



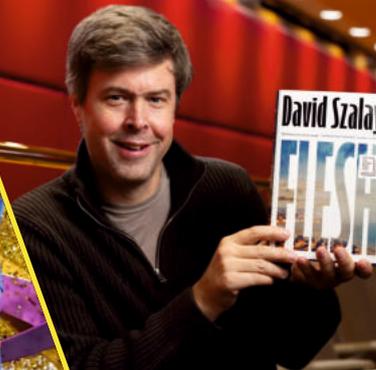
**BANKING
WALLAH**

THE SPECTRUM CURRENT AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 2025

Nitish Kumar Scripts History: Sworn in as Bihar CM for Record 10th Term

Indian Women's Team Lift CWC 2025 on Home Soil



Booker Prize 2025 Goes to David Szalay for 'Flesh'

India's Chess Legacy: Raahul VS Becomes the Nation's 91st Grandmaster

For IBPS, SBI, RBI OTHER BANKING & INSURANCE EXAMS

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RBI gold reserves cross 880 tonnes as global demand surges

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) gold reserves exceeded 880 metric tonnes in the first half of 2025-26.
- As of September 26, 2025, the total value of these gold reserves was approximately USD 95 billion.
- The RBI purchased a total of 0.6 metric tonnes of gold in the six months ending September, including 0.2 metric tonnes in September and 0.4 metric tonnes in June.
- The RBI's gold reserves increased from 879.58 metric tonnes at the end of 2024-25 to 880.18 metric tonnes at September-end.
- In the fiscal year 2024-25, the RBI added 54.13 metric tonnes of gold to its reserves.
- Rising global economic and geopolitical uncertainties have led to increased demand for gold as a safe haven asset.
- Global central banks collectively added 166 tonnes of gold to their reserves, further boosting demand.
- Gold prices surged to an all-time high in September 2025 due to these factors.

India's GDP to grow 6.7-6.9% in FY26: Deloitte India

- Deloitte India forecasts India's economy to grow between 6.7% and 6.9% in the current fiscal year, averaging 6.8%.
- The Indian economy grew by 7.8% in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal year.
- Supportive Factors: Expected growth is driven by:
 - ♦ Buoyant domestic demand
 - ♦ Accommodative monetary policy
 - ♦ Structural reforms (e.g., GST 2.0)
- Low Inflation: Contributing to increased spending as purchasing power improves.

- Festive Quarter: Anticipated rise in consumption spending during the festive season and strong private investment.
- Investment Sentiments: Possible trade agreements with the US and EU could boost investment sentiments.
- Risks: Economic growth remains vulnerable to:

Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 to come into effect from 1st November 2025

- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 was notified on 15th April 2025 (Gazette Notification link attached below).
- It contains a total of 19 amendments across five legislations—the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, State Bank of India Act, 1955 and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980.
- Accordingly, the Central Government has notified that the provisions contained in Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025 shall come into force with effect from 1st November 2025.
- The key features of these provisions are as follows:
 - 1. Multiple Nominations:** Customers may nominate up to four persons, either simultaneously or successively, thereby simplifying claim settlement for depositors and their nominees.
 - 2. Nomination for Deposit Accounts:** Depositors may opt for either simultaneous or successive nominations, as per their preference.
 - 3. Nomination for Articles in Safe Custody and Safety Lockers:** For such facilities, only successive nominations are permitted.
 - 4. Simultaneous Nomination:** Depositors may nominate up to four persons and specify the share or percentage of entitlement for each nominee, ensuring that the total equals 100 percent and enabling transparent distribution amongst all nominees.

IMF projects Indian economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, outpacing China

- 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 per cent, according to the World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.
- This upward revision comes after strong performance in Q1 2025, offsetting impacts of US tariffs on Indian goods.
- The 2026 growth projection for India is lowered to 6.2%, indicating potential fading momentum from the first quarter.
- Global growth is expected to be 3.2% in 2025 but slows to 3.1% in 2026, both lower than pre-policy forecasts.
- Advanced economies will grow at 1.6% while emerging economies are projected to grow at 4.2%.
- Spain is predicted to be the fastest-growing advanced economy at 2.9%; the US is estimated to grow at 1.9%.
- Despite India's growth, the IMF warns of risks like prolonged uncertainty, protectionism, and labor supply shocks affecting global economic stability.
- The IMF emphasizes the need for credible, transparent policies and restoration of fiscal buffers to maintain economic stability.
- In FY25, India achieved a real GDP growth of 6.5% and the government maintains a forecast of 6.3-6.8% for 2025-26.

Paytm enables UPI payments for NRIs using international mobile numbers

- Paytm has launched a service for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from 12 countries to make UPI payments in India using international mobile numbers.
- The service eliminates the need for a local Indian SIM card and is compatible with NRE or NRO bank accounts.
- NRIs can send money, pay merchants via QR codes, and shop on Indian platforms without currency conversions or international payment gateways.
- Instant fund transfers to UPI IDs or mobile numbers bypass traditional remittance delays and foreign exchange charges.
- The service is powered by the National Payments Corporation of India and is available to NRIs in

Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, France, and Malaysia.

- Currently in beta testing, the feature will be rolled out to eligible users soon.
- Paytm app includes features like downloadable UPI statements, automatic expense categorization, payment hiding options, and consolidated balance viewing.
- An AI-generated spending summary feature called Paytm Playback is also included.
- To use the service, NRIs need to download the Paytm app, log in with their international number, verify via SMS, and link their bank account.
- This launch is part of Paytm's broader financial inclusion strategy to keep Indians worldwide connected to India's digital payments ecosystem.
- Shares of One 97 Communications Limited closed at ₹1,305.60, up by ₹18.60 (1.45%).

RBI holds meeting of Central Board of Directors

- The 619th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India took place last week in Udaipur.
- The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra, the Governor of RBI.
- The Board reviewed the emerging global and domestic economic conditions, including geopolitical and financial market developments.
- Challenges associated with these developments were discussed.
- The functioning of various Sub-Committees of the Central Board was assessed.
- Activities of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation were reviewed.
- Selected Central Office Departments, including the Consumer Education and Protection Department, were also assessed.

RBI launches 3 key surveys for monetary policy inputs

- The Reserve Bank of India launched three key surveys, including the Inflation Expectations Survey (IESH) on November 3, 2025.
- IESH aims to capture households' assessments of price movements and inflation based on individual consumption across 19 cities.

- The Urban Consumer Confidence Survey (UCCS) gathers qualitative household responses on economic sentiment, employment, price levels, income, and spending in 19 cities.
- The Rural Consumer Confidence Survey (RCCS) collects perceptions and one-year expectations from households in rural and semi-urban areas across 31 states and union territories.
- The surveys provide valuable input for the central bank's monetary policy.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is set to meet for three days starting December 3, 2025.

Small, low-risk businesses to get GST registration within 3 days beginning November 1

- A simplified GST registration scheme is being rolled out for small and low-risk businesses, effective from November 1.
- GST registration will be completed within 3 working days for eligible applicants.
- Eligibility includes businesses identified by the GST system through data analysis or those self-assessing an output tax liability below Rs 2.5 lakh per month.
- The scheme allows for voluntary opting in and out.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that this initiative is expected to benefit 96% of new applicants.
- The CBIC has been instructed to create a dedicated help desk at GST Seva Kendras to assist with the registration process.
- Currently, over 1.54 crore businesses are registered under GST.

SBI Becomes Special Category Client of India International Bullion Exchange

- The State Bank of India (SBI) conducted its first gold trade as a Special Category Client (SCC) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) on 1 November 2025.
- The move is expected to modernise India's gold import ecosystem, benefiting MSME jewellers with better pricing and streamlined access.
- The India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), launched to make India a global bullion trading hub, operates from GIFT City, Gujarat.
- IIBX provides a centralized and transparent platform for bullion imports and trading, reducing reliance on fragmented and opaque import channels.

- It enables direct gold imports by qualified jewellers, efficient price discovery and clearing, and reduced costs with improved regulatory oversight.

NaBFID to be repositioned as a global financial institution

- NaBFID (National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development) will be renamed to Infrastructure Development Bank (IDB).
- The name change is aimed at positioning NaBFID as an international financial institution, similar to the Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corporation.
- A new logo will accompany the name change.
- NaBFID was established in response to the 2021 Union Budget for financing long-term infrastructure projects.

PM Modi launches ₹1 trillion RDI fund to boost private sector innovation

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a ₹1 trillion Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund to promote private sector-led research and technological advancement across India.
- The announcement was made during the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025, marking a major step toward institutionalising innovation financing.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will be the nodal ministry for the fund, which will operate through a two-tiered structure.
- At the first level, a Special Purpose Fund (SPF) under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation will act as custodian.
- Instead of investing directly in startups or companies, the SPF will channel capital through professional fund managers.
- These fund managers include Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs), Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and focused research organisations (FROs) such as Technology Development Board (TDB), BIRAC, and IIT Research Parks.

Rs 2,000 notes worth Rs 5,817 cr still in circulation: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes from circulation on May 19, 2023.

- Rs 2,000 notes remain legal tender.
- As of October 31, 2025, Rs 2,000 notes in circulation have dropped from Rs 3.56 lakh crore to Rs 5,817 crore.
- This indicates that 98.37% of Rs 2,000 notes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have been returned.
- Since May 19, 2023, exchange facilities for Rs 2,000 notes are available at 19 RBI issue offices.
- From October 9, 2023, individuals and entities can deposit Rs 2,000 notes into their bank accounts at RBI offices.
- Rs 2,000 notes can also be sent via India Post to RBI issue offices for crediting to bank accounts.
- The 19 RBI issue offices are located in major cities, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, and New Delhi.
- The RBI publishes updates on the status of the withdrawal of Rs 2,000 banknotes periodically.

ReNew secures \$477 million financial package from ADB



- ReNew Energy Global signed a \$477 million financial package with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a clean energy project in Andhra Pradesh.
- The package includes 331 million from ADB, with the remaining 146 million sourced through other lenders.
- The project will have a capacity of 837 MW of wind and solar combined with a 415 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS).
- It aims to deliver 300 MW of peak power and enhance grid reliability, contributing to India's low-carbon energy transition.
- ADB's financing includes up to 291 million in local currency and up to 40 million from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund 2.

SBI joins \$100 billion market-cap club as business crosses ₹100 trillion mark

- The State Bank of India (SBI), a government-owned bank, achieved a market capitalization of over USD 100 billion for the first time.

- This milestone was reached as SBI's total business exceeded Rs. 100 trillion.
- SBI is now the sixth Indian company to attain this level, joining the ranks of Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Infosys.
- As of September 2025, SBI's total business amounted to Rs. 100.12 trillion, which includes Rs. 44.20 lakh crore in loans and Rs. 55.92 lakh crore in deposits.
- In the second quarter of the financial year 2025-26, SBI reported a 10% increase in net profit, totaling Rs. 20,160 crores.

Reserve Bank of India Permits Silver as Loan Collateral

- The RBI allows silver as collateral for loans under the "Reserve Bank of India (Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral) Directions, 2025".
- The new framework will take effect on April 1, 2026.
- Banks and NBFCs can accept silver jewellery, ornaments, and coins as collateral.
- Borrowers can pledge up to 10 kg of silver ornaments or 500 g of silver coins.
- Collateral valuation will be based on the lower of the average closing price over the past 30 days or the previous day's closing price.
- Borrower Protections:
 - ◆ Lenders must provide a valuation certificate.
 - ◆ Borrowers must be present during collateral assessments.
 - ◆ Penalty of ₹5,000 for delays in releasing pledged silver post-repayment.
- Lenders can auction the collateral with prior borrower notification; reserve prices start at 90% of the current value.

NPCI and BENEFIT launch real-time remittances between India and Bahrain

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) partners with BENEFIT, Bahrain's leading fintech, for cross-border remittances between India and Bahrain.
- The collaboration enables real-time money transfers using India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Bahrain's Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS), specifically the Fawri+ service.
- The partnership is supported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB).

- It aims to provide faster and cost-effective remittances, especially benefiting the large Indian community in Bahrain (around 30% of the population).
- The initiative enhances financial connectivity, ensures secure and transparent transactions, and promotes economic integration between India and Bahrain.

AU Small Finance Bank launches 'M' circle for women

- AU Small Finance Bank launched 'M' circle, a women's banking initiative.
- Aimed at addressing the unique financial needs and aspirations of Indian women.
- Focuses on wealth creation, legacy preservation, and lifestyle enhancement beyond traditional banking.
- Offers benefits including:
 - ♦ 25% additional discount on locker rentals.
 - ♦ Preferential loan rates with 0.2% lower interest.
 - ♦ Exclusive offers from brands like Nykaa, Ajio Luxe, Kalyan Jewellers, BookMyShow, Zepto, and Swiggy.
 - ♦ Complimentary preventive health check-ups, including cancer screenings.
 - ♦ Unlimited online consultations and offline visits in specialities like Gynaecology and Paediatrics.

Reserve Bank of India announces relief for exporters amid trade worries

- RBI announced relief measures for exporters amid US trade tensions, including easing debt repayments and relaxing export credit rules.
- The maximum credit period for pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit has been increased from 270 days to 450 days for loans disbursed till 31 March 2026.
- Lenders can now liquidate packing credit facilities from alternative sources, including domestic sales or substitution with another export order, for facilities availed on/before 31 August 2025.
- To ease debt burden, RBI allowed moratorium/deferment of term loan payments and interest recovery on working capital loans from 1 September to 31 December 2025.
- Banks are permitted to recalculate drawing power in working capital facilities by reducing margins or reassessment, helping exporters cope with global trade disruptions.

RBI announces relief measures for exporters, allows banks and NBFCs to give them moratorium

- RBI announced special relief measures to help exporters facing global trade and financial challenges.
- The measures aim to reduce repayment stress, give more credit flexibility, and support India's export competitiveness.
- These steps will be implemented through banks, NBFCs, and other regulated entities.

Loan Moratorium for Exporters

- Exporters with standard accounts as of 31 August 2025 can get a moratorium on term loan repayments due between 1 Sept 2025 and 31 Dec 2025.
- The moratorium covers both principal and interest on term loans.
- For working capital loans (CC/OD), interest will continue but only as simple interest (no compounding).
- The unpaid interest during the moratorium can be converted into a Funded Interest Term Loan (FITL).
- The FITL must be repaid by 30 September 2026.

Finance Commission submitted report on tax distribution to President



- The 16th Finance Commission submitted its report on tax distribution between the Centre and States.
- The report will be presented alongside the Union Budget in February 2026.
- Led by Chairman Arvind Panagariya, the Commission is a constitutional body formed by the President.
- Recommendations cover a period of five years starting from April 1, 2026.
- Article 280(1) of the Constitution establishes the Commission's role in tax distribution and allocation.
- Terms of Reference include:
 - ♦ Recommendations on tax proceeds division between the Union and States.

- ◆ Allocation principles for state shares of tax proceeds.
 - ◆ Suggestions for grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India.
 - ◆ Measures to enhance State resources for panchayats and municipalities.
 - ◆ Review of financing for Disaster Management initiatives under the 2005 Act.
- The previous Finance Commission, chaired by N K Singh, submitted its reports in 2020 and 2021.
 - It recommended a 41% share for states in central taxes for 2021-26, down from 42% in the 14th Commission (2015-20) due to the formation of new union territories.

NITI Aayog releases twin reports on India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA and Employment Trends and State-level dynamics



- B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, launched two inaugural reports under the Services Thematic Series.
- These Reports are one of the first dedicated assessments of the services sector from the macro lens of output and employment, going beyond aggregate trends to present disaggregated and state-level profiles.
- First Report: “India’s Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics”
 - ♦ Analyzes national and state-level trends in services-led growth.
 - ♦ Highlights regional balancing in the growth of the services sector.
 - ♦ Finds that structurally lagging states are catching up with advanced states.
- Second Report: “India’s Services Sector: Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics”
 - ♦ Provides a multi-dimensional profile of the services workforce.
 - ♦ Identifies a dual character of the sector: high-productivity but low-employment segments vs. traditional, informal, low-paying segments.

National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) publishes an ‘Audit Practice Toolkit’ to enhance audit quality in India

- The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) is issuing audit practice toolkits.

- Aim: To support small and medium practitioners in auditing.
- This initiative enhances the quality of auditing practices in India.
- NFRA’s outreach programs are targeted at audit firms and practitioners, especially smaller ones.
- The toolkit focuses on developing and documenting audit strategies aligned with the auditee’s risk profile.
- It serves as a scalable and adaptable sample document for various company sizes and industry categories.
- NFRA plans to release more toolkits in significant audit areas throughout the financial year.
- Toolkits can be accessed on the NFRA website.

India loses top spot to China in QS Asia University Rankings 2026

- India has lost its top spot in the 2026 QS Asia University Rankings to China after two years.
- 137 Indian universities made the list, taking the total to 294, while 261 Chinese universities increased their total to 395.
- Overall, 1,529 universities were featured in the rankings this year.
- Hong Kong, China, and Singapore dominated the top 10 positions.
- IIT Delhi was India’s highest-ranked university at 59th, dropping 15 places from last year.
- IIT Bombay fell from 48th to 71st in this year’s rankings.

India’s richest 1% have grown their wealth by 62% since 2000: G20 study

- India’s richest 1% increased their wealth by 62% between 2000 and 2023, says a G20-commissioned report.
- Globally, the top 1% captured 41% of new wealth, while the bottom 50% received only 1%.
- The study, led by Joseph Stiglitz, warns that global inequality is at “emergency levels”, threatening democracy, economic stability, and climate progress.

