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## NATIONAL

### Aurangabad Railway Station Renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

- The Aurangabad Railway Station in Maharashtra has been officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Railway Station through a gazette notification by the state government and South Central Railway.
- The renaming aligns with the 2022 change of the city's name and replaces colonial-era associations by honoring Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The station, originally built in 1900 during the Nizam's rule, now falls under the Nanded Division with a new station code 'CPSN'.
- As a major gateway to UNESCO sites such as the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, the renaming is expected to boost cultural tourism and enhance the city's national and international visibility.
- The decision carries strong political support from the BJP-led Mahayuti government, reflecting efforts to reinforce regional identity and integrate historical narratives into public infrastructure.

### India Begins Trishul 2025 Tri-Service Combat Exercise

- India launched Trishul 2025, a large-scale tri-Service combat exercise along the Pakistan border to test joint military readiness amid rising regional tensions.
- The drills span Rajasthan's desert terrain to the Sir Creek marshlands and involve over 20,000 personnel, tanks, artillery, helicopters, and missile systems.
- The Army, Navy, and Air Force are conducting synchronized deep-strike missions, amphibious landings, and air-superiority operations using advanced platforms like Rafale and Sukhoi jets.
- The exercise highlights India's Atmanirbharta push by deploying indigenous missiles, tanks, unmanned systems, and electronic warfare technologies in realistic combat scenarios.
- Pakistan's parallel airspace restrictions during the same period reflect heightened cross-border security dynamics and mirror past standoff patterns.

### Rani Chennamma of Kittur: 200th Anniversary Commemoration

- India marked the 200th anniversary of Rani Chennamma's resistance against British rule by releasing a ₹200 commemorative coin in her honor.
- In 1824, she bravely defeated the British forces enforcing the Doctrine of Lapse, killing Collector St. John Thackeray and inspiring regional resistance.
- Although the British later overpowered Kittur and imprisoned her in Bailhongal Fort, she maintained dignity and continued advocating for her people until her death in 1829.
- Her legacy endures through annual celebrations like Kittur Utsava and her statue in the Parliament complex, symbolizing early female-led resistance.
- Chennamma's defiance foreshadowed later anti-colonial uprisings and continues to inspire India's modern narratives of sovereignty, courage, and gender empowerment.

### Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

- The Government of India announced the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, honoring outstanding contributions across science, technology, and interdisciplinary research.
- The awards span four categories—Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva–Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team—recognizing lifetime impact, recent excellence, young achievers, and collaborative innovations.

- Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar received Vigyan Ratna, while a wide range of scientists across fields like physics, agricultural science, atomic energy, biology, chemistry, engineering, medicine, and space science were honored under Vigyan Shri and Vigyan Yuva-SSB.
- The CSIR Aroma Mission Team received the Vigyan Team award, reflecting the scheme's emphasis on multidisciplinary and institutional contributions.
- Introduced in 2024, the award system aims to enhance transparency and scientific culture through a rigorous multi-stage selection process involving expert recommendations and ministerial review.

### **Vajra Chandrasekera Wins 2025 Ursula K. Le Guin Fiction Prize**

- Sri Lankan author Vajra Chandrasekera won the 2025 Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction for his acclaimed speculative novel *Rakesfall*.
- The award recognizes works that reflect Le Guin's ideals of hope, equity, freedom, and critiques of power through imaginative storytelling.
- Chandrasekera, originally from Colombo and currently in New York on a writing fellowship, is known for exploring colonialism, myth, and political realities in his fiction.
- Established in 2022, the \$25,000 prize honors a single-author book-length work that embodies Le Guin's humanistic worldview.
- The jury praised *Rakesfall* for its fluid narrative, moral depth, and genre-defying structure, calling it a masterful and transformative work of art.

### **Passenger Vessel 'Sindhu' Begins Historic Voyage to Barren Island**

- The vessel 'Sindhu' completed its historic maiden voyage to Barren Island, India's only active volcano, marking a major milestone for eco-tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The trip carried 500 passengers, including 125 school students, offering a rare view of the volcanic crater and a panoramic sunrise before returning safely to Port Blair.
- Barren Island, located 140 km from Port Blair at a key tectonic convergence zone, was previously accessible only to scientists or by air.
- The Andaman Administration will now run fortnightly cruises to promote controlled, safe adventure and eco-tourism using the 'Sindhu's' multi-tier accommodation and onboard services.
- The inclusion of students on the voyage supports educational outreach in geology and environmental awareness, fostering responsible engagement with natural heritage.

### **Uttar Pradesh Forms Its 76th District: Kalyan Singh Nagar**

- Uttar Pradesh announced the creation of its 76th district, Kalyan Singh Nagar, carved out of Bulandshahr district to improve administrative efficiency.
- The district is named after former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, honoring his legacy and role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.
- It will comprise Bulandshahr Sadar, Khurja, and Sikandrabad tehsils, with Bulandshahr city likely to serve as the administrative headquarters.
- The decision aligns with the state's recent efforts to memorialize key leaders through major infrastructure renaming and district reorganizations.
- This marks the first new district creation in Uttar Pradesh since Ambedkar Nagar was established in 1995, ending a three-decade gap.

### **HAL to Manufacture Russian SJ-100 Aircraft in India**

- HAL signed an agreement with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation to jointly manufacture the SJ-100 regional passenger aircraft in India.

- The collaboration aligns with the Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat missions by increasing domestic production of civil aviation platforms.
- The aircraft will gradually incorporate Indian-made avionics, composites, and interiors, reducing dependence on imported components.
- Russia will provide design documentation and technical support, while HAL will oversee assembly, integration, and testing operations.
- The SJ-100, with a capacity of up to 98 passengers and a range of 3,000–4,500 km, will support India's rapidly expanding regional aviation market and generate high-skilled jobs.

### **President Murmu Becomes First Indian President to Fly in Rafale Jet**

- President Droupadi Murmu made history by becoming the first Indian President to fly in a Rafale fighter jet during a 30-minute sortie from Ambala Air Force Station.
- The mission was conducted in a twin-seater Rafale trainer and co-piloted by Air Vice Marshal A. D. Joshi of the 17 Squadron "Golden Arrows."
- The event was celebrated as a milestone in women-led leadership within India's defence framework.
- President Murmu praised the Indian Air Force's professionalism and reaffirmed India's commitment to defence self-reliance under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- The Rafale fleet, inducted in 2020, remains a crucial element of India's multirole combat capability and strategic deterrence.

### **Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2025 Notified**

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs issued the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2025 to improve transparency and consumer protection.
- The amendments allow manufacturers to provide secondary declarations through QR codes, reducing label clutter and enabling digital access to details.
- Mandatory declarations for retail and e-commerce packaging have been simplified to ensure clear visibility of MRP, quantity, and manufacturing information.
- The rules also encourage digital and paperless labeling practices to promote sustainable packaging solutions.
- The updated norms aim to enhance fair trade practices and strengthen accuracy in product information across the market.

### **Dharwad Archaeologist Ravindra Korisettar Selected for Rajyotsava Award 2025**

- Eminent archaeologist Dr. Ravindra Korisettar from Dharwad has been chosen for the 2025 Rajyotsava Award, one of Karnataka's highest civilian honours.
- The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to South Asian archaeology and studies of human evolution.
- He is renowned for pioneering research on prehistory, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, and Stone Age cultures in the Indian subcontinent.
- As a former professor at Karnatak University, Dharwad, he has mentored numerous PhD scholars and shaped archaeological pedagogy in India.
- His extensive excavations have advanced understanding of Palaeolithic and Neolithic cultures, rock art, and ancient environmental transitions across peninsular India.

### **India Conducts Tri-Service Exercise 'Ex Trishul' on Western Front**

- India launched the large-scale Tri-Service Exercise 'Ex Trishul' to boost joint operational readiness of the Army, Air Force, and Navy along the Western Front.

- The exercise aims to validate integrated combat operations, command coordination, and rapid-response capabilities under theatre-level commands.
- It features coordinated air–land–sea maneuvers, precision strikes, electronic warfare drills, and logistics integration in near-real combat scenarios.
- The exercise reflects India’s shift towards jointness and theatre command structures based on lessons from modern warfare doctrines.
- The IAF is deploying frontline fighters and transport aircraft, while the Navy is providing maritime surveillance, missile-armed vessels, and amphibious units to support ground operations.

### **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2025 Marks Sardar Patel’s 150th Birth Anniversary**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led Rashtriya Ekta Diwas 2025 celebrations themed “Sardar Patel @150 – A Legacy of Unity.”
- He released a commemorative ₹150 coin and postage stamp to honor Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s role in unifying India.
- Nationwide events included Run for Unity, school activities, police parades, and unity pledges echoing the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.
- At the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat, the Prime Minister offered floral tributes, attended a ceremonial guard of honour, and watched cultural performances.
- The celebrations highlighted Patel’s integration of over 560 princely states and his lasting influence on India’s unity, federal structure, and administrative strength.

### **India Sets Three Guinness World Records Under ‘Swasth Nari, Shakti Nari’ Campaign**

- India achieved three Guinness World Records through the ‘Swasth Nari, Shakti Nari’ women’s health campaign.
- The records covered the largest simultaneous women’s health awareness drive, highest participation in fitness pledges, and biggest online session on menstrual hygiene.
- The campaign aims to improve women’s health literacy and encourage early screening for anemia, cervical cancer, and breast-related conditions.
- Led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with support from the Ministry of Women and Child Development and states, it saw participation of over 20 lakh women and girls.
- Activities included nutrition counseling, yoga and fitness workshops, menstrual hygiene education, and health camps, reinforcing women’s health as central to “Nari Shakti for Viksit Bharat.”

