Ministry of Mines releases State Mining Readiness Index and State Rankings

- The Ministry of Mines has released the State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) and State rankings, which is a significant step to encourage mining sector reforms in States.
- This also fulfills the announcement made under the Union Budget 2025–26.
- The structure of the index comprises indicators such as auction performance, early mine operationalisation, thrust on exploration and sustainable mining pertaining

to non-coal minerals, which are relevant to underlining State performance in the mining sector.

- Under the SMRI, States were grouped into three categories on the basis of their mineral endowment.
- The top three ranked States in Category A are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat, while States Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have been ranked in top three in Category B. In Category C, the top three ranks have been obtained by Punjab, Uttarakhand and Tripura.

News in Shorts

- The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) is marking 25 years of its Van Rakshak Project (VRP), which supports India's frontline forest staff, known as Van Rakshaks. The VRP, launched in 2000, aims to equip and motivate forest staff to protect wildlife and habitats.
- According to a recent paper published in the Reserve Bank of India's bulletin, the usage intensity of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, measured in per capita volume terms, is the highest in Telangana among all the States. Karnataka andhra Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra also recorded high UPI usage intensity.
- According to the State of Global Air (SoGA) 2025 report jointly published by the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), USA, India recorded a shocking two million deaths due to air pollution-related diseases in 2023.

EVENTS

11th World Green Economy Summit (WGES) 2025

- The 11th World Green Economy Summit (WGES) was held at the Dubai World Trade Centre and its theme was 'Innovating for Impact: Accelerating the Future of the Green Economy.'
- Its focus reflected Dubai's positioning as a global hub for sustainable development and climate action.
- It saw 3,300 participants from over 30 countries that included policymakers, business leaders, investors and innovators.
- It was co-located with the Water, Energy, Technology and Environment Exhibition (WETEX 2025), the summit highlights collaborative efforts to achieve net-zero targets and advance green transformation.

ASEAN Summit 2025

- The 47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits concluded in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the meeting virtually this year, while External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended it.
- PM Narendra Modi declares 2026 as the 'ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation' during the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit.
- ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is a grouping of 11 countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the recently added East Timor or Timor Leste.

AAIB Hosts Asia Pacific Region Accident Investigation Group

- India hosted the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG) meeting and workshop for the first time at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It was attended by approximately 90 global aviation safety experts and organised by the Aircraft Accident

Investigation Bureau (AAIB) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- It promoted the sharing of expertise, experience and information among accident/incident investigation authorities with an aim to develop and strengthen cooperation among them to improve the accident/incident investigation capability in the Asia and Pacific Regions

India Mobile Congress (IMC)-2025

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 9th edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2025, Asia's largest telecom, media and technology event, in New Delhi.
- It was organised jointly by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) under the theme 'Innovate to Transform'.
- The event focused on key themes including Optical Communications, Semiconductors in Telecom, Quantum Communications, 6G and Fraud Risk Indicators, reflecting India's strategic priorities in next-generation connectivity, digital sovereignty, cyber fraud prevention and global technology leadership.

News in Shorts

- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), in collaboration with Gautam Buddha University (GBU), Greater Noida, Antarrashtriya Baudh Shodh Sansthan (Lucknow) and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, celebrated International Abhidhamma Day on the full moon day of Śharada Pūrṇimā on 6–7 October 2025 at Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida.
- On World Food Day 2025, India and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) (FAO) marked 80 years of their partnership, celebrating India's journey from food scarcity to self-sufficiency and its contributions to global food security. This milestone was highlighted through events in New Delhi that underscored the successful collaboration between the two over eight decades, citing achievements in policy, technology and farmer support.
- The sixth edition of the Global Fintech Fest 2025 was held at the Jio World Convention Centre and Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre in Mumbai. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the event.
- India hosted the 8th Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

AWARDS

Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh First Indian to Win International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Innovation Award

- Sonali Ghosh, the Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has become the first Indian to receive the Kenton R. Miller Award for innovation in national parks and protected area sustainability.
- She received it along with Ecuador's Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea.
- The WCPA is one of six technical commissions of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a 1948-established global network dedicated to the conservation of nature and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- The Kenton R. Miller Award was established in 2006 and is presented every two years by the IUCN-WCPA. The award recognises individuals or teams whose

innovations in planning, management, finance, governance, monitoring, capacity building and communication have a significant impact and peer recognition without prior international awards.

Nobel Prize 2025

- The Nobel Foundation awards Nobel Prizes in the memory of Alfred Nobel in the field of physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace.
- The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901. Later, in 1969, an additional award, the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was introduced to mark the 300th anniversary of Sweden's central bank.
- Every October, the new Nobel Prize winners are announced.