- The report was prepared by the G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts, including Jayati Ghosh, Winnie Byanyima, and Imraan Valodia.
- Inequality in some countries narrowed slightly due to income growth in large economies like China and India.

Datanomics: India's passport weakens again as global mobility divide widens

- According to the Henley & Partners Passport Index 2025, India slipped five spots to 85th position.
- The US passport dropped out of the global top 10 for the first time, with visa-free access to 180 countries.
- Passport strength is measured by the number of countries accessible without prior visas.
- It reflects a country's soft power, global influence, and diplomatic access.
- Passport rankings directly impact citizens' mobility for business, travel, and international opportunities.

World Economic Forum's report identifies 7 deep-tech domains to drive agri transformation



- The World Economic Forum has launched a report titled 'Shaping the Deep-Tech Revolution in Agriculture' in collaboration with various stakeholders.
- The report identifies seven key deep-tech domains for agricultural transformation:
 - ◆ Generative AI
 - ◆ Computer Vision
 - ◆ Robotics
 - ◆ Edge IoT
 - ◆ Satellite-enabled Remote Sensing
 - ◆ CRISPR
 - ◆ Nanotechnology

India's Top 10 Philanthropists in 2025: Shiv Nadar leads the Hurun list



- The EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025 reports that India's top 191 philanthropists donated a total of Rs 10,380 crore in FY25, an 85% increase over the past three years.
- The top 25 donors contributed Rs 50,000 crore over three years, averaging Rs 46 crore per day.
- Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL Technologies, ranked first as India's Most Generous with donations of Rs 2,708 crore focused on education and social development.
- Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Industries ranked second with donations of Rs 626 crore, along with his company's CSR spending of Rs 1,309 crore (exceeding the mandated amount by Rs 261 crore).
- Rohini Nilekani ranked eighth and is recognized as the most generous woman philanthropist, donating Rs 204 crore to social innovation initiatives.

India tops global TB burden in 2024 despite lower incidence: WHO report

- India accounted for a quarter of the world's tuberculosis (TB) cases in 2024, topping the list of countries with the highest TB burden, according to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Global TB Report 2025.
- The report said eight countries contributed 67 per cent of global TB cases, led by India (25%), followed by Indonesia (10%), the Philippines (6.8%), China (6.5%), Pakistan (6.3%), Nigeria (4.8%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3.9%), and Bangladesh (3.6%).
- India's TB incidence rate was estimated at 187 cases per 100,000 people, improving from 195 per 100,000 in 2023.
- However, it remains short of the government's TB elimination target of 44 cases per 100,000 by 2025.

- The report also noted that India still accounted for 32 per cent of global multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB cases in 2024.

Datanomics: Over 6% of India's population is living with diabetes

- November 14 is observed as World Diabetes Day, a reminder to improve early diagnosis, strengthen

prevention, and ensure continuous care for people living with diabetes.

- According to the International Diabetes Federation report, in India, 89.8 million adults — 6.2 per cent of the country's population — had diabetes in 2024.
- Globally, 589 million adults had diabetes, accounting for 7.3 per cent of the world's population.

TEC signs MoU with IIT-Hyderabad for joint research in telecom technologies and standardization



- The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, has signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) to collaborate on joint studies, research, and technical contributions in advanced telecom technologies and global standardization activities.
- The partnership aims to develop India-specific standards and testing frameworks, explore future network technologies like 6G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), and enhance India's participation in ITU-T (International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector) study groups.

HAL and Russia's UAC join hands to manufacture SJ-100 passenger jet in India

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (PJSC-UAC) have signed an MoU in Moscow to produce the SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India — a major milestone for Indian aviation.
- Representatives included Prabhat Ranjan (HAL) and Oleg Bogomolov (PJSC-UAC), with D.K. Sunil and Vadim Badekha also present.

- This collaboration will boost India's self-reliance in civil aircraft manufacturing. The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body regional jet with over 200 units already in service worldwide.
- It will improve short-distance connectivity under India's regional flight schemes and make HAL the first to domestically produce a full passenger aircraft since the Avro HS-748 (1961–1988).
- The initiative also supports local manufacturing, job creation, and India's emergence as a global civil aviation hub — reflecting India's intent to secure strategic autonomy amid geopolitical tensions.

HAL and GE sign agreement for Tejas engine supply



- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and General Electric (GE) have signed a contract worth over \$1 billion to supply 113 F404-GE-IN20 engines for the LCA Tejas Mk 1A fighter jets.
- The engines will power 97 LCA Mk 1A aircraft to be delivered to the Indian Air Force (IAF), adding to the earlier 83 aircraft order signed in 2021. HAL has received four F404 engines from GE, and full deliveries will begin after final aircraft certification.
- HAL has already built 10 Tejas Mk 1A aircraft. Talks are ongoing for joint production of F414 engines for the LCA Mk 2 variant.
- Recently, the Tejas Mk 1A completed its first public flight at HAL's Nashik facility.

ICAI and Indian Army sign MoU for real-time UDIN verification to enhance procurement transparency



- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with the Indian Army's Army Purchase Organization (APO) for real-time verification of Unique Document Identification Numbers (UDIN) using API integration.
- This will enhance transparency, authenticity, and efficiency in army procurement.
- ICAI President CA Charanjot Singh Nanda emphasized UDIN's role in promoting document integrity and curbing malpractices.
- Since inception, nearly 9.72 crore UDINs have been generated, with over 3.2 crore verified by regulators and government bodies — reflecting growing trust in the system.

EIL signs MoU with NMDC Energy to explore offshore oil and gas projects in Saudi Arabia

- Engineers India Limited (EIL) has signed an MoU with NMDC Energy during ADIPEC 2025 in Abu Dhabi to collaborate on offshore projects in Saudi Arabia.
- The scope includes oil and gas processing, refineries, petrochemicals, and energy transition projects.
- The partnership leverages EIL's engineering expertise and NMDC Energy's execution capabilities to pursue joint bids and implement EPC (offshore) projects.
- The collaboration will utilize NMDC's construction facilities in Ras Al Khair and EIL's design center in Al Khobar.
- EIL is expanding operations in Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia — focusing on refinery upgrades, oil & gas infrastructure, and green hydrogen/ammonia projects.

C-DOT partners with NAM Infocom for development of Mission Critical Communication (MCX) solution

- C-DOT has signed an MoU with NAM Infocom Pvt Ltd to jointly develop an indigenous Mission Critical Communication (MCX) system aimed at strengthening India's public safety and emergency response infrastructure.
- Under the MCX Alliance, C-DOT is collaborating with 10 organizations, primarily startups, to build a complete MCX ecosystem that supports Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India).

India Post Payments Bank signs MoU with EPFO to deliver doorstep digital life certificate services



- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100% Government-owned entity under the Ministry of Communications, has signed an MoU with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- The agreement aims to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS'95).
- The MoU was exchanged between R. Vishveshwaran (CEO, IPPB) and Ramesh Krishnamurthy (Central PF Commissioner, EPFO) during EPFO's 73rd Foundation Day.
- Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya graced the event as Chief Guest.
- The initiative will help pensioners submit life certificates conveniently from home, promoting digital inclusion and efficient service delivery.

NPCI International partners with Razorpay Curlec to enable UPI transactions in Malaysia

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with Razorpay Curlec to enable UPI transactions in Malaysia.

- The partnership, formalized at Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2025, will allow Indian travelers to make instant and secure payments to local merchants using UPI-enabled apps.
- With over 1 million Indian tourists visiting Malaysia in 2024 (a 72% rise from 2023), this integration addresses the growing need for seamless cross-border digital payments, reducing cash dependency and forex costs.
- Malaysian businesses will gain new revenue opportunities from Indian visitors through compliant and localized UPI settlement systems.

Ashok Leyland signs MoU with Punjab National Bank for dealer financing

- Ashok Leyland, a Hinduja Group company and a leading Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, has signed an MoU with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to strengthen financial support for its dealer network.



- PNB will offer customized financing solutions for Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle (MHCV) dealers, including working capital and inventory funding to improve cash flow and operational efficiency.
- The MoU was signed by K.M. Balaji (CFO, Ashok Leyland) and Amitabh Rai (GM, PNB).

Union Cabinet approves the terms of reference for the 8th Pay Commission



- PM Narendra Modi's Union Cabinet approved the Terms of Reference for the 8th Central Pay Commission.
- The commission will impact approximately 50 lakh central government employees and 69 lakh retired personnel.
- The 8th Central Pay Commission was announced in January 2025 to review and propose salary revisions for Central Government employees.
- The commission will be a temporary body with a Chairperson, one Part-Time Member, and one Member-Secretary.
- Former Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai will lead the commission; Professor Pulak Ghosh (IIM Bangalore) is a part-time commissioner, and Petroleum Secretary Pankaj Jain is the Member Secretary.
- Recommendations are due within 18 months, with interim reports possible before the final submission.
- Considerations will include economic conditions, fiscal prudence, pension costs, impact on State Governments, and comparisons with Central Public Sector Undertakings and private sector benefits.
- Serves as a guiding document for the commission's work; prepared by a Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) with union representatives.
- The commission will address the financial implications of non-contributory pension schemes.

- Central Pay Commissions assess salary changes approximately every ten years; the 7th Pay Commission started in 2014, affecting salaries from 2016.
- Central government employees receive DA to offset inflation, with rates revised every six months.

APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Air Shipment of GI Tagged India and Puliyanakudi Limes from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to the United Kingdom



- APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, facilitated the first-ever air shipment of 500 kg of GI-tagged limes to the United Kingdom on 28th October 2025.
- The consignment included 350 kg of Indi Lime from Vijayapura, Karnataka, and 150 kg of Puliyanakudi Lime from Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu.
- The initiative marks a major milestone in expanding the global footprint of India's GI-tagged horticultural produce.
- The flag-off ceremony involved officials from the Departments of Horticulture of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, the Karnataka Lime Board, and senior state officials including Mr. V. Dakshinamoorthy, IAS.
- Shri Abhishek Dev, Chairman of APEDA, flagged off the shipment and lauded the effort for promoting India's regional agri-produce in global markets.

HM Amit Shah announces 'Bharat Parv 2025' to mark Sardar Patel's 150th anniversary



- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that 'Bharat Parv 2025' will be celebrated from November 1 to 15, 2025, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- He stated that a grand parade will be held every October 31 at Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, to honor Sardar Patel's legacy.
- On November 15, a grand celebration will take place at the Statue of Unity to mark the birth anniversary of tribal icon Birsa Munda.
- The event will showcase tribal culture, including diverse food traditions and performing arts.
- Shah said the 150th anniversary of the 'Iron Man of India' and architect of a united India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, will be celebrated at the Statue of Unity, symbolizing the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Shaurya Van in Jaisalmer, highlights defence procurement reforms



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Shaurya Van in Jaisalmer, dedicated to honoring Indian soldiers' bravery and sacrifices.
- He also visited the 1971 Indo-Pak war museum during his visit.

- Singh released the Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025 in New Delhi, effective from November 1.
- The manual facilitates revenue procurement of approximately Rs 1 lakh crore for the Armed Forces and other Defence establishments.

Key Features of DPM 2025

- Simplifies procedures for procurement, ensuring uniformity and timely provision of goods/services.
- Promotes opportunities for MSMEs and start-ups in defence manufacturing and technology.
- Revised liquidated damages (LD): max 10% for delays, reduced to 0.1% per week for indigenisation items.
- Assured orders for up to five years for indigenously developed items.
- Limited Tender Enquiries threshold increased to Rs 50 lakh.
- Removal of the No Objection Certificate requirement from the Ordnance Factory Board.
- 15% growth provision for Repairs/Refits of ships and aviation equipment maintenance.
- RFPs issued after November 1 will follow DPM 2025; those before will follow DPM 2009.
- DPM 2025 consists of two volumes: Volume I outlines main procedures; Volume II includes forms and appendices.
- New chapters cover Self-reliance through Innovation, ICT Procurement, and Consultancy Services.

PM Modi launches portal to connect unselected UPSC candidates with job opportunities

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 'Pratibha Setu Portal' to support UPSC exam candidates who didn't qualify, connecting them with job opportunities.
- The initiative aims to efficiently utilize the talent of those who narrowly missed selection for civil services.
- In the UPSC exams, only 6.9% of candidates became civil servants, with 1,009 out of 14,627 qualifying.
- Modi congratulated over 51,000 new government recruits at the Rozgar Mela, describing it as a "double Diwali celebration".
- He encouraged the recruits to view their roles as opportunities for nation-building and to serve with dedication and integrity.

- Highlighted government efforts in youth empowerment, including the distribution of over 11 lakh appointment letters and the PM Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, aiming for 3.5 crore new jobs.
- The Skill India Mission and National Career Service (NCS) portal are bridging the gap between training and job access, with over 7 crore vacancies shared with youth.

Cyclone Montha intensifies over Bay of Bengal

- Cyclone Montha intensified overnight and is expected to strengthen into a 'severe' cyclone.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicts it will move northwest towards India's east coast, making landfall between Machilipatnam and Kalingapatnam near Kakinada.
- The cyclone picked up speed, moving at nearly 16 km/hr towards the Indian mainland.
- Heavy to very heavy rainfall (65-201 mm) is forecast for north coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and all coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- Extremely heavy rainfall (over 210 mm) is expected in southern Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and coastal Andhra Pradesh.
- Possible storm surge over one metre may inundate low-lying areas in coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam during landfall.
- Districts at risk include multiple locations in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and regions like Gangetic West Bengal, Sikkim, and Bihar post-landfall.
- Cyclone Montha is the first cyclone expected to make landfall in India this year.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses Maritime Leaders Conclave at India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Maritime Leaders Conclave and chaired the Global Maritime CEO Forum during India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, welcoming participants from across the globe.
- He noted the event's growth since 2016 into a major international summit, with participation from over 85 countries including CEOs, innovators, and policymakers.
- Representatives from small island nations also attended, adding to the collaborative spirit and global energy of the conclave.
- Several new projects in the shipping sector were launched, and MoUs worth lakhs of crores were signed, reflecting strong global confidence in India's maritime strength.
- Modi highlighted India's rapid maritime progress in the 21st century, calling 2025 a landmark year for the sector.
- Vizhinjam Port, India's first deep-water international trans-shipment hub, has become operational, receiving the world's largest container vessel.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy Launches KOYLA SHAKTI Dashboard and CLAMP portal



- Union Minister of Coal and Mines, Shri G. Kishan Reddy, launched two major digital platforms — KOYLA SHAKTI Dashboard and CLAMP (Coal Land Acquisition, Management, and Payment) Portal — via video conference in New Delhi.
- The initiative marks a significant step toward digital transformation and transparent governance in the coal sector.
- The event was attended by Shri Vikram Dev Dutt (Secretary, Ministry of Coal), Smt. Rupinder Brar (Additional Secretary and Nominated Authority), Shri Sanoj Kumar Jha (Additional Secretary), along with senior officials, industry leaders, and stakeholders.

- Shri Reddy stated that the Koyla Shakti Dashboard integrates the entire coal value chain on a unified digital platform.
- The Minister highlighted that Koyla Shakti will act as the digital backbone of India's coal ecosystem, aligning with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".

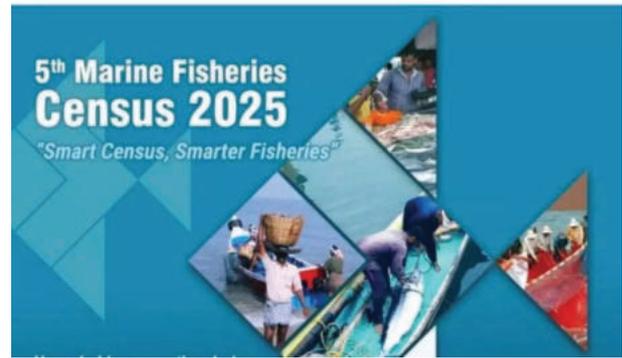
Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal addresses the 4th AGM of Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council



- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, attended the 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC) as the Chief Guest at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The meeting saw participation from senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, DGFT, and leading representatives of India's electronics and mobile export ecosystem.
- Shri Piyush Goyal emphasized the importance of deepening domestic capabilities across the electronics value chain.
- He highlighted that achieving self-reliance in both finished products and components is crucial for sustaining export growth and reducing import dependence.
- The sector aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of achieving USD 500 billion in electronics manufacturing by 2030, positioning India as a global hub for electronics design, production, and exports.

First fully digitised National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 launched

- Union Minister Shri George Kurian officially launched the household enumeration phase of the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI.



- The Minister urged all officers and enumerators to ensure that every fisherman and fish worker is registered on the National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP).
- Registration on the NFDP is mandatory to avail benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PM-MKSSY).
- Fishermen and fish farmers can register conveniently through Common Service Centres (CSCs) to receive financial assistance from the Central government.
- Shri Kurian described MFC 2025 as a landmark initiative in digital and data-driven fisheries governance, marking the first fully digitised data collection in Indian fisheries.

India Sets Three GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ Titles under "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar" Abhiyaan



- The Union Health Ministry achieved three Guinness World Records™ under the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" (SNSPA) campaign, highlighting India's focus on preventive and women-centric healthcare.
- Records include most people registering for a healthcare platform in one month (over 3.21 crore),

most online sign-ups for breast cancer screening in one week (over 9.94 lakh), and most online sign-ups for vital signs screening at state level in one week (over 1.25 lakh).