### **Swachh Survekshan 2025: Madurai Declared India’s Dirtiest City**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released the Swachh Survekshan 2025 results, covering over 4,400 cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)
- Madurai was ranked the dirtiest city in India due to poor waste segregation, weak drainage management, and limited public participation in sanitation efforts
- Indore retained its position as India’s cleanest city for the eighth straight year, followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai.
- Cities were evaluated through a 40% service-level progress score, 30% citizen feedback, and 30% garbage-free certification.
- The Centre asked local bodies in low-performing cities to submit corrective sanitation plans as part of the “Garbage-Free Cities 2.0” roadmap toward 100% waste processing by 2026.

### **Indian Army Conducts VAYU SAMANVAY-II in Desert Sector**



- The Indian Army conducted VAYU SAMANVAY-II to test integrated air-land operational readiness in desert terrain alongside the Indian Air Force.
- The exercise strengthened coordination between ground forces and IAF assets for seamless joint warfare execution in semi-arid environments
- It featured participation of frontline fighters, attack helicopters, airborne assault units, and key Army formations
- Drills included close air support, battlefield interdiction, air-sustained logistics, precision strikes, and real-time surveillance-based targeting.
- The exercise reinforced India's deterrence posture on the western front and advanced its objective of full-spectrum joint operational capability.

### **Ayushman Bharat Recognized as World's No. 1 Health Scheme**

- The WHO-World Bank joint assessment named Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY the world's No. 1 government-funded health assurance programme
- The scheme covers over 60 crore beneficiaries and provides ₹5 lakh cashless coverage per family annually across 28,000+ empaneled hospitals.
- Integration with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission enables seamless e-health records, data portability, and digital treatment workflows.
- Over 7.5 crore hospital admissions have been authorized, saving approximately ₹1.2 lakh crore in out-of-pocket expenditure.
- International agencies hailed the scheme as a model for universal health coverage due to its scale, inclusivity, and digital innovation.

### **Bhupen Hazarika Awards 2025 Honour Northeast Icons in New Delhi**

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia conferred the Bhupen Hazarika Awards 2025 in New Delhi, recognising exceptional individuals and institutions from all eight Northeastern states.
- Awardees included artists, educators, and grassroots leaders working to preserve indigenous languages, traditional crafts, and inclusive education
- The awards celebrate the legacy of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, whose music championed unity, justice, and regional pride.
- The event was organised with support from the Ministry of Culture and the North Eastern Council as part of efforts to promote cultural diplomacy and regional empowerment.
- Scindia underlined the Centre's commitment to holistic development of the Northeast through better connectivity, tourism promotion, and youth-skilling initiatives.

### **India to Resume Approvals for Select Chinese Imports After Five-Year Freeze**

- India decided to resume phased approvals for certain Chinese imports, easing a freeze imposed after the 2020 Galwan Valley border clash.
- The move initially targets non-sensitive sectors such as consumer electronics and machinery while retaining security-focused scrutiny.
- The DGFT and Ministry of Commerce will enforce strict compliance checks to safeguard national security interests.
- Rising input costs and dependence on Chinese components in smartphones, solar modules, and EVs formed the economic rationale behind the decision.
- The policy marks a pragmatic recalibration of trade ties, while border disengagement and security dialogue with China remain key priorities.

**Gogabeel Lake in Bihar Becomes India's Newest Ramsar Wetland**

- Gogabeel Lake in Katihar district, Bihar, was designated as a Ramsar Site, becoming the state's second wetland of international importance after Kanwar Lake.
- The oxbow lake is a crucial habitat for over 90 migratory and resident bird species, including several IUCN-listed threatened species.
- It supports rich aquatic vegetation, fish diversity, and wetland fauna while contributing to regional hydrology and flood moderation.
- Local communities, NGOs, and the Forest Department have collaborated on restoration, sustainable fishing, and ecotourism efforts.
- Ramsar status will unlock funding and technical support for conservation and livelihoods, bringing India's Ramsar tally to 83 sites under the Amrit Dharohar initiative.

**Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Receives World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2025**

- Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was honoured in London with the World Leader for Peace and Security Award 2025 for his global peacebuilding and humanitarian work.
- The award was presented by the International Association for Global Peace in collaboration with the European Council on Human Rights and Development.
- Through the Art of Living Foundation, active in over 180 countries, he has mediated conflicts in Iraq, Colombia, and Sri Lanka and promoted reconciliation via dialogue and stress-relief programmes.
- His initiatives also include large river rejuvenation projects, planting over 100 million trees, and fostering rural entrepreneurship and education.
- The award adds to previous honours such as the Padma Vibhushan and multiple international peace awards, reinforcing his Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-based vision that "the world is one family."

**Maharashtra Becomes First Indian State to Partner with Starlink for Rural Internet**

- Maharashtra signed an agreement with Starlink on 1 November 2025 to provide satellite-based high-speed internet to remote and tribal areas.
- The collaboration, under the Digital Maharashtra Mission, aims to deliver universal internet access to underserved villages lacking fibre connectivity.
- In the first phase, 1,200 gram panchayats in Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Chandrapur, and Palghar districts will be connected.
- Starlink's LEO satellite network will provide low-latency broadband, while the state IT department coordinates deployment and training.
- The project is expected to boost e-learning, telemedicine, digital entrepreneurship, and access to e-governance services in rural Maharashtra.

**Operation 'WeedOut' Targets Illicit Drug Cultivation and Trafficking Nationwide**

- The Government of India launched Operation 'WeedOut' as a large-scale crackdown on narcotics cultivation, smuggling, and abuse.
- Led by the NCB with state police, Coast Guard, and customs support, the campaign focuses on illegal cannabis and opium plantations.
- Over 1,200 hectares of illicit crops have been destroyed across states such as Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Manipur.
- Authorities are using satellites, drones, and AI-based mapping and have seized more than 2,500 kg of narcotics and arrested about 350 people in the first phase.
- The operation supports the "Drugs-free India by 2047" vision, combining enforcement with school-level awareness and rehabilitation programmes under the National Drug Demand Reduction Policy.

**Commemorative ₹50 Coin Released for NHPC's Golden Jubilee**

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a commemorative ₹50 coin in New Delhi to mark the Golden Jubilee of NHPC Limited.
- The coin features NHPC's logo, the inscription "50 Years of NHPC Limited," and the years 1975–2025, with the Lion Capital and denomination on the reverse.
- Established in 1975, NHPC is India's premier hydropower developer under the Ministry of Power.
- The company currently operates 25 power stations with a total installed capacity of 7,097 MW across hydropower, solar, and wind projects.
- NHPC's contribution has been crucial to advancing India's clean-energy targets, including the national goal of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

**Delhi Implements Staggered Work Hours to Reduce Winter Smog**

- The Delhi government introduced revised and staggered work hours to tackle severe winter smog caused by peak-hour traffic emissions.
- The new schedule will remain in effect from November to January, the period with the highest pollution levels.
- The decision follows record AQI readings crossing the 'Severe+' category in several parts of the city.
- Government offices will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., while private offices are advised to use flexible shifts or work-from-home options.
- Additional measures include GRAP-IV restrictions, construction curbs, and enhanced air-quality monitoring across the capital.

**Karnataka Becomes India's First State to Introduce Paid Menstrual Leave**

- Karnataka approved the Menstrual Leave Policy 2025, granting one day of paid leave per cycle to women employees across all government departments.
- The policy covers about 3.4 lakh women workers and encourages private companies to voluntarily implement the same.
- It recognizes menstrual health as an essential workplace-wellness factor, aiming to reduce stigma and improve women's productivity.
- The initiative aligns with the state's Women@Work programme to boost female workforce participation.
- The policy was designed with inputs from health experts and gender-welfare departments to ensure smooth implementation.

**Centre Notifies New Deep-Sea Fishing Rules for India's EEZ**

- The Centre notified the Deep-Sea Fishing Rules 2025 to regulate fishing across India's Exclusive Economic Zone from 12 to 200 nautical miles.
- The rules introduce a centralised licensing system through a National Fisheries Digital Portal with mandatory vessel tracking and catch reporting.
- Foreign fishing vessels remain fully banned from Indian waters to safeguard national marine resources.
- Sustainability provisions include species-wise quotas, seasonal restrictions, and FAO-aligned bycatch control norms.
- The government also announced vessel modernisation schemes, cold-chain upgrades, and capacity-building support for fisherfolk.

**National Urban Conclave 2025 Charts Roadmap for Viksit Bharat 2047**



- The National Urban Conclave 2025 concluded in New Delhi, outlining reforms for sustainable, resilient, and citizen-centric cities.
- Major launches included the National Smart Mobility Mission, the Urban Climate Resilience Framework, and the Digital City Dashboard 2.0.
- Discussions focused on affordable housing, water and sanitation, public transport, and waste-to-energy projects in smaller cities.
- The event saw participation from state ministers, Smart City mayors, NITI Aayog, the World Bank, and UN-Habitat.
- The conclave emphasized net-zero planning, renewable energy use, and women-led entrepreneurship to drive inclusive urban development.