Name of the winner	Subject	Work
John Clarke, Michel Devoret and John Martinis	Physics	Discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit

Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi	Medicine or Physiology	Discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance.
Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi	Chemistry	Development of metal–organic frameworks
László Krasznahorkai	Literature	Compelling and visionary body of work that explores themes of apocalyptic terror while affirming the enduring power of art.
Maria Corina Machado	Peace	For her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy
Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt	Economics (Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences)	Theory of sustained growth through creative destruction

News in Shorts

- India has been conferred with the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Security'. Being the fifth recipient of this award since its inception, India joins the leading countries across the globe in the field of Social Protection coverage.
- The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department has been honoured with the Global Tourism Award 2025 for its remarkable initiatives to establish it as one of India's most promising tourist destinations.
- Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has won this year's British Academy Book Prize for his latest work, *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years*. The award, valued at £25,000, recognises outstanding non-fiction books that deepen understanding of our world.
- Uttar Pradesh has secured the top position in the INSPIRE Award MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) nominations with a record 2.8 lakh submissions, marking the highest number since the scheme began. It encourages students from classes 6–12 to submit original, innovative ideas. The scheme aims to promote scientific thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills among young learners across India.
- Indian peacekeepers with the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) were honoured for their dedicated service in a medal parade ceremony reviewed by UNISFA Acting Head of Mission and Force Commander, Major General Robert Yaw Afram. The event recognised the professionalism and commitment of the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) in contributing to peace and stability in the contested Abyei region between Sudan
- Masako Nozawa, the iconic voice actor for Goku in *Dragon Ball*, became the first voice actor to be named a 'Person of Cultural Merit' by the Japanese government in October 2025. This prestigious honour recognises her immense contributions to Japanese culture and as a result, she will receive a lifelong annual pension of ₹3.5 million.
- US President Donald Trump was awarded South Korea's highest honour, the Grand Order of Mugunghwa and a replica of an ancient golden crown by South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung.
- A model of Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS) in West Bengal's Sundarbans has been conferred Global Technical Recognition by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

SPORTS NEWS

Abhishek Sharma Sets New Records in ICC T20I Batter Rankings

- India's left-handed opener Abhishek Sharma has made history by achieving the highest-ever rating in the ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings.
- He reached 931 points after India's win over Sri Lanka at the Asia Cup, surpassing Dawid Malan's 2020 record of 919.
- Abhishek now leads England's Phil Salt by 82 points, with Tilak Varma holding third place. He was named

Player of the Tournament with 314 runs at an average of 44.85.

World Para Athletics Championships 2025

- The Indian contingent secured an unprecedented 22 medals – 6 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze; finishing 10th in the overall standings, marking the country's best-ever showing at the prestigious global event.
- The World Para Athletics Championships was hosted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi. It was organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Sports Ministry.
- It marked India's largest-ever para-sport event, with over 2,100 participants from 100 countries competing in 186 medal events.
- The Department of Sports, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, awarded cash prizes totaling over ₹1.09 crore to the medalists. The gold medals were won by:
 - I. Simran Sharma – Women's 100m T12
 - II. Nishad Kumar – Men's High Jump T47
 - III. Sumit Antil – Men's Javelin Throw F64
 - IV. Sandip Sanjay Sargar – Men's Javelin Throw F44
 - V. Rinku Hooda – Men's Javelin Throw F46
 - VI. Shailesh Kumar – Men's High Jump T63
- Simran Sharma & Preeti Pal were the double medalists.
- Simran Sharma won gold medal in women's 100m T12 and a Silver medal in Women's 200 m T12. Preeti Pal won the silver in Women's 100 m T35 and bronze in women's 200 m T35.

Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver At 2025 World Championships

- Indian weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won a silver medal in the 48 kg division at the World Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Forde, Norway.
- She achieved a total lift of 199 kg in the competition. She also set the new national records in both Clean & Jerk with 115 kg and in total lift with 199 kg. This is her third World Championship medal.
- North Korean weightlifter Ri Song-gum dominated the event by winning three gold medals in the 48 kg division. Ri set new world records with a 91 kg snatch, a 122 kg clean and jerk and a total lift of 213 kg.

11th Asian Aquatics Championships

- Two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj opened India's account at the Asian Aquatics Championships 2025

in Ahmedabad with silver medals in the men's 200 m freestyle and 50 m backstroke swimming events.