- The SNSPA campaign was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, coinciding with Poshan Maah.
- The campaign aims to improve health and nutrition of women, adolescent girls, and children, strengthen early detection, ensure access to essential health services, and promote healthier lifestyles.
- PM Modi emphasized, “If a mother is healthy, the whole family stays healthy”, underlining women’s role as the foundation of national progress.

MoS Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma released Second Edition of the Ministry of Heavy Industries’ Hindi magazine “Udyog Bharti”



- The second edition of “Udyog Bharti” magazine by the Ministry of Heavy Industries was released on 31st October 2025 by Minister of State Shri Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma.
- The launch was attended by Shri Kamran Rizvi (Secretary), Dr. Hanif Qureshi (Addl. Secretary), and Shri Vijay Mittal (Joint Secretary) of the Ministry.
- Shri Varma stated that the magazine reflects the Ministry’s ongoing efforts to promote the use of Rajbhasha Hindi.
- Shri Rizvi appreciated the team’s work and highlighted the magazine’s role in strengthening Hindi in official communication.
- “Udyog Bharti” reaffirms the Ministry’s commitment to effective communication and promoting Hindi in line with the Government of India’s vision.

Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada Begins Nationwide from 1st November 2025, Celebrating 150 Years of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced the “Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada” from 1st to 15th November 2025, marking the culmination of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- Celebrations will be organized nationwide by TRIs, EMRSs, TRIFED, and NSTFDC, highlighting the culture, legacy, and contributions of tribal communities and freedom fighters.
- The initiative aims to showcase achievements under key programs like PM JANMAN, Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, National Sickle Cell Elimination Mission, DAJGUA, and livelihood & entrepreneurship schemes.
- States and UTs will host diverse events including the Tribal Frames Film Festival (Manipur), Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Folk Art Festival (Chhattisgarh), Tribal Melas (Andaman & Nicobar), Janjatiya Gaurav Yatra (Gujarat), Aadi Khel Diwas (Uttarakhand), and Mahasammelans (Goa).

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Emphasizes Indigenous Tech, Launches ₹1 Lakh Cr Anusandhan Fund

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized the need for India to develop its own technologies and reduce dependence on specific geographies for key inputs.
- Speaking at the TiEcon conference in New Delhi, he stated that India has become a global engine of innovation, driving new ideas, products, and technologies.
- Mr. Goyal highlighted that the spirit of Swadeshi goes beyond manufacturing, encompassing long-term growth, sovereignty, and security in a volatile global environment.
- The government, along with individuals and organizations, is investing efforts and resources to promote India’s deeptech ecosystem.
- He announced that the second edition of the Startup Fund of Funds will focus on early-stage deeptech ventures, providing risk capital to help innovators retain ownership and develop indigenous technologies.

Indian Railways to patronise 'Aabhar' online store in a bid to encourage local artisans

- Indian Railways is supporting the launch of the 'Aabhar' online store to promote local talent and indigenous products.
- The store showcases gift items made by indigenous tribes, handloom weavers, and products under One District One Product (ODOP) and Geographical Indication (GI).
- Items are sourced from Central Cottage Industries Emporium (CCIE), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), and various handicraft and handloom emporiums.
- The initiative is part of the 'Vocal for Local' campaign, focusing on promoting social inclusion and local artisans.
- The store aims to enhance India's rich heritage through handlooms, handicrafts, and artisanal goods, providing market access to local artisans and rural entrepreneurs, including women-led enterprises.
- GeM encourages other Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings to purchase items from Aabhar for official events and gifts.
- The initiative includes the 'One Station One Product' (OSOP) scheme, promoting local artifacts and handicrafts across the railway network.

UIDAI launches 'Aadhaar Vision 2032' to future-proof India's digital identity using AI, blockchain and quantum technologies

- UIDAI has launched the 'Aadhaar Vision 2032' framework to modernize India's digital identity ecosystem.
- The framework aims to make Aadhaar future-ready by incorporating technologies like AI, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, and Advanced Encryption.
- It focuses on enhancing Aadhaar's security, scalability, and inclusivity while aligning with data protection and privacy standards.
- UIDAI's initiative aims to reinforce Aadhaar's role in India's digital governance and economy over the next decade.
- A High-Level Expert Committee has been established to guide this transformation, chaired by Neelkanth Mishra, and includes various experts from academia and industry.
- The committee will draft the Aadhaar Vision 2032 document, focusing on a next-gen architecture

aligned with India's Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act.

- Key technologies emphasized include:
 - ♦ AI for intelligent authentication
 - ♦ Blockchain for enhanced trust and transparency
 - ♦ Quantum Computing for future security readiness
 - ♦ Advanced encryption to protect against cyber threats.

Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster and lays foundation stone for ₹635 crore development projects in Assam



- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, inaugurated the North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster at IIT Guwahati.
- He also laid the foundation stone for development projects worth ₹635 crore across Assam.
- The event was attended by senior Assam government officials, representatives of educational institutions, and scientific and entrepreneurial community members.
- Scindia described Assam as "the heartbeat of a rising Northeast", symbolizing continuity, courage, and creativity through the Brahmaputra River.

No mining within 1 km of national parks, wildlife sanctuaries

- The Supreme Court ruled that mining is prohibited within 1 km of any national park or wildlife sanctuary across India.
- A Bench of CJI B. R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandra extended the April 2023 Goa-specific ruling to a pan-India directive.
- Mining near protected areas is hazardous for wildlife, and uniform protection is required nationwide.

- The Court directed the Jharkhand government to issue the sanctuary notification for Saranda, ensuring proper legal safeguards.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Unveils ₹1,500-Crore Boost with 16 Infrastructure

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attended the Golden Jubilee of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA), celebrating 50 years of its role as a major maritime gateway.
- The event included the launch and foundation laying of 16 infrastructure projects and 113 CSR initiatives worth ₹1,500 crore.
- The celebration highlighted NMPA's transformation into a modern, globally competitive maritime hub under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi.

NCRTC launches 'Solar on Track' project at Duhai depot, a first for rapid rail and metro network



- NCRTC has launched India's first "Solar on Track" initiative, installing solar panels directly on rapid rail tracks at the Namu Bharat Depot in Duhai.
- The pilot project includes 28 solar panels of 550 Watt peak each along a 70-meter stretch, totaling a capacity of 15.4 kWp.
- The installation is expected to generate around 17,500 kWh of energy annually and reduce CO2 emissions by approximately 16 tonnes each year.
- This initiative utilises idle track space and aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across NCRTC facilities.
- NCRTC plans to meet 70% of its energy needs from renewable sources, with a goal of generating 15 MW peak of in-house solar power on rooftops; 5.5 MW has already been installed.
- The project aligns with the National Solar Mission and underscores NCRTC's commitment to clean energy and sustainability in the transport sector.

Govt approves rationalisation of royalty rates for four critical minerals

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved new royalty rates for four critical minerals: graphite, caesium, rubidium, and zirconium.
- New royalty rates:
 - ♦ 2% of the average sale price (ASP) for caesium and rubidium
 - ♦ 1% for zirconium
 - ♦ 2-4% for graphite, depending on carbon content
- The approval aims to boost domestic production and facilitate the auction of mineral blocks.
- These minerals are vital for green energy and high-technology industries.

Akasa Air to start international flights from Delhi in the coming weeks

- Akasa Air will soon begin international flights from Delhi, expanding its services.
- The airline has a fleet of 30 planes and operates 24 domestic and 6 international destinations.
- Currently has 24 daily departures from Delhi.
- Plans to operate flights to Singapore, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Tashkent.
- Currently flies to Doha, Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait City, and Phuket.
- The airline has a firm order for 226 Boeing 737 MAX planes, facing previous delivery delays.
- Anticipates faster aircraft deliveries as Boeing increases production.
- Positive outlook on ancillary revenue growth; maintains balance in load factors and airfares.
- Akasa Air plans to launch an IPO within the next 2-5 years and will restart pilot hiring next year.

IICA and WNS Global Services launch YBRANT programme on CSR, ESG & Sustainability

- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), in collaboration with WNS Global Services, successfully launched the IICA-WNS Ybrant CSR, ESG & Sustainability Program.
- The program aims to integrate CSR, ESG, and sustainability into management education, preparing students for leadership roles that combine business performance with positive social impact.

- India's CSR spending rose from ₹10,065.93 crores in FY 2014-15 to ₹34,908.75 crores in FY 2023-24, indicating an evolving CSR ecosystem.
- It emphasizes the need for professionals who balance profit-making with responsible business practices.
- The Ybrant Program is a collaborative initiative involving government, corporate sector, and academia, targeting young future leaders.
- Six-month program with 22.5 hours of academic sessions and 18 hours of fieldwork across 15 modules on topics like CSR laws, ESG reporting, and leadership.
- It is a blended learning approach with live sessions from IICA faculty and industry experts, accessible via an online Learning Management System.
- It Attracts over 250 students from five premier institutions, including IIM Shillong and CHRIST University.

Shri Manohar Lal inaugurates India's First MWh-Scale Vanadium Flow Battery at NTPC NETRA

- Shri Manohar Lal inaugurated India's largest MWh-scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) system with a capacity of 3 MWh.
- The project enhances long-duration energy storage (LDES) solutions and supports renewable energy integration and grid resilience.
- The inauguration took place during his visit to NETRA, NTPC's R&D Centre in Greater Noida.
- He was accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Power and NTPC, including Secretary Pankaj Agarwal and CMD Gurdeep Singh.
- The VRFB technology offers an alternative to traditional lithium-ion batteries and expands the material sources for battery production.
- Shri Manohar Lal praised the NETRA team for their innovations in energy transition and security.
- He received updates on NTPC's research in Carbon Capture, Green Hydrogen, Energy Storage, and Waste-to-Energy technologies.
- The Minister also toured various demonstration plants, including Green Hydrogen Mobility and MSW-RDF based enhanced Steam Gasification Plant.

Labour ministry launches Digital Labour Chowk, links it with VBRY

- The Union labour ministry launched the Digital Labour Chowk mobile application to connect

workers and employers digitally, reducing reliance on middlemen and unsafe gathering spots.

- Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya introduced the app at a two-day labour minister's conference on November 11 in New Delhi.
- Labour Chowk Facilitation Centres (LCFCs) will transform unsafe roadside gathering areas into structured hubs with amenities like shelter, drinking water, and welfare services.
- An Online BOCW Cess Collection Portal was unveiled for automated cess calculation, online payment, and real-time monitoring to support worker benefits.
- Mandaviya encouraged states to align employment programs with the Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (VBRY).
- The conference follows a January 2025 meeting, emphasizing turning decisions into tangible outcomes.
- The draft 'Shram Shakti Niti' aims to create an inclusive, fair, and resilient ecosystem for workers, supporting India's goal of becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Ambaji Marble of Gujarat Receives GI Tag, Gains Global Recognition



- Ambaji Marble, found in Banaskantha district, north Gujarat, has received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag from the Union government.
- The GI Tag gives Ambaji Marble a distinct global identity, strengthening Gujarat's presence on the world map.
- The GI registration has been granted under the name of the Ambaji Marbles Quarry and Factory Association.

India Re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of COP10 Bureau

- India was re-elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Bureau at COP10 of the International Convention against Doping in Sport.
- COP10 was held from October 20-22 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, marking the 20th anniversary of the Convention.
- Attendance included representatives from over 190 States Parties and international organizations to discuss anti-doping efforts.
- Indian delegation led by Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao and NADA Director General Anant Kumar.
- Key discussions with African Union, IOC, WADA, and other stakeholders on global anti-doping cooperation.
- Azerbaijan elected as Chairperson; Brazil, Zambia, and Saudi Arabia as Vice-Chairs.
- India provided support with interactive display boards on the Anti-Doping Convention's achievements.
- Over 500 delegates attended, discussing governance reforms, fund financing, and challenges like gene manipulation.
- India proposed amendments for integrating Values Education through Sport (VETS) to promote ethics and integrity in sports.

Saudi abolishes Kafala System

- Saudi Arabia has officially ended the Kafala System, granting more rights and freedom to millions of migrant workers.
- The Kafala System was a binding contract requiring migrant workers to work exclusively for their local sponsor, limiting their job mobility.
- Critics labeled the Kafala System as modern-day slavery due to its exploitative nature, giving employers undue legal advantage over workers.
- The system received global scrutiny, particularly surrounding the deaths of thousands of migrant workers during preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.
- Saudi authorities announced a new contractual model to replace the Kafala System, allowing workers

to change jobs and exit the country without employer approval.

- The reforms are part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and National Transformation Program to enhance worker independence and improve the labor market.

Australia launches First Nations mission to boost mining ties with India

- Australia will send its first-ever First Nations business mission to India this month to strengthen trade and investment links between Indigenous Australian enterprises and India's mining and renewable energy sectors.
- The mission, led by the Perth USAsia Centre and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia on behalf of the Australian government.
- Under the mission, a delegation including eight Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) companies, all of which are Australian First Nations-owned, will visit India.
- Australian First Nations are Aboriginal people who represent one of the oldest continuous civilisations on Earth.
- They were Australia's first diplomats, traders, innovators, and knowledge holders.
- The businesses will explore partnership opportunities and showcase their expertise at India's largest mining conference, the International Mining, Equipment and Minerals Exhibition, in Kolkata.

Sarah Mullally, the first woman to head the Church of England



- Dame Sarah Mullally has been named Archbishop of Canterbury designate, becoming the first woman chosen for the Church of England's most senior role.
- A former chief nurse in the NHS, Mullally was ordained in 2006 and became the first female Bishop of London in 2018, the third highest office in the Church.
- She will formally take up her new post after a confirmation of election in January, followed by an enthronement service.
- The appointment comes nearly a year after Justin Welby resigned following criticism of his handling of a Church abuse case.
- Mullally, 63, spent more than 35 years in the NHS and became England's youngest-ever chief nursing officer in 1999. She later entered the priesthood, moving from parish work to cathedral roles before being appointed Bishop of Crediton in 2015.

World's first yen-pegged stablecoin debuts in Japan



- Japan launched its first stablecoin pegged to the yen, called JPYC.
- JPYC is issued by the Japanese startup JPYC and is fully convertible to yen, backed by domestic savings and Japanese government bonds (JGBs).
- The company plans to issue JPYC worth 10 trillion yen (\$66 billion) over three years, with an aim for widespread international use.
- Initially, JPYC will not charge transaction fees to encourage adoption, intending to earn revenue from interest on JGB holdings.
- CEO Noritaka Okabe aims to promote innovation by providing startups with low transaction and settlement fees, while also seeking global interoperability through potential capital partnerships.
- Stablecoins generally offer faster, cheaper transactions, but yen stablecoins may not gain the

same traction as U.S. dollar-backed stablecoins, which dominate the global stablecoin market.

- Concerns exist over stablecoins' potential to affect regulated banking systems and commercial bank roles in payment flows, as noted by BOJ Deputy Governor Ryozi Himino.
- Other Asian countries like South Korea and China are also exploring the introduction of stablecoins based on their currencies.

East Timor, Asia's youngest nation, becomes ASEAN's 11th member



- East Timor became the 11th member of ASEAN on October 26, 2025, during a summit in Kuala Lumpur.
- ASEAN, established in 1967, previously had 10 members and last expanded with Cambodia's membership in 1999.
- US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the summit; Modi welcomed East Timor's admission and highlighted shared histories and values.
- East Timor, also known as Timor-Leste, had pursued ASEAN membership due to its importance in regional economic, political, and security coordination.
- East Timor's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao expressed that membership is a significant achievement for the nation, symbolizing resilience and hope.
- It also marked ASEAN's first expansion in years, after Cambodia last joined it in 1999.
- With a population of 1.4 million, East Timor is located in the Pacific Ocean to the north of Australia.
- East Timor gained independence in 2002 after being a Portuguese colony for over 400 years; it is located in the Pacific Ocean, north of Australia.
- Current President José Ramos-Horta, a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1996, is recognized for his role in the liberation movement and advocating for East Timor on an international stage.

Dictionary.com Names “67” as 2025 Word of the Year

- Dictionary.com chose “67” (pronounced “six seven”) as its Word of the Year.
- The term gained popularity from the song “Doot Doot (6 7)” by rapper Skrilla and through viral TikToks related to basketball highlights, particularly featuring LaMelo Ball.
- “67” has become an ambiguous slang term with no fixed meaning, primarily adopted by Generation Alpha on social media.
- The number was used in millions of TikTok posts under the hashtag #67 and became a cultural shorthand, inspiring classroom chants and discussions.
- Searches for “67” increased over sixfold since June 2025, indicating its growing usage.
- The term exemplifies modern communication trends moving from concrete meanings to shared experiences, emphasizing emotion over definition.
- In schools, “67” became a playful call-and-response chant, with mixed reactions from educators—some using it to engage students, while others banned it for causing distraction.
- Critics argue that selecting a number undermines the traditional concept of a “Word of the Year”, whereas supporters assert that language is evolving to include numbers and memes as valid forms of cultural expression.

India–EU FTA Discussions Intensify as EU Negotiators Arrive in New Delhi



- A senior EU negotiation team is visiting New Delhi from 3–7 November 2025 for talks on the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- The visit aims to resolve pending issues and move toward a balanced and equitable trade framework benefiting both sides.
- The visit follows Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal’s trip to Brussels (27–28 October 2025), where he

met EU Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič to discuss strengthening trade ties.

- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive trade agreement and agreed to intensify engagement.
- Discussions will cover key areas like trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, and technical and institutional matters.

Samia Suluhu Hassan Sworn in for Second Term as Tanzania’s President



- Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan has been sworn in for a second term amid tight security following a controversial election.
- The election was characterised by violent protests and was labelled a sham by the opposition.
- The inauguration took place at a military parade ground in Dodoma, closed to the public but broadcast live on state TV.
- Samia won the election with 98% of the votes, facing minimal opposition due to rival candidates being imprisoned or barred from running.
- International observers, including those from the southern African regional body SADC, expressed concerns over electoral transparency and reported instances of ballot stuffing and restrictions on opposition.

China successfully achieved the first-ever thorium to uranium fuel conversion in a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (TMSR)



- China successfully completed the first thorium-to-uranium fuel conversion in a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (TMSR) on 3 November 2025.

- TMSR uses molten salt as coolant and thorium as fuel, offering higher efficiency and passive safety.
- Key features: operates at atmospheric pressure, no water cooling, high thermal output, and automatic shutdown if overheated.
- Thorium-232 is converted into Uranium-233 through neutron absorption, enabling safer and cleaner nuclear energy.
- This achievement is a major step in fourth-generation nuclear technology, producing more energy with less nuclear waste.

Sweden Becomes the World's First Cashless Society

- Sweden is the world's first officially cashless country as of 2025.
- The transition to cashless payments began with the launch of the mobile payment app Swish in 2012, developed by major Swedish banks.
- Swish allows instant money transfers using just a phone number and is widely adopted across various sectors.
- The Swedish central bank, Riksbank, is exploring a state-backed digital currency called the e-krona to ensure financial stability and security.
- Most public transport, restaurants, and museums in Sweden operate cash-free.
- Tourists should carry a small amount of cash for remote areas where card payments may not be accepted.

India Reaffirms Commitment to Equity, Climate Justice and Multilateralism at CoP30, in Belém, Brazil

- India delivered statements on behalf of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) and LMDC at UNFCCC CoP30 in Belém, Brazil.
- Emphasized the importance of equity, CBDR-RC, and implementation of the Convention, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement.
- Expressed support for multilateralism and international cooperation on climate change amid geopolitical challenges.
- Acknowledged Brazil's extensive preparations for CoP30.

World Bank Approves New Project to Power Tunisia's Energy Transformation

- The World Bank and the Government of Tunisia signed a financing agreement for the Tunisia Energy

Reliability, Efficiency, and Governance Improvement Program (TEREG).

- TEREK is a five-year, US\$430 million program, including US\$30 million concessional financing from the Climate Investment Funds.
- The program aims to ensure sustainable, reliable, and affordable electricity by boosting renewable energy, improving utility performance, and strengthening sector governance.
- It is aligned with Tunisia's updated Energy Transition Strategy, focusing on improving the operational and financial health of STEG, the national electricity utility.
- TEREK will help attract private investment, reduce the carbon intensity of power generation, and support major reforms in renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency, and electricity sector modernization.

Sheikh Hasina sentenced to death; Bangladesh urges India for extradition

- A Bangladesh court sentenced former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death for "crimes against humanity".
- The verdict follows a months-long trial alleging her role in a violent crackdown on student-led protests last year.
- Over 1,400 people died during the protests against a controversial government job quota system.
- Hasina, 78, was tried in absentia as she fled to India after her government was toppled amid unrest.
- Bangladesh has requested India's extradition of Hasina and former interior minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, citing an extradition treaty.
- The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) declared both Hasina and Kamal as fugitives, conducting the trial without their presence.
- Chief Prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam sought the death penalty, labeling Hasina as the mastermind behind the violence.
- Supporters allege the charges are politically motivated.
- The tribunal's hearings concluded on October 23, with 54 witnesses testifying about the government's response to protests.
- Security has been heightened in Bangladesh, with police authorized to shoot violent protesters and troops deployed around the court.

'Watershed Mahotsav' launched in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh; Vengalayapalem Tank Rejuvenation Project inaugurated



- The Union Ministry of Rural Development launched the 'Watershed Mahotsav' in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.
- The event celebrates community-led water rejuvenation, soil health enhancement, and sustainable rural transformation.
- Attended by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Minister of State for Rural Development Dr. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar.
- Reinforces the Government of India's commitment to empowering rural communities through water conservation and ecological restoration.
- Highlights innovative watershed initiatives and recognizes local participation.

World Bank approves \$280 mn loan for health system improvement in Kerala

- The World Bank approved a \$280-million loan for a health system programme in Kerala on October 24, 2025.
- Aims to improve life expectancy and quality of life for 11 million elderly and vulnerable individuals.
- Focus on treating over 90% of patients with hypertension and diabetes through individual electronic-tracking mechanisms.
- Establishment of a home-based care model for bedridden and vulnerable elderly individuals.

- The programme will enhance the health system resilience against climate shocks.
- Strengthening of digital health systems through expanded eHealth services and improved cybersecurity.
- Goals include a 40% increase in controlled hypertension patients and a 60% increase in cervical and breast cancer screenings for women.
- Engages with local self-government bodies to adopt antibiotic use protocols and address zoonotic disease outbreaks.
- Primary health facilities in certain districts will implement climate-responsive solutions.
- Loan terms include a 25-year maturity with a 5-year grace period.

Odisha approves multi-crore 'B-MAAN' scheme to boost aviation sector

- The Odisha government has launched the 'B-MAAN' scheme with a budget of ₹14,182 crore.
- Objective: To develop Odisha as an "aviation hub" in eastern India.
- Approved in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.
- The scheme includes comprehensive development across various aviation aspects.
- Major components of the scheme:
 - ♦ Infrastructure development and modernization.
 - ♦ Enhancing air connectivity and viable gap funding (VGP).
 - ♦ Establishing a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) ecosystem.
 - ♦ Promoting emerging technologies and innovation, including drones and seaplanes.
 - ♦ Development of cargo and logistics.
 - ♦ Focusing on capacity building, skill development, and institutional strengthening.
- Aims to integrate futuristic technologies like e-VTOL aircraft and aerospace manufacturing.
- Strengthening air cargo infrastructure is also included in the scheme.

Election Commission begins training booth-level officers for SIR in Bengal

- The Election Commission has begun a training programme for Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) in West Bengal for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- Training is being conducted across various districts and will be completed by November 3, with the SIR process starting on November 4.
- In Nazrul Mancha, south Kolkata, BLOs from multiple assembly constituencies including Bhabanipur, Rashbehari, Ballygunge, and others are undergoing training in batches.
- BLOs are provided with special kits, detailed instructions, and a new mobile app to streamline field operations for the SIR exercise.
- From November 4 to December 4, BLOs will visit households to verify voters and assist with form-filling.
- Some BLOs have expressed concerns over security aspects during the voter verification process.

Gateway of Guwahati: First-of-its-kind floating terminal inaugurated in Assam

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first riverine terminal in India on the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati.
- Named the Gateway of Guwahati Terminal and Jetty, it was built at a cost of Rs 304.95 crore by the Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society.
- The terminal features include:
 - ♦ A terminal building with an integrated command and control center.
 - ♦ An observatory lounge.
 - ♦ A sewage treatment plant.
 - ♦ Advanced fire safety systems.
- It is expected to boost river-based transport, promote tourism, and enhance water-based urban mobility in Guwahati.
- Sitharaman emphasised the terminal as a reflection of Assam's progressive vision, opening economic opportunities for the local population.
- Alongside the terminal, she inaugurated the Brahmaputra Riverfront, part of the Guwahati Smart City project, featuring recreational and commercial facilities over a 1.2-kilometre stretch.
- She also visited the site of the upcoming TATA Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test

project in Morigaon district and encouraged youth to pursue entrepreneurship for economic development.

Coal India, DVC form ₹21,000 cr JV for thermal power project in Jharkhand

- Coal India Ltd (CIL) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have formed a partnership to establish a coal-fired power plant.
- The project will cost ₹21,000 crore and will have a total capacity of 1,600 megawatts (MW), with two ultra-supercritical units of 800 MW each.
- Coal will be supplied by CIL's Jharkhand-based subsidiary, Central Coalfields Ltd.
- Both companies will hold equal stakes in the joint venture.
- The plant is expected to start commercial operations by FY 2031-32.
- The project will utilize existing infrastructure, which simplifies the development process.
- The variable cost of power generation will be low due to the project's location in a coalfield area, ensuring proximity to coal sources.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of CIL Chairman Sanoj Kumar Jha and DVC Chairman S Suresh Kumar, along with Ministry of Coal officials.
- The project was initially approved following a memorandum of understanding in April 2025, after clearance from the Power Ministry.

Union Government Releases over ₹444 Crores under XV Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies in Odisha

- The Union Government has released the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants for rural local bodies in Odisha for the Financial Year 2025-26.
- The release includes the second installment of United Grants worth ₹342.5964 crore for 20 District Panchayats, 296 Block Panchayats, and 6,734 Gram Panchayats.
- Additionally, ₹101.7815 crore, representing the withheld portion of the first installment, has been released to 20 Zilla Parishads, 233 Panchayat Samitis, and 649 Gram Panchayats.
- The grants are released by the Ministry of Finance, based on recommendations from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation).

Nitish Kumar takes oath as the Bihar Chief Minister for record 10th time



- Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for a record 10th time in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- The oath-taking ceremony took place at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, a historic venue for previous inaugurations.
- Nitish Kumar was elected leader of the JD(U) Legislature Party and the NDA Legislature Party ahead of forming a new government.
- The 2025 Bihar Assembly elections were pivotal for Nitish Kumar, marking nearly two decades in the political landscape.
- The NDA achieved a historic landslide victory, winning 202 of 243 seats; Mahagathbandhan secured only 35 seats.
- Within the NDA, the BJP won 89 seats, JD(U) got 85, and other allies secured the remaining seats.
- Opposition parties included RJD (25 seats), Congress (6), CPI(ML)(L) (2), and others.

IN-SPACe, SIDBI green light ₹1,000-crore VC Fund for the India's space sector



- IN-SPACe and SIDBI Venture Capital (SVCL) have signed a Contribution Agreement for a ₹1,000 crore Venture Capital Fund aimed at the Indian space sector.
- The fund's investment activities will begin following approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- It will provide early-stage and growth capital to startups in areas such as launch technologies, satellites, payload systems, in-space services, earth observation, communication platforms, and downstream applications.
- The agreement was signed by Lochan Sehra, IAS, Joint Secretary of IN-SPACe, and Arup Kumar, Managing Director and CEO of SVCL.
- The fund was approved by the Union Cabinet in October 2024, with SVCL appointed as the Fund Manager.
- Lochan Sehra emphasized the fund as a major enabler for the private space sector, aiding startups in testing ideas and building technologies.
- Arup Kumar noted the fund will empower young companies to innovate and contribute to India's growth as a major space power.

Indian Navy Set to Commission 'Ikshak', the Third Survey Vessel (Large)



- The Indian Navy's indigenously built Survey Vessel (Large), Ikshak, is set to be commissioned at Naval Base Kochi on 06 Nov 2025.
- As the third ship of her class, Ikshak's induction underscores the Indian Navy's steadfast commitment to building advanced, state-of-the-art platforms furthering the momentum of capability enhancement and self-reliance – charting a new course in indigenous hydrographic excellence.
- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, Kolkata, under the supervision of the Directorate of Ship Production and the Warship Overseeing Team (Kolkata), Ikshak embodies over 80% indigenous content.
- The vessel stands as a testament to the successful collaboration between GRSE and Indian MSMEs, proudly reflecting the spirit and strength of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Beyond her primary role of hydrographic survey operations, Ikshak is designed with dual-role capability, serving as a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) platform, and as a Hospital Ship during emergencies.
- Notably, Ikshak is also the first SVL ship with dedicated accommodation for women, reflecting the Indian Navy's inclusive and progressive approach towards a future-ready fleet.
- The ship's name, Ikshak, meaning 'The Guide', aptly symbolises her mission – to chart the unknown, ensure safe passage for mariners, and strengthen India's maritime power.

Indian Army Commemorates Infantry Day - 79th Shaurya Diwas



- The Indian Army observed Infantry Day (Shaurya Diwas) on 27th October with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.
- General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, laid a wreath at the Amar Chakra in honor of Infantry soldiers' courage and sacrifice.
- War veterans, including Major Ashish Sonal, Subedar Major Kunwar Singh, and Lance Naik Amrit, also laid wreaths, representing the legacy of gallantry.
- Various events, such as the Field Marshal KM Cariappa Memorial Seminar, the Shauryaveer Run, and the Felicitation of Veer Naris, were organized across the nation.
- An 'Infantry Magazine' showcasing the Infantry's capabilities and heroic stories was released during the events.
- Infantry Day, observed on October 27, commemorates the Indian Army's first deployment to Srinagar in 1947, crucial in repelling a Pakistan-backed invasion and safeguarding India's territorial integrity.

IAF Participated in Multinational Exercise 'Ocean Sky 2025' in Spain



- Indian Air Force participated in multinational exercise Ocean Sky 2025 in Spain to enhance interoperability and defence cooperation.
- It is a multinational air combat exercise hosted by the Spanish Air Force at Gando Air Base, Spain, from October 20 to 31.
- Its aims to foster mutual learning, enhance interoperability, sharpen air combat skills, and strengthen defence cooperation with friendly nations.
- Its objective to train missions for air superiority in defensive counter-air (DCA) and offensive counter-air (OCA), simulating engagements between large combined air forces.
- Key Focus: Knowledge exchange, tactical refinement, interoperability enhancement
- It provides a highly dynamic and interactive environment for sharing operational doctrines and enhance proficiency through realistic combat simulations, network-centric warfare training and multi-domain air operations.
- Indian Air force is one of the participants among others. This participation follows a recent boost in the IAF's airlift capabilities with the induction of 16 Airbus C-295 transport aircraft.
- The Indian contingent consists of fighter aircraft, flight crews, technical specialists, and mission analysts.
- They will undertake tasks involving air combat, strike coordination, aerial refuelling, and electronic warfare practices.

ICG Launches Two Fast Patrol Vessels: ICGS Ajit and ICGS Aparajit



- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) marked a significant milestone in strengthening India's maritime security with the launch of two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) ICG Ship Ajit and ICGS Aparajit at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- These vessels are the seventh and eighth in a series of eight indigenously built FPVs being constructed by

GSL for the ICG, marking an important step forward in enhancing the nation's coastal surveillance and response capabilities.

- Designed and built entirely by GSL, the FPVs reflect the growing strength of India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities. Measuring 52 metres in length and displacing 320 tonnes, these vessels are equipped with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP) the first of their kind in this class in India, offering superior manoeuvrability and propulsion efficiency.
- They are capable of multi-mission roles including fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and search & rescue operations, particularly around India's island territories and Exclusive Economic Zone.
- With the induction of two FPVs, the ICG continues to expand its fleet of modern, high-speed platforms, ensuring enhanced operational readiness and maritime safety across India's vast coastline.

Delivery of 'Mahe' - First Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Built By CSL, Kochi



- 'Mahe', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 23 Oct 2025.
- 'Mahe', named after the historic port town in the Union Territory of Puducherry, symbolises India's rich maritime heritage.
- The vessel has been indigenously designed and constructed by CSL, reflecting India's growing self-reliance in Naval Shipbuilding.
- It is equipped for underwater surveillance, Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations in coastal waters and has advanced Mine Laying capability.
- At approximately 78 metres, with a displacement of around 1,100 tons, the ship packs a punch in

underwater warfare, with torpedoes, Multifunctional Anti-Submarine Rockets, and advanced radars and sonars.

- Induction of ASW SWCs will significantly augment the Indian Navy's ASW capability, enhancing maritime security in the littorals.
- The delivery of 'Mahe', with over 80% indigenous content, marks yet another milestone and reaffirms the Government of India's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Indian Navy commissioned 'state-of-the-art' INS Ikshak



- INS Ikshak, the third vessel of the survey vessel (large) class, was commissioned into active service by the Indian Navy in Kochi.
- The commissioning ceremony was led by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi as part of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative for self-reliance in naval shipbuilding.
- The event included the reading of the ship's commissioning warrant, hoisting of naval ensign and national flag, and a ceremonial salute by the Colour Guard.
- Admiral Tripathi unveiled the commissioning plaque, symbolizing INS Ikshak's readiness for service.
- The ship features advanced hydrographic systems, ocean mapping tools, and specialized equipment, making it a preferred survey platform for India and its maritime partners.

- INS Ikshak supports helicopter operations and can be quickly adapted for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).
- It is the first SVL-class ship with dedicated accommodation for women officers, reflecting the Navy's commitment to gender inclusivity.
- The vessel's induction bolsters India's hydrographic survey capabilities and enhances maritime safety and strategic interests.
- The ceremony was attended by senior naval leaders, including Vice-Admiral Sameer Saxena and various veterans.

Defence Ministry Signs ₹2,095 Crore Deal with BDL



- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the procurement of INVAR Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs).
- Contract value: ₹2,095+ crore.
- Purpose: To enhance the lethality and firepower of T-90 tanks of the Indian Army.
- The missile procurement is under the 'Buy (Indian)' category of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), promoting domestic capability.
- Agreement signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi.