### **Assam Passes Polygamy Prohibition Bill 2025**

- Assam became the first Indian state to pass a dedicated law banning polygamy through the Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill, 2025.
- The law prohibits citizens of all religions from entering into more than one marriage during the lifetime of a spouse
- It aims to promote women's equality and dignity by overriding conflicting personal or customary laws.
- Violators may face up to seven years of imprisonment and monetary fines, with the offence made cognizable and non-bailable.
- The Bill draws from Article 44's UCC mandate and follows recommendations of a 2023 state committee examining legal feasibility.

### **Co-Op Kumbh 2025 Adopts Delhi Declaration for UCB Reform**

- Co-Op Kumbh 2025 concluded in New Delhi with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2025 for cooperative banking reform.
- New digital services—Sahkar DigiPay and Sahkar DigiLoan—were launched to modernise small urban cooperative banks.
- A target was set to establish a UCB in every Indian city with over 2 lakh population within five years.
- The conference highlighted improved sectoral health, including a drop in NPAs from 2.8% to 0.6%.
- Held during the International Year of Cooperatives, the event aligned India's UCB reforms with global cooperative goals.

### **Bharat-Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav Strengthens Cultural Ties**

- The Bharat-Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav was inaugurated at the University of Colombo to enhance cultural and linguistic cooperation between the two nations.
- Jointly organised by ICCR and the University of Colombo, the event highlighted Sanskrit's shared heritage across South Asia.
- The festival aims to promote Sanskrit studies, foster academic exchanges, and showcase the language's continued relevance in philosophy, literature, and science.
- Scholars and students presented lectures, recitations, and performances reflecting shared civilizational values.
- Discussions were held on MoUs to strengthen Sanskrit education, digital resources, and collaborative research between Indian and Sri Lankan institutions.

### **Tata Power to Build India's Largest Solar Wafers & Ingots Plant**

- Tata Power Solar announced a 4 GW cell-module facility and a 3 GW ingot-wafer plant in Tamil Nadu, marking India's largest such integrated solar manufacturing project.

- The project, worth around ₹4,500 crore, will be located at Gangaikondan in Tirunelveli to develop a major renewable-energy manufacturing cluster.
- It aims to reduce India's dependence on imported solar components and support the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission.
- The plant is expected to generate over 7,000 jobs, including direct and indirect employment.
- Advanced PERC and TOPCon technologies will be deployed under the government's PLI scheme to strengthen India's solar supply chain.

### **6th National Water Awards 2024 Recognise Excellence in Conservation**

- The Ministry of Jal Shakti announced the winners of the 6th National Water Awards 2024, honouring outstanding work in water conservation and sustainable management.
- Rajasthan won the best-performing state award for its community-based water harvesting and rejuvenation initiatives.
- Kutch district in Gujarat received the top district award for innovative rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge models.
- IIT Madras and the Art of Living Foundation were recognised for contributions in water treatment research and river rejuvenation efforts.
- The awards aim to encourage nationwide adoption of water-positive practices through community and institutional participation.

### **Infosys Prize 2025 Honours Six Leading Indian Researchers**

- The Infosys Science Foundation announced six winners of the Infosys Prize 2025 across science, humanities, and social science categories
- The prize, established in 2008, includes a gold medal, citation, and USD 100,000 to support world-class research.
- Awardees were recognised for contributions in fields including AI, biomedical science, mathematics, climate modelling, and economic policy
- The 2025 edition focused on researchers under 45, highlighting India's growing pool of young scientific talent
- The prize reinforces India's commitment to nurturing innovation that benefits society and advances global knowledge.

### **Punjab First State to Implement Amended Bharat Net Scheme Statewide**

- Punjab became the first Indian state to fully implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across its entire territory, with internet services already reaching 43 former shadow areas.
- Only one remaining village is slated for coverage by the end of November 2025, reflecting the state's commitment to bridging the rural digital divide.
- Over 1,000 km of fibre-optic cable and about 1,000 km of HDD have been laid across 22 blocks, starting from Harsha Chinna block in Amritsar.
- BSNL Punjab now operates India's first State Network Operations Center (S-NOC), enabling live monitoring of this border state and facilitating e-governance and e-health services.
- The project is expected to transform rural livelihoods by enabling farmers to access markets and schemes online, students to attend quality digital classes, and remote areas to use telemedicine.

### **Andhra Teen Selected for 2029 Commercial Space Mission Training**

- Kunchala Kaivalya Reddy, a 17-year-old from Nidadavole, Andhra Pradesh, has been selected by Titans Space Industries in Florida for an elite astronaut training programme.

- She is one of only 150 candidates chosen from thousands of applicants across 36 countries, marking a major achievement for Indian youth in space science.
- The four-year programme (2026–2029) includes intensive training in orbital mechanics, spacecraft systems, survival skills, emergency procedures, and zero-gravity adaptation.
- Training will be supervised by veteran NASA astronaut William McArthur Jr., preparing participants for real spaceflight missions.
- On successful completion, Kaivalya will fly on a 2029 Titans spaceplane mission that will orbit Earth twice at about 300 km altitude, offering around three hours of weightlessness.

### **Maharashtra Agriculture Department Unveils New Logo and Motto**

- The Maharashtra Agriculture Department launched a new logo and slogan after 38 years, signalling a refreshed vision for the farm sector.
- The motto “Sashwat Sheti, Samruddha Shetkari” (“Sustainable Farming, Prosperous Farmer”) was chosen through a statewide public competition.
- The winning logo was designed by Virendra Bhaidas Patil, while the slogan was authored by Siddhi Bharat Desai, reflecting citizen participation in policy symbolism.
- Leaders highlighted that the rebranding stands for technology-driven growth, farmer empowerment, and environmentally sustainable agriculture.
- The new emblem and motto will be used across departmental communication to connect with farmers, youth, and agri-entrepreneurs amid challenges of climate change and market volatility.

### **India to Receive Eight More Cheetahs from Botswana under Project Cheetah**

- President Droupadi Murmu formally accepted the symbolic handover of eight cheetahs from Botswana’s President at Mokolodi Nature Reserve.
- The cheetahs will be transported to India after quarantine and are destined for Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, under Project Cheetah.
- Their introduction will boost genetic diversity in India’s reintroduced cheetah population, which already includes animals from Namibia and South Africa.
- The move underscores deepening India–Botswana conservation cooperation and shared commitments to biodiversity protection.
- Since 2022, India has received multiple cheetah batches and recorded 26 cubs born in the wild, indicating steady though challenging progress in species revival.

### **Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Honours 24 Authors in Children’s Literature**

- The Sahitya Akademi announced the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for 24 authors across Indian languages for outstanding children’s literature.
- Eligible works were published between 2019 and 2023 and span genres such as poetry, stories, novels, plays, and essays.
- Each awardee receives an engraved copper plaque and ₹50,000, with winners selected by the Executive Board headed by Madhav Kaushik.
- The list includes titles like “Dakshin: South Indian Myths and Fables Retold” (English), “Tinchak” (Gujarati), “Abhaimaya” (Marathi), and “Balvisvam” (Sanskrit).
- The awards aim to enrich age-appropriate, culturally rooted literature for children while strengthening India’s multilingual literary ecosystem.

### **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2025**

- India observed Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honour tribal freedom fighters and celebrate the cultural heritage of indigenous communities.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the main national event in Ranchi, Jharkhand, paying tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda and other tribal icons.
- New initiatives such as the “Adivasi Shiksha Mission” and “Van Dhan 2.0” were highlighted to promote tribal education, entrepreneurship, and forest-based livelihoods.
- States organised exhibitions, folk performances, and art festivals to showcase tribal languages, crafts, and ecological knowledge.
- Schools and universities held special assemblies, talks, and competitions to spread awareness of Birsa Munda’s struggles for land rights and indigenous self-determination.

### **IAF Chief Inaugurates Nyoma Airbase in Ladakh**

- Air Chief Marshal V. R. Chaudhari inaugurated the Nyoma Airbase in eastern Ladakh, a forward facility near the Line of Actual Control with China.
- The airbase, built by BRO at about 13,700 feet, has a 2.7 km runway capable of handling Rafale, Su-30 MKI and C-130J aircraft.
- It significantly enhances India’s high-altitude air operations, surveillance, and rapid troop deployment capability in the Ladakh sector.
- The project was executed under border infrastructure and Vibrant Villages initiatives using advanced engineering suited to extreme cold and wind conditions.
- Nyoma supports the IAF’s Vision 2035 by expanding high-altitude operational reach and enabling future dual-use civil–military aviation in the region.

### **Bihar Assembly Election 2025: NDA Retains Power**

- The Bihar Assembly Election 2025 returned the NDA, led by Nitish Kumar, to power with a clear majority.
- The alliance of JD(U), BJP, HAM and partners capitalised on narratives of infrastructure, welfare schemes, and women’s empowerment.
- The Mahagathbandhan’s campaign led by Tejashwi Yadav, focused on unemployment and price rise, failed to convert enthusiasm into enough seats.
- Extremely Backward Classes, women, and first-time voters largely favoured the NDA, while RJD maintained support in some southern and Yadav–Muslim pockets.
- The result consolidates the BJP–JD(U) partnership ahead of 2029 and reinforces Nitish Kumar’s image as a durable regional leader.

