

CONTENTS

1. NATIONAL	2
2. INTERNATIONAL	09
3. SPORTS	18
4. SCIENCE AND TECH	22
5. ENVIRONMENT	22
6. APPOINTMENTS	23
7. AWARDS	24
8. STATIC	25
9. OBITUARIES	26
10. ECONOMY	26
11. IMPORTANT DAYS	27



IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

Appointment to RCI: Kanwar Singh Tanwar & Dr. Jashvantsinh Parmar

In the News: The Government of India has appointed Lok Sabha MP Kanwar Singh Tanwar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Jashvantsinh Salamsinh Parmar as members of the **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)**. The appointments were made via a gazette notification from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under the powers granted by the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.

Key Details:

- The RCI is a statutory body mandated to regulate and monitor the training programmes of rehabilitation professionals, maintain the Central Rehabilitation Register, and promote education and services for persons with disabilities.
- Under clause (h) of sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the RCI Act, 1992, the appointing authority (the central government) can nominate members including MPs, and that provision was invoked in these appointments.
- The tenure of both MPs on the RCI will be for **two years** from the date of the notification, or until their successors are appointed, whichever is later.
- Kanwar Singh Tanwar, who is a BJP MP representing Amroha in Uttar Pradesh, has a background as a businessman and social worker; and his political experience includes serving on various committees in past Lok Sabhas.
- The appointment of these two MPs is expected to bolster the governance and oversight of the RCI (especially in legislative representation), and may strengthen the link between parliamentary oversight and disability/rehabilitation policies.
- The move also signals the government's emphasis on bringing persons with legislative influence into bodies concerned with disability rights, rehabilitation training, and inclusive education, thereby possibly raising the profile and political backing of RCI's functions.

500 New Atal Tinkering Labs in Jammu & Kashmir

In the News: On 25 September 2025, the Government of India, via the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), announced that **500 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)** will be set up across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir under its **Frontier Region Programme**, as part of the broader objective to strengthen school-level innovation in remote and border areas.

Key Aspects:

The 500 new labs represent the **largest share** among the total **2,500 ATLs sanctioned** under the Frontier Region Programme, and the government has allocated **₹100 crore** for their establishment.

- These labs are expected to introduce school students to advanced tools such as **robotics, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and rapid prototyping**, thereby cultivating creative problem-solving skills at a young age.
- The initiative was launched through a partnership between AIM/NITI Aayog and the **University of Kashmir**, with the event held at the university's convocation complex, and the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State, Science & Technology), LG Manoj Sinha, and other dignitaries.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that as India's economy advances, regions like Jammu & Kashmir—with untapped natural and human resources—must become active contributors, and that these labs will help in integrating the region into the national innovation ecosystem.
- The Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha, noted that the new labs will especially benefit remote, tribal, and under-served areas, enabling youth to design solutions for local challenges in sectors like agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and disaster management.
- The initiative is also tied to **ATL Sarthi**, a support mechanism planned to connect each tinkering lab with mentorship, institutional linkages, and capacity building for teachers and students in J&K's innovation ecosystem.

DRDO Wins Business Line Changemaker of the Year

In the News: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was honored with the Business Line Changemaker of the Year award, recognizing its pivotal role in advancing India's strategic defence technologies and contributions to national security.

Key Points:

- **Award Recognition:** DRDO secured the Changemaker of the Year award by *BusinessLine*, highlighting its transformative impact in the defence and technology sectors.
- **Leadership Acknowledgement:** The award emphasized the role of DRDO's Director General, Raja Babu Ummalaneni, in steering these innovations and strategic initiatives.
- **Strategic Technologies:** The recognition underscores DRDO's advances in defence technologies that strengthen national security and respond to evolving threats.
- **Operation Sindoor :** One of the cited achievements was DRDO's involvement in **Operation Sindoor**, where it helped neutralize hostile assets along India's border.
- **National Impact:** The award reflects DRDO's contribution not only to military capability but also to boosting the country's technological self-reliance.
- **Broader Recognition:** Alongside DRDO, organizations like the **Azim Premji Foundation** were also acknowledged for their work in areas such as education and healthcare.

India Opens First Integrative Oncology Centre at AIHA Goa

In the News: The Ministry of AYUSH inaugurated India's first **Integrative Oncology Research and Care Centre** at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIHA), Goa. This new centre brings together conventional cancer treatment with traditional healing systems such as Ayurveda and Yoga, aiming to offer holistic care for cancer patients.

Key Points:

- **Centre Inauguration:** The Integrative Oncology Research and Care Centre at AIHA Goa was officially opened in September 2025 under the supervision of the Ministry of AYUSH, marking a milestone in India's health-care model.
- **Integrative Approach:** The centre combines mainstream oncology therapies with complementary modalities such as Ayurveda, Yoga and lifestyle support, to address both disease and patient well-being.
- **Research & Care Focus:** Alongside treatment, the facility is intended to be a hub for research on integrative cancer care, generating evidence for combining traditional and modern methods.
- **Patient Experience:** The model aims to improve patient outcomes not only by treating tumors, but also by alleviating side effects, enhancing quality of life, supporting emotional health, and strengthening overall resilience.
- **Replicability:** Goa's integrative oncology model is being viewed as a potential template for other states in India to adopt, spurring collaboration between allopathy and AYUSH systems elsewhere.
- **Government Backing:** The initiative enjoys support from central and state authorities, reflecting growing acceptance of integrative healthcare strategies in public policy.

AFSPA Extended In Manipur Arunachal Nagaland Regions

In the News: The Union Home Ministry announced an extension of the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)** for six more months in parts of **Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**, citing persisting security challenges in these northeastern states.

Key Points:

- **Extension Decision:** The AFSPA has been extended for six months starting October 1, 2025, to maintain the "disturbed area" status in many districts and police station jurisdictions across the three states.
- **Manipur Coverage:** In Manipur, the Act continues to apply nearly across the state except for 13 police station areas in valley districts such as Imphal West, Imphal East, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching, which have been exempted.
- **Nagaland Coverage:** In Nagaland, AFSPA is extended in nine full districts (including Dimapur, Mon, Phek) and 21 police station areas across five additional districts under the "disturbed area" notification.
- **Arunachal Pradesh Coverage:** The Act remains valid in **Tirap, Changlang, and Longding** districts. Also, three police station regions (Namsai district: Namsai, Mahadevpur, Chowkham) bordering Assam are included in the extension.
- **Legal Powers & Rationale:** Under AFSPA, armed forces are empowered to conduct searches, arrests without warrants, and use lethal force if needed. The extension is justified by the central government as necessary to combat insurgency, support law and order, and maintain internal security in those areas.
- **Controversies & Human Rights:** AFSPA has long been controversial due to accusations of human rights violations, impunity for security forces, and criticisms from civil society. Yet, periodic extensions reflect the government's assessment that peace is not yet restored sufficiently for full withdrawal.

Oil India Discovers Natural Gas Off Andaman Islands

In the News: Oil India Ltd. (OIL) announced that it had discovered natural gas in an exploratory well off the coast of the Andaman Islands, marking the first confirmed hydrocarbon find in the region's shallow offshore block.

Key Points:

- **Exploration Well & Block:** The discovery was made in the **Vijayapuram-2** exploratory well drilled in the **Offshore Andaman Block AN-OSHP-2018/1** under India's Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).
- **Location & Depth:** The well lies approximately **9.20 nautical miles (about 17 km)** east of the Andaman shoreline in water depth of **295 metres**, targeting depths down to **2,650 metres**.
- **Gas Detection & Testing:** During preliminary production testing between **2,212 and 2,250 metres**, intermittent gas inflow (flaring) was observed. Gas samples were subsequently tested and found to consist of about **87 % methane**.
- **Status of Commercial Viability:** The discovery is at an early stage. The size and commercial viability of the gas pool are not yet confirmed. Additional isotope and evaluation studies are underway to understand its origin and potential.
- **Broader Exploration Context:** The Andaman basin had long been speculated to hold hydrocarbons because of its geological affinity with proven belts extending through Myanmar to Indonesia. This discovery gives concrete evidence of potential in this frontier region.

India, Bhutan Approve First Rail Links Projects

In the News: India and Bhutan formally approved the first cross-border railway projects to connect the two countries, thereby marking Bhutan's entry into the Indian rail network.

Key Points:

- **Project Approval & Partners:** India and Bhutan cleared two new rail link projects: one between Kokrajhar (Assam) and Gelephu (Bhutan), and another between Banarhat (West Bengal) and Samtse (Bhutan).
- **Cost & Financing:** The combined estimated cost for both rail lines is about **₹4,033 crore**. India is expected to finance the projects and handle initial implementation.
- **Route Attributes & Construction Plan:** The Kokrajhar–Gelephu alignment is approximately 57 km (about 69 km including allied infrastructure) and will require numerous bridges, viaducts, road over- and under-bridges, and crossings. The Banarhat–Samtse line stretches about 20 km and includes two intermediate stations. The longer line is slated for completion in about 4 years, while the shorter link is projected to finish in 3 years.
- **Strategic & Economic Significance:** These rail lines will be Bhutan's first direct railway links, enabling better access to trade routes through India and strengthening economic integration. The projects align with India's "Neighbourhood First" and connectivity initiatives, and will promote people-to-people exchange, trade, and regional development.
- **Administrative Facilitation & Priority Status:** The Kokrajhar–Gelephu link has been designated a **Special Railway Project (SRP)** to speed up land acquisition, clearances, and execution. The detailed surveys and preparation for tendering have already been completed.

Indian Navy's Jal Prahar 2025 Joint Amphibious Exercise

In the News: The Indian Navy and Indian Army completed **Jal Prahar 2025**, their biannual joint amphibious exercise conducted along India's eastern coastline to sharpen inter-service coordination and enhance readiness for maritime operations.

Key Points:

- **Purpose & Focus:** Jal Prahar 2025 was designed to test and validate joint operational planning, command and control systems, deployment of troops from sea to shore, and coordination in amphibious warfare by the Navy and Army.
- **Timeline & Phases:** The exercise ran in two phases over a week: **Harbour Phase** (16 to 20 September) was conducted at Visakhapatnam, focusing on training, familiarisation, integration of Army elements aboard naval platforms, safety drills, and coordination exercises. **Sea Phase** (21 to 23 September) took place off Kakinada, involving live amphibious operations such as hard beaching, launching of Landing Craft Assault (LCAs), deployment of BMP amphibious infantry fighting vehicles, and validation of SOPs under operational conditions.
- **Operational Elements & Assets:** During the Sea Phase, forces executed hard beaching maneuvers, deployed LCAs, and landed mechanised infantry with armoured amphibious platforms. The exercise also emphasised seamless integration of naval and land assets, communication links, and joint SOPs.

- **Inter-Service Synergy & Readiness:** Jal Prahar 2025 demonstrated the importance of interoperability between the Navy and Army. The exercise fostered greater mutual understanding of each service's domain, improved coordination, and refined joint protocols necessary for amphibious and littoral operations.
- **Strategic & Security Implications:** Given India's long coastline and strategic challenges in the maritime domain, the exercise reinforces deterrence and preparedness for coastal and sea-based contingencies. The ability to project force from sea to land is critical for responding to threats, humanitarian or disaster missions, and securing littoral zones.
- **Continuity & Institutional Value:** Jal Prahar is part of a tradition of biannual India Navy–Army amphibious exercises. The 2025 edition builds on previous slabs of joint training, with upgrades in tactics, platforms, and inter-service coordination.

Cabinet Approves 3% DA Hike for Central Government Employees and Pensioners

In the News: The Union Cabinet approved a **3 % increase in Dearness Allowance (DA)** for central government employees and a **3 % increase in Dearness Relief (DR)** for pensioners, effective from July 1, 2025.