First 7 projects under ECMS worth ₹5,532 crore investment approved

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) 		
Status as on 30.09.2024		
Parameter	Target under ECMS	Expected Outcomes (All per applications received)
Investment	Rs. 59,350 crore	Rs. 1,15,351 crore (~2X)
Production	Rs. 4,56,500 crore	Rs. 10,34,751 crore (~2.2X)
Employment	91,600 persons	1,41,801 persons (~1.5X)
Incentive Outgo	Rs. 22,805 crore	Rs. 41,468 crore (~1.8X)

Source: Ministry of Electronics and IT

- The Government of India has approved the first batch of seven projects worth ₹5,532 crore under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), projected to generate ₹36,559 crore in production.
- It is a flagship initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to strengthen India's component-level manufacturing ecosystem and reduce dependence on imports for key electronic parts.
- Approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024, the scheme aims to make India self-reliant in critical electronic components and materials.
- Its objective is to promote domestic manufacturing of sub-assemblies, bare components, and capital equipment, enhance domestic value addition (DVA), and integrate Indian firms with Global Value Chains (GVCs) in electronics and semiconductors.
- The ECMS was notified on 8 April 2025 with a total outlay of ₹22,919 crore, equivalent to about USD 2.7 billion.
- It has a tenure of six years, with an optional one-year gestation period.
- Electronics have emerged as India's third largest and fastest growing export category in 2024–25, rising from the seventh position in 2021–22. In the first half of FY 2025–26, electronics exports stood at USD 22.2 billion.

Centre approves 1,000 electric buses for Pune under PM E-DRIVE scheme



- The Centre has approved the purchase of 1,000 electric buses for Pune under the PM E-DRIVE scheme, enhancing the city's public transport.
- Union Minister Murlidhar Mohol announced that the new e-buses will bolster the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd (PMPML) fleet, reduce congestion, and decrease vehicular pollution.
- The PM E-DRIVE scheme aims to provide affordable and environmentally friendly public transportation options.
- PMPML currently operates about 2,000 buses, and aims for a fleet of at least 3,000 to meet growing commuter demand.
- Mohol has been actively following up with state and central governments for the addition of new buses, highlighting meetings with key officials like H D Kumaraswamy and Devendra Fadnavis.
- The approval process was expedited after Mohol met with Kumaraswamy in New Delhi.
- Strengthening Pune's public transport infrastructure is a priority, with ongoing work on the Pune Metro's expansion.
- Mohol expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and other leaders for their support and emphasized the importance of integrated and sustainable urban development.

PM Fasal Bima Yojana to cover crop damage by wild animals, paddy inundation

- The Indian government announced that starting from the next Kharif season, crop losses from wild animal attacks and paddy inundation will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
 - Under PMFBY, farmers pay 1.5% of the insured amount for rabi crops, 2% for kharif crops, and 5% for horticulture and cash crops. The excess premium is subsidized by the government.
 - Farmers have been facing crop losses due to wild animal attacks, especially in areas near forests or hilly terrains.
 - The revised PMFBY framework includes wild animal attack damages as a fifth add-on cover, with states required to identify responsible animal species and vulnerable districts.
- Farmers are required to report crop damage within 72 hours using a Crop Insurance App, but some experts believe this timeframe is too short given network issues and other commitments.
 - The Ministry insists that the reporting deadline is operationally feasible, despite concerns over proof of timing for damage.
 - Inundation of paddy crops, previously excluded due to moral hazard concerns, will now be covered to assist farmers in flood-prone areas.
 - There were previous issues with insurers being reluctant to cover inundation claims due to high compensation amounts in certain states.
 - Experts express skepticism about the feasibility of settling inundation claims, given developments in climate-resilient rice varieties.

SVCC and Conayur São Paulo Host 3rd International Ayurveda Conference Showcasing India–Brazil Collaboration in Traditional Medicine



- The 3rd International Ayurveda Conference was held from 14–15 November 2025 in São Paulo, Brazil.
- It was jointly organized by the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) and Conayur, under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- The event marked 40 years of Ayurveda in Brazil, attracting experts, practitioners, scholars, and students from Latin America and India.
- The conference theme was “Diversity and Inclusion in Ayurveda: Caring for Everybody and Every Being”.
- The event was inaugurated by H.E. Shri Dinesh Bhatia, Ambassador of India to Brazil.
- Ambassador Bhatia highlighted the strengthening collaboration between India and Brazil in the field of traditional healthcare systems.
- He also referenced the upcoming WHO–Ministry of Ayush Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, scheduled in New Delhi from 17–19 December 2025.

17th India-Israel Joint Working Group on Defence Cooperation Meeting Held in Tel Aviv

- The 17th meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation was held in Tel Aviv on November 4, 2025.



- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh (India) and Major General (Retd.) Amir Baram (Israel).
- A Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation was signed to strengthen defence ties.
- The MoU covers areas such as strategic dialogue, training, defence industry cooperation, research and development, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.
- The Joint Working Group reviewed ongoing initiatives and discussed future cooperation in technology and operational capabilities.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will host the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025)



- ICGH 2025 will be organized on 11-12 November at India Pavilion, New Delhi by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- Senior Union Ministers such as Prahlad Joshi, Hardeep Singh Puri, and Dr. Jitendra Singh will participate in it.
- The conference will include government officials, experts, industry representatives, students, and media.
- The conference will focus on green hydrogen development, applications, infrastructure, demand creation, and global collaboration.
- Sessions will include financing, certification, port readiness, skill development, and technology localization.
- This event supports the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM) to promote practical solutions and knowledge sharing.

Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 to position India's Leadership in Global Rice Supply Chain



- The Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2025 **was** held on October 30–31, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The conference **aimed** to align with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 and **enhance** global rice trade transparency, efficiency, and resilience. Key participants **included** foreign ministers from the Philippines, Ghana, Namibia, and The Gambia. India **was** a major rice producer and exporter, supplying rice to over 172 countries.
- The event **was organized** by the Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF) in collaboration with APEDA and various government bodies. Expected participants **included** over 3,000 farmers and FPOs, 1,000 foreign buyers from 80+ countries, and 2,500 exporters and allied industries.
- The conference **was expected to produce** a Vision & Roadmap document for the rice sector over the next six months, incorporating stakeholder insights. Eight

technical sessions **addressed** agronomy, irrigation, and sustainability, chaired by senior officials and experts. India **produced** about 150 million tonnes of rice in 2024–25, accounting for 28% of global output.

PM Modi participates virtually in 22nd ASEAN-India Summit, calls for deeper regional cooperation



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated virtually in the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit held in Kuala Lumpur.
- This event marked his 12th participation in the India-ASEAN Summit.
- Modi congratulated Timor-Leste on becoming ASEAN's 11th member and welcomed their delegation.
- He emphasized India's support for ASEAN unity and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.
- Modi lauded the adoption of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and called for a review of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AITIGA).
- Highlighting global challenges, he identified terrorism as a serious threat and urged collective action against it.
- Announced initiatives to deepen cooperation in line with the Malaysian Chair's theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability", including:
 - ♦ Implementation of ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026–2030).
 - ♦ Adoption of a Joint Leaders' Statement on Sustainable Tourism.
 - ♦ Designation of 2026 as the "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation".
 - ♦ Proposed Second ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Meeting and Maritime Exercise.

3rd National Conference on National e-Vidhan Application



- The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs will organize the 3rd National Conference on the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) on 30th October 2025 at Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.
- The event will be graced by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, and Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting.
- Shri Nikunja Bihari Dhal, Secretary, and Dr. Satya Prakash, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, will also be present.
- Over 100 participants, including Secretaries of Legislative Houses and Nodal Department officials from various states, will attend the conference.
- The participants play a key role in the implementation and operationalization of the NeVA project in their respective States.
- NeVA is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the Digital India Programme of the Government of India.
- The project aims to make State Legislatures paperless, transforming them into 'Digital Houses' for improved transparency and efficiency.
- It envisions integrating all 37 Legislative Houses on a unified digital platform under the concept of 'One Nation, One Application'.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia hails the growth of Indo-French ties at the Indo-French North-East Investment Forum in Guwahati

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, addressed the Indo-French North-East Investment Forum in Guwahati.



- The event marked the final leg of his four-day tour to the Northeast.
- The Minister described the forum as “a bridge between vision and venture”, highlighting the strong partnership between India and France, based on trust, not just treaties.
- He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, India–France relations have grown into a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- The partnership combines “strategy with soul, and innovation with inclusion”.
- Cooperation areas include defence, space, clean energy, digital transformation, and sustainable cities.
- The partnership showcases a shared commitment to global progress and sustainable development.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya to Lead Indian Delegation to Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha from 4-6 November 2025

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who was then the Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, led the Indian delegation to the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2), held in Doha, Qatar, from 4–6 November 2025.
- He delivered India’s National Statement at the Opening Plenary Session and participated in the adoption of the Doha Political Declaration.
- Dr. Mandaviya also expressed his views at a High-Level Round Table on the theme “Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social Development”, which included—
 - ◆ Poverty Eradication
 - ◆ Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All
 - ◆ Social Inclusion

Mangaluru to host 'Kaju Centennial Summit 2025' marking 100 years of the cashew industry



- The Karnataka Cashew Manufacturers' Association (KCMA) is celebrating 100 years of cashew processing in Mangaluru with the 'Kaju Centennial Summit 2025' from November 14-16.
- Mangaluru is recognised as the birthplace of India's organised cashew industry, with the first factory established in 1925 by Peirce Leslie India Ltd.
- The summit will feature discussions on global market trends, increasing domestic consumption growth from 7-8% to 12-13%, and the shift from traditional trade to e-commerce.
- A target of achieving 2.5 million tonnes of domestic raw cashew nut (RCN) production in India by 2030 will be a key focus.
- Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State, will participate in the inauguration, along with other industry experts.

Hyderabad to host World Aquaculture India 2025 meet from Nov 11 to 13



- The World Aquaculture Society (WAS) is hosting the World Aquaculture India 2025 conference from November 11-13 at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre-Novotel.
- The event will feature participation from various countries in the Asian-Pacific region and beyond, focusing on all aspects of aquaculture.
- The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) will hold a parallel session titled

"Harnessing India's blue revolution for export growth in aquaculture".

- The press release highlights aquaculture's growing importance in meeting global demand for fish products amid increasing population and dwindling fisheries stocks.
- MPEDA's session will emphasize sustainable fishery resource utilization for exports and include topics like Export Oriented Aquaculture, Strategic Development, Innovation in Aquaculture, and Marine Product Export Potential.

Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Jitin Prasada, inaugurates 44th India International Trade Fair 2025



- Minister of State Jitin Prasada inaugurated the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025, highlighting India's potential as an emerging global economic power.
- He said IITF strengthens India's path to self-reliance, reflecting the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 and the theme "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".
- The Minister appreciated ITPO's efforts and welcomed the Defence Pavilion's return after a decade, showcasing India's expanding capabilities.

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals organizes Summit on Recycling, Plastic Waste Management and Circular Economy in Dehradun

- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), in collaboration with FICCI and CIPET, organised a Summit on Recycling, Plastic Waste Management, and Circular Economy in Dehradun.



- The Summit aimed to foster dialogue and collaboration for a sustainable and circular roadmap for India's petrochemical and plastics sectors.
- Secretary Nivedita Shukla Verma highlighted government initiatives such as the CCUS framework, the National Mission for Green India, BioE3 Policy, the EPR norms, Plastic Waste Management Rules, and NITI Aayog's Waste to Wealth programme.
- She emphasized the role of CIPET and Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) in promoting cleaner technologies and industry-academia collaboration.
- The Summit stressed faster adoption of circular manufacturing, innovative recycling technologies, and global best practices for a greener and competitive petrochemical sector.

18th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2025



- The three-days Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2025, concludes in Gurugram, Haryana
- Various publications were released, and the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme logo and website were launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs and Power.
- The conference featured:
 - ◆ 1 conclave session
 - ◆ 2 plenary sessions (including 1 mayoral session)
 - ◆ 8 technical sessions
 - ◆ 8 round tables
 - ◆ 8 research symposiums
- More than 170 speakers participated, with over 1,600 delegates from 8 countries attending.
- 25 exhibitors displayed their works in the exhibition area.

National conference of labour and employment ministers to focus on accelerating job creation & social security

- The National Conference of Labour & Employment and Industry Ministers and Secretaries of States/UTs will start on Tuesday.
- It aims to accelerate progress in labour, employment, and workforce welfare.
- Chaired by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the conference brings together state officials to discuss strengthening the employment ecosystem.
- A major focus will be on the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PMVBRY), emphasizing state participation in aligning regional programs.
- Discussions will include universalizing social security through data-sharing and integration with platforms like the e-Shram portal.

Birders spotted a rare species, the rustic bunting (*emberiza rustica*) at Najafgarh Jheel



- A rare rustic bunting (*Emberiza rustica*), a migratory passerine bird, was spotted for the first time in the National Capital Region (NCR) at Najafgarh Jheel on the Delhi-Gurugram border.
- The Rustic Bunting is a small migratory passerine, breeding across the northern Palearctic (northern Europe to Siberia) and wintering in East and Southeast Asia.
- Since its global population has been declining (though recent trends show some stabilization), its status is listed as “Near Threatened” under the 2025 IUCN Red List update.

Tenkasi District Forest Division in Tamil Nadu launching the ‘Golden Jackal Ambassadors’ scheme



- The Forest Division in Tenkasi has launched a new conservation initiative, the “Golden Jackal

Ambassadors” scheme, to protect the declining population of Golden Jackals.

- Under the scheme, school and college students will be trained as ambassadors tasked with spreading awareness, assisting in rescue and rehabilitation of injured jackals, and promoting coexistence.
- The decision comes in response to habitat loss — caused by indiscriminate construction and vegetation removal — which has severely affected not just jackals but several small wildlife species.
- The scheme builds on earlier community-oriented efforts by forest authorities and aims to create a grassroots network of informed youth committed to wildlife conservation.

Supreme Court of India Panel Suggests Creation of a Goa Tiger Reserve

- A panel appointed by the Supreme Court of India (via the Central Empowered Committee, CEC) has recommended that the state of Goa notify a new Goa Tiger Reserve — in a phased, community-sensitive manner.
- The first phase would cover roughly 468.6 sq km: with Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary as the core (areas with minimal human habitation), and parts of Bhagwan Mahavir National Park and Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary as buffer zones.
- The rationale: these forests form a continuous ecological corridor with the neighbouring Kali Tiger Reserve in Karnataka — enabling tiger movement, genetic flow, and long-term habitat connectivity.
- The CEC urged Goa’s government to start the formal notification process within three months and to prepare a dedicated tiger-conservation plan under law.

New plant species discovered — *Hoya dawodiensis*

- Arunachal Pradesh has reported a major scientific milestone: the discovery of a new plant species, *Hoya dawodiensis*, in the remote Vijoyanagar region of Changlang district.



- Found in a valley accessible only by air or multi-day treks, this delicate climbing vine — part of the Apocynaceae family — adds to India’s known floral diversity.
- Chief Minister Pema Khandu described the discovery on 25 November 2025 as a “remarkable chapter” in the state’s botanical research legacy.
- Scientists also recorded two other Hoya-species in the state — Hoya yingjiangensis (first record in India) and Hoya nummularia (first record in Arunachal Pradesh).

Saving a Prehistoric Survivor — Cuban Swamp Project



- In November 2025, scientists in Cuba initiated a restoration project in Zapata Swamp — the Caribbean’s largest intact wetland — to save the critically endangered Cuban gar (also known as manjuarí) from extinction.
- The gar, a “living fossil” that has survived for over 100 million years, has suffered drastic population decline due to habitat loss, overfishing and predation from invasive species like the African walking catfish.
- To revive its numbers, scientists established a hatchery to breed juvenile gars and rear them until they are ready for release back into the swamp — aiming to rebuild wild populations.

Natural Herbicide Found — Manchurian walnut shows weed-killing potential



- Researchers from Kyushu University (with collaborators in Japan and Thailand) have discovered that leaves of the Manchurian walnut tree (scientific name *Juglans mandshurica*) contain a compound named 2Z-decaprenol that potently inhibits weed growth — even more effectively than previously known walnut-derived chemicals.
- In soil-based experiments simulating natural leaf fall, 2Z-decaprenol suppressed seedling growth by disturbing root development, triggering plant defence pathways and disrupting stress-response genes in weeds.
- This discovery, reported in October 2025, could pave the way for eco-friendly, plant-based bioherbicides — offering farmers a sustainable alternative to synthetic weedkillers.

New Live Sightings — Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale (*Mesoplodon ginkgodens*)

- In June 2024 off Baja California, Mexico, scientists aboard the vessel Pacific Storm recorded live encounters with the elusive Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale — a species previously known only from beached carcasses.
- Using hydrophones to track an enigmatic echolocation call (code-named “BW43”) first detected in 2020, researchers located the whales and obtained a tiny skin sample via a humane biopsy crossbow. Genetic analysis confirmed the species identity.
- This marks the first ever confirmed at-sea sighting and genetic documentation of living Ginkgo-toothed beaked whales.
- The find offers the first glimpse into their natural behaviour and habitat, opening new avenues for conservation and acoustic monitoring of these deep-sea mammals.

New owlfly species discovered — *Protidricerus albocapitatus*



- Scientists have identified a new species of owlfly, *Protidricerus albocapitatus*, in the Nedumkayam forest of Malappuram district, Kerala.
- This is only the second instance of the genus *Protidricerus* recorded in India after a gap of 134 years.
- The insect, belonging to the family Myrmeleontidae and order Neuroptera, displays distinctive features — a white tufted head and long clubbed antennae.