### **GI Tag for Traditional Lepcha Musical Instruments**

- Traditional Lepcha musical instruments from Sikkim received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, formally recognising their cultural distinctiveness and craftsmanship
- The certification covers iconic hand-crafted instruments such as the Tungbuk drum, Yangjei string instrument, and Pan bamboo flute used in rituals and folk traditions.
- The GI registration was issued by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai under DPIIT, with support from the Sikkim Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association.
- The recognition safeguards intellectual property rights, prevents imitation, and creates economic opportunities for Lepcha artisans through tourism and cultural promotion.
- This milestone adds to Sikkim’s expanding list of GI-tagged heritage products, highlighting ongoing efforts to preserve indigenous identity and craftsmanship.

### **India Becomes the World’s 6th-Largest Patent Filer**



- India emerged as the world's sixth-largest patent filer with over 64,000 applications, reflecting rapid expansion in its innovation landscape.
- More than 55% of the applications came from resident Indian innovators, signalling strengthened domestic R&D and a rising culture of invention.
- India's broader innovation profile has improved sharply, rising from rank 81 to 38 in the Global Innovation Index over recent years.
- Government policies, startup growth, research incentives and private-sector participation have significantly boosted patent activity.
- Key patent domains include AI, deep tech, healthcare and ICT, supporting India's ambition to lead in advanced technology development.

### **Odisha's Sunapur and Puri Beaches Retain Blue Flag Status**

- Odisha's Sunapur and Puri Golden Beach once again received the prestigious Blue Flag Certification for 2025-26, reaffirming global standards of eco-friendly tourism.
- Sunapur secured the tag for the third consecutive year, while Puri earned it for the seventh, meeting all 33 criteria set by Denmark's Foundation for Environmental Education
- World-class facilities such as zero-liquid-discharge systems, lifeguard stations, CCTV surveillance and wheelchair access helped maintain compliance
- Strong community engagement and effective beach management committees enabled successful upkeep of environmental and safety norms.
- With 13 Indian beaches certified nationally this year, Odisha's achievement strengthens its reputation for sustainable coastal conservation and tourism excellence.

### **56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Opens in Goa**

- The 56th IFFI was inaugurated in Panaji, Goa, by Union I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, marking a grand showcase of global cinema and cultural exchange.
- France was named the "Country of Focus," with the edition spotlighting sustainability, innovative storytelling, and digital-era filmmaking
- The Indian Panorama featured acclaimed regional films celebrating India's linguistic and social diversity through cinema.
- Over 250 films from more than 70 countries were screened, including premieres, restored classics, and masterworks by renowned international filmmakers.
- The festival introduced special sections for VR and AI-driven cinema, reinforcing India's ambition to become a global hub for film tourism, production, and creative partnerships.

### **Ambaji Marble of Gujarat Receives GI Tag**

- Gujarat's famous Ambaji Marble from Banaskantha district received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognizing its unique quality and regional identity.
- Known for its natural white sheen, fine texture, and exquisite polish, the marble is widely used in temples, sculptures, and architectural landmarks.
- The GI tag protects the marble from imitation and boosts the economic prospects of quarry workers, artisans, and traders in the region
- The recognition also promotes sustainable mining practices and safeguards the geological heritage associated with Ambaji's stonework traditions.
- With this addition, Gujarat strengthens its expanding portfolio of GI products, including Patan Patola, Gir Kesar Mango, Kutch Embroidery, and Surat Zari Craft.



### India's Unemployment Rate Steady at 5.2% (October 2025)

- India's unemployment rate remained at **5.2%** in October 2025, indicating a stable labour market despite global headwinds.
- Rural unemployment was around **4.9%**, supported by post-monsoon farm work, while urban unemployment stood higher at **~6.1%** due to slower hiring in manufacturing and services.
- Youth unemployment (15–29 years) stayed a concern, though female labour-force participation improved with skilling and self-employment initiatives.
- Services and construction absorbed most new workers, whereas manufacturing hiring was cautious amid moderate industrial output.
- Government schemes like **PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP and rural livelihood missions**, along with PMKVY-driven skilling and formalisation, helped stabilise employment with moderate growth expected if investment momentum holds.

### National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025

- The **National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025** were announced by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to honour excellence in dairy and livestock management.
- Instituted under the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission**, these awards are among the highest national honours in the livestock and dairy sector.
- The 2025 edition recognises three categories: **Best Dairy Farmer, Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT) and Best Dairy Cooperative / Milk Producer Company**.
- The awards focus on scientific management and productivity enhancement of **indigenous cattle and buffalo breeds** such as Gir, Sahiwal, Tharparkar and Murrah.
- Over the years, the scheme has promoted innovation, better breed registration and improved livelihoods in rural dairy economies by rewarding grassroots performers.

### India-UK Joint Military Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior-25'

- The 8th edition of the **India-UK joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior-25'** began at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya in November 2025.
- Around 120 personnel each from the **Rajput Regiment** of the Indian Army and the British Army's **Royal Gorkha Rifles** are participating.
- The two-week drill focuses on interoperability in **counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations** under UN peacekeeping scenarios.
- Training includes joint field exercises, room clearance drills, weapon handling, tactical simulations and discussions on hybrid and urban warfare.
- The exercise deepens operational coordination between the two armies and reinforces the broader India-UK strategic defence partnership.

### Mohammed Lateef Khan Receives Maulana Azad National Award 2025

- Educationist **Mohammed Lateef Khan** of MS Education Academy received the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad National Award 2025
- The award recognizes distinguished contributions to education and national integration, honouring initiatives benefiting underprivileged learners.
- Under his leadership, MS Education Academy established **100+ institutions** offering integrated academic and competitive-exam training.
- His work focuses on empowering marginalised youth through modern education and skill-building programmes.

- The honour reflects the growing importance of private educational institutions in supporting India's educational development.

### EPF New Withdrawal Rules 2025: Three-Category Reform

- EPFO's Central Board of Trustees approved a major overhaul of EPF withdrawal rules on 24 October 2025, consolidating 13 earlier provisions into three categories: **Essential Needs, Housing Needs, and Special Circumstances**
- Members can now withdraw from the combined balance of **employee and employer contributions** (with interest), subject to conditions.
- A **minimum 25% of the total balance** must remain in the account after any partial withdrawal, preserving a basic retirement corpus.
- The service requirement for partial withdrawals is now uniformly **12 months**, while withdrawal frequency limits for education and marriage have been significantly relaxed.
- Full PF settlement now requires **12 months of unemployment**, and EPS withdrawal 36 months, with a new provision allowing "special circumstances" withdrawals without detailing specific reasons.

### Madras High Court Treats Cryptocurrency as 'Property'

- In *Rhutikumari v. Zانmai Labs Pvt Ltd* (26 October 2025), the Madras High Court held that **cryptocurrencies qualify as "property"** under Indian law.
- The Court noted that crypto-assets, though not legal tender, can be **possessed, enjoyed, transferred, stored**, and are already recognised as **"virtual digital assets"** under Section 2(47A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- The dispute involved a claim over **3,532.30 XRP** tokens on WazirX, where the Court granted protective relief against any tampering or reallocation.
- It also rejected a jurisdictional objection based on a Singapore arbitration clause, holding that part of the cause of action arose in Chennai.
- The ruling implies that cryptocurrencies can now be subject to **trusts, inheritance, freezing orders, and other property-law remedies**, without being recognised as currency.

### Lucknow Enters UNESCO Creative Cities as 'City of Gastronomy'

- Lucknow was officially designated a **UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy** during the 43rd UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand, marking India's second entry in this category after Hyderabad
- The nomination, submitted by the Ministry of Culture and backed by UP Tourism, was formalised on **31 October 2025**.
- The dossier highlighted Lucknow's **Awadhi cuisine**, including kebabs, biryanis, kormas, and its deep Nawabi culinary heritage.
- The recognition positions Lucknow among nearly 70 gastronomy cities globally, expanding its footprint in cultural diplomacy and tourism.
- The status is expected to boost culinary tourism, food entrepreneurship, and sustainable food practices aligned with UP's cultural-tourism policy.

### National Migration Survey (2026–27): India Launches Largest-Ever Migration Study

- The Government of India has launched the National Migration Survey 2026–27 to generate comprehensive data on internal and international migration patterns.
- The survey will cover all States and UTs, including high-migration zones such as urban slums, border districts, and industrial hubs.

- It will study labour mobility, gendered migration, climate-induced displacement, remittances, and welfare access.
- Special focus areas include gig-economy workers, seasonal labour, and construction and MSME clusters.
- The findings aim to guide national policies on employment, urbanisation, welfare portability, and climate resilience.

### **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative: Nationwide Push for Community-Led Water Conservation**

- The Government of India launched the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative as a mass public-participation programme to restore water bodies and recharge groundwater.
- Priority will be given to over-exploited groundwater blocks identified by the Central Ground Water Board.
- Activities include desilting tanks, restoring traditional systems, building check dams, and using GIS and satellite data to map aquifers
- The initiative converges with major schemes like JJM, Atal Bhujal Yojana, PMKSY, MGNREGA, and Namami Gange
- A national dashboard will track recharge levels, asset creation, and community participation to build long-term climate resilience.