- Japan's Hinata Aado (1:48.73) and Chinese Taipei's Mu Lun Chuang (25.50) finished third in the 200 m freestyle and 50 m backstroke, respectively.

Bumrah Becomes First Indian Pacer With 50 Matches Across All Formats

- Jasprit Bumrah became the first Indian fast bowler to play 50 matches across all three international formats (Test, ODI and T20I) in October 2025.
- He achieved this milestone during the second Test against the West Indies in Delhi, which marked his 50th Test match appearance.
- He joins a select group of Indian cricketers, including Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni, who have reached this versatility milestone.

Asian Youth Games 2025

- A total of 222 Indian athletes—119 women and 103 men—are competing for medals across 21 sports at the ongoing Asian Youth Games 2025 in Manama, Bahrain.
- The continental event—returning after a 12-year gap since the 2013 edition held in Nanjing, the People's Republic of China—is the third edition of the Asian Youth Games.
- Athletics features the largest Indian contingent with 31 athletes, followed by kabaddi (28), handball (16) and boxing (14). Ten Indian athletes each will also be in action in taekwondo, wrestling and weightlifting.

D Gukesh, Divya Deshmukh Win Double Gold At European Club Cup

- D Gukesh clinched gold on the top board and his team SuperChess also emerged as champions.
- In the women's section, Divya Deshmukh bagged gold on the second board and her team Cercle d'echecs de Monte Carlo became champions. Divya is the only woman competitor in the upcoming World Cup.
- The European Club Cup was held in Rhodes, Greece.

Fifa Launches ASEAN Cup To Boost Southeast Asian Football

- FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced a brand new ASEAN Cup during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Malaysia.
- The tournament is meant to bring national teams together and give them a bigger platform on the international stage.

- The new tournament will take place during FIFA's official international match window; so, the players from different clubs around the world can join their national teams.
- FIFA would work closely with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and other groups of stakeholders to finalise the format and schedule. The move is expected to give ASEAN football more recognition and competitive experience in the international stage.

2025 ICC Women world cup

- India and Sri Lanka hosted the 13th edition of ICC Women's World Cup. It was India's fourth time hosting the World Cup after the 1978, 1997 and 2013 editions.
- Australia was the defending champion.
- The Indian Women's team will play against South Africa in the finals.

2025 Sultan of Johor Cup

- The 13th edition of Sultan of Johor Cup, an international men's under-21 field hockey was held at Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, in Malaysia.
- Australia won this edition by defeating India in the finals.

Rohit Sharma Overtakes Ganguly As India's 3rd-Highest Odi Run Scorer

- Rohit Sharma became the third-highest run scorer for India in ODI cricket the moment he crossed the 93-run mark in his innings, surpassing Sourav Ganguly's record of 11,221 runs. Rohit now has 11,349 runs to his name.
- Only Virat Kohli (16,239 runs) and Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs) are now ahead of him in the list.

India Unveils Fide World Cup 2025 Logo And Anthem

- India unveiled the logo and anthem for the FIDE Chess World Cup 2025, which will be held in Goa from October 31 to November 27, 2025.
- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant officially launched the logo and anthem, which is titled 'It's Your Move' and performed by singer Daler Mehndi.

- The logo incorporates elements of Goa's culture, such as palm trees and waves, while the anthem celebrates India's growing status in the chess world.

Tanvi Sharma wins BWF World Junior Championships 2025

- India's Tanvi Sharma won a silver medal in the girls' singles event at the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 badminton tournament in Guwahati, Assam. She lost to Thailand's Anyapat Phichitpreechusak.
- This was the second time that India hosted the BWF World Junior Championships after 2008.

News in Shorts

- In Chess, Grandmaster P Iniyan of Tamil Nadu won the 62nd National Chess Championship in Guntur andhra Pradesh.
- Lionel Messi has won the 2025 MLS Golden Boot, scoring 29 goals and adding 19 assists in his second full season with Inter Miami CF.
- The Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board recommended Ahmedabad as the host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games. It will be put to a final vote at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow on November 26, 2025.
- Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) have asked the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to allow to play the junior hockey World Cup matches at a neutral venue after news came out that Pakistan will not be sending their team for the tournament in India.
- Cape Verde qualifies for the 2026 FIFA World Cup after defeating Eswatini 3-0 in Praia, marking a historic first for the island nation.
- Argentina captain Lionel Messi reached another historic milestone, becoming the player with the most assists in men's international football.
- Morocco's U-20 national team won their first-ever FIFA U-20 World Cup title, defeating record champions Argentina 2-0 in the final held in Chile.