- With this discovery, the count of owlfly species in Kerala rises to five, and India's total to 37.

Turkey to Host COP31 After Compromise Deal with Australia

- Turkey will host the COP31 UN climate summit in November 2026 in Antalya, following a compromise reached with Australia that ended a two-year standoff for hosting rights.
- Announced at the COP30 meeting in Brazil on November 20, 2025, the agreement is an unusual “split-hosting” arrangement.
- While Turkey will serve as the host nation and assume the COP Presidency for the purpose of staging the event, Australia will lead the intergovernmental negotiations process, giving it significant control over the talks' agenda and priorities.
- A pre-COP meeting will also be held in the Pacific region to highlight the climate change threat to island nations, a key part of Australia's original bid.

Egypt Hosts the 11th edition of World Para Powerlifting Championships 2025



- The 11th edition of the World Para Powerlifting Championships 2025 was held in Cairo, Egypt, marking the first ever World Championship held in Africa.
- The World Para Powerlifting Championships occur every two years, determining the best powerlifters with disabilities.
- This year's championship is held in Egypt, specifically at the Sport Hall of Olympic City in the New Administrative Capital.
- 537 athletes from 70 nations, including all Paralympic champions from Paris 2024 participated in the event.
- China topped the overall medals table with 13 medals, including 8 golds.
- Nigeria and Iran followed with 3 and 2 golds, respectively.
- Hosts Egypt won 5 medals, finishing in fourth place.

Union MoS for Youth Affairs & Sports Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse Highlights the Role of 'Pune Grand Tour 2026'



- The logo and jersey of the 'Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026', India's first-ever international UCI 2.2 Stage Cycling Race, were unveiled at The Westin Hotel, Pune.
- The event is jointly organized by the Government of Maharashtra, Pune District Administration, and the Cycling Federation of India.
- The race celebrates Pune's cultural, historical, and sporting heritage while promoting sports-led development.
- Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, attended the event and linked it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games.
- She highlighted that the initiative reflects India's commitment to sports-driven growth and sports tourism.
- The Minister noted that under PM Modi's vision, programs like 'Sundays on Cycle', held weekly at 5,000+ locations with nearly 5 lakh cyclists, are transforming 'Fit India' into a people's movement.
- Smt. Khadse appreciated Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya for expanding the 'Sundays on Cycle' movement, encouraging fitness, sustainability, and community participation.

India wins Women's World Cup Final: Deepti Sharma crowned 'Player of the Tournament'



- India won their maiden Women's World Cup title with a 52-run victory over South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

- The match took place in Navi Mumbai in front of a sold-out crowd of 45,000 after a two-hour rain delay; no overs were lost.
- India batted first, scoring 298-7, led by Shafali Verma's 87 and Deepti Sharma's 58.
- South Africa's captain, Laura Wolvaardt, scored 101, keeping her team in contention until her dismissal in the 42nd over.
- India successfully defended their total, as South Africa was bowled out for 246.
- Deepti Sharma was the star bowler, taking 5 wickets for 39 runs, while Verma contributed 2 wickets for 36 runs.
- This victory marked India's incredible turnaround after losing three consecutive group-stage matches.

Dabang Delhi K.C. Clinched Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 Title Over Puneri Paltan



- Dabang Delhi K.C. won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 12 final against Puneri Paltan, 31-28.
- Match held at Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium, Delhi.
- This was Delhi's second championship win; first was in Season 8.
- First home team to win at their venue since U Mumba in Season 2.

Raahul VS becomes India's 91st Grandmaster



- Raahul VS became India's 91st Grandmaster by winning the 6th ASEAN Individual Championship with a round to spare.

- He is 21 years old and previously held the title of Asian junior champion.
- Raahul achieved the title of International Master in 2021 after securing four and five IM norms and exceeding 2400 live ratings.
- All India Chess Federation President Nitin Narang congratulated Raahul on social media.
- Just a week prior, Illamparathi AR became India's 90th Grandmaster, attaining his final norm at the Bijeljina Open 2025 in Bosnia.
- S Rohith Krishna was India's 89th Grandmaster, earning his title in August at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan.

4th National EMRS Sports Meet 2025 Concludes in Rourkela



- The 4th National Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Sports Meet 2025 concluded with grandeur and patriotic fervour today at the Birsa Munda Athletics Stadium, Rourkela, coinciding with the nationwide celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas.
- The event paid tribute to the valour and sacrifice of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and celebrated the rich legacy of India's tribal freedom movement.
- The Sports Meet was hosted by the Odisha Model Tribal Education Society (OMTES) under the ST & SC Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Odisha, and organised by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

Booker Prize charity launches new prize worth 50K pounds for children



- The Booker Prize Foundation announced a new Children’s Booker Prize with a prize of 50,000 pounds.
- First edition will open for nominations in 2026 and be awarded annually from 2027.
- Targets fiction for children aged 8 to 12 years, written in or translated into English, published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- The initiative aims to:
 - ♦ Champion future classics for children.
 - ♦ Inspire young people to read.
 - ♦ Cultivate lifelong readers.
- Supported by AKO Foundation, which will give at least 30,000 copies of shortlisted and winning books.
- Frank Cottrell-Boyce, a multi-award-winning author, is the inaugural Chair of judges.
- The judging panel will include two adult judges and three child judges recruited from schools and cultural partners.
- Cottrell-Boyce emphasizes the importance of making great books accessible to children.
- Penelope Lively will deliver a keynote speech about the prize at the Booker Prize ceremony on November 10, 2025.

Three IIT Madras professors win Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

- Three professors from IIT Madras received the ‘Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025’ for exceptional contributions in science and technology.



- **Awardees:**
 1. **Thalappil Pradeep:** Institute Professor, Department of Chemistry.
 2. **Mohana Sankar Sivaprakasam:** Department of Electrical Engineering; heads the Sudha Gopalakrishnan Brain Centre (SGBC) and Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre (HTIC).
 3. **Shweta Prem Agrawal:** Anand Rajaraman Chair Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.
- The award recognizes exemplary achievements and lifetime contributions to the advancement of India’s scientific and technological capabilities.
- V. Kamakoti, Director of IIT Madras, expressed pride in the honorees and emphasized the institution’s commitment to innovation and national development.

David Szalay wins Booker Prize 2025 for ‘Flesh’, a haunting tale of ordinary life



- Canadian-Hungarian-British writer David Szalay won the Booker Prize for his novel “Flesh”.
- The book explores an ordinary man’s life over several decades, emphasizing what isn’t written as much as what is.

- Szalay, 51, defeated five other finalists, including favorites Andrew Miller and Kiran Desai.
 - The award comes with a prize of 50,000 pounds (approximately USD 66,000) and increases the winner's visibility and sales.
 - A judging panel that included Roddy Doyle and Sarah Jessica Parker chose "Flesh" unanimously after a five-hour meeting.
 - The story follows István, a taciturn Hungarian immigrant navigating life in Britain and London high society.
- Szalay aimed to depict life as a physical experience, focusing on a working-class man's perspective.
 - Critics praised the book's sparseness and depth while some were frustrated by the gaps in István's narrative.
 - Szalay was seen as an outsider but had gained traction leading up to the awards.
 - Other finalists included works by Susan Choi, Katie Kitamura, and Ben Markovits.
 - The Booker Prize, established in 1969, is known for significantly boosting authors' careers.

Indian-American Paul Kapur Takes Charge as US Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asia



- Paul Kapur, an Indian-American security expert, was sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs.
- His nomination was one of 107 approved by the Senate.
- Kapur will lead U.S. diplomatic efforts with key nations in South and Central Asia, including India.
- He succeeds Donald Lu, who held the position from September 2021 to January 2025.
- Kapur previously worked in the State Department's Policy Planning Staff on South and Central Asia, Indo-Pacific strategy, and India-U.S. relations from 2020 to 2021.
- During his Senate confirmation hearing in June, he expressed that his career had come full circle, returning to his birthplace.

Sanae Takaichi wins historic vote to become Japan's first female prime minister



- Sanae Takaichi has been elected Japan's first female prime minister.
- She is 64 years old and is the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- Takaichi won a clear majority in parliament: 237 votes in the Lower House and 125 in the Upper House.
- She is a staunch conservative, influenced by former UK PM Margaret Thatcher.
- Her election comes at a time of economic challenges, including a rising cost of living and public frustration.
- Takaichi is the fourth prime minister in five years, following a series of scandals and declining ratings for her predecessors.
- She managed to secure her position despite initial hurdles, including the withdrawal of support from the LDP's coalition partner, Komeito.
- A last-minute agreement with the Japan Innovation Party helped her win.
- Takaichi's upcoming challenges include improving relations with South Korea and handling the US administration's demands.
- She is known for her conservative views, opposing same-sex marriage and advocating traditional gender roles.
- Some young women feel skeptical about her role in women's empowerment due to her traditional beliefs.
- During her campaign, she proposed better hospital services for women's health and recognition for household support workers.

Deepak Gupta to be the next CMD of GAIL (India)



- Deepak Gupta has been selected as the next Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL (India) Ltd.
- Currently serves as Director (Projects) at GAIL.
- Chosen by the Public Enterprise Selection Board after interviewing a dozen candidates.
- Gupta has 35 years of experience in the oil and gas sector and holds a mechanical engineering degree from the former Delhi College of Engineering (now DTU).
- Certified Project Management Professional from PMI, USA, known for expertise in project and construction management, and business development.
- Key projects include the \$19 billion Dangote Refinery in Nigeria, HMEL Bhatinda Polymer Project in India, and a greenfield refinery project in Mongolia.

Shri Sanjay Garg, IAS assumes the charge of Director General, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)



- Shri Sanjay Garg, an IAS officer of the 1994 batch (Kerala cadre), has assumed charge as Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from 1 November 2025.
- BIS is the National Standards Body of India.
- Shri Garg has over three decades of administrative experience in strategic planning, policy formulation, and implementation.
- His expertise covers sectors like agriculture, food logistics, defence industry, industrial promotion, finance, and social sectors at both State and National levels.
- Before joining BIS, he served as Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).
- At DARE and ICAR, he led digital transformation initiatives using IT in Research Management and Administration.

- He played a key role in expanding the Kisan Sarathi portal, which connects farmers directly with agricultural scientists.

SpiceJet appoints ex-IndiGo COO Sanjay Kumar as Executive Director



- SpiceJet appointed Sanjay Kumar as Executive Director, effective November 3, 2025.
- Kumar previously served as the Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer at IndiGo.
- He will lead SpiceJet's strategic initiatives focused on expansion, operational excellence, and business transformation.
- Reports directly to Ajay Singh, SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director.
- Prior to this role, he was an advisor for Saudia Airlines on KSA-India strategy from August 2024 to March 2025.
- Kumar has over 30 years of experience in the aviation sector, covering network planning, revenue management, marketing, and commercial strategy.

Satyakam Arya set to take over as president and CEO of Hino Motors



- Satyakam Arya, MD & CEO of Daimler India Commercial Vehicles, will become President & CEO of Hino Motors from April 1, 2026.
- He is the first Indian to lead a major Japanese automobile company globally.

- Hino Motors, a Toyota subsidiary, is part of 16 major companies in the Toyota Group.
- The company played a key role in WWII, manufacturing vehicles for the Imperial Japanese Army, and became a Toyota subsidiary in 1966.

Justice Ashok Bhushan reappointed as NCLAT Chairperson



- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of Justice Ashok Bhushan, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, as the Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- As per the order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Justice Bhushan will hold the office until July 4, 2026.
- Justice Bhushan, who was born in 1956 in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh, obtained his law degree from Allahabad University in 1979.
- He enrolled as an advocate in 1979 and started his professional career with practice on the civil and original side at the Allahabad High Court.
- He became a permanent Judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2001.
- Later, he was sworn in as the judge of Kerala High Court in 2014 and subsequently became the chief justice of the high court in 2015.

Private lender IndusInd Bank appoints Amitabh Kumar Singh as new CHRO

- IndusInd Bank appointed Amitabh Kumar Singh as Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) effective November 10, 2025.
- Singh will be part of the senior management personnel of the bank.

- He has 21 years of experience with the ICICI group, most recently as CHRO for ICICI Home Finance.
- Singh's prior experience includes roles at ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, ICICI Bank, L&T, Atos Origin India, Tata Interactive Systems, and Mphasis.
- He holds a postgraduate degree in Human Resources from XISS, Ranchi.
- The appointment follows the resignation of the previous CHRO, Zubin Mody, after two decades with the bank.
- IndusInd Bank is undergoing strategic leadership changes to enhance growth and strengthen banking operations.
- Recent appointments also include Viral Damania as CFO, Pragati Gondhalekar as head of Internal Audit, and Pankaj Sharma as Head of Business Transformation.

RBI approves appointment of veteran banker S Krishnan as chairman of J&K Bank



- The Reserve Bank of India has approved S. Krishnan as the part-time Chairman of J&K Bank, effective from 13 November 2025 to 26 March 2028.
- J&K Bank stated that its board had already approved his appointment in August, pending RBI's clearance.
- Krishnan is currently an independent director on the bank's board and has earlier served as MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
- After his superannuation, he also took charge as MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in September 2022, following RBI's approval.

Hinduja Group chairman Gopichand Hinduja passes away at 85 in London



- London-based billionaire Gopichand Parmanand Hinduja (GP) passed away at the age of 85 after a prolonged illness.
- GP, the second of the four Hinduja brothers, helped transform the family business into a global conglomerate.
- The Hinduja Group expanded over five decades into automobiles, financial services, entertainment, and chemicals.
- He worked closely with his brothers Srichand, Prakash, and Ashok, reflecting India's growing global business influence.
- GP is survived by his wife Sunita, sons Sanjay and Dheeraj, and daughter Rita.
- The Hinduja family's net worth is estimated at £35.3 billion, symbolizing the rise of Indian industrial wealth globally.

James Watson, Nobel prize-winning DNA pioneer passes away

- James Watson, Nobel laureate and co-discoverer of DNA's double-helix structure, passed away at the age of 97.

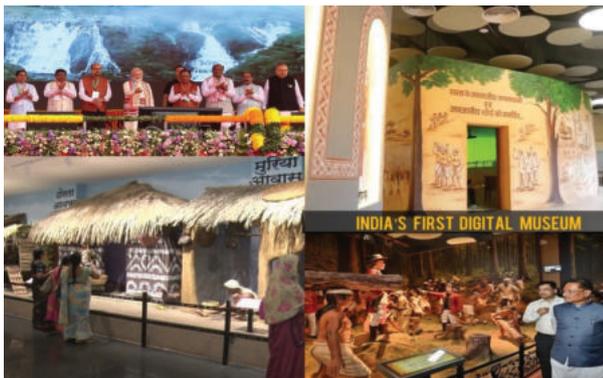


- He died in hospice care on Long Island, New York; the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where he spent much of his career, announced his death.
- Watson is best known for his 1953 discovery of the double helix alongside Francis Crick, which significantly advanced modern biology.
- He shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for this crucial research, contributing to innovations in medicine, forensics, and genetics.
- His work extended to cancer research and the mapping of the human genome.
- Despite his scientific achievements, Watson faced criticism later in life for his racist remarks, including beliefs about African intelligence, leading to a withdrawal from public life.

Former Indian Hockey Star Manuel Frederick Dies at 78

- Former Indian hockey goalkeeper Manuel Frederick, Kerala's first Olympic medallist, has died at the age of 78.
- Frederick, who played a crucial role in India's bronze medal win at the 1972 Munich Olympics, was widely admired for his bold goalkeeping and significant contributions to Indian hockey.

PM Modi to Inaugurate India's First Digital Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum in Chhattisgarh



- In November 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's first fully digital museum of tribal freedom fighters at Nava Raipur (Atal Nagar), Chhattisgarh, coinciding with the state's 25th Foundation Day.
- The museum is named "Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum" and is built at a cost of about ₹50 crore on nearly 10 acres.
- It will showcase the valour, sacrifices and uprisings of tribal freedom heroes through digital, VR and interactive technologies, and serve as a major centre for tribal heritage and history.

Iron Age site unearthed in Tamil Nadu excavation



- Recent archaeological findings in Tamil Nadu, particularly at Sivagalai (Thoothukudi district) and Mayiladumparai (Krishnagiri district), have significantly reshaped the global understanding of the Iron Age.
- Carbon dating of charcoal samples from burial urns at Sivagalai placed the use of iron technology as early as 3345 BCE, or approximately 5,300 years ago.
- This discovery challenges the previous widely accepted belief that the Hittite Empire (modern-day Turkey) was the first to use iron around 1300 BCE.

Meerut Bugle received a Geographical indication (GI) tag



- Meerut Bugle has been officially awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag — the announcement came in November 2025.
- The "Meerut Bugle" is a handcrafted brass wind instrument with origins in the late 19th century, traditionally made in the city of Meerut (Uttar Pradesh).
- This recognition legally secures the name "Meerut Bugle" for bugles produced in that region using traditional methods — preventing mass-produced or imported imitations from using the label.
- It aims to revive the livelihoods of several thousand artisan families in Meerut, restore respect for this heritage craft, and potentially open new markets — including for export, military-band supply, and cultural exhibitions.