Key Points:

- **Nature of Increase:** The Cabinet decision authorizes an additional instalment of 3 % over the existing DA/DR rate of 55 % of basic pay/pension, raising it to 58 %.
- **Effective Date & Arrears:** The hike is retroactive from July 1, 2025. Arrears for the months July, August, and September will be paid along with the October salary.
- **Beneficiaries:** Approximately 49.19 lakh central government employees and 68.72 lakh pensioners will benefit from this increase.
- **Fiscal Impact:** The combined annual burden on the exchequer due to the rise in DA and DR is estimated at Rs 10,083.96 crore.
- **Purpose & Rationale:** The increase is intended to partially offset rising inflation and help employees and pensioners maintain their purchasing power. It follows the accepted formula under the 7th Central Pay Commission.
- **Context in Pay Commission Cycle:** This 3 % increase is likely to be the last DA/DR revision under the 7th Pay Commission, given that the 8th Pay Commission is expected to commence from January 2026.

Manipur Tops Northeast in Violent Crimes, Rioting: NCRB 2023

In the News: In the **Crime in India 2023** report released by the National Crime Records Bureau, **Manipur** has emerged as the **leading state in the Northeast** in terms of **violent crimes and rioting**, signaling a severe law and order challenge in that region.

Key Points:

- **Violent Crime & Rioting Lead:** Manipur recorded the highest incidence of **violent crimes and rioting** among the states in the northeastern region, according to NCRB 2023 data.
- **Underlying Ethnic Tensions:** The spike in violence is tied to the prolonged **ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities**, which began in May 2023, and has seen outbreaks of arson, mob violence, killings, plundering and vandalism.
- **Human Toll & Displacement:** Official figures as of late 2024 indicate **258 persons killed**, over **1,100 injured**, and more than **60,000 people displaced** from their homes as a consequence of repeated bouts of violence.
- **Extent of Damage:** The violence has resulted in massive property loss: more than **4,700 houses burned**, **386 religious structures** (temples, churches) vandalised, and widespread looting of arms and ammunition.
- **Major Incidents – Khamenlok Clash:** One of the deadliest clashes occurred during **12–14 June 2023** in Khamenlok valley (Kangpokpi district), where a large mob attacked Kuki villages, burning homes and causing substantial damage.
- **State & Central Response:** Authorities imposed curfews in multiple districts, issued shoot-at-sight orders, and deployed thousands of army, paramilitary and central police forces to control the situation and evacuate vulnerable populations.

President Murmu Presents Special Honour to President's Bodyguard on 75 Years of Service

In the News: President **Droupadi Murmu** presented a **Diamond Jubilee Silver Trumpet** and **Trumpet Banner** to the **President's Bodyguard (PBG)** in a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in recognition of **75 years of service** since its designation as the President's Bodyguard in 1950.

Key Points:

- **Ceremonial Honour & Symbolism:** The presentation of the silver trumpet and banner is a symbolic honour marking the 75-year milestone, celebrating the PBG's distinguished service and legacy to the nation.

- **Presidential Remarks:** In her remarks, President Murmu praised the PBG's professional excellence and adherence to the finest military traditions, and reminded them that such honours carry great responsibility.
- **Viraat & Tradition:** The retired charger horse **Viraat**—the Commandant's Charger—was present on the occasion. The PBG has adopted Viraat after his retirement, symbolizing the enduring bond between the regiment and its horses.
- **Historical Legacy of PBG:** The PBG is the **oldest regiment** in the Indian Army, tracing its origins to 1773 as the Governor-General's Bodyguard. On January 27, 1950, it was officially renamed the President's Bodyguard.
- **Unique Status & Traditions:** The PBG is the only regiment permitted to carry **two Standards** — the President's Standard of Body Guard and its Regimental Standard.
- **Continuity of Service:** Since India's independence, the PBG has served one Governor-General and fifteen Presidents, maintaining its ceremonial and protective roles.

Chhattisgarh's Balod Becomes India's First Officially Child Marriage-Free District

In the News: Chhattisgarh officially declared **Balod district** as **India's first certified child marriage-free district** under the "Child Marriage-Free India" campaign, following a two-year period during which no cases of child marriage were reported in any part of the district.

Key Points:

- **Zero Incidents & Verification:** Over the past two years, not a single case of child marriage was registered in Balod, and after rigorous verification, all **436 gram panchayats** and **nine urban bodies** in the district were awarded formal certificates declaring them free from child marriage.
- **Collective Effort & Stakeholders:** The achievement is credited to coordinated efforts from the district administration, public representatives, **anganwadi workers**, NGOs, and the local community who together strengthened awareness, surveillance and preventive systems.
- **National Campaign Framework:** This district-level success falls under the "**Child Marriage-Free India**" campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 27, 2024, aimed at eliminating child marriage across the country.
- **State's Vision & Timeline:** The Chhattisgarh government, through Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, has pledged to declare the entire state child marriage-free by **2028–29**, considering Balod's recognition as a model for replication.
- **Replication Beyond Balod:** Alongside Balod, **75 gram panchayats in Surajpur district** were also certified as child marriage-free, having recorded no incidents over the past two years.

PM Modi Releases Stamp and Coin to Mark 100 Years of RSS

In the News: Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** released a **special commemorative postage stamp** and a **₹100 coin** to mark the **centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**, in a ceremony held in New Delhi at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre.

Key Points:

- **First depiction of Bharat Mata on currency:** The ₹100 coin features the national emblem on one side, and **for the first time in independent India**, portrays **Bharat Mata** in Varada Mudra with a lion, with **swayamsevaks bowing before her**, symbolizing devotion and national pride.
- **RSS motto & inscription:** The coin also carries the RSS motto "**Rashtriya Swaha, Idam Rashtraya, Idam Na Mama**," which translates to "Everything is dedicated to the nation, everything belongs to the nation, nothing is mine."
- **Stamp significance:** The postage stamp highlights the **participation of RSS swayamsevaks in the 1963 Republic Day Parade**, celebrating one of the RSS's early public roles in national ceremonies.
- **PM Modi's remarks:** In his address, the Prime Minister lauded the RSS's century-long journey of sacrifice, selfless service, discipline and nation-building, linking its founding on Dussehra 100 years ago to symbolic themes of renewal and moral victory.
- **Historical stresses & struggles:** Modi recalled that RSS leaders, including founder Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, endured imprisonment under British and Nizam rule for their convictions, and that the organization remained steadfast through challenges to its vision of "Nation First."
- **Cultural & symbolic impact:** The release of the coin with Bharat Mata's image and the stamp portraying RSS's public presence are intended as symbols of the organization's cultural influence, its claim to historical continuity, and its role in shaping civic and national values.

- **Broader context & reception:** Leaders of RSS and government dignitaries attended the event. RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale described the release of the stamp and coin as societal recognition of the Sangh's civilisational philosophy.

India's First Private Helicopter Assembly Line: Tata to Build Airbus H125 in Karnataka

In the News: Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), in partnership with Airbus, is establishing India's first private helicopter final assembly line (FAL) in **Vemagal, Karnataka**. The facility will manufacture the Airbus **H125** helicopters, with the first delivery expected in **early 2027**.

Key Points:

- **First Private Helicopter FAL in India:** This marks the first time a private-sector company in India will operate a helicopter assembly line, moving beyond state-owned enterprises.
- **Location:** The assembly line will be set up in the Vemagal industrial area of **Kolar district, Karnataka**, strengthening the state's position as an aerospace hub.
- **Helicopter Model:** The facility will assemble the **Airbus H125**, a single-engine, versatile rotorcraft widely used for civil, para-public, and defence applications.
- **Functions of the Plant:** The plant will handle assembly, integration, mechanical, electrical and avionics testing, as well as final flight testing before customer delivery.
- **Military Variant Plans:** Along with the civilian H125, the facility also aims to produce the **H125M military variant**, with greater indigenization levels.
- **Timeline:** The first "Made in India" H125 helicopter is scheduled for delivery in **early 2027**.
- **Production Capacity:** Initially, the unit is expected to produce around **10 helicopters annually**, with scope to scale up further.
- **Strategic Rationale:** The project will reduce dependence on imports, promote self-reliance under '**Make in India**', and strengthen India's aerospace and defence capabilities.
- **Economic Impact:** The facility will generate employment, enhance skills, build a local aerospace supply chain, and boost regional development in Karnataka.
- **Partnership Ecosystem:** This collaboration builds on the ongoing Tata-Airbus partnership, such as the **C295 aircraft assembly in Vadodara**, and Airbus's annual sourcing of nearly **USD 1.4 billion from Indian suppliers**.
- **Component Manufacturing:** Key parts like fuselage structures will also be localized, with **Mahindra Aerostructures** already contracted for H125 fuselage production in Bengaluru.

Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti 2025

In the News: Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is observed every year on **2 October**, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, and in 2025 the nation paid tributes through ceremonies, speeches, and public service programmes that honoured his values and leadership.

Key Points:

- Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti is celebrated on **2 October** every year, marking the birth anniversary of India's second Prime Minister, who was born in 1904.
- The day is significant as it coincides with **Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary**, making it a double commemoration of two great leaders of India.
- Lal Bahadur Shastri was born in **Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh**, and grew up deeply influenced by Gandhian ideals of simplicity, nonviolence, and service.
- He played an active role in the Indian independence struggle and later served as **India's second Prime Minister** from 1964 until his death in 1966.
- As Prime Minister, he promoted the **White Revolution** to boost milk production and supported the **Green Revolution** to increase food grain output.
- During the **Indo-Pak war of 1965**, he inspired the nation with the famous slogan "**Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan**", highlighting the equal importance of soldiers and farmers.
- He passed away on **11 January 1966 in Tashkent** shortly after signing the Tashkent Agreement, and his death is still remembered as a moment of national mourning.

- On his birth anniversary in 2025, floral tributes were paid at his memorial **Vijay Ghat in Delhi**, and public leaders across the country recalled his honesty and simplicity.

Centenary of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

In the News: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) is entering its **centenary year** beginning **1 October 2025**, marking 100 years since its establishment in 1926. A year-long series of events, reforms, and commemorative activities will celebrate its journey and plan its future role in India's civil services.

Key Points:

- The UPSC was formally established on **1 October 1926**, under provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919 and the recommendations of the Lee Commission (1924).
- Between 1937 and 1950, it was known as the **Federal Public Service Commission**, before being renamed UPSC upon adoption of the Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950.
- As per the Constitution (Articles 315 to 323), UPSC is a **constitutional body** responsible for recruitment, examinations, and oversight of services in India.
- The centenary celebrations will run from **1 October 2025 to 1 October 2026**, marking a year of reflection, outreach, and institutional reforms.
- As part of the celebrations, UPSC will release a **commemorative logo and a tagline**, and it plans to launch new initiatives and reforms aimed at modernizing recruitment processes.
- UPSC's chairman, **Ajay Kumar**, has invited suggestions from employees and stakeholders to make the centenary celebrations more inclusive, meaningful, and reform-oriented.
- To inaugurate the centenary, PSU will host a **live virtual town hall** where the UPSC Chairman will interact directly with civil services aspirants — a first in the Commission's history.

National Pulses Mission Boosts Farmer Income and Production

In the News: The Union Cabinet has approved a new **Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses (2025-26 to 2030-31)** with an outlay of **₹11,440 crore**, aiming to raise domestic pulse production, ensure procurement at MSP, and enhance farmer incomes.

Key Points

- The mission targets raising pulse production from about **242 lakh tonnes** in 2024-25 to **350 lakh tonnes** by 2030-31.
- The area under pulse cultivation is planned to be expanded to **310 lakh hectares** by 2030-31 to support growth in production.
- Certified seed distribution will be a major component: **126 lakh quintals** of certified seeds will be supplied across pulse-growing areas over the mission period.
- To help farmers access improved seeds, **88 lakh free seed kits** will be distributed at no cost.
- The mission will adopt a **cluster-based approach**, tailoring interventions and value chain development to specific regional agro-clusters.
- The government guarantees **100 % procurement of tur, urad, and masoor** at MSP for four years under this mission, to ensure income security to participating farmers.
- To reduce post-harvest losses and improve value addition, **1,000 processing and packaging units** will be established, with subsidies offered (up to ₹25 lakh per unit).
- States will prepare **five-year rolling seed production plans**, while ICAR will supervise breeder seed production and seed systems will be tracked via the **SATHI portal** for traceability.
- The mission also focuses on research, multi-location trials for climate-resilient varieties, and capacity building of farmers via training programmes carried out by ICAR, KVKs, and state agricultural agencies.
- The mission is expected to benefit nearly **2 crore farmers**, reduce import dependency, conserve foreign exchange, generate rural employment, and improve soil health.
- The mission aligns with India's goal of **self-reliance (Aatmanirbharta)** in pulses by strengthening domestic production, reducing imports, and promoting crop diversification.