### **India Sets Target of 55% Female Workforce Participation by 2030**

- India has announced a major national goal to raise female labour-force participation from about 37% to 55% by 2030.
- The plan includes expanded childcare support, flexible work models, incentives for employers, and gender-focused skilling programmes
- Key sectors identified for rapid inclusion include textiles, healthcare, education, digital services, and manufacturing
- States will implement gender-employment missions and strengthen compliance with the Maternity Benefit Act and PoSH Act.
- A central dashboard will monitor progress on women's skilling, safety compliance, and job creation to boost inclusive economic growth.

### **Supreme Court Orders Notification of Saranda Forest as Wildlife Sanctuary**

- The Supreme Court has directed Jharkhand to notify 31,468.25 hectares of Saranda Forest as a wildlife sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The Court highlighted Saranda's critical role in the Singbhum Elephant Reserve and the need to curb habitat fragmentation from mining.
- The order mandates boundary demarcation, restoration of degraded areas, and protection of elephant corridors
- Saranda, known for its rich biodiversity, has long faced ecological stress from iron-ore extraction.
- The decision aligns with India's larger conservation commitments under Project Elephant and global biodiversity frameworks.

### **India Lays Foundation for First Drone City and Space City in Andhra Pradesh**

- The Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry has launched India's first Drone City and Space City in Andhra Pradesh to build a major aerospace and space-tech hub
- Drone City will be developed at Orvakal Industrial Node as a specialised centre for drone manufacturing, testing, certification, and innovation
- Space City near Sriharikota will support satellite development, launch-related industries, and expanded private-sector space activity.

- Andhra Pradesh announced major investment incentives, including 100% State GST refund and capital subsidies.
- The projects aim to drive high-skill job creation, boost self-reliance in drones and space technologies, and align with Viksit Bharat 2047 and Swarna Andhra 2047.

### **India Drops 13 Places in Global Climate Change Index 2026**

- India fell from 10th to 23rd place in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2026, scoring 61.31 and shifting from a “high performer” to a “medium performer.”
- The downgrade was largely attributed to India’s lack of a coal-exit roadmap and continued auctioning of new coal blocks.
- Rising greenhouse gas emissions and increased energy consumption added to the decline despite strong renewable-energy growth
- India’s climate policy framework still includes major initiatives such as PAT, appliance-efficiency labelling, and ambitious non-fossil capacity targets.
- Globally, no country met the criteria for top rankings, while Denmark, the UK, and Morocco emerged as the strongest performers among assessed nations.

### **President Presents Sixth National Water Awards 2024**

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the Sixth National Water Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, honouring 46 winners across 10 categories for excellence in water conservation.
- Awards recognised States, districts, panchayats, institutions, ULBs, industries, civil society groups, and individuals contributing to efficient water management.
- Maharashtra won the Best State award, followed by Gujarat and Haryana, while Telangana topped the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari category.
- Winners included Navi Mumbai as Best ULB and top institutions like IIT Gandhinagar and ICAR-CCARI Goa.
- The awards aim to promote nationwide water stewardship and encourage replicable models of sustainable water management.

### **India Launches National Action Plan on AMR 2.0 (2025–2029)**

- Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched AMR 2.0, a renewed five-year national plan to combat antimicrobial resistance with a multisector One Health strategy.
- The plan addresses gaps from the previous AMR framework and strengthens coordination across human health, animal health, agriculture, and environmental sectors.
- Over 20 ministries contributed to actionable timelines, budgets, and sector-specific stewardship responsibilities.
- Key measures include rational antibiotic use, enhanced surveillance, improved labs, regulatory control, infection prevention, and public awareness.
- The initiative also establishes the India AMR Innovation Hub to drive research, technology development, and stakeholder collaboration.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **China Unveils CR450: World’s Fastest Bullet Train**

- China introduced the CR450, the world’s fastest bullet train, which reached a record 453 km/h during trials and is expected to operate commercially at 400 km/h from 2026.



- The train was tested on the Shanghai–Chongqing–Chengdu corridor and will undergo 600,000 km of validation trials before passenger service begins.
- Engineering advances include a 15-metre aerodynamic nose, reduced air drag, lightweight composite construction, and high-efficiency permanent-magnet traction motors.
- The CR450 is 12% lighter, consumes 20% less energy, and offers significantly enhanced braking and environmental performance, making it the most energy-efficient train in its class.
- It will integrate into China's 46,000-km high-speed rail network, cutting travel times on major routes and reinforcing China's leadership in next-generation high-speed rail technology.

### **"67" Declared Word of the Year 2025**

- Oxford Languages and Collins Dictionary selected "67" as the Word of the Year 2025 due to its cultural and political prominence in India.
- The number became widely used during national debates over increasing the retirement age for judges from the constitutionally mandated 65 years.
- It came to represent ideas of institutional reform, generational transition, and continuity in governance and law.
- Linguists highlighted "67" as a rare case where a numeral shaped nationwide discourse and entered pop culture.
- It is the first numeric term ever to receive the Word of the Year title, following past winners like "Vibe Shift" and "Goblin Mode."

### **Donald Trump Receives South Korea's Highest Civilian Honour**

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump received South Korea's Order of Mugunghwa and a symbolic Golden Crown in a ceremony in Seoul.
- President Yoon Suk Yeol conferred the honours in recognition of Trump's efforts to strengthen U.S.–South Korea ties and promote inter-Korean dialogue.
- The awards celebrate contributions toward peace, defence cooperation, and regional stability.
- Trump described the honour as a reflection of mutual trust, while South Korea reiterated its diplomatic appreciation tradition.
- Previous recipients include Barack Obama and George H. W. Bush, highlighting continuity in Seoul's recognition of global leaders.

### **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor Named 2025 Top Agri-Food Pioneer**

- Padma Shri awardee Chef Sanjeev Kapoor was honoured as a 2025 Top Agri-Food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation.
- The award recognizes his leadership in promoting sustainable diets, nutrition awareness, and responsible sourcing aligned with SDGs 2 and 12.
- Kapoor has been an advocate for using local produce, reducing food waste, and supporting smallholder farmers in India.
- His international outreach connects Indian cuisine with global nutrition programmes and fortified meal initiatives.
- The honour adds to his long list of achievements in culinary innovation, entrepreneurship, and public health advocacy.

### **Global Firepower Index 2025 Ranks India 4th Globally**

- The Global Firepower Index 2025 ranked 145 nations on conventional military strength using more than 60 quantitative and qualitative indicators.



- The United States retained the top rank, followed by Russia, China, India, and Japan.
- India secured 4th place due to strong manpower, expanding indigenous defence manufacturing, and a balanced air-naval-land capability.
- The assessment analyzed factors such as active personnel, defence budgets, logistics, industrial capacity, and geographic advantages.
- The report noted India's defence expenditure surpassing USD 84 billion with growing investment in cyber, space, and indigenous strategic systems.

### **India and US Sign 10-Year Defence Framework Agreement (2025–2035)**

- India and the United States signed a landmark 10-year Defence Framework Agreement in New Delhi to deepen strategic cooperation.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin formalized the pact covering 2025–2035
- The agreement enhances collaboration in defence technology, logistics, joint exercises, intelligence sharing, and AI-enabled command systems
- It supports defence industrial partnership under INDUS-X, promoting joint research, co-development, and co-production of advanced military technologies.
- A strong focus on maritime security in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea reinforces the shared Indo-Pacific vision and India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership.



**Maldives Implements World's First Generational Tobacco Ban**

- The Maldives became the first country to implement a Generational Tobacco Ban, prohibiting tobacco sales to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009.
- The law, effective November 2025, supports the nation's Tobacco-Free Maldives 2040 vision.
- Enforcement relies on strict monitoring, digital ID verification, and stringent penalties to prevent illegal sales.
- The ban aims to drastically reduce youth smoking and long-term tobacco-related diseases, aligning with WHO-FCTC goals.
- The policy has received strong domestic and global support, setting a precedent for similar legislation in countries like New Zealand and the U.K.

**OPEC+ Pauses Planned Oil Output Hikes Amid Surplus Fears**

- OPEC+ decided to pause previously scheduled oil production hikes at its November 2025 meeting due to concerns over a potential supply surplus in early 2026.
- The group chose to maintain current output levels as global inventories rose and demand growth slowed in major economies.
- Brent crude prices steadied around USD 83 per barrel following the announcement, easing earlier downward pressure.
- Saudi Arabia reiterated its commitment to voluntary cuts and "proactive, preemptive" market management alongside Russia.
- The decision reflects the challenge of balancing sluggish global growth with the ongoing energy transition that is moderating oil consumption.

**'Vibe Coding' Chosen as Collins Dictionary's Word of the Year 2025**

- Collins Dictionary selected "Vibe Coding" as its Word of the Year 2025, reflecting changing norms in digital and social communication.
- The term describes the act of adjusting tone, language, and emotional expression to match specific social or online contexts.
- Its usage surged by 420% in 2025 across social media, workplaces, and youth culture.
- "Vibe Coding" captures how people consciously manage their "vibe" to build rapport, avoid conflict, or fit into different communities and platforms.
- The choice underlines the growing importance of emotional intelligence and context-aware communication in a hyper-connected world.