Switzerland and Ireland Named Country Partners for Hornbill Festival 2025

- Hornbill Festival 2025 will feature Nagaland's first-ever European Country Partners — Switzerland and Ireland — in a move announced on 18 November 2025.
- The decision was formalised after separate meetings in New Delhi between Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and the respective ambassadors.
- Under the partnership, Ireland will bring folk-music performances, theatre and literary events, public-art installations (including a specially curated piece inspired by the Irish goddess "Danu"), and a dialogue series on shared histories and cultural exchange.
- Switzerland's participation is expected to strengthen cultural diplomacy, tourism, and people-to-people ties — showcasing Swiss hospitality, innovation and heritage alongside Naga traditions.

Raulane Festival celebrated in Himalayan district of Kinnaur



- The Raulane Festival is an ancient ritual celebrated in the high-Himalayan district of Kinnaur (villages like Kalpa, Kothi, Sangla etc.) in Himachal Pradesh.
- The festival honours mythical guardian-spirits called Saunis — said to watch over villagers, livestock, and homes during the harsh winters.

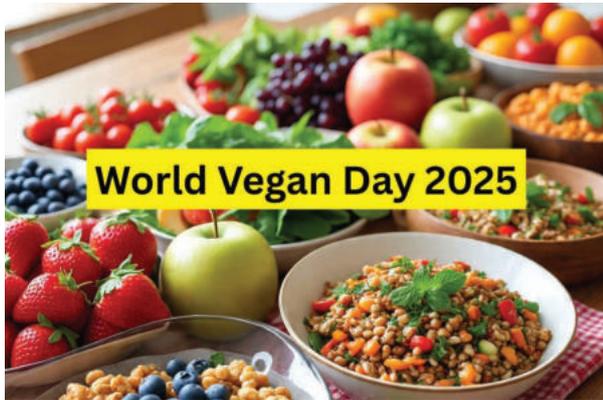
- When winter ends and spring approaches (typically late winter/early spring, often after Holi), the community gathers to thank the Saunis before they retreat to mountain meadows.
- Central to Raulane is a symbolic ritual: two men — the Raula (groom) and Raulane (bride) — don heavy Kinnauri wool garments, ornate ancestral silver jewellery, and wooden masks, concealing their faces entirely.
- They enact a kind of ceremonial "marriage" that is not a conjugal union but a spiritual union — representing the link between villagers and the Saunis.

GI Tag Awarded to Traditional Lepcha Musical Instruments



- Two traditional Lepcha musical instruments from Sikkim — Tungbuk and Pumtong Pulit — have received GI (Geographical Indication) tags from the Government of India.
- The GI tags were awarded on 5 November 2025 to protect and promote Lepcha cultural heritage.
- Tungbuk is a three-stringed instrument used in folk music, storytelling, and rituals.
- Pumtong Pulit is a bamboo flute whose music is inspired by nature.
- The GI tags give these instruments legal protection and increase their cultural value.

World Vegan Day 2025



- World Vegan Day is celebrated annually to promote a vegan lifestyle, avoiding all forms of animal exploitation in food, clothing, cosmetics, and daily products.
- The day emphasizes that small changes, like choosing plant-based food, can improve health, protect animals, and sustain the environment.
- World Vegan Day celebrates compassionate and sustainable living, encouraging respect for all living beings and reducing harm to the planet.
- World Vegan Day 2025 will be observed on November 1, marking the beginning of World Vegan Month.
- The expected theme for 2025 is “Veganism and its Positive Impact on the Planet, Animals, and Human Health”, focusing on fighting climate change, reducing animal suffering, and improving public health.
- History: First celebrated in 1994 by Louise Wallis of the Vegan Society UK to mark the 50th anniversary of the society’s founding by Donald Watson in 1944.

National Cancer Awareness Day: Date, history, significance (7th November)

- India observes National Cancer Awareness Day on November 7th to honour Marie Curie and promote awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment.



- The day highlights the importance of adopting healthier lifestyles, recognising warning signs, and using screening services to improve cancer outcomes and lessen the disease’s impact.
- It was first announced in 2014 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to promote awareness about cancer prevention and screening.
- Aims to educate citizens on the importance of lifestyle modification, regular health check-ups, and timely medical intervention.
- Cancer cases in India are rising, with over 14 lakh new cases reported each year, many detected at advanced stages.
- Theme 2025: Though India’s campaign has a domestic focus, it aligns with the global World Cancer Day theme (2025–27): “United

National Education Day: 11th November

- National Education Day 2025 is on November 11, a fixed annual date that commemorates the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India’s first Education Minister.
- The day honours his contributions to modern Indian education and serves to promote the importance of accessible, quality education for all

World Immunisation Day: 10th November

- World Immunisation Day, observed every year on November 10, was established by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines and immunisation.

- This day serves as a global call to action, urging people, healthcare workers, governments, and organisations to prioritise vaccination efforts to prevent the spread of deadly diseases and protect communities. Immunisation is one of the most effective ways to ensure public health, and World Immunisation Day provides an opportunity to promote this message worldwide.
- World Immunization Day was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2012 to raise awareness about the importance of vaccines.

National Press Day 2025



- National Press Day is observed every year on 16 November to celebrate a free and responsible press.
- The day marks the establishment of the Press Council of India, which began functioning on 16 November 1966.
- The Press Council acts as an independent moral watchdog, ensuring journalistic standards and protecting the press from external pressures.
- Theme (2025): Focuses on safeguarding press credibility amid rising misinformation, stressing the need for accurate and ethical journalism.
- National Press Day highlights the press's crucial role in strengthening democracy.
- Since its inception, the Press Council has worked to uphold press freedom and maintain high journalistic ethics.

International Men's Day 2025: 19th November 2025

- International Men's Day, observed annually on 19 November, draws attention to the challenges many men encounter—such as abuse, homelessness, suicide, and violence.



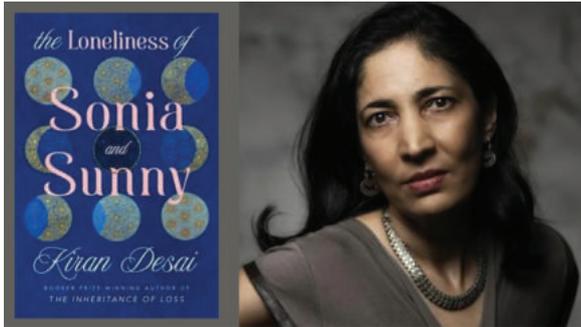
- The theme for International Men's Day 2025 is "Celebrating men and boys".
- This year, the focus is on uplifting positive male role models and promoting healthier, happier lives for men and boys everywhere.
- It also emphasises gender equality and acknowledges the social, cultural, and personal contributions men and boys make to families and communities.
- First celebrated in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago by Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh.
- The chosen date honors his father's birthday and an important date in local football history.
- Now recognized in over 80 countries as a global movement.

World Toilet Day: 19th November 2025



- World Toilet Day, observed annually (since 2013) on 19th November.
- It is a United Nations initiative raising awareness about the global sanitation crisis and promoting safe, accessible toilets as part of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- The theme of the day for 2025 is "Sanitation: Collective Responsibility for Dignity and Planet".
- On the occasion of World Toilet Day, Sulabh International & World Toilet Organization kickstarted 3-day World Toilet summit with global stakeholders to accelerate sustainable sanitation
- Responding to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's clarion call for swachhata in 2014 under the Swachh Bharat Mission, India was declared Open Defecation Free within a span of 5 years in 2019 – a remarkable milestone.

The Book By Kiran Desai Shortlisted For Booker Prize



- Kiran Desai has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2025 for her new novel *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny*.
- This marks Desai's return to the Booker shortlist after 19 years — she previously won the prize in 2006 for *The Inheritance of Loss*.
- Judges described *The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny* as “ambitious and accomplished”, noting its sweeping narrative across India and the United States, and its rich exploration of themes like love, identity, class and migration.

“Antim Din” — Hindi Edition of Lithuanian Novel Goes Public



- Sahitya Akademi has released the Hindi translation of the Lithuanian novel *The Last Day*, retitled *Antim Din*, in New Delhi on 30 October 2025.
- The original novel is by Lithuanian-Ukrainian author Jaroslavas Melnikas, and the translation was done by Dr. Poonam Tiwari.
- The launch — held at Rabindra Bhawan in collaboration with the Embassy of Lithuania — marks the first time a Lithuanian fiction work has been officially translated into Hindi.
- This release strengthens cultural exchange between India and Lithuania, making international fiction accessible to Hindi readers and broadening the reach of world literature in Indian languages.

Practice Questions

- The 'Baku to Belem Roadmap to 1.3 Trillion' was launched under the presidency of which COP conference?
(a) COP28 (b) COP29
(c) COP30 (d) COP31
(e) COP27
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has signed an MoU with which organisation to provide doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services to pensioners?
(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
(b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)
(c) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
(d) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
(e) National Pension System (NPS)
- How much money did the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) release to Red Sanders farmers in Andhra Pradesh?
(a) Rs 1 crore (b) Rs 2 crore
(c) Rs 3 crore (d) Rs 5 crore
(e) Rs 10 crore
- The Union Government released over how much amount under the XV Finance Commission Grants to Rural Local Bodies in Odisha?
(a) ₹333 crore (b) ₹444 crore
(c) ₹555 crore (d) ₹666 crore
(e) ₹777 crore
- Which state government has launched the 'Pink Saheli Smart Card' scheme or Free Bus Travel of Women and Transgender Individuals to Promote Safety and Inclusivity?
(a) Maharashtra Government
(b) Delhi Government
(c) Uttar Pradesh Government
(d) Haryana Government
(e) Rajasthan Government
- The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed to create a new district named —
(a) Ram Singh Nagar (b) Kalyan Singh Nagar
(c) Atal Nagar (d) Lohia Nagar
(e) Patel Nagar
- The Grand Order of Mugunghwa, conferred upon Donald Trump, is the highest national honour of which country?
(a) Japan (b) China
(c) South Korea (d) Singapore
(e) Thailand
- Union Minister H.D.Kumaraswamy launched the third round (PLI 1.2) of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel, aiming to boost investment, employment, and production in India's advanced steel sector. What is the total committed investment attracted so far under the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel?
(a) ₹25,012 crore (b) ₹35,000 crore
(c) ₹43,874 crore (d) ₹50,050 crore
(e) ₹60,900 crore
- India has recently withdrawn from which airbase, marking the end of its only overseas military presence?
(a) Shindand Airbase (b) Farkhor Airbase
(c) Bagram Airbase (d) Kandahar Airbase
(e) Ayni Airbase
- Who has been conferred the prestigious Knighthood honour by the United Kingdom government in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cricket?
(a) Joe Root (b) Ben Stokes
(c) James Anderson (d) Stuart Broad
(e) Alastair Cook
- Which company has become the world's first to achieve a US\$5 trillion market valuation?
(a) Apple (b) Microsoft
(c) Amazon (d) Google
(e) Nvidia

12. Where were the 2025 Asian Youth Games held?
 (a) Doha, Qatar (b) Manama, Bahrain
 (c) Jakarta, Indonesia (d) Tokyo, Japan
 (e) Bangkok, Thailand
13. Which two companies signed an MoU to jointly develop advanced counter-unmanned aerial system technologies for the Indian Armed Forces?
 (a) DRDO and Dassault Aviation
 (b) BEL and Thales Group
 (c) AXISCADES Technologies and Cilas S.A.
 (d) HAL and Safran
 (e) L&T and MBDA
14. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has partnered with which US-based company to manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) drones in India?
 (a) Lockheed Martin
 (b) General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc.
 (c) Boeing
 (d) Northrop Grumman
 (e) Raytheon Technologies
15. The new trophy for the FIDE World Chess Cup 2025, unveiled during a grand ceremony in Panjim, Goa, has been named in honour of which legendary Indian chess player, who is also India's first Grandmaster and a five-time World Champion?
 (a) D. Gukesh
 (b) R. Praggnanandhaa
 (c) Viswanathan Anand
 (d) Arjun Erigaisi
 (e) Nihal Sarin
16. NITI Aayog recently launched the roadmap "Reimagining Agriculture: A Roadmap for Frontier Technology Led Transformation" in which city?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai
 (c) Gandhinagar (d) Hyderabad
 (e) Mumbai
17. Former Indian hockey goalkeeper Manuel Frederick, who recently passed away, won an Olympic medal in which year?
 (a) 1968 Mexico Olympics
 (b) 1972 Munich Olympics
 (c) 1976 Montreal Olympics
 (d) 1980 Moscow Olympics
 (e) 1984 Los Angeles Olympics
18. Dr. Deepak Mittal has recently assumed charge as the Ambassador-Designate of India to which country?
 (a) Qatar (b) Saudi Arabia
 (c) United Arab Emirates (d) Egypt
 (e) Israel
19. Which university secured the 1st rank in the QS Asia University Rankings 2026?
 (a) Peking University
 (b) National University of Singapore
 (c) The University of Hong Kong
 (d) Fudan University
 (e) Nanyang Technological University
20. Which private sector bank has secured a \$50 million commitment from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to promote energy-efficient and sustainable financing for MSMEs in India?
 (a) Federal Bank (b) HDFC Bank
 (c) City Union Bank (d) Axis Bank
 (e) ICICI Bank
21. According to the latest NITI Aayog report titled "India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends", which Union Territory/State recorded the highest share of services in its Gross Value Added (GVA) for the year 2023-24, reflecting a strong services-driven economy?
 (a) Delhi (b) Chandigarh
 (c) Puducherry (d) Karnataka
 (e) Kerala
22. Kane Williamson, who recently announced his retirement from T20 International cricket, plays for which country?
 (a) Australia (b) England
 (c) South Africa (d) New Zealand
 (e) West Indies
23. Which international financial institution has approved a USD 460 million loan to modernize rural power infrastructure in Maharashtra?
 (a) World Bank
 (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 (d) New Development Bank (NDB)
 (e) International Finance Corporation (IFC)

24. Which team won the 42nd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Trophy 2025?
 (a) Indian Railways Delhi (b) Punjab Police
 (c) Indian Oil Mumbai (d) ONGC
 (e) Air India
25. According to NPCI data, what was the total value of UPI transactions recorded in October 2025?
 (a) ₹23.49 lakh crore (b) ₹24.90 lakh crore
 (c) ₹25.14 lakh crore (d) ₹27.28 lakh crore
 (e) ₹28.10 lakh crore
26. What was India's total GST collection in October 2025, as per official data?
 (a) ₹1.80 lakh crore (b) ₹1.85 lakh crore
 (c) ₹1.96 lakh crore (d) ₹2.10 lakh crore
 (e) ₹1.75 lakh crore
27. Who has been conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit) by France?
 (a) Ratan Tata (b) Sunil Kant Munjal
 (c) Anand Mahindra (d) Mukesh Ambani
 (e) N.R. Narayana Murthy
28. Avani Lekhara won the gold medal in which event at the 2025 Para Shooting World Cup in Dubai?
 (a) Women's 25m Pistol SH1
 (b) Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1
 (c) Mixed 50m Rifle Prone SH1
 (d) Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1
 (e) Women's 10m Pistol SH1
29. Which Indian city has recently received the prestigious title of 'UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy', recognizing its centuries-old culinary traditions and famous Awadhi cuisine?
 (a) Jaipur (b) Hyderabad
 (c) Lucknow (d) Varanasi
 (e) Indore
30. Which organisation has launched the 'Aabhar' online store to promote local artisans and indigenous products?
 (a) Ministry of Commerce
 (b) Indian Railways
 (c) Ministry of Textiles
 (d) NITI Aayog
 (e) SIDBI
31. The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) has proposed allowing passengers to cancel or amend flight tickets within 48 hours of booking without extra charges, under new draft rules aimed at improving refund norms. According to the DGCA's draft proposal, within how many working days must airlines complete the refund process?
 (a) 7 working days (b) 10 working days
 (c) 15 working days (d) 21 working days
 (e) 30 working days
32. Which international organisation has recently approved a \$20 million capital infusion into Kshema General Insurance to strengthen climate resilience among India's small and marginal farmers?
 (a) World Bank
 (b) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
 (c) Green Climate Fund (GCF)
 (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 (e) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
33. Where will the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025 be held?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Pune
 (c) Chandigarh (d) Bengaluru
 (e) Hyderabad
34. Where will the COP30 Climate Summit be held in 2025?
 (a) Paris, France (b) Dubai, UAE
 (c) Belém, Brazil (d) New York, USA
 (e) Nairobi, Kenya
35. Which launch vehicle was used by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to successfully place the Indian Navy's most advanced communication satellite, GSAT-7R, into orbit?
 (a) PSLV-C57 (b) GSLV Mk II
 (c) LVM3 (d) SSLV-D2
 (e) GSLV Mk III
36. India recently exported its first consignment of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) as part of the Kuposhan Mukh Bharat initiative, linking domestic nutrition programmes with global markets. Which country received this first shipment?
 (a) Brazil (b) Costa Rica
 (c) Australia (d) Canada
 (e) Japan