RSS Turns 100

In the News: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is celebrating its **centenary in 2025**, with year-long programmes, ideological outreach, and national dialogues marking 100 years since its founding on Vijayadashami in 1925.

Key Points:

- The RSS was founded by Dr. **Keshav Baliram Hedgewar** in **Nagpur in 1925**, with an initial grouping of a few volunteers aiming to reorganise Hindu society.
- The organisation marks its **100th year on Vijayadashami (October 2) 2025**, and its centenary celebrations will continue until Vijayadashami 2026.
- The centenary year will be inaugurated with a **three-day lecture series** titled *"100 Years of Sangh Yatra – New Horizons"* from **26 to 28 August 2025** at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The lecture series will include dialogues with prominent personalities from **17 fields including media, diplomacy, religion and academia**, and will reflect on RSS's past and future trajectory.
- The RSS has planned **over 1 lakh Hindu Sammelans (gatherings)** across India, along with **door-to-door outreach campaigns** and **100 training camps** during the centenary year to deepen grassroots engagement.
- The centenary efforts will promote a **"Panch Parivartan" (Five Transformations)** agenda focusing on social harmony, family enlightenment, environment, self-reliance, and citizen duties.
- The Delhi programme will invite diplomats (excluding those from Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh) and will elaborate on the RSS's future vision and international interface.
- During the centenary address, RSS Chief **Mohan Bhagwat** commented on contemporary challenges such as **illegal migration, population policy, caste-based reservation, and use of technology**, asserting that RSS supports constitutional reservations while urging balance and sensitivity.

Mann Ki Baat Completes 11 Years of Connecting with Citizens

In the News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' completed **11 years** of connecting directly with citizens, marking a milestone in participatory governance and social transformation. Launched in October 2014, the programme has become a powerful medium to highlight people's achievements, grassroots innovations, and India's collective aspirations.

Key Points:

- **Launch and Objective:** Mann Ki Baat was launched on **October 3, 2014**, with the aim of building a dialogue between the government and citizens through radio, Doordarshan, and digital platforms
- **Milestone Achievement:** Over **110 episodes** have been aired, covering themes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Atmanirbhar Bharat, Digital India, water conservation, and climate action.
- **People-Centric Focus:** The programme showcases stories of ordinary citizens driving extraordinary change — from rural innovators to women entrepreneurs and environmental activists.
- **Mass Outreach:** The broadcast reaches **over 90% of India's population** and is available in **23 languages and 29 dialects**, besides translations in several foreign languages, expanding India's global communication footprint.
- **Citizen Participation:** Listeners contribute topics and ideas through MyGov and the NaMo App, ensuring two-way communication and public ownership of national causes
- **Cultural Impact:** The programme has encouraged a spirit of social unity, collective responsibility, and cultural pride by promoting traditional crafts, festivals, and community efforts.
- **Recognition:** The UNESCO Director-General in earlier remarks praised Mann Ki Baat as a model for civic engagement through radio, reinforcing India's leadership in people-driven governance.
- **Legacy:** Over the last 11 years, Mann Ki Baat has evolved from a broadcast to a people's movement, symbolising the power of dialogue in nation-building.

INTERNATIONAL

Türkiye-US Nuclear Deal Signals New Global Energy Power Shift

In the News: During President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's visit to the Washington, D.C., the governments of Türkiye and the United States signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation** in the presence of both leaders and

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. This agreement marks a landmark step in deepening bilateral energy ties and repositioning Türkiye's role in the evolving global energy order.

Key Points & Strategic Implications:

- **Broader Scope of Cooperation:** The MoU is framed to cover the full spectrum of civil nuclear activities, including construction of large-scale nuclear power plants, collaboration on **small modular reactors (SMRs)**, and applications in medical and industrial nuclear technologies. Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar has publicly emphasized that this agreement “initiates a process that will deepen the long-standing and multidimensional partnership” between the two nations in nuclear energy.
- **Energy Diversification & Security for Türkiye:** Türkiye has historically been heavily dependent on energy imports, especially natural gas from Russia, Iran, and other external producers. By engaging with the U.S. in nuclear cooperation, Ankara is seeking to **reduce its strategic vulnerability** to supply disruptions and geoeconomic pressure, while enhancing the resilience of its energy mix. Moreover, the deal is aligned with Türkiye's broader strategy of energy diversification including recently inked long-term LNG deals with U.S. suppliers, so that the country reduces its reliance on a single source or region.
- **Shift in Regional & Global Energy Dynamic:** The Türkiye–U.S. nuclear agreement suggests the emergence of a new **energy axis** beyond traditional power centers (e.g. Russia, China). The strategic collaboration leverages U.S. technology, finance, and diplomatic backing, and positions Türkiye as a more autonomous actor in regional energy politics. Because Türkiye is geographically located at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and the Caucasus, its shift toward U.S. nuclear cooperation recalibrates influence in many adjacent regions.
- **Balancing Legacy Russian Project:** Importantly, the nuclear deal with the U.S. is not a simple replacement of existing ties with Russia, but rather an attempt at **strategic balancing**. Türkiye already has a major Russian-led nuclear project under construction at Akkuyu, being built by Rosatom, and has considered other plants such as at Sinop. By engaging U.S. firms and expertise, Ankara is signaling it wishes to reduce dependency on a single foreign partner in nuclear technology and finance.
- **Implications for U.S. Strategy & Influence:** For Washington, the nuclear deal is not only economic but also strategic. It helps to counterbalance Russian and Chinese influence in the nuclear energy market and solidifies the U.S. presence in a region that has long been contested diplomatically. It also complements U.S. interests in seeing allies reduce dependence on Russian energy sources, thereby weakening Moscow's leverage.

World Food India 2025 Sees ₹1 Lakh Crore Investment Commitments

In the News: At the conclusion of **World Food India 2025**, held from September 25 to 28 in New Delhi, the government announced that domestic and international firms had committed more than **₹1.02 lakh crore** in investment pledges (MoUs) for India's food processing sector.

Key Points:

- **Magnitude of Commitments:** The summit resulted in MoUs worth ₹1.02 lakh crore across various segments of the food ecosystem, making it one of the largest investment announcements in India's food processing history.
- **Leading Investors & Sectors:** Major players including Reliance Consumer Products, Coca-Cola India, Amul, Nestlé, Tata Consumer Products, Patanjali Foods, and Carlsberg signed pacts spanning dairy, processed foods, beverages, spices and condiments.
- **Job Creation & Economic Reach:** The pledged investments are expected to generate over **64,000 direct jobs** and support more than **10 lakh indirect employment** opportunities, strengthening rural value chains.
- **Pan-India Spread:** Projects under the MoUs are slated to be located across more than 15 states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and the Northeast, ensuring wide geographical impact.
- **Emphasis on Value Addition:** The investments aim to enhance processing capacities, modernize supply chains, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote integration between farmers and industry.
- **Policy & Institutional Support:** The Ministry of Food Processing Industries, along with agencies like Invest India, played a central role in facilitating the deals and ensuring alignment with national goals of food security and agricultural transformation.

India's FTA with EFTA to Start October 1 Announced by Goyal

In the News: India's Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) would come into force on **October 2025**. This agreement marks India's first comprehensive trade pact with a European grouping.

Key Points:

- **Agreement & Parties Involved:** The FTA is formally known as the **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** between India and the EFTA bloc, which includes Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein.
- **Timeline & Negotiations:** Negotiations for the India-EFTA agreement spanned nearly 16 years before its signing on March 10, 2024. After all parties completed required ratification procedures, the pact is set to become operational from October 1, 2025.
- **Tariff Concessions & Market Access:** Under the terms of TEPA, EFTA member countries will reduce or eliminate tariffs on approximately **92.2%** of their tariff lines for Indian exports, while India will extend concessions on **82.7%** of tariff lines covering **95.3%** of EFTA exports. The agreement is reported to allow nearly **99%** of India's export value to EFTA markets duty-free access. However, certain sensitive sectors such as dairy, soya, coal, and some agricultural products are excluded from liberalisation to protect domestic interests.
- **Investment & Employment Commitments:** EFTA countries have made a legally binding commitment to invest **USD 100 billion** in India over the next 15 years. The pact is expected to generate **1 million direct jobs** in India.
- **Strategic & Economic Significance:** This FTA is India's first Europe-facing trade pact and is seen as a stepping stone to strengthen India's engagement with European markets. With improved access to the EFTA markets, Indian exporters of textiles, leather, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and machinery stand to benefit. Conversely, importers in India can expect reduced prices for EFTA exports such as Swiss watches, chocolates, machinery, and wines. The agreement also includes chapters on services, investment, intellectual property, sustainable development, and government procurement, with enforceable labor and environmental standards.

ICC, UNICEF Launch 'Promise to Children' Campaign

In the News: During the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, the International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF launched the **"Promise to Children"** digital campaign to mobilize the cricket community and broader public in supporting children's rights and equal opportunity.

Key Points:

- **Campaign Launch & Objective:** The "Promise to Children" campaign is being run during the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup to capitalize on the tournament's global reach. Its central aim is to urge fans, players, commentators, and stakeholders to pledge support for children's rights—ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, safe water and sanitation, and protection from violence.
- **Champions & Ambassadors:** Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who is UNICEF National Ambassador, and India women's cricket vice-captain Smriti Mandhana are supporting the campaign publicly. Their involvement is expected to enhance visibility and engagement among youth and cricket fans.
- **Role of ICC & UNICEF:** ICC Chairman Jay Shah highlighted that the cricket body is committed to providing equal opportunities for girls and boys globally, and sees the campaign as a way to engage the cricketing ecosystem (coaches, players, fans) in advancing the cause. UNICEF's India representative Cynthia McCaffrey noted that cricket's wide appeal allows social messaging to transcend sport and unite people behind children's welfare.
- **Campaign Components & Activities:** The campaign includes cricket clinics where children and players interact, roundtables with cricket legends and experts, digital engagement across social media, and messaging integrated into broadcast and commentary over the course of the tournament.

Gaza peace plan: Trump the businessman's big imprint; for India, reasons for relief, caution

In the News: Former U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a new 20-point peace plan aimed at ending the war in Gaza. Media commentary describes it as bearing the mark of "Trump the businessman" in both ambition and structure, generating a mix of cautious optimism and concern in India and elsewhere.

Key Points:

- **The Businessman's Imprint:** Trump's Gaza peace proposal diverges from traditional diplomacy by incorporating a heavily managed, quasi-entrepreneurial model for reconstruction and governance. The plan envisions a "Board of Peace" to oversee postwar Gaza, with Trump and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair holding roles in its structure. It proposes economic

redevelopment with private-sector engagement, “deradicalization,” and a carefully curated transition, rather than open-ended political autonomy.