**Trump Hints at Kazakhstan Potentially Joining the Abraham Accords**

- Former U.S. President Donald Trump suggested that Kazakhstan may become the next country to join the Abraham Accords.
- The Accords, initiated in 2020, normalized ties between Israel and several Arab and Muslim-majority nations including the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan.
- Kazakhstan, a Muslim-majority nation with balanced relations across the region, is exploring cooperation with Israel in technology, agriculture, and renewable energy.
- Trump stated that Kazakhstan's participation would strengthen peace and economic integration across the Middle East and Central Asia.
- While Israeli and U.S. officials welcomed the idea, Kazakhstan noted that discussions remain preliminary but strategically significant.

**Sudan Crisis Deepens with Escalating Conflict and Famine Conditions**

- Renewed fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces has intensified across Khartoum, Al Fasher, and Kadugli.
- The conflict stems from decades-old power struggles, ethnic divisions, and competition over natural resources in western Sudan.
- Over 10 million people have been displaced, with famine officially declared in Al Fasher and Kadugli amidst collapsing healthcare and education systems.
- International bodies including the UN, AU, and IGAD have urged ceasefire negotiations while India and the EU dispatched humanitarian aid.
- Reports of ethnic violence, sexual assault, and indiscriminate bombings have prompted the ICC to announce investigations into possible war crimes.

**FAIFA Criticises WHO-FCTC COP11 for Excluding Tobacco Farmers**

- FAIFA condemned the WHO-FCTC for excluding farmer representatives from COP11 deliberations scheduled in Geneva.
- The organisation argued that policy decisions affecting tobacco cultivation must include stakeholder consultation with farming communities
- FAIFA highlighted that millions of Indian farmers rely on tobacco for livelihood and could be harmed by unilateral restrictions
- It urged WHO and member states to adopt a participatory, balanced approach to regulation.
- India, the world's second-largest tobacco producer, is expected to advocate farmer-sensitive positions during the conference.

**Bangladesh Joins UN Water Convention as South Asia's First Member**

- Bangladesh acceded to the UN Water Convention on June 20, 2025, becoming the first South Asian nation to join it.
- The treaty provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary rivers and lakes, crucial for Bangladesh's river-dependent geography.
- Its membership may influence regional hydrodiplomacy, particularly with India remaining a non-signatory.
- The move strengthens Bangladesh's tools for addressing climate-driven water stress and upstream usage concerns.
- It aligns with SDGs 6.5, 2, 13, and 16 on water governance, climate action, and institutional cooperation.

**Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment Becomes Law**

- President Asif Ali Zardari signed Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment into law, altering power balances among the military, judiciary and civilian government.
- The amendment enhances the role of the Chief of Army Staff in national security and internal stability decisions.
- It curbs the Supreme Court's suo motu powers and subjects major judicial interventions to a new Judicial Review Council.
- New provisions allow disciplinary action against judges through a military-civil committee, raising concerns over judicial independence.
- Critics view the law as entrenching military influence in governance, while the ruling coalition defends it as a stability-oriented reform.

**Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 Highlights Rising Vulnerabilities**

- Germanwatch released the Global Climate Risk Index 2026 assessing weather-related losses in 2024 across 180 countries.
- The report concludes that small island states and several South Asian countries remain among the most climate-vulnerable.
- India is listed as a high-risk country due to severe heatwaves, floods, and cyclones, underscoring the need for stronger adaptation measures.
- Mozambique, Pakistan and the Philippines are ranked among the worst affected by recurrent cyclones and monsoon extremes.
- The CRI is intended to support debates on climate justice, adaptation finance, and disaster-risk reduction for the most impacted nations.

### **Oman Elected to UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Council**

- Oman secured membership in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Council for the 2025–2029 term at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference.
- The election recognises Oman's efforts to align development with environmental stewardship under Oman Vision 2040.
- As a council member, Oman will help shape global biosphere-reserve policies, climate adaptation strategies, and sustainable livelihood models.
- The country already hosts recognised biosphere reserves such as Al Sareen and Al Jabal Al Akhdar, showcasing its conservation track record.
- Membership enhances Oman's international profile in biodiversity governance and creates new opportunities for scientific collaboration and youth engagement.

### **Singapore Announces World's First Green Fuel Levy on Air Passengers**

- Singapore will introduce a Green Fuel Levy on departing air passengers, becoming the first country to directly fund sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) through ticket surcharges.
- The levy applies to tickets issued from 1 April 2026 for flights departing from 1 October 2026, across all cabin classes.
- Charges will range roughly from S\$1 for short-haul economy flights within Southeast Asia to higher amounts for long-haul premium cabins
- All proceeds will be used to procure SAF, with Singapore targeting 1% SAF use in 2026 and rising to 3–5% by 2030 at its airports.
- The measure is a key pillar of Singapore's Sustainable Air Hub Blueprint and is expected to influence global policy on green aviation financing.

### **Sheikh Hasina Sentenced to Death in Bangladesh**

- Bangladesh faced a major political shock after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death by a special tribunal in Dhaka on charges linked to human rights violations and corruption.
- The verdict comes months after her removal from office in 2025 following mass protests and a military-backed transition.
- The decision triggered widespread demonstrations, strikes, and clashes as Awami League supporters mobilised across major cities
- International governments and human-rights organisations expressed concern over judicial transparency and urged restraint amid escalating tensions.
- The ruling has deepened Bangladesh's political divide and raised global questions about due process, democratic stability, and civil-military balance in the country.

### Tom Cruise Receives Honorary Oscar (2025 Governors Awards)

- At the **2025 Governors Awards** in Los Angeles, Tom Cruise received an **Honorary Oscar** for his outstanding contribution to global cinema.
- The Academy recognised his four-decade career as actor and producer, and his role in redefining the modern action genre.
- Cruise is celebrated for films like **Top Gun, Mission: Impossible, Jerry Maguire, Rain Man** and several other global blockbusters.
- His commitment to practical stunts, technical innovation and cinematic realism has set benchmarks in action filmmaking and production values.
- The Honorary Oscar marks rare institutional recognition from the Academy, supplementing his three prior (unsuccessful) competitive nominations.

### Thota Tharani Conferred France's Chevalier of Arts and Letters

- Veteran Indian art director and production designer **Thota Tharani** was awarded France's **Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** in November 2025
- The honour recognises his outstanding contribution to cinema, visual arts and Indo-French cultural collaboration
- Over four decades, Tharani has crafted iconic visual worlds in films such as **Nayakan, Indian, Guru** and **Hey Ram**, across Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema.
- France acknowledged both his artistic excellence and his role in advancing cross-cultural exchange through film sets, stage design and teaching.
- A multiple National Film Award winner, Tharani is renowned for historically accurate, architecturally rich sets that have shaped the visual grammar of Indian cinema.

### East Timor Becomes ASEAN's 11th Member

- On 26 October 2025, **East Timor (Timor-Leste)** officially joined ASEAN as its 11th member, the bloc's first expansion since the 1990s.
- The move follows a long accession path beginning with its **2011 application** and in-principle approval in 2022, reflecting institutional alignment with ASEAN norms.
- With a population of about **1.4 million** and GDP near **USD 2 billion**, East Timor is now plugged into ASEAN's trade, investment and regional economic frameworks.
- Membership enhances ASEAN's **political-security footprint** and offers East Timor a stabilising regional platform after a history of conflict and fragility.
- Key challenges remain, including diversifying its **oil/gas-dependent economy**, building administrative capacity, and meeting ASEAN's economic-competitiveness benchmarks.

### 2026 Declared ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation

- At the ASEAN-India Summit on 26 October 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared **2026 as the "ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation."**
- The initiative targets deeper collaboration in **maritime security, HADR, blue economy, ports, shipping, and connectivity** across the Indo-Pacific.
- Modi framed the partnership as central to making the **"21st century the century of India and ASEAN,"** reaffirming ASEAN centrality in India's Act East Policy.
- The theme year is expected to feature joint exercises, new institutional mechanisms, and sectoral dialogues focused on ocean-based value chains and climate-resilient maritime economies.
- The announcement comes amid global focus on a **rules-based maritime order**, giving India a stronger sea-linked interface with Southeast Asia.



### Russia's Nuclear-Powered Burevestnik Missile Raises Strategic Concerns

- On 26 October 2025, President Vladimir Putin announced successful testing and impending deployment of the **9M730 Burevestnik**, a nuclear-powered cruise missile.
- The ground-launched missile reportedly uses a **miniaturised nuclear reactor**, giving it almost “unlimited” range and long loitering capability.
- Russian officials claim a recent test saw it fly around **14,000 km in ~15 hours**, and that its low-altitude, manoeuvrable profile can evade current and future missile-defence systems.
- Experts, however, highlight its troubled test history, including a **2019 accident** that raised serious safety and environmental questions.
- Strategically, Burevestnik is positioned as part of Russia's **next-generation nuclear arsenal**, signalling renewed emphasis on exotic long-range strike systems beyond classic ICBMs.

### Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025: Slower Loss, Persistent Pressure

- FAO's **Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025** reports that forests cover about **4.14 billion hectares**, roughly one-third of Earth's land area
- Annual net forest loss has slowed from **10.7 million ha/year in the 1990s** to about **4.12 million ha/year** in 2015–2025, indicating progress but not victory
- Over half of global forest area is now under **long-term management plans**, and around **20%** lies in legally protected areas, aiding SDG 15 tracking
- India now ranks **9th in total forest area** and **3rd in net annual forest-area gain**, with Indian forests removing about **150 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** per year.
- Despite gains, forests remain under pressure from **degradation, land-use change, fires and weak restoration**, keeping global forest goals at risk.