37. Who among the following was felicitated with the Distinguished Alumni Award (DAA) by IIT Kanpur during its 66th Foundation Day celebration?
- (a) Rajiv Kumar (b) Gyanesh Kumar
(c) Sushil Chandra (d) Anil Kumar Lahoti
(e) Ashwini Vaishnav
38. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), in collaboration with SEBI, organised a "Niveshak Shivir" in Amritsar to empower investors and address issues related to unclaimed dividends and shares. The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) functions under which ministry of the Government of India?
- (a) Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(d) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
(e) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
39. What is the name of the large-scale Tri-Services Exercise being jointly conducted by the Indian Navy, Indian Army, and Indian Air Force in November 2025, aimed at enhancing inter-service coordination, operational readiness, and multi-domain warfare capability?
- (a) Vajra (b) Trishul
(c) Shakti (d) Varuna
(e) Gagan Shakti
40. Which bank has partnered with Credilio to launch the UPI-powered secured credit card named 'Novio'?
- (a) Federal Bank (b) IndusInd Bank
(c) IDFC First Bank (d) Axis Bank
(e) DCB Bank
41. The National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) is a Central Sector Scheme launched to promote scientific beekeeping and achieve the vision of a "Sweet Revolution" in India, ensuring the holistic growth of the beekeeping sector. The mission is being implemented for the period FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26. What is the total budget outlay of the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM)?
- (a) ₹200 crore (b) ₹350 crore
(c) ₹500 crore (d) ₹750 crore
(e) ₹1,000 crore
42. Who has recently assumed charge as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)?
- (a) Rajiv Gauba
(b) Vishvajit Sahay
(c) Sanjay Malhotra
(d) Manoj Pant
(e) T.V. Somanathan
43. Who has assumed charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel of the Indian Navy?
- (a) Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh
(b) Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar
(c) Vice Admiral Ajay Sharma
(d) Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar
(e) Vice Admiral Anil Kumar
44. State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a new annual employee excellence award named 'SBI STAR' to honour employees' achievements beyond professional roles, focusing on their talents in diverse fields. What is the full form of the newly launched 'SBI STAR' initiative by the State Bank of India?
- (a) Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Reward
(b) Staff Talent Assessment & Recognition
(c) Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Recognition
(d) Smart Talent Award & Recognition
(e) Skill Training and Achievement Recognition
45. Which cooperative has been ranked as the number one in the world based on GDP per capita performance in 2025?
- (a) IFFCO
(b) Amul
(c) Nestlé
(d) Dairy Farmers of America
(e) Fonterra
46. What is "Melissa", which was recently in the news?
- (a) A new space mission launched by NASA
(b) A newly identified ocean current near Africa
(c) A newly discovered virus in the Caribbean region
(d) An international climate summit organised by WMO
(e) A catastrophic tropical cyclone that struck Jamaica, Cuba, and the Bahamas

47. State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank, recently executed its inaugural gold trade as a Special Category Client (SCC) on international bullion exchange, marking a new era for transparent and efficient bullion imports in India?
- (a) London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)
 (b) Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX)
 (c) Shanghai Gold Exchange (SGE)
 (d) Singapore Bullion Market Association (SBMA)
 (e) India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)
48. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the International Gita Festival and the state-level commemorative event for the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur on November 25 in Kurukshetra, Haryana. Which state has been chosen as the partner state for the 10th International Gita Mahotsav 2025?
- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Gujarat
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
 (e) Bihar
49. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the Emerging Science and Technology Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025?
- (a) Pragati Maidan
 (b) Science City, Ahmedabad
 (c) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
 (d) Vigyan Bhawan
 (e) Hyderabad International Convention Centre
50. The newly constructed Multi-ethnic Trilingual School, built with Indian grant assistance, was officially inaugurated and handed over to the Government of Sri Lanka. In which Sri Lankan city was this important event held, highlighting India's continued support for inclusive education?
- (a) Colombo (b) Kandy
 (c) Polonnaruwa (d) Jaffna
 (e) Galle
51. Who has been appointed as the Co-Chief Executive Officer (Co-CEO) of Asirvad Microfinance Ltd?
- (a) Rakesh Sharma
 (b) Gerard David Manoj Pasangha
 (c) Rajiv Sinha
 (d) Sandeep Bakhshi
 (e) Manappuram Nandakumar
52. Union Minister George Kurian launched the fully digital Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 in Kochi, marking a shift from traditional paper-based methods to a completely digital and geo-referenced enumeration process. What is the official slogan of the Marine Fisheries Census 2025?
- (a) Digital Fisheries, Digital Future
 (b) Smart Census, Smarter Fisheries
 (c) Empowering Fishers Digitally
 (d) Blue Economy, Green Growth
 (e) Towards Sustainable Fisheries
53. On which date is World Tsunami Awareness Day observed every year?
- (a) November 4
 (b) November 5
 (c) November 6
 (d) November 7
 (e) October 31
54. Which city will soon get a regional campus of the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT)?
- (a) Bengaluru (b) Mumbai
 (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai
 (e) Pune
55. Where was the 17th India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation held?
- (a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai
 (c) Jerusalem (d) Haifa
 (e) Tel Aviv
56. Rohan Bopanna announced his retirement from professional tennis, ending a career spanning over two decades. How many Grand Slam titles has Rohan Bopanna won in his career?
- (a) One (b) Two
 (c) Three (d) Four
 (e) Five
57. Under the EPFO Employee Enrolment Scheme 2025, employers who failed to register eligible employees in the past can now enrol them without paying the full past provident fund contribution. Instead, they are required to pay a nominal penalty to promote voluntary compliance. What is the amount of this penalty?
- (a) ₹50 (b) ₹100
 (c) ₹500 (d) ₹1000
 (e) 200

58. Gogabeel Lake has been designated as a Ramsar site of international importance, becoming India's 94th Ramsar site. In which Indian state is Gogabeel Lake located?
- (a) West Bengal (b) Bihar
(c) Assam (d) Odisha
(e) Jharkhand
59. Nauradehi Sanctuary, recently in the news, is located in which Indian state?
- (a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
(e) Chhattisgarh
60. Who has assumed charge as the new Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in November 2025?
- (a) Rajesh Kumar Singh (b) Sanjay Garg
(c) Parul Tyagi (d) Tarun Bajaj
(e) T.V. Somanathan
61. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck jointly inaugurated the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, the largest fully operational hydropower plant in Bhutan, financed through a 30% grant and 70% loan from India. What is the total generation capacity of the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project?
- (a) 800 MW (b) 900 MW
(c) 1,020 MW (d) 1,200 MW
(e) 1,570 MW
62. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bhutan, India announced a major financial assistance package as part of its continued support for Bhutan's development goals. What was the total value of the Line of Credit extended by India to Bhutan, aimed at strengthening cooperation in renewable energy, connectivity, and infrastructure development?
- (a) ₹2,000 crore (b) ₹3,000 crore
(c) ₹4,000 crore (d) ₹5,000 crore
(e) ₹6,000 crore
63. The Indian government signed the Bilateral Hajj Agreement 2026 in Jeddah, confirming the Hajj quota for Indian pilgrims and strengthening India-Saudi cooperation in pilgrimage management. Who represented India and signed this important agreement on behalf of the Government of India?
- (a) Smriti Irani (b) Meenakshi Lekhi
(c) Kiren Rijiju (d) S. Jaishankar
(e) Rajnath Singh
64. Which two public sector undertakings (PSUs) have signed a ₹21,000 crore joint venture agreement to set up a 1,600 MW power project in Jharkhand?
- (a) NTPC and ONGC (b) CIL and DVC
(c) BHEL and NTPC (d) GAIL and NHPC
(e) Indian Oil and SJVN
65. Which institute's Pharmacology Laboratory received triple ISO certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)?
- (a) National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
(b) All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi
(c) Institute of Post Graduate Teaching & Research in Ayurveda, Gujarat
(d) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
(e) CCRAS, New Delhi
66. To prepare for India's first-ever fully digital Population Census in 2027, two mobile applications — Digital Layout Map (DLM) and Census 2027-Houselist — were launched to streamline house listing and housing operations, enable real-time data collection, and ensure accuracy in census records. Which organization is responsible for launching these apps and overseeing the digital transformation of India's Census operations?
- (a) National Informatics Centre (NIC)
(b) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
(c) Ministry of Electronics and IT
(d) Election Commission of India and Niti Aayog
(e) Ministry of Home Affairs
67. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, inaugurated the National Urban Conclave 2025 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi. What is the main theme of the National Urban Conclave 2025?
- (a) Smart Cities and Technology
(b) Affordable Housing and Slum Redevelopment
(c) Rural Development and Livelihood
(d) Clean India and Water Conservation
(e) Sustainable Urban Development and Governance

68. SEBI has recently amended the IPO anchor investor framework to broaden domestic institutional participation. Under the revised rules, the total anchor allocation has been increased from 33% to 40%, and this portion is divided between mutual funds, insurers, and pension funds. How is the 40% anchor allocation distributed among these institutional investors?
- (a) 20% mutual funds, 20% insurers & pension funds
 (b) 30% mutual funds, 10% insurers & pension funds
 (c) 33% mutual funds, 7% insurers & pension funds
 (d) 25% mutual funds, 15% insurers & pension funds
 (e) 35% mutual funds, 5% insurers & pension funds
69. Hungarian-British author David Szalay won the Booker Prize 2025 and received a £50,000 award at a ceremony held at Old Billingsgate, London. For which novel did he receive this prestigious award?
- (a) All That Man Is (b) Spring
 (c) The Innocent (d) Flesh
 (e) Turbulence
70. Kovalam Beach, which recently received the Blue Flag certification for the fifth consecutive year, is located in which district of Tamil Nadu?
- (a) Kanyakumari (b) Chengalpattu
 (c) Thiruvallur (d) Coimbatore
 (e) Madurai
71. Who became the first Indian shooter to win an individual men's 10m air pistol world title at the ISSF World Championship 2025 in Cairo?
- (a) Varun Tomar
 (b) Abhinav Bindra
 (c) Samrat Rana
 (d) Rudranksh Patil
 (e) Saurabh Chaudhary
72. What was the overall voter turnout recorded in the recent Bihar Legislative Assembly elections, the highest since 1951?
- (a) 61.25% (b) 63.50%
 (c) 66.91% (d) 68.75%
 (e) 70.10%
73. Which organisation has partnered with the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to promote Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU) among children?
- (a) NITI Aayog
 (b) Behavioural Insights Ltd
 (c) World Bank
 (d) UNICEF
 (e) Tata Institute of Social Sciences
74. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the 3rd International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. What amount has been announced under the new Call for Proposals for biomass-based green hydrogen projects?
- (a) ₹50 crore (b) ₹75 crore
 (c) ₹100 crore (d) ₹125 crore
 (e) ₹150 crore
75. Which authority approved the acquisition of up to 20% shareholding of AWL Agri Business Limited by Lence Pte. Ltd.?
- (a) SEBI
 (b) RBI
 (c) Competition Commission of India
 (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 (e) NITI Aayog
76. The 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit will be held from 17th to 19th December at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, co-hosted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of AYUSH. What is the theme of the 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2025?
- (a) Traditional Wisdom for Modern Health
 (b) Healing with Nature
 (c) Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being
 (d) Integrating Medicine for All
 (e) Science for Sustainable Healing: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being
77. Where was the first biennial conference of the BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network (BIMReN) held?
- (a) Mumbai (b) Chennai
 (c) Kochi (d) Kolkata
 (e) Visakhapatnam

78. Which company has signed an MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd to integrate drone technology into rural enterprises?
- AVPL International
 - Tata Consultancy Services
 - Reliance Industries
 - Infosys
 - Mahindra & Mahindra
79. Which Indian state-run company has signed an MoU with NMDC Energy for onshore projects in Saudi Arabia?
- Oil India Limited
 - Engineers India Limited
 - Indian Oil Corporation
 - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
 - GAIL India Limited
80. Which country deliberately scuttled multiple decommissioned vessels, including Inchcape 1, Inchcape 2, and Inchcape 10, off its east coast to create artificial reefs aimed at promoting marine conservation, supporting biodiversity, and boosting dive tourism?
- Oman
 - UAE
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Qatar
 - Bahrain
81. The Infosys Prize 2025 celebrates exceptional young researchers under 40 across six fields—Economics, Engineering & Computer Science, Humanities & Social Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, and Physical Sciences—awarding each laureate a gold medal, citation, and \$100,000 for advancing science, innovation, and human knowledge. Who received the Infosys Prize 2025 in Economics for pioneering work in market design?
- Parul Tyagi
 - Nikhil Agarwal
 - Andrew Ollett
 - Sabyasachi Mukherjee
 - Karthish Manthiram
82. Who has been chosen as India's flagbearer for the Deaflympics 2025 in Tokyo, making her third appearance at this international sporting event and a three-time gold medalist?
- Dhanush Srikanth
 - Jerlin Jayaratchagan
 - P.V. Sindhu
 - Kidambi Srikanth
 - Manika Batra
83. World Pneumonia Day is observed every year to raise global awareness about pneumonia, a preventable and treatable disease that continues to claim millions of lives worldwide. On which date is it observed annually?
- 10th November
 - 11th November
 - 12th November
 - 13th November
 - 14th November
84. World Kindness Day is celebrated globally to promote compassion and encourage kind acts among people. On which date is it observed every year?
- 10th November
 - 11th November
 - 12th November
 - 13th November
 - 14th November
85. Which organization represented India in the 10th edition of the global #MedSafetyWeek campaign held from 3–9 November 2025?
- National Coordination Centre – Pharmacovigilance Programme of India
 - National Health Authority (NHA)
 - Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation
 - Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - ICMR
86. Which company has launched the advanced digital commerce platform 'RetailPOD 3.0'?
- Paytm
 - Pine Labs
 - ToneTag
 - Razorpay
 - BharatPe
87. Which two organizations have partnered to expand life insurance access across underserved markets in India?
- HDFC Life & Bajaj Finserv
 - LIC & Paytm Payments Bank
 - Ageas Federal Life Insurance & Muthoot Microfin Ltd
 - SBI Life & Muthoot Finance
 - ICICI Prudential & Bandhan Bank
88. What was India's retail inflation rate (CPI) in October 2025, marking a multi-year low?
- 1.44%
 - 0.75%
 - 0.25%
 - 0.50%
 - 1.10%

89. Which company has partnered with Muthoot Microfin Ltd to expand life insurance coverage across India?
- (a) HDFC Life Insurance
(b) SBI Life Insurance
(c) Ageas Federal Life Insurance
(d) ICICI Prudential Life
(e) Max Life Insurance
90. India has achieved a major milestone in quantum sensing by developing its first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM). Which institute was responsible for this breakthrough innovation?
- (a) IIT Delhi (b) IISc Bengaluru
(c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Madras
(e) DRDO
91. World Usability Day is celebrated every year to promote the values of user experience (UX) and human-centred design. On which date will it be observed in 2025?
- (a) 15th November (b) 16th November
(c) 17th November (d) 13th November
(e) 14th November
92. National Education Day is celebrated in India on which date?
- (a) 10th November (b) 11th November
(c) 12th November (d) 14th November
(e) 15th November
93. During the recent DPSU review meeting, four Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) were granted Miniratna (Category-I) status. Which of the following was NOT among the companies granted this status?
- (a) Munitions India Limited (MIL)
(b) Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)
(c) India Optel Limited (IOL)
(d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)
(e) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
94. Lenny Wilkens, who passed away in November 2025, was associated with which sport?
- (a) Baseball (b) Football
(c) Basketball (d) Tennis
(e) Golf
95. Which mobile application developed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) recently won the Tech4Nature Award at the IUCN World Conservation Congress?
- (a) Ocean Alert App
(b) Fisher Friend Mobile Application
(c) Marine Guard App
(d) Coastal Care App
(e) Blue Sea Tracker
96. Who has been selected to receive the 2025 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for outstanding contributions in mathematics?
- (a) Dr. Manjul Bhargava
(b) Dr. Akshay Venkatesh
(c) Dr. Alexander Smith
(d) Dr. Terence Tao
(e) Dr. Kannan Soundararajan
97. The Government of India has proposed to make it mandatory for all e-commerce platforms to display a 'Country of Origin' filter on their websites and mobile apps for packaged commodities. Which ministry has introduced this proposal through the Draft Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025?
- (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(b) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(e) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
98. Who has become India's 91st Grandmaster after winning the 6th ASEAN Individual Chess Championship?
- (a) Ilamparthy A.R. (b) Arjun Erigaisi
(c) Raahul V.S. (d) D. Gukesh
(e) Nihal Sarin
99. The 11th edition of the India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise 'MITRA SHAKTI-2025' began in which Indian city in November 2025?
- (a) Pune (b) Belagavi
(c) Chennai (d) Jabalpur
(e) Kochi
100. What has been named as the Word of the Year 2025 by Collins Dictionary?
- (a) Neural Coding
(b) Smart Programming
(c) Vibe Coding
(d) Code Fusion
(e) AI Syntax

Answer Key

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (e) 10. (c)
11. (e) 12. (b) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (c)
21. (b) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (c) 25. (d) 26. (c) 27. (b) 28. (b) 29. (c) 30. (b)
31. (d) 32. (c) 33. (c) 34. (c) 35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (c) 39. (b) 40. (e)
41. (c) 42. (b) 43. (b) 44. (c) 45. (b) 46. (e) 47. (e) 48. (d) 49. (c) 50. (c)
51. (b) 52. (b) 53. (b) 54. (b) 55. (e) 56. (b) 57. (b) 58. (b) 59. (b) 60. (b)
61. (c) 62. (c) 63. (c) 64. (b) 65. (b) 66. (b) 67. (e) 68. (c) 69. (d) 70. (b)
71. (c) 72. (c) 73. (b) 74. (c) 75. (c) 76. (c) 77. (c) 78. (a) 79. (b) 80. (b)
81. (b) 82. (b) 83. (c) 84. (d) 85. (a) 86. (c) 87. (c) 88. (c) 89. (c) 90. (c)
91. (d) 92. (b) 93. (e) 94. (c) 95. (b) 96. (c) 97. (b) 98. (c) 99. (b) 100. (c)