- **Core Elements of the Plan:** The 20-point framework calls for an immediate ceasefire, phased Israeli withdrawal, release of hostages within 72 hours, disarmament of Hamas, and establishment of a transitional governance entity (the Gaza International Transitional Authority) supported by a multinational stabilization force. It also proposes that Gaza be “redeveloped for the benefit of its people,” with an emphasis on reconstruction, infrastructure, and controlled security arrangements.
- **Reasons for Relief :** India has historically supported a two-state solution, and a credible peace initiative offers hope for stabilization in West Asia—a region critical to India’s energy security, diaspora, and strategic outreach. Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly welcomed Trump’s plan, calling it a “viable pathway to long-term peace, security and development” for Israel, Palestine, and the wider West Asia region
- **Reasons for Caution:** The plan’s exclusion of Hamas from negotiations, and its demand for full disarmament up front, raise questions of legitimacy and feasibility. The absence of specific maps, timeframe, and operational details casts uncertainty over how the transitions would be managed and enforced. The prospect of imposing governance structures and reconstruction models risks backlash from Palestinians if seen as external imposition or lacking consent.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department Wins Global Tourism Award 2025

In the News: In 2025, the **Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department** was honoured with the **Global Tourism Award 2025** in recognition of its exemplary efforts to position Andhra Pradesh as a world-class tourism destination through sustainable, heritage, cultural and innovation initiatives.

Key Points:

- **Basis for Award:** The state earned special commendation for **designing new tourism circuits** that weave together historical, natural, spiritual and ecological attractions, for **implementing community-based and eco-friendly tourism models**, for promoting **heritage preservation** while encouraging modern tourism infrastructure, and for leveraging **digital and global campaigns** to broaden reach.
- **Presentation & Recognition:** The award was accepted on behalf of the department by a tourism consultant, **Nishitha Goyal**, during the official ceremony in New Delhi.
- **Diversity of Tourism Portfolio:** Andhra Pradesh’s tourism offerings include **spiritual destinations** like Tirupati, **heritage sites** such as Lepakshi and Undavalli, the Buddhist complexes in Amaravathi and Thotlakonda, **coastal and beach destinations** like Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam, and **eco-adventure zones** like Araku Valley and Papikondalu.
- **Vision & Strategy:** The award underscores Andhra Pradesh’s vision of **inclusive tourism growth**, where **local communities benefit economically**, and cultural and natural resources are protected and integrated into the tourism model. The strategy includes infrastructure development, public-private partnerships (PPP), skill building in hospitality, and adoption of smart tourism technologies such as AI-based guides and digital ticketing.
- **Expected Impact:** This recognition is expected to boost **international tourist arrivals**, help attract **foreign investment in hospitality infrastructure**, elevate Andhra Pradesh’s global tourism brand, and generate **employment opportunities** in allied sectors.

Wassenaar Arrangement

In the News: Protests erupted globally against Microsoft after allegations surfaced that its **Azure cloud services** were being used to **support Israeli military operations** in Palestine, contributing to civilian harm. Critics argue the incident exposes significant **loopholes in the Wassenaar Arrangement’s export control framework** in relation to software, surveillance, and cloud services.

Key Points:

- **What is the Wassenaar Arrangement:** The Wassenaar Arrangement, established in **1996**, is a multilateral export control regime aimed at promoting transparency and responsibility in the trade of conventional arms and **dual-use technologies**. It requires participating states to share information, deny licenses where necessary, and coordinate controls.
- **Membership & India’s Role:** The regime includes **42 participating countries**. India became a member in **2017**, aligning its export control (SCOMET) regime more closely with global norms and gaining access to advanced technologies subject to stricter oversight.

- **Export Control Lists & Scope:** The Wassenaar Arrangement maintains two primary control lists — the **Munitions List** (for weapons and military hardware) and the **Dual-Use List** (technologies usable for both civilian and military ends). Over time, the scope was expanded (e.g. in 2013) to include “**intrusion software**” that can bypass or defeat cyber protections.
- **The Azure / Microsoft Controversy & Loopholes:** The recent allegations against Microsoft exposed critical gaps in how the Wassenaar framework handles **cloud, software, surveillance and remote access technologies**. Since the framework was originally oriented toward **hardware and physical exports**, it struggles to account for **remote software access, cloud computing, and data flow across borders**.
- **Protests & Corporate Response:** In light of investigative reports showing that Microsoft’s Azure was used by Israel’s military intelligence (Unit 8200) to store and analyze intercepted communications (used in targeting operations), employees and activists (notably the “No Azure for Apartheid” campaign) staged protests demanding Microsoft sever ties. Microsoft later disabled some Azure subscriptions used by one Israeli defense unit in response to those findings.
- **Why the Wassenaar Framework Fell Short:** The Microsoft case shows that **software and cloud access** can act as de facto exports, enabling remote military capabilities without physical transfer. The traditional Wassenaar mechanism does not clearly define how to tax or control **remote access, data derivative flows, or AI/analytics layers**. This gap allows misuse without triggering export license scrutiny.
- **Reforms & Future Directions:** Observers suggest that to remain relevant, the Wassenaar regime needs to **explicitly include cloud services, AI tools, surveillance systems, and biometric platforms** in its control lists; to treat **remote access as exports**; to update definitions frequently to keep pace with emerging tech; and to create agile oversight bodies for real-time monitoring.

India has been re-elected to the Part II of the Council of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for the 2025–2028 term.

In the News: During the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly in Montreal, India was **re-elected to Part II** of the ICAO Council for the 2025–2028 term, receiving more votes than in the previous 2022 election, thereby reaffirming its growing stature and commitment in global civil aviation.

Key Points:

- **Role & Meaning of Part II:** The ICAO Council is structured into three parts: Part I includes states of “chief importance” in air transport; Part II covers states that make major contributions to international civil air navigation infrastructure and services; Part III ensures geographic representation.
- **India’s Mandate & Voting Strength:** India not only secured its seat but did so with its **highest ever mandate**, obtaining more votes than in 2022, a clear signal of growing confidence among ICAO member states in India’s leadership in aviation.
- **Campaign & Diplomacy:** Ahead of the election, the Ministry of Civil Aviation hosted receptions for diplomats in New Delhi and engaged in extensive diplomatic outreach through the Ministry of External Affairs. India’s representative at ICAO also canvassed support in Montreal, and bilateral meetings were held with other States.
- **Strategic Significance:** Re-election to Part II gives India a stronger voice in setting international norms, standards and policies in civil aviation. It positions India to influence global decisions on aviation safety, security, sustainability, air connectivity, and infrastructural development.
- **Colleagues in Part II:** For 2025–2028, other states elected to Part II include Argentina, Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, and Switzerland, among others.
- **India’s Commitments:** In its official statements, India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen international aviation safety, security, sustainability, and equitable growth in air connectivity. It also pledged support to ICAO’s “No Country Left Behind” initiative, promote technological innovation and engage meaningfully with all stakeholders.

The US government shut down

In the News: At **12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time**, the **U.S. federal government shut down** following a failure by both Republican and Democratic members of the Senate to pass legislation approving federal funding, marking the first shutdown in nearly seven years.

Key Points:

- **Cause of Shutdown:** The shutdown resulted from **partisan deadlock in Congress**, with Republicans and Democrats unable to agree on a **continuing resolution** to extend funding, particularly over disagreements about **health care subsidies, Medicaid cuts, and rescissions in foreign aid**.

- **Scope & Scale of Impact:** The shutdown led to **furloughs of over 900,000 federal employees** and left hundreds of thousands more to continue working **without pay**, while many federal agencies curtailed or suspended operations.
- **Essential Services & Continuing Operations:** Some services deemed “essential” such as **Medicare, Medicaid, border control, air traffic control, and parts of national defense** remained operational, though typically under constrained conditions. Other functions, including public health agencies, research labs, and non-urgent programs, faced partial or full suspension.
- **Economic Consequences:** A White House memo projected that each week of shutdown could cost the U.S. economy **\$15 billion in GDP**, with ripple effects on consumer spending, job losses and market disruptions.
- **Political Tactics & Fallout:** In conjunction with the shutdown, the Trump administration froze **\$26 billion in federal funds** targeting predominantly Democratic states, as a political pressure tactic.
- **Institutional Strains & Delays:** Many federal agencies began to shutter or furlough staff, including **financial regulators** like the SEC, which retained minimal operations.
- **Domestic & Global Repercussions:** The shutdown introduced uncertainty in U.S. governance, weakened public confidence, strained services for millions, and at an international level signalled instability in America’s fiscal and administrative machinery.

Elon Musk Becomes First Person Worth \$500 Billion

In the News: In October 2025, Forbes announced that Elon Musk became the **first individual ever** to reach a net worth of **USD 500 billion**, driven by surging valuations in Tesla and his other ventures.

Key Points:

- Musk’s net worth crossed the **USD 500 billion** mark, making him the world’s first “half-trillionaire.”
- Tesla stock appreciation played a central role in this milestone, since Musk owns a significant share in the company, which saw strong investor confidence and market gains.
- In addition to Tesla, Musk’s wealth is bolstered by his stakes in **SpaceX, xAI**, and other technology ventures, all of which have been valued highly in recent deals or forecasts.
- On the day the announcement was made, his net worth peaked at **USD 500.1 billion** according to Forbes’ real-time index, though it dipped slightly after due to market fluctuations.
- Earlier in 2025, Larry Ellison briefly overtook Musk as the richest person, but Musk regained the top position with a widened margin by October.
- Tesla’s board has proposed a **USD 1 trillion compensation package** for Musk over ten years, contingent on ambitious targets; if realized, this could push his wealth even higher.
- This milestone underscores the **extreme concentration of wealth** in modern times, spotlighting how technology, equity ownership, and market optimism can create unprecedented fortunes.
- The achievement also raises questions about **wealth inequality, taxation, and regulatory oversight** of ultra-wealthy individuals whose fortunes can influence markets and policy.

India Re-Elected to ICAO Council’s Part II Category

In the News: During the 42nd Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal, India was re-elected to **Part II** of the ICAO Council for the 2025–2028 term. India secured **more votes** in this election than it had in 2022, signaling stronger confidence from ICAO member states.

Key Points:

- **Re-election to Part II:** India’s re-election was under Part II of the ICAO Council, which comprises states that contribute significantly to global civil aviation infrastructure such as air navigation facilities and services.
- **Stronger mandate:** In this election, India received more votes than it did in the 2022 cycle, suggesting enhanced diplomatic reach and recognition of its role in international aviation.
- **Background & structure:** The ICAO Council is made up of 36 member states elected by the ICAO Assembly (which includes all 193 signatory states of the Chicago Convention). The Council is divided into three parts: Part I (states of chief importance in air transport), Part II (those making substantial contributions to air navigation infrastructure), and Part III (to ensure geographic representation).

- **India's diplomatic push:** Ahead of the ICAO election, India's Ministry of Civil Aviation hosted receptions and engaged ambassadors and high commissioners in New Delhi, while the Ministry of External Affairs and India's ICAO representative actively canvassed support among member states.
- **Commitments for 2025–2028:** India reaffirmed its focus on enhancing aviation safety, promoting equitable air connectivity, facilitating technology and innovation in aviation, and supporting ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative which helps developing states strengthen their aviation infrastructure and regulatory capabilities.

India-EFTA TEPA Enters into Force with \$100 B Investment Pledge

In the News: The **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** came into force after years of negotiation. With this, the four EFTA nations (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein) have committed a **USD 100 billion investment pledge over 15 years** into India, along with plans to facilitate the creation of **1 million direct jobs**.

Key Points:

- **Entry into Force & Ceremony:** TEPA was signed on March 10, 2024, following decades of intermittent talks. Its commencement was marked by a **Prosperity Summit in New Delhi**, attended by Indian and EFTA dignitaries and business leaders, signaling the pact's importance in bilateral relations.
- **Investment & Job Commitment:** The agreement is unprecedented for India in including a firm investment objective from the partner side. The EFTA states aim to commit USD 100 billion in investments into India over the next 15 years, and the pact anticipates creation of **1 million direct jobs** arising from these investments.
- **Balanced Phasing:** The investment commitment is structured: USD 50 billion to be mobilised over the first 10 years, and the remaining USD 50 billion in the succeeding 5 years. Notably, foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) are excluded — the focus is on long-term, productive investments.
- **Tariff Liberalization:** Under TEPA, the EFTA bloc grants concessions on 92.2 % of its tariff lines, which covers nearly all major Indian exports to them. India, in turn, offers concessions on 82.7 % of its tariff lines, covering about **95.3 %** of EFTA exports to India. Some sectors (like gold, sensitive agriculture, pharma) are protected or excluded from full liberalization.
- **Services & Mobility:** The agreement covers commitments in services across many sub-sectors, including provisions for mutual recognition of professional qualifications (e.g. nursing, architecture, accountancy). It enables flexibility in modes of delivery (digital, commercial presence) and movement of professionals.
- **Facilitation Mechanisms:** To oversee implementation, TEPA establishes investment facilitation mechanisms and an India-EFTA Desk to act as a single-window channel for investors, provide matchmaking, and monitor progress.
- **Strategic Implications:** TEPA represents India's first comprehensive agreement with a European bloc, enhancing access to high-income markets, strengthening supply chain integration, promoting technology and clean energy cooperation, and signaling India's readiness to attract long-term foreign capital.