### India Crosses 500 GW Installed Power Capacity

- India's total installed electricity capacity reached **500.89 GW** as of 30 September 2025, crossing the 500-GW mark for the first time.
- Over **51%** (256.09 GW) now comes from **non-fossil** sources—renewables, hydro, and nuclear—allowing India to meet its COP26 target five years ahead of schedule.
- Fossil-fuel-based capacity stands at about **244.80 GW**, marking a declining share amid rising clean-energy additions.
- During H1 FY2025-26, India added **28 GW** of non-fossil capacity versus **5.1 GW** of fossil capacity, led by solar (127.33 GW) and wind (53.12 GW).
- The milestone signals strong policy support, investments, and structural reforms driving India's energy transition.

### Russia Launches Nuclear Submarine 'Khabarovsk' to Carry Poseidon Drone

- Russia launched the **Project 09851 Khabarovsk** nuclear submarine at the Sevmash shipyard, designed to deploy the nuclear-powered **Poseidon** underwater drone
- The Poseidon UUV is described as a **“doomsday weapon”** capable of long-range underwater travel and generating radioactive tsunamis.
- The submarine was developed by the **Rubin Central Design Bureau** and represents a major expansion of Russia's under-sea deterrent plans.
- NATO observers view this as a shift in underwater nuclear warfare dynamics, raising maritime-security concerns.
- Though launched, the vessel will undergo extensive **sea trials** before becoming fully operational.

### India Secures Six-Month U.S. Sanctions Waiver for Chabahar Port

- India received a **six-month sanctions waiver** from the United States for operations at Iran's Chabahar Port, effective from **29 October 2025**.
- The exemption enables India to continue developing and operating the Shahid Beheshti terminal despite U.S. sanctions on Iran.
- Chabahar provides India a strategic route to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, bypassing Pakistan, and forms part of its Connect Central Asia strategy.
- The waiver follows the earlier withdrawal of a long-standing U.S. exemption, offering India transitional operational relief.
- It strengthens India-U.S. engagement while allowing New Delhi to maintain crucial regional connectivity assets.

### India-Finland Hold 13th Foreign Office Consultations in Helsinki

- India and Finland held their 13th Foreign Office Consultations in Helsinki on **6 November 2025**, reviewing progress across bilateral cooperation sectors.
- Both nations committed to expanding collaboration in trade, digitalisation, quantum technology, AI, sustainability, education, and mobility
- Finland reiterated support for India's **UNSC permanent membership** and early India-EU FTA conclusion.
- The two sides exchanged views on regional and global developments, emphasising multilateral cooperation.
- They agreed to continue regular consultations, with the next round scheduled for New Delhi.

### UNGA Resolution A/RES/2799: Principles on Middle East Peace Reaffirmed

- Adopted on **13 December 1971**, the UNGA resolution reaffirmed that acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible and called for withdrawal from occupied areas.
- It reiterated the Palestinian people's rights to **self-determination, national independence, and sovereignty**.
- The resolution urged all states to cooperate to secure peace based on the UN Charter and relevant Security Council resolutions.
- The vote count stood at **79-7-36**, reflecting strong but not universal global support.
- The resolution built upon earlier UN efforts addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict and reaffirmed the UN's role in peaceful dispute resolution.

### "Parasocial" Declared Cambridge Dictionary Word of the Year 2025

- Cambridge Dictionary named "parasocial" its Word of the Year, reflecting growing one-sided emotional bonds people form with celebrities, influencers, fictional characters, or AI.
- The term refers to perceived relationships without real interaction, becoming highly relevant in the era of social media and AI companions.
- Its usage surged as millions increasingly treat digital personalities or AI chatbots as trusted emotional figures
- Experts note that parasocial ties can mirror real emotional dependence and influence perceptions of trust, authority, and fandom.
- Originally coined in 1956 for TV audience behaviour, the term has now entered mainstream vocabulary amid digital-era social changes.

### Leonardo DiCaprio to Receive Desert Palm Achievement Award

- Leonardo DiCaprio will be honoured with the Desert Palm Achievement Award at the Palm Springs International Film Awards 2026.
- The award recognises his acclaimed role in Paul Thomas Anderson's film *One Battle After Another*.
- The festival will be held from January 2-12, 2026, with DiCaprio's award being a key highlight.

- Past recipients include global actors such as Brad Pitt, Daniel Day-Lewis, and Eddie Redmayne.
- DiCaprio's decades-long career blends acclaimed acting with environmental activism through his foundation and conservation initiatives.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Justice Surya Kant Appointed 53rd Chief Justice of India

- President Droupadi Murmu appointed Justice Surya Kant as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, effective 10 November 2025.
- His appointment under Article 124(2) followed the recommendation of outgoing CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, upholding the seniority convention in Supreme Court appointments.
- Justice Kant has served as a Supreme Court judge since May 2019 and earlier as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- Beginning practice in 1981, he became a Senior Advocate in 2001 and is known for an approach emphasizing fairness, efficiency, and access to justice
- He has delivered key judgments on environmental protection, social justice, governance accountability, and human rights, and is expected to advance judicial transparency and digitization.

### Shailesh Chandra Becomes First Indian President of OICA

- Shailesh Chandra, MD & CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, was elected President of OICA
- He is the first Indian to lead the century-old global association of automobile manufacturers headquartered in Paris.
- His appointment reflects India's rising leadership in electric mobility, sustainability, and automotive innovation
- Chandra has played a major role in advancing Tata Motors' EV transition and strengthening India's green-transport ecosystem.
- As OICA President, he will guide global discussions on emission standards, EV transformation, safety regulations, and future mobility trends.

### Raj Kumar Arora Assumes Charge as Financial Advisor

- Shri Raj Kumar Arora, a 1990-batch IDAS officer, took charge as the Financial Advisor (Defence Services) on 1 November 2025.
- He brings over three decades of expertise in defence budgeting, acquisition, audit, and financial policy
- Prior to this role, he served as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), heading the Defence Accounts Department
- He has held several key financial posts including Additional Secretary (UPSC), Finance Manager (Air), Director in the Ministry of Finance, and Member (Finance) of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board.
- As FADS, he will oversee major financial decisions to ensure transparency and efficiency in defence procurement and expenditure management.

### Vice Admiral B Sivakumar Takes Charge as 40th Chief of Materiel

- Vice Admiral B Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel (COM) of the Indian Navy on 1 November 2025
- An alumnus of NDA, IIT Chennai, Osmania University, Madras University and NDC, he brings 38 years of naval engineering and acquisition experience

- His service includes leadership roles in warship systems, naval dockyards, training establishments, and key technical directorates at Naval Headquarters.
- He has overseen major programmes such as Project Seabird, Advanced Technology Vessel Project, and warship production and acquisition.
- Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, his predecessor, is credited with enhancing fleet readiness during Operation Sindoor and advancing the Navy's modernization efforts.

### **Vishvajit Sahay Appointed New Controller General of Defence Accounts**

- Shri Vishvajit Sahay, a 1990-batch IDAS officer, assumed office as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) on 1 November 2025
- A St. Stephen's College alumnus, he has over 30 years of experience in financial administration across central ministries and defence establishments
- His roles include Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser (DST), Joint Secretary (Heavy Industry), and Finance Manager in the Defence Acquisition Wing
- Within the Defence Accounts Department, he has served as PCDA (Pensions), Joint CGDA, and Special CGDA, gaining deep expertise in defence auditing and pension management
- As CGDA, he will oversee budgeting, accounting, procurement finance, and pensions for armed forces personnel, supporting defence modernization and fiscal discipline.

### **Sanjay Garg Assumes Charge as Director General of BIS**

- IAS officer Sanjay Garg (1994 batch, Kerala cadre) took charge as Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards on 1 November 2025
- With over 30 years of administrative experience, he has served as Secretary of ICAR and Additional Secretary in DARE, leading major digital and agricultural initiatives
- As DG, he will guide India's national standards framework at a time of rising emphasis on quality, export competitiveness, and global harmonization
- He simultaneously serves as President of India's National Committee in the International Electrotechnical Commission, representing Indian interests in global standard-setting.
- His appointment strengthens BIS's role in consumer protection, industrial regulation, hallmarking, and policy alignment under Make in India.

### **Shafali Verma Named Brand Ambassador of Haryana State Women's Commission**

- India's World Cup-winning cricketer Shafali Verma was appointed Brand Ambassador of the Haryana State Women's Commission
- She received a ₹1.5 crore cash award, a ceremonial shawl, and a Grade A sports certificate for her match-winning performance in India's 2025 World Cup victory
- Shafali, initially an injury replacement, became Player of the Final after scoring 87 runs and taking 2 wickets against South Africa.
- Her new role aims to promote women's rights, gender equality, and increased participation of girls in sports and leadership.
- The state expects her visibility and achievements to strengthen campaigns on women's empowerment, welfare, and education.