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

In the News: The Indian government invoked the **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** with Singapore in the investigation of singer **Zubeen Garg's** death, illustrating how MLATs operate in high-profile cross-border criminal cases.

Key Points:

- **Definition & Purpose:** A **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** is an agreement between two or more countries to cooperate in enforcing criminal laws by sharing evidence, providing legal support, serving judicial documents, obtaining testimony, and facilitating investigations that cross national borders.
- **Scope of Assistance:** Under MLATs, a requested state may assist by executing searches, seizures, serving summons, transferring persons for testimony, gathering documents and records, identifying or tracing proceeds of crime, or other forms of legal cooperation as permitted by domestic law.
- **Central Authority & Nodal Ministries in India:** In India, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, through its IS-II division, acts as the central authority for MLAT requests in criminal matters, receiving and processing requests for assistance. For civil and commercial matters, the Ministry of Law & Justice handles treaty arrangements.
- **Legal Framework & Domestic Law:** India's guidelines on MLATs align with **Section 105 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)**, which provides for reciprocal arrangements with foreign governments to serve judicial documents. India has signed MLATs with over 39–40 countries in criminal matters.

- **Bilateral MLAT Example – India & USA:** The **India–United States MLAT**, signed in October 2001, enables both countries to “provide the widest measure of mutual assistance” in criminal investigation, prosecution, prevention and suppression of offences, covering testimony, document sharing, searches, seizures, and seizure or forfeiture of assets.
- **Challenges, Limitations & Reforms:** MLATs often face delays, backlogs, and procedural rigidity, particularly when confronted with digital evidence or large volumes of data. There is growing discussion about moving beyond MLATs toward direct access or streamlined data-sharing frameworks, especially in cybercrime or urgent cases.

India Withdraws Approval for 11 Animal-Based Biostimulants Over Religious Concerns

In the News: The Union Agriculture Ministry withdrew approval for **11 bio-stimulants derived from animal sources** citing **religious and dietary concerns** raised by Hindu and Jain communities. These bio-stimulants, which had been cleared for use on crops such as paddy, tomato, chilli, cotton, cucumber, soybean, grapes and green gram, were removed from Schedule VI of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985.

Key Points:

- **Nature of the Decision:** The Ministry omitted the 11 animal-based protein hydrolysate bio-stimulants from the approved list under Schedule VI of the FCO, effectively revoking their market authorization until further review.
- **Rationale & Stakeholder Concerns:** The move responds to complaints from Hindu and Jain individuals about ethical, religious, and dietary incompatibility with use of substances derived from bovine hide, chicken feathers, pig tissues, fish scales, and other animal materials.
- **Scientific & Regulatory Basis:** These bio-stimulants belong to protein hydrolysates – mixtures of amino acids and peptides derived by breaking down proteins. While some are plant-based, these 11 used animal proteins.
- **Pre-harvest Interval Data Requirement:** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has indicated that approval is “withheld” until adequate pre-harvest interval data (time between spraying and harvesting) is established for their use as foliar sprays, in consideration of safety and residue issues.
- **Regulatory Context:** Earlier in 2025, these bio-stimulants were added to Schedule VI under the FCO after technical clearance. The bio-stimulants sector is now regulated (registration, efficacy, safety) under amended FCO rules.
- **Market Impact & Industry Reaction:** The Indian bio-stimulants market — valued at about USD 355 million in 2024 and projected to grow sharply — relies on innovation. Major firms like Coromandel, Syngenta, Godrej Agrovet may need to restructure formulations or pivot to plant-based alternatives.
- **Temporary Suspension & Review:** The withdrawal is not permanent; the 11 bio-stimulants are suspended pending further scientific validation and ethical/ regulatory reconciliation.

Singapore Renames Island as ‘Zubeen Garg Island’ in Tribute to Legendary Assamese Singer

In the News: Singapore renamed a prominent island in memory of the late Assamese singer Zubeen Garg. The change updating maps and public references comes as a tribute to his legacy, following his tragic death in Singapore waters in September 2025, and reflects the deep resonance of his music beyond India’s borders.

Key Points:

- **Tribute through renaming:** Singapore changed the name of what was earlier referred to as St. John’s Island on Google Maps (and related public references) to “**Zubeen Garg Island**” as a symbolic homage to the singer’s memory and cultural impact.
- **Circumstances of death:** Zubeen Garg died on **September 19, 2025**, while swimming near Lazarus Island during a cultural event in Singapore. His passing sparked grief across Assam and India at large.
- **Cultural resonance:** This gesture of renaming is not merely symbolic; it underlines how Garg’s art connected deeply with people across communities, transcending regional barriers and languages.
- **National reaction:** In Assam and elsewhere in India, his death triggered state mourning, public tributes, and reflection on his role as a unifier in a region often marked by ethnic and religious divisions.
- **Legacy beyond borders:** By inscribing his name onto geography in Singapore, the tribute underscores that his legacy is no longer confined to Assam or India but holds a place in global cultural memory.

Mukesh Ambani Tops Hurun Rich List 2025 in India

In the News: Mukesh Ambani and his family reclaimed the top spot on the **Hurun India Rich List 2025**, amassing a net worth of **₹9.55 lakh crore**, thereby surpassing Gautam Adani to become India’s richest individual once again. The latest list draws

attention to the shifting wealth dynamics among Indian business magnates in 2025 and underscores Ambani's enduring influence in the Indian corporate landscape.

Key Points:

- **Reclaiming the Top Position:** In the Hurun India Rich List 2025, Mukesh Ambani overtook Gautam Adani to regain his position as the richest individual in India, reflecting fluctuations in asset valuations, business performance, and market sentiment.
- **Net Worth and Comparison:** Ambani's net worth in this ranking is reported at ₹9.55 lakh crore, while the Adani family holds second place with about ₹8.15 lakh crore—indicating a significant gap in wealth even amid volatility.
- **India's Billionaire Landscape:** The Hurun Global Rich List 2025 notes that India has **284 billionaires**, making it the third-highest country by count of billionaires globally. This context heightens the significance of Ambani's top rank in India amid stiff competition.
- **Decline & Resilience:** Despite a drop of nearly **₹1 lakh crore** in his wealth compared to the previous year, Ambani managed to maintain leadership in India—attesting to his diversified holdings and resilience to market pressures.
- **Corporate Legacy & Influence:** Ambani's dominance is supported by his leadership of **Reliance Industries**, whose operations span petrochemicals, refining, telecom, retail, digital services, and green energy. That breadth of sectors helps him sustain influence even in shifting economic cycles.
- **Wider Implications:** Ambani's position at the top signals investor confidence in his business groups, while also spotlighting India's growing concentration of wealth in a few conglomerates and the ongoing rivalry between stalwart industrial houses.

World Green Economy Summit 2025

In the News: The 11th edition of the **World Green Economy Summit (WGES 2025)** took place in Dubai under the overarching theme "Innovating for Impact: Accelerating the Future of the Green Economy." The summit convened ministers, business leaders, financial institutions, technologists, and sustainability advocates from across the world to deliberate on scaling green growth, aligning climate ambition with innovation, and driving measurable impact.

Key Points:

- **Summit Theme & Venue:** Held at the Dubai World Trade Centre, WGES 2025 adopted "Innovating for Impact" as its central motif, signalling an emphasis on translating climate pledges into scalable, innovation-driven outcomes rather than abstract goals.
- **High-Level Participation & Agenda:** The summit featured a ministerial roundtable titled "Delivering Climate Ambition by 2030 and Beyond – United Action for Green Transition," with climate and environment ministers from countries such as the UAE, Jordan, Maldives, Comoros, Kenya, and Mozambique joining discussions. These sessions focused on synchronizing policies, unlocking green finance, bridging institutional gaps, and enhancing public-private cooperation.
- **Green Finance & Commitments Tracking:** One of the primary agendas was to catalyse green finance—directing capital toward sustainable projects—and to institutionalize a mechanism within the World Green Economy Organization (WGE0) to regularly monitor voluntary commitments made at the summit, thereby improving accountability and follow-through.
- **Innovation & Corporate Strategy:** Business leaders emphasized the need to embed sustainability into core business models rather than treating it as a peripheral responsibility. For instance, Tech Mahindra's sustainability leadership argued that sustainability must shift from checkbox ESG compliance to an operating model for innovation and resilience.

Ultrationalist Abe protégé set to be Japan's first woman PM: All about Sanae Takaichi

In the News: The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan elected **Sanae Takaichi** as its new president, positioning her to become the country's **first woman Prime Minister**, should she be confirmed by parliament. Her rise has drawn wide attention because she is widely seen as a protégé of Shinzo Abe, and embodies a harder right turn for Japanese politics amid a turbulent electoral phase for the LDP.

Key Points:

- **Political Background & Rise:** Sanae Takaichi, aged 64, has built her political career in the Liberal Democratic Party since joining in 1996, having earlier been elected as an independent to the House of Representatives in 1993. Over the years she has held key ministerial roles under Abe, including Internal Affairs and Communications, and more recently Economic Security. Her deep association with Abe's ideological cohort positions her as a continuing exponent of his agenda.

- **2025 LDP Leadership Contest:** In the 2025 LDP presidential (leadership) election held on October 4, Takaichi secured **183 votes (31.07%)** in the first round and advanced to a runoff against Shinjiro Koizumi, who had 164 votes (27.84%) in that round. In the runoff, she prevailed with **185 votes to 156**, clinching the party's top leadership. If confirmed by the Diet on October 15, she will formally become Prime Minister.
- **Ideological Orientation:** Takaichi is described as a staunch ultranationalist and conservative, opposing policies such as same-sex marriage, support for separate surnames for married couples, and female imperial succession. She is aligned with the nationalist group Nippon Kaigi, and has been vocal about reinterpreting Japan's wartime past, strengthening Japan's military posture, and increasing alignment with the U.S. and Taiwan. Her frequent association with visits to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine underscores her historical conservatism.
- **Challenges Ahead & Policy Priorities:** If she becomes Prime Minister, Takaichi will inherit governance at a fragile moment: Japan is grappling with an aging population, economic stagnation, inflationary pressures, a declining birth rate, and external geopolitical tensions. Her campaign proposals include "crisis management investment" in sectors such as AI, semiconductors, energy, advanced medicine, and defense, while pledging to maintain fiscal discipline. She must also rebuild public trust in the LDP following recent electoral setbacks and reorient the party's image.
- **Symbolic Breakthrough & Limitations:** Her ascension is symbolic—Japan has long lagged in gender representation in politics. While she breaks the glass ceiling, critics caution that her policy stances and past statements suggest limited real progress for women's rights and social liberalization. Her success will be judged not only by her historic role but by whether she can govern effectively across party lines and address structural challenges.

What the International Stabilization Force for Gaza, proposed by Trump

In the News: Former U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled a comprehensive **20-point peace plan** for Gaza which includes the establishment of a **temporary "International Stabilization Force (ISF)"** to oversee security, disarmament, and administrative transition in the Gaza Strip. This proposal is central to the second, long-term phase of his plan, which builds on the immediate ceasefire and hostage exchange.

Key Points:

- **Role and Responsibilities:** The Stabilization Force would be tasked with enforcing security, disarming Hamas, preventing rearmament, coordinating with Israeli and Egyptian forces on border security, and training a newly vetted Palestinian police force to take over internal security in Gaza.
- **Governance & Administration Transition:** Until Gaza is ready to be returned to Palestinian control, governance would pass to a **technocratic interim authority**, overseen by the ISF, which would manage day-to-day affairs and reconstruction. Israel would gradually withdraw its forces as the ISF assumes authority over more territory.
- **Security & Withdrawal Conditions:** Israel is not to occupy or annex Gaza under the plan; its withdrawal would be phased, tied to milestones in demilitarization, deconfliction, and stabilization overseen by the ISF and negotiated guarantees among Israel, the ISF, and guarantor states.
- **Challenges & Ambiguities:** The proposal leaves many details undefined — such as the force's composition, rules of engagement, legal mandate, and how it will operate amid local resistance or renewed hostilities. Implementing such a force in a densely populated and devastated territory like Gaza is fraught with operational and political risks.
- **Strategic Significance:** The ISF is a linchpin of Trump's broader strategy to reshape Gaza's post-war order: it aims to create a buffer between Israel and Gaza, manage the security transition, and legitimize reconstruction under international oversight while reducing Hamas's capacity to return to power.

SPORTS

India's Victory in the Asia Cup Final 2025

In the News: On 28 September 2025, India defeated Pakistan by 5 wickets in the Asia Cup final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium to clinch their ninth Asia Cup title. The match ended dramatically with India completing the chase in the final over, and it also gained political significance as the Indian team refused to accept the trophy from Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, who is also Pakistan's Interior Minister.

Key Points:

- The final was **the first-ever Asia Cup summit clash between India and Pakistan**, and it witnessed intense momentum shifts as Pakistan, after reaching a strong position at 113/1, suffered a dramatic collapse by losing nine wickets for only 33 runs to be bowled out for 146 in 19.1 overs. India responded with a steady but tense chase, finishing at 150/5 in 19.4 overs and sealing victory with just two balls to spare.
- The standout performer for India was **Tilak Varma**, who played a mature and unbeaten knock of 69 runs from 53 balls under pressure, and he was ably supported by **Shivam Dube**, who contributed a crucial 33 off 22 deliveries, with their 60-run partnership forming the backbone of India's successful chase.
- India's bowlers were equally instrumental in setting up the win as **Kuldeep Yadav** spearheaded the attack by claiming four wickets for 30 runs, while **Varun Chakravarthy**, **Axar Patel**, and **Jasprit Bumrah** chipped in with vital breakthroughs that ensured Pakistan's batting collapse after a promising start.
- This victory gave India its ninth Asia Cup title, consolidating its dominance in the tournament's history, but the celebrations were overshadowed by a major controversy when the team refused to accept the trophy and medals from Mohsin Naqvi at the post-match ceremony, leading to a delayed and muted presentation.
- Indian captain **Suryakumar Yadav** later remarked that his side had been "denied" the opportunity to lift the trophy despite having earned the win on the field, which highlighted the political undertones that surrounded the final and turned the sporting triumph into a moment of diplomatic tension.

Clutch, Maple & Zayu: The 2026 FIFA World Cup Mascots

In the News: On 25 September 2025, FIFA officially unveiled **Maple**, **Zayu**, and **Clutch** as the three mascots of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which will be co-hosted by Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Maple is an anthropomorphic moose representing Canada, Zayu is a jaguar symbolizing Mexico, and Clutch is a bald eagle embodying the United States.

Key Features & Symbolism

- FIFA describes Maple as a creative, resilient, and inclusive character: Maple is cast as the goalkeeper of the mascots and is intended to travel across Canada's provinces, showcasing the country's rich cultural diversity.
- Zayu hails from the jungles of southern Mexico and is presented as an agile, passionate striker who carries Mexican heritage through culture, dance, and tradition; the name "Zayu" is said to reflect unity, strength, and joy.
- Clutch, as the bald eagle for the U.S., is framed as an adventurous, optimistic midfielder who soars across the country, embracing every culture and inspiring unity and spirit through leadership.

Innovations & Use Cases

- For the first time in a FIFA men's tournament, the mascots will be **playable characters in a video game**: the upcoming title **FIFA Heroes**, which will be available across platforms like Android, iOS, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, and Xbox.
- The mascots will also appear in digital activations, including on **Roblox's FIFA Super League Soccer**, and will be heavily featured in merchandising across the tournament (in stadiums, fan zones, broadcasts, apparel, toys, etc.).
- FIFA's aim is for Maple, Zayu, and Clutch to represent **unity, diversity, and the celebratory spirit** of the tournament and to become lasting symbols beyond just matchdays.

India Win 7th SAFF U-17 Football Title in Colombo

In the News: India clinched their **seventh SAFF U-17 Championship** title by defeating Bangladesh in the final held in Colombo. The match was decided by penalties after a 2-2 draw in regulation time, and India won the shootout 4-1.

Key Points:

- **Tournament & Venue:** The 2025 SAFF U-17 Championship was hosted in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 15 to 27 September, featuring seven South Asian teams vying for regional supremacy.
- **Final Match Drama:** In the final, India and Bangladesh were deadlocked 2-2 by the end of normal play, leading to a penalty shootout which India dominated 4-1.
- **Game Flow:** India started strong, leading 2-1 at halftime through goals by Dallamuon Gangte and Azlaan Shah KH, but Bangladesh equalised late in the second half, forcing the shootout.
- **Penalty Shootout:** India's penalty takers displayed calm under pressure and converted four of their attempts, while Bangladesh faltered, granting India the title.
- **Historical Significance:** This victory extended India's dominance in the SAFF U-17 category, reinforcing their status as the most successful side in the tournament's history with seven titles.

- **Individual Accolades:** Muhammad Abdullah of Pakistan was the top scorer of the tournament with 6 goals, while the best player award went to Nazmul Huda Faysal.

Mithun Manhas Elected 37th BCCI President

In the News: During the 94th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) held in Mumbai, **Mithun Manhas** was elected unopposed as the 37th President of the BCCI, succeeding Roger Binny.

Key Points:

- **Election & Succession:** Mithun Manhas assumed office as BCCI President taking over from Roger Binny, who stepped down after reaching the retirement age of 70 as per BCCI norms.
- **Unopposed Mandate:** His election was unopposed, signalling broad consensus among state associations and a smooth leadership transition.
- **Milestones & Firsts:** He becomes the first **uncapped** cricketer (i.e., who did not play an international match for India) to lead the BCCI, and the first individual from the region of Jammu & Kashmir to hold this prestigious post.
- **Cricketing & Administrative Background:** Manhas is a veteran of Indian domestic cricket, having played primarily for Delhi and later Jammu & Kashmir. After retirement, he took on coaching and administrative roles including stints in IPL teams and within cricket associations.
- **Supporting Leadership:** Alongside him, other key office-bearers were named: Rajeev Shukla continues as vice president, Devajit Saikia as secretary, Prabhtej Singh Bhatia as joint secretary, and A. Raghuram Bhat as treasurer.

World Archery Para Championships 2025: Sheetal Devi Wins Maiden Gold

In the News: At the **2025 World Archery Para Championships** held in Gwangju, South Korea, 18-year-old Indian archer **Sheetal Devi** made history by winning her maiden individual gold in the women's compound event — becoming world champion in para archery.

Key Points:

- **Event Details & Context:** The 15th edition of the World Para Archery Championships ran from 22 to 28 September 2025, with 239 archers representing 47 countries competing in Gwangju. The women's compound individual competition saw high stakes with previous champions in the fray.
- **Historic Victory:** In the gold-medal match, Sheetal Devi defeated Turkey's world No.1 **Öznur Cure Girdi** by a tight score of **146-143** to clinch the title. The battle was intense: the first end was tied, but in the second end Sheetal shot three perfect 10s to pull ahead. She held her nerve in the final end to seal the win.
- **Medal Haul & Team Performances:** Beyond her gold, Sheetal earned **silver** in the women's compound open team event (alongside Sarita) after a tightly contested final with Turkey. She also won **bronze** in the mixed team event earlier in the championships.
- **Personal & Inspirational Journey:** Sheetal was born with **phocomelia**, a rare congenital disorder, resulting in absence of arms. Prior to 2025, she had already earned recognition — including medals at para-archery events, and had been guided by the story of armless archers like Matt Stutzman. She had also medalled in prior world championships (e.g. silver in 2023) before achieving this top podium finish.

12th World Para Athletics Championship 2025 Kicks Off in New Delhi

In the News: The **12th World Para Athletics Championships** begin in **New Delhi** from **September 27 to October 5, 2025**, marking the first time India hosts this prestigious global para-athletics event.

Key Points:

- **Edition, Scale & Dates:** This is the 12th edition of the World Para Athletics Championships. The competition will run over nine days from **27 September to 5 October 2025** at the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi**.
- **Participants & Events:** More than **1,200 para-athletes** from **over 100 nations** are expected to take part. The programme will feature **186 medal events** (101 for men, 84 for women, 1 mixed) — an increase of 15 events compared to the previous edition in Kobe.
- **Historic First for India:** This is India's **first time** hosting the World Para Athletics Championships, and the first instance in South Asia. India announced a record contingent of **73 para-athletes** for the championships.

- **Infrastructure & Symbolism:** The stadium and its facilities have been upgraded, including installation of a **new outdoor Mondo track**, India's first for para athletics, completed in about four months at a cost of ~₹24.25 crore. The **mascot "Viraaj"**, a young elephant with a blade prosthesis, was unveiled to symbolize strength, optimism, and resilience.
- **Expectations & Preparations:** India is emphasizing hosting excellence, accessibility, and athlete support. Athletes such as **Navdeep Singh** have expressed confidence in their preparation, noting the advantage of competing on home ground. Indian medal hopefuls include previous Paralympic and World Championship medallists.

India Clinches One-Two in Men's Javelin F44 at World Para Athletics

In the News: At the World Para Athletics Championships held in New Delhi, India achieved a **one-two finish** in the **Men's Javelin F44** event with **Sandip Sanjay Sargar** winning gold and **Sandeep Chaudhary** taking silver. This momentous result added to India's growing medal tally and highlighted the strength of Indian para-athletics on the global stage.

Key Points:

- **Gold and Silver Triumph:** Sandip Sanjay Sargar clinched the gold with a throw of 62.82 m in his fifth attempt, while Sandeep Chaudhary earned silver with a best throw of 62.67 m, making
- **Competition & Rivals:** The bronze medal went to Brazil's Edenilson (\approx 61.94 m). In the same event, Indian athletes Pushpendra Singh and Mahendra Gurjar threw 61.31 m (4th place) and 57.84 m (7th place) respectively.
- **Medal Count Impact:** This finish helped push India's overall medal count higher in the championships. On that day, India had already secured a number of podium finishes in para-athletics, and this result further underscored the Indian team's depth in field events.
- **Records & Bests:** Sargar's personal best and Chaudhary's season's best throws were central to their podium success. Their performance also stands out because they managed to surpass many of their competitors under high pressure in a major global event.

Abhishek Sharma Breaks This Record in ICC T20I Batter Rankings

In the News: Indian cricketer **Abhishek Sharma** has made history by achieving the **highest ever rating** in the **ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings**, reaching **931 points**, thereby breaking a five-year-old record.

Key Points:

- **Record Rating:** Sharma's rating of **931** surpasses the previous highest of **919**, which was held by England's Dawid Malan.
- **Basis & Form:** His rise to the top spot came off a stellar showing in the **Asia Cup 2025**, where he scored **314 runs** across seven innings at a strike rate of 200.
- **Historical Significance:** Sharma is now the fourth Indian to become No. 1 in T20I batting rankings, joining Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, and Suryakumar Yadav.
- **Changing Landscape:** Alongside Sharma's milestone, Pakistan's Saim Ayub overtook Hardik Pandya to become the world's **No. 1 T20I all-rounder**, highlighting shifting dynamics in the format.
- **Enduring Record:** The previous high of 919 had stood for nearly five years—Sharma's feat ends that run and sets a new benchmark in T20I batting rankings.

Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver at 2025 World Championships

In the News: Indian weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** clinched the **silver medal** in the women's **48 kg** category at the **2025 World Weightlifting Championships** held in Førde, Norway, achieving a combined lift of **199 kg** (84 kg in snatch + 115 kg in clean & jerk), thereby ending India's three-year medal drought at the World Championships.

Key Points:

- **Event & Category:** The women's 48 kg competition took place on October 2, 2025, in Førde, with 31 competitors from 26 nations vying for the podium.
- **Performance Breakdown:** Mirabai Chanu lifted 84 kg in the snatch segment (securing a bronze in that sub-segment) and later succeeded with lifts of 109 kg, 112 kg, and 115 kg in clean & jerk, with the final attempt pushing her total to 199 kg.
- **Medal Positions:** The gold was won by North Korea's **Ri Song-gum**, who posted a total of 213 kg (including a record clean & jerk), while the bronze went to Thailand's **Thanyathon Sukcharoen** with 198 kg.

Comeback & Significance: This is Mirabai's first world medal since 2022, marking a strong comeback after injury setbacks; her performance is seen as a reaffirmation of her elite status and resilience.

SCIENCE AND TECH

NASA-ISRO NISAR Satellite Sends First Earth Images

In the News: NASA and ISRO have released the **first radar images** from their joint Earth-observing satellite, **NISAR** (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), marking a major milestone in the mission's operations and global Earth monitoring capabilities.

Key Points:

- **Mission & Technology Overview:** NISAR is a joint NASA-ISRO mission that carries **dual-band synthetic aperture radar** systems (L-band and S-band), enabling it to penetrate clouds and image Earth's surface day and night. The L-band radar is particularly sensitive to biomass, soil moisture, and land/ice motion, while the S-band helps monitor agricultural lands, infrastructure, and surface features.
- **Launch & Orbit Details:** NISAR was launched on **July 30, 2025** aboard a **GSLV-F16** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. Post launch, ISRO ground controllers established contact ~20 minutes later, confirming the satellite was functioning as expected. NISAR is expected to complete about **14 orbits per day**, scanning nearly all land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days. **First Images & Insights:** The initial radar images, captured in August 2025, include areas like northeastern North Dakota (Forest River region) showing wetlands, forests, agricultural plots, and land features with high precision. These images reveal intricate surface details—boundaries of forests, fields, and wetlands—underscoring the mission's potential for fine surface characterization.
- **Scientific & Practical Applications:** By detecting subtle changes (down to centimeter scale) in Earth's surface, NISAR can assist in tracking land deformation, glacier and ice sheet dynamics, forest biomass change, flooding, subsidence, and natural hazards like landslides and earthquakes. The dual-radar capabilities improve reliability and versatility across different terrains, ecosystems, and environmental conditions.
- **Mission Duration & Collaboration:** The mission is planned for at least **3 years** in its baseline phase, during which the satellite will build a rich, systematic global data record. NISAR is an equal collaboration: NASA contributed the L-band radar, communications, data handling, and calibration, while ISRO contributed the S-band radar, spacecraft bus, launch, and operational support.

ENVIRONMENT

Mukhi Becomes First India-Born Adult Cheetah at Kuno

In the News: Mukhi, a female cheetah born in Kuno National Park, officially reached adulthood, becoming the first India-born cheetah cub under Project Cheetah to survive to maturity.

Key Points:

- **Birth & Parentage:** Mukhi was born on March 29, 2023 to Jwala, a Namibian cheetah brought to India under the reintroduction program; of the four cubs born that time, Mukhi was the only one to survive past infancy.
- **Survival Against Odds:** Her siblings died during a severe heatwave soon after birth, and Mukhi was abandoned by her mother; she was rescued and nurtured by forest authorities and veterinarians.
- **Milestone of Adulthood:** At **915 days** (approximately 30 months), Mukhi attained adulthood, enabling her to contribute to breeding and natural growth of India's cheetah population.
- **Significance for Project Cheetah:** Mukhi's survival and maturation validate the feasibility of cheetah reintroduction, showing some cubs can adapt to the Indian environment and persist.
- **Population & Mortality Data:** Since the reintroduction began, India now has **27 cheetahs** (24 in Kuno, 3 in Gandhi Sagar), of which 16 were born in India. However, **19 cheetahs** (including nine imported adults and ten cubs) have died so far.
- **Survival Rate Comparison:** The cub survival rate in Kuno is reported at **61 %**, substantially higher than the global average (~40 %), indicating promising adaptation under managed conditions.
- **Future Prospects:** Mukhi's achievement strengthens resolve to bring in more cheetahs to boost genetic diversity, expand habitats, and establish stable populations beyond Kuno.

Environmental Accounting on Forest – 2025

In the News: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 8th edition of its environment-accounts publication titled Environmental Accounting on Forest – 2025. This is the first report completely dedicated to forest accounting under the United Nations’ SEEA (System of Environmental-Economic Accounting) framework.

Key Points:

- **Purpose & Framework:** The report is designed to provide comprehensive forest ecosystem accounts at national and state levels, aligned with the SEEA framework, and is structured into two volumes—Volume I covering methodology and national data and Volume II focusing on state/UT-level accounts.
- **Physical Asset Account:** Between 2010-11 and 2021-22, India’s forest cover grew by **17,444.61 sq km**, bringing the total to 7.15 lakh sq km, which constitutes about **21.76 %** of the geographical area.
- **Extent Account:** From 2013 to 2023, the report records a net increase of **3,356 sq km** in forest extent, largely driven by reclassification or boundary adjustments. States like Uttarakhand, Odisha, and Jharkhand showed notable gains in Recorded Forest Area (RFA).
- **Condition Account:** The growing stock—the volume of usable wood in living trees—rose by **305.53 million cubic metres**, a 7.32 % increase over the decade. Key contributors included Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana.
- **Services Account (Provisioning & Regulating):** Provisioning services (timber, non-timber forest products) were valued at approximately **₹37.93 thousand crore** in 2021-22, about 0.16 % of GDP. States such as Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Kerala were leading contributors. Regulating services (carbon retention, climate regulation) saw valuation rise to about **2.63 % of GDP** in 2021-22, with states like Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Assam among the top performers.
- **Major State Contributors & Trends:** In the physical asset account, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu accounted for the highest gains. In the extent account, Uttarakhand led the increase in RFA share (~6.3 %), followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

India’s First Dugong Conservation Reserve Gets IUCN Recognition

In the News: At the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 held in Abu Dhabi, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) formally **recognized** India’s first **Dugong Conservation Reserve**, located in **Palk Bay** off Tamil Nadu’s coast. This recognition followed overwhelming support for a motion adopted by the IUCN, seen as an important step in placing India’s dugong conservation efforts on the global map.

Key Points:

- **Creation of the Reserve:** The Dugong Conservation Reserve in northern **Palk Bay** was officially **notified on September 21, 2022** by the Government of Tamil Nadu under G.O. (Ms) No. 165, Environment, Climate Change & Forests (FR.5). The reserve spans approximately **448.34 sq km** of coastal waters that include vital seagrass meadows, which serve as feeding grounds for dugongs.
- **Conservation Context & Status of Dugongs:** Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*) are listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List. In India, their numbers have declined significantly, with estimates suggesting **around 200–250** individuals remain; many of them inhabit Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar region. The establishment of the reserve aims to conserve this remnant population and their habitat.
- **Habitat & Ecological Importance:** The reserve area includes over 12,250 hectares of seagrass meadows that are critical feeding grounds for dugongs and support a wide variety of marine fauna. Protecting these seagrass beds benefits marine biodiversity, supports fisheries, and helps in carbon sequestration.
- **IUCN Recognition & Support:** The recognition was formalized through a motion at the 2025 IUCN Congress, which passed with substantial support—98 % of member governments and 94.8 % of NGOs, research institutions, and organisations voted in favour. The motion not only recognized the reserve, but also urged IUCN members to collaborate with India in long-term monitoring, capacity building, and knowledge exchange to replicate this model across dugong habitats.

APPOINTMENTS

Shirish Chandra Murmu Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

In the News: The Government of India announced the appointment of **Shirish Chandra Murmu** as a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His three-year term will begin from October 9, 2025, when he succeeds Rajeshwar Rao, whose extended tenure ends October 8.

Key Points:

- **Appointment Details:** Murmu will take office as Deputy Governor for a three-year term starting October 9, 2025, and will replace M. Rajeshwar Rao.
- **Current Role & Experience:** Before this appointment, Murmu was serving as an Executive Director at the RBI, overseeing the Supervision Department.
- **Portfolio Not Yet Assigned:** Though his appointment is confirmed, his specific departmental responsibilities at the RBI have not been publicly announced yet.
- **Succession & Context:** Rao's term comes to an end on October 8 after multiple extensions. Murmu is considered the senior-most executive director within the RBI and was selected over other internal contenders.
- **Structure Norms:** As per the RBI Act, the central bank typically has four Deputy Governors. These are assigned oversight of major functions like monetary policy, banking regulation, financial markets, and supervision.
- **Age & Selection Flexibility:** Though the eligibility norms provide for an age ceiling, the Search Committee has discretionary power to waive it in exceptional cases; Murmu's selection reflects trust in his experience and capability.

R Venkataramani Reappointed Attorney General of India Till 2027

In the News: The Government of India announced the **re-appointment of R. Venkataramani** as the **Attorney General of India** for an additional two years, extending his tenure from **1 October 2025** through **30 September 2027**.

Key Points:

- **Tenure Extension:** R. Venkataramani's original three-year term as Attorney General was set to expire on 30 September 2025; the government approved a further two-year extension effective from 1 October 2025.
- **Constitutional Appointment:** The Attorney General is appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution, and serves at the President's pleasure.
- **Legal Career & Background:** Venkataramani is a senior advocate with over four decades of legal practice, spanning constitutional law, indirect taxation, human rights, civil and criminal matters. He was designated a senior advocate in 1997 and has served in various capacities, including member of the Law Commission of India.
- **Previous Appointment:** He succeeded K. K. Venugopal to become the 16th Attorney General on 1 October 2022.
- **Role & Functions:** As the chief law officer of the Union government, Venkataramani will continue to advise the government on legal issues, represent it in the Supreme Court, assist in preparing legal opinions, and participate in Parliament proceedings (without voting rights).

AWARDS

Diljit Dosanjh Earns International Emmy Nod for Chamkila

In the News: Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh received his first **International Emmy Awards** nomination for his performance in **Amar Singh Chamkila**, the biographical drama directed by Imtiaz Ali.

Key Points:

- **Nomination & Categories:** "Amar Singh Chamkila" earned two nominations at the 53rd International Emmy Awards: one for **Best Performance by an Actor** (for Diljit Dosanjh) and another for **TV Movie/Mini-Series** (for the film itself).
- **About the Film & Role:** The movie, released on Netflix in April 2024, is a biographical drama based on the life of Punjabi singer Amar Singh Chamkila, notorious for his bold music and tragic assassination. Diljit portrays the titular character, bringing to life Chamkila's charisma, struggles, and the controversies that surrounded him.
- **Significance of the Nomination:** For Diljit, this is a landmark recognition — his first Emmy nod, elevating his presence on the international stage. The nomination is seen not just as personal acclaim but as honoring Chamkila's legacy and Punjabi culture more broadly.
- **Industry & Peer Reaction:** Diljit publicly credited director Imtiaz Ali for this achievement, acknowledging his role in bringing the project to fruition. Co-stars and industry peers, including Parineeti Chopra, have expressed pride and congratulated the team.

India Honoured with ISSA Award for Expanding Social Security Coverage

In the News: India was conferred the **International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security**, in recognition of its remarkable progress in expanding social protection coverage over the past

decade. The award was accepted on behalf of India by Labour and Employment Minister **Mansukh Mandaviya** during the World Social Security Forum in Malaysia, and highlights India's strides in bringing social security benefits closer to its population, especially in the unorganised sector.

Key Points:

- **Expansion of Coverage:** Between 2015 and 2025, India increased its social security coverage from about **19 percent** of the population to approximately **64.3 percent**, thereby extending benefits to over **940 million citizens** through various schemes and improvements in infrastructure.
- **Digital Public Infrastructure & e-Shram:** The award citation emphasized the role of **digital public infrastructure** in enabling last-mile delivery of benefits. In particular, the **e-Shram portal**—a national database for unorganised workers—has been instrumental in linking them to multiple social welfare schemes through a seamless, multilingual interface.
- **Integration with Other Platforms:** The minister also highlighted how the **National Career Service (NCS)** is integrated with e-Shram to connect skilled jobseekers and employers globally, ensuring that workers retain social security coverage even if they move across jobs or geographies.
- **Institutional Backbone:** Core institutions such as the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** and the **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** were acknowledged for their role in providing pensions, healthcare, insurance, and unemployment benefits, thereby forming the structural foundation of India's social security expansion.
- **Global Significance & Recognition:** India becomes the **fifth country ever** to receive this ISSA distinction, which reflects not only national achievement in social protection but also positions the country among global leaders in social security reform and coverage.

STATIC**Gandhi Jayanti 2025: Timeline of Gandhi Era from 1869 to 1948**

In the News: As India prepares to observe **Gandhi Jayanti** on **2 October 2025**, commemorating the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, we look back at the key phases of his life between **1869 and 1948**, tracing his evolution from a young student to the leader of nonviolent resistance and martyr of the nation.

Key Points:

- **Early Life & Formation (1869–1888):** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on **2 October 1869** in Porbandar, Gujarat, into a devout Hindu family influenced by Vaishnavism and Jainism. He completed his foundational schooling in Rajkot, and in **1883**, at age 13 or 14, married **Kasturba Kapadia**. In **1888**, he travelled to London to study law at the Inner Temple, exposing himself to Western philosophy, religion and social thought.
- **South Africa & Emergence of Satyagraha (1893–1915):** In **1893**, Gandhi accepted a legal assignment in South Africa, where he experienced racial discrimination firsthand and soon became active in organizing Indian rights. Over the years he developed and experimented with **satyagraha** (truth-force / civil resistance), leading campaigns against oppressive laws and instituting nonviolent protest as a political tool. In **1915**, Gandhi returned to India permanently, bringing with him not only political philosophy but experience of mass mobilisation.
- **Early Indian Activism & Mass Movements (1915–1930):** After a period of traveling across India to understand its social and economic conditions, Gandhi began taking a leadership role in the **Indian National Congress**. In **1920**, he launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement**, calling for boycott of British goods, institutions and titles. In **1930**, he led the iconic **Dandi Salt March**, defying the salt tax imposed by the British, and engaged in civil disobedience nationwide. In **1931**, the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact** was signed, leading to temporary suspension of protests in return for concessions.
- **Later Struggles & Final Years (1932–1948):** In **1932**, while imprisoned, Gandhi fasted to oppose the British plan to give separate electorates to "untouchables," leading to the **Poona Pact** as a negotiated alternative. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, Gandhi intensified campaigns of civil disobedience, participated in **Quit India Movement** (1942), and persistently called for communal harmony during the Partition crisis. On **30 January 1948**, while conducting evening prayers at Birla House in New Delhi, Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse.
- **Legacy in Retrospect:** Gandhi's life is divided into phases of **formative learning, experimentation in South Africa, mass mobilization in India, and leadership during freedom struggle**, culminating in his martyrdom. His methods of

nonviolence, civil disobedience, and emphasis on social reform influenced not only India's independence but global movements for civil rights and justice.

OBITUARIES

Pandit Chhannulal Mishra Passes Away at 89

In the News: Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, the eminent Hindustani classical vocalist and exponent of the Banaras gharana, passed away at the age of 89 at his daughter's residence in Mirzapur. The government has announced that his last rites will be accorded **state honours**.

Key Points:

- **Birth & Background:** Born on **3 August 1936** in Hariharpur village, Azamgarh district (then United Provinces), Mishra became one of the foremost exponents of **Hindustani classical music**. He was closely associated with the **Banaras gharana**, especially in genres like **Khayal** and **Purab Ang / Thumri**.
- **Musical Journey & Style:** From early tutelage under his father and then under Ustad Abdul Ghani Khan and later guidance of Thakur Jaidev Singh, Mishra developed a unique style that blended **Kirana bādhat** with nuances of Patiala and Purab traditions. His repertoire spanned Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Kajri, Chaiti, Bhajans, etc.
- **Recognition & Awards:** Over his long career, he received many honours including the **Shiromani Award (Sur Singar Sansad)**, **Uttar Pradesh Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**, **Naushad Award (Uttar Pradesh)**, **Yash Bharti (Uttar Pradesh)**, **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship**, **Padma Bhushan (2010)** and **Padma Vibhushan** (recent award) among others.
- **Circumstances of Demise:** He passed away at **4:15 a.m.** on October 2, 2025, at his daughter **Namrata's residence** in Mirzapur. The cause is reported to be a **prolonged illness**.

G G Parikh Passes Away at 100: The Last of India's Gandhian Socialists

In the News: Dr. G. G. Parikh, one of India's last practicing **Gandhian socialists** and a veteran freedom fighter, passed away in Mumbai at the age of **100 (or 101, based on some reports)**. His body was donated to JJ Hospital in keeping with his life-long commitment to self-service.

Key Points:

- **Early Life & Freedom Struggle:** Dr. Parikh was born on **December 30, 1924**, in Gujarat (Surendra Nagar/Wadhwan camp) and became active in politics as a student. He joined the **Quit India Movement in 1942**, was imprisoned for ten months, and later participated in various Gandhian and socialist activities.
- **Ideological Journey & Public Work:** Although influenced by Marx in his youth, Parikh embraced Gandhian philosophy, believing that Gandhi's ideals were more suited to India. He lived simply (wearing khadi, practising self-reliance) and merged socialism with grassroots service. He helped found the socialist wing of the Congress Party, engaged in consumer cooperatives and workers' rights, and consistently remained involved in social causes.
- **Yusuf Meherally Centre & Rural Outreach:** In 1962, Parikh and his wife Mangalaben established the **Yusuf Meherally Centre** in Taara village, Panvel (Raigad), Maharashtra. The centre became a hub for village industries (Gramodyog), education, health, sustainable farming, and community empowerment—exemplifying his belief in Gandhi's rural regeneration.
- **Political & Activist Roles:** He remained active through India's political tumult—participating in trade union movements via Hind Mazdoor Sabha, opposing authoritarianism, resisting the Emergency (during which he was jailed again), declining electoral politics to preserve his moral autonomy, and leading public marches even into advanced age.

ECONOMY

RBI Sets Up Payments Regulatory Board

In the News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) notified the **Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025**, thereby creating a new **Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)** to replace the earlier BPSS structure and provide a robust statutory framework for oversight of India's payment and settlement systems.

Key Points:

- **Establishment & Legal Basis:** The PRB is constituted under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**, with its enabling rules laid out in the Payments Regulatory Board Regulations, 2025, effective from May 20, 2025.
- **Replacement of BPSS:** The PRB replaces the earlier **Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS)**, which functioned as a committee under the RBI's Central Board.
- **Composition & Governance:** The PRB will have **six members**, chaired by the **RBI Governor**. Other members include the Deputy Governor overseeing payment systems, one RBI official nominated by its Central Board, and **three nominees from the central government**.
- **Voting & Decision-making:** Each member gets one vote, and decisions are by majority. In event of a tie, the **Chairperson** (or Deputy Governor if Chair is absent) has a casting vote.
- **Meetings & Quorum:** The PRB is obligated to convene **at least twice a year**, and a quorum must include the Chairperson or designated Deputy Governor.
- **Delegation & Invitees:** The PRB may delegate powers to its Chairperson, sub-committees, or RBI officers. It can also invite experts (e.g. in payments, IT, law) as permanent or ad hoc invitees. The **Principal Legal Adviser of RBI** is a permanent invitee.
- **Mandate & Oversight Role:** The PRB is responsible for regulation, licensing, supervision, and oversight of the entire payments ecosystem in India—covering both traditional and digital systems, domestic and cross-border flows.
- **Autonomy vs Government Role:** For the first time, government nominees will sit on the payments regulator, giving the government formal representation in decision processes. Some observers caution this could affect regulatory independence.

11th World Green Economy Summit Begins in Dubai

In the News: The **11th World Green Economy Summit (WGES 2025)** is scheduled for **October 1–2, 2025** in Dubai, under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The summit, organized by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, DEWA (Dubai Electricity & Water Authority) and the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), will be held at the Dubai World Trade Centre under the theme **“Innovating for Impact: Accelerating the Future of the Green Economy.”**

Key Points:

- **Theme & Focus:** WGES 2025 will emphasize **innovation and impact** to accelerate green economy transitions. It will spotlight technology, climate equity, clean energy, climate resilience, finance, policy, and youth in climate action as core pillars. **Role of Technology & AI:** A key thrust will be on artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), predictive analytics, and smart systems to optimize renewable energy integration, monitor emissions, manage climate risks, and improve efficiency across sectors.
- **Climate Policy & Investment:** The summit will examine how **climate policies**, regulatory frameworks, and **investment flows** can advance sustainable transformation. Green finance is set to be central, addressing gaps in funding for clean technologies and risk mitigation.
- **Sponsors & Partnerships:** The 11th edition has drawn support from **16 local, regional, and international sponsors**, underscoring global interest in climate innovation and sustainability efforts.
- **Legacy & Leadership:** Over its 11-year history, WGES has evolved into a major global platform shaping climate discourse, promoting public-private partnerships, and translating high-level commitments into actionable strategies.
- **Global Context & Timing:** WGES 2025 aims to build on momentum from **COP28** (hosted in the UAE) and realize the UAE Consensus via implementation of commitments toward the Paris Agreement through innovation, collaboration, and inclusive green transition.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Animal Day 2025: 100 Years of Compassion

In the News: The world marks the **100th anniversary of World Animal Day**, commemorating a century of global compassion toward animals and reinforcing the message that humanity's welfare and the planet's health are deeply intertwined. This centennial edition carries the theme **“Save Animals, Save the Planet”** to highlight how safeguarding animal welfare is essential not only for biodiversity but for ecological balance and human survival.

Key Points:

- **Origins and Evolution:** World Animal Day was instituted in 1925 by German writer and activist Heinrich Zimmermann, who organized the first event in Berlin with over 5,000 participants wanting to elevate animal welfare as a public cause. Over time, the observance moved to October 4—coinciding with the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, often regarded as the patron saint of animals—and has since grown into a global movement endorsed by governments, NGOs, and communities worldwide.
- **2025 Theme & Significance:** The chosen theme for 2025 is “*Save Animals, Save the Planet*”, linking animal welfare with planetary health and emphasizing that protecting animal life contributes to resilient ecosystems, climate stability, and human well-being.
- **Global Participation & Events:** To mark the centenary, individuals, animal welfare groups, and governments are encouraged to organize events—ranging from education campaigns and rescue awareness drives to adoption initiatives and community pledges. One signature activity is the “100 Acts of Kindness” campaign, where people commit to acts benefiting animals in the run-up to October 4.
- **Challenges & Threats Highlighted:** The 2025 observance underscores the many threats animals face—from habitat loss, deforestation, climate change and industrial farming to illegal wildlife trade and pollution—reminding societies that inaction has cascading consequences for species survival and ecosystem balance.
- **One Health Perspective & Integration:** The centennial underscores a *One Health* outlook, recognizing that the health of animals, humans, and the environment are interconnected. Many advocates use this occasion to push for stronger legal protections, better veterinary care, and stricter habitat conservation policies as integrated solutions.
- **Legacy & Future Imperatives:** Reaching 100 years is not just symbolic. It invites reflection on how far the animal welfare movement has come and casts attention on how much remains to be done—especially in low-resource regions. Moving forward, the priority is to translate awareness into sustained policy measures, funding for rescue and conservation, and widespread behavioral change.