## SPORTS

### FIFA Launches ASEAN Cup to Boost Southeast Asian Football

- FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced the ASEAN Cup in Kuala Lumpur, marking a major new regional tournament for Southeast Asia.
- All 11 ASEAN nations—including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and others—will compete in the championship.
- The first edition is scheduled for 2027, with future tournaments planned every two years.
- The competition is expected to follow a group-stage-to-knockout format, with matches hosted across multiple Southeast Asian cities.
- FIFA intends the ASEAN Cup to strengthen regional football by improving infrastructure, coaching systems, and youth development pathways.

### India Sweeps Kabaddi Gold at 2025 Asian Youth Games

- India secured both boys' and girls' kabaddi gold medals at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, defeating Iran in both finals.
- The girls' team dominated the final with a record 75–21 win and remained undefeated throughout the tournament, led by standout raider Neha Patel.
- The boys' team also maintained an unbeaten run and won a closely contested final 35–32 through disciplined strategy and composure.
- These victories reaffirm India's traditional strength in kabaddi and significantly boosted the nation's overall medal count at the Games.
- India additionally won medals in athletics and taekwondo, contributing to a strong all-round performance at the championship.

### D Gukesh and Divya Deshmukh Win Double Gold at European Club Cup

- Indian chess prodigies D Gukesh and Divya Deshmukh won individual gold medals at the 40th European Chess Club Cup held in Rhodes, Greece.
- Gukesh secured the top-board gold while representing Romania's SuperChess team, which also won the Open category with a perfect score.
- Divya Deshmukh took the second-board gold in the women's section, contributing to her team's overall victory.
- The achievement marks a historic double-gold milestone, showcasing India's rising influence in elite international chess competitions.
- Additional Indian players—Nihal Sarin, Abhimanyu Puranik, and Aravindh Chithambaram—also earned individual board medals, further highlighting India's depth in competitive chess.

### James Anderson Receives Knighthood for Services to Cricket

- England's legendary fast bowler James Anderson was knighted by King Charles III at Windsor Castle for his exceptional contribution to cricket.
- With over 700 Test wickets, Anderson is the most successful fast bowler in Test history and ranks third overall behind Muralitharan and Warne.
- His two-decade career since 2003 is celebrated for mastery of swing bowling, physical endurance, and consistent excellence on the international stage.
- Anderson has been instrumental in England's Ashes successes and has mentored a generation of pacers including Stuart Broad.



- Previously honored with the MBE and OBE, his knighthood marks one of the highest recognitions in the United Kingdom for lifelong sporting achievement.

### **Punjab's Namitbir Singh Walia Awarded International Master Title**

- Young chess player Namitbir Singh Walia from Patiala, Punjab, has been officially awarded the International Master (IM) title by FIDE
- He achieved the title after securing three IM norms and surpassing the 2400 Elo rating threshold.
- His final norm came at the 2025 Asian Continental Chess Championship, where he defeated several higher-rated opponents
- Walia's success adds to India's expanding list of titled players and reinforces the country's rising stature in world chess.
- He credits his achievement to family support, Indian coaches, AICF backing, and training at local chess academies, inspiring young aspirants nationwide.

### **Kane Williamson Retires from T20Is After 93 Matches**

- New Zealand captain Kane Williamson announced his retirement from T20 Internationals after a distinguished career spanning 93 matches.
- He amassed over 2,500 T20I runs at an average above 33, including 18 fifties, since debuting in 2012.
- Williamson led New Zealand to the 2021 T20 World Cup Final, where his 85 off 48 remains one of the format's finest innings.
- He retired to focus on Tests and ODIs ahead of the 2027 ODI World Cup and future long-format priorities.
- Tributes poured in worldwide, with teammates and rivals praising his calm leadership, technical mastery, and exemplary sportsmanship.

### **India Records Best-Ever 48 Medals at Asian Youth Games 2025**

- India secured a record 48 medals—including 19 gold, 14 silver, and 15 bronze—at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Tashkent
- Athletics, shooting, and wrestling were India's strongest events, contributing nearly 60% of the overall medal tally.
- Sprinter Ritika Singh and shooter Aarav Mehta emerged as standout performers with two gold medals each.
- India earned its first-ever fencing medal and won the mixed relay gold, highlighting growing sporting diversity.
- SAI and TOPS were credited with nurturing youth talent through structured training, scientific support, and international exposure.

### **FIFA to Introduce Peace Prize at 2026 World Cup Draw in Mexico City**

- FIFA announced the launch of the FIFA Peace Prize, debuting at the 2026 World Cup Draw in Mexico City
- The award will honour individuals, teams, or organisations that use football to promote peace, unity, and social justice
- Nominations will be evaluated by a jury comprising former football stars, UN peace envoys, and human-rights advocates
- Winners will receive a gold trophy and a \$500,000 grant dedicated to peace-oriented football projects worldwide.
- FIFA President Gianni Infantino framed the prize as part of the "Football for Humanity" initiative to make the sport a universal language of hope and harmony.

**India Marks 100 Years of Hockey Legacy with Grand Celebration**

- India commemorated 100 years of hockey heritage, marking the centenary of the Indian Hockey Federation founded in 1925.
- Hockey India hosted a major event in New Delhi attended by former Olympians, current players, and national officials
- India's eight Olympic gold medals were celebrated, beginning with its first historic win at the 1928 Amsterdam Games.
- Tributes were paid to legendary players such as Dhyan Chand, Balbir Singh Sr., and Dhanraj Pillay for shaping India's dominance in world hockey.
- The centenary theme "A Century of Glory: Sticks, Spirit & Pride" was launched to honour India's sporting legacy and cultural connection with hockey.

**Raahul VS Becomes India's 91st Chess Grandmaster**

- Raahul VS achieved the Grandmaster title after crossing 2500 Elo and securing his final GM norm at the ASEAN Chess Championship 2025
- The championship, held in Kuala Lumpur, featured top Asian competitors across nine rounds
- Raahul remained undefeated, showcasing exceptional tactical and positional skill to secure a podium finish.
- The 20-year-old from Kerala had previously earned GM norms at the Chennai Grandmasters 2024 and Sharjah Masters 2025.
- With his achievement, India now has 91 Grandmasters, reinforcing its global dominance in competitive chess.

**Padma Awards 2026 Spotlight India's Sporting Legends**

- The Padma Awards 2026 list prominently features top sportspersons, reflecting India's growing respect for athletic excellence.
- Abhinav Bindra and Leander Paes receive the Padma Vibhushan for their path-breaking achievements in shooting and tennis, respectively.
- Neeraj Chopra and Mary Kom are honoured with the Padma Bhushan for their global track records and inspiration to young athletes.
- Hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh is awarded the Padma Shri for his crucial role in India's Olympic bronze and grassroots hockey promotion.
- The overall list showcases wide sporting diversity, recognising contributors from wrestling, badminton, kabaddi, and other disciplines who now mentor the next generation.

**Belgium and Netherlands to Co-Host 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup**

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly host the 2026 Hockey World Cup
- It will be the first time that two nations co-host this flagship tournament, reflecting their strong hockey traditions and infrastructure
- Matches are expected at major venues like Antwerp and Amstelveen, both experienced in staging elite FIH events.
- The Netherlands will host the World Cup for the fifth time, while Belgium, the 2018 men's champions, will host for the first time.
- The joint model aims to promote regional cooperation and sustainability, with India again expected to be a strong title contender.

### Oscar Piastrì Wins Australia's Don Award 2025

- Australian F1 driver **Oscar Piastrì** received the **Don Award 2025**, the country's most prestigious sporting honour.
- Presented by the **Sport Australia Hall of Fame**, the award honours the sportsperson who most inspired the nation during the year.
- Piastrì was recognised for his exceptional **2025 Formula 1 season with McLaren**, featuring race wins, strong finishes and remarkable composure against top rivals.
- His performances revived Australia's presence in Formula 1 and extended the legacy of drivers like **Mark Webber and Daniel Ricciardo**.
- The Melbourne ceremony highlighted his impact on young motorsport fans and cemented his status as Australia's next major racing star.

### Ravindra Jadeja Enters Elite 4000-Run, 300-Wicket Club

- Ravindra Jadeja became only the **fourth cricketer in Test history** to score 4000 runs and take 300 wickets
- He joins Kapil Dev, Shane Warne, and Sir Richard Hadlee, becoming the **second Indian** to achieve the landmark.
- Renowned for accuracy and control as a left-arm spinner, Jadeja has been a consistent match-winner for India.
- His lower-order batting has often stabilised innings, making him one of the most complete modern all-rounders.
- Debuting in 2012, he has played over 70 Tests and contributed significantly to India's home and overseas victories.

### Preetismita Bhoi's World-Record Gold at Asian Youth Games 2025

- On 26 October 2025, **Preetismita Bhoi** from Odisha won gold in the **44 kg girls' weightlifting** event at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, setting a world youth clean-and-jerk record.
- She lifted a total of **158 kg** (66 kg snatch + 92 kg clean and jerk), with the **92 kg** clean and jerk surpassing the previous youth world mark by 1 kg
- At just **16**, she trains at the Weightlifting High Performance Centre at Kalinga Stadium under Odisha's Target Olympic Podium-style programme
- Her performance showcases India's growing strength in **women's weightlifting** and the impact of Odisha's focused sports ecosystem.
- The International Weightlifting Federation recognised her record, and national leaders hailed her as an inspiration for India's next generation of athletes.

### Zimbabwe & Namibia to Co-Host 2026 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup

- Zimbabwe and Namibia will jointly host the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026, the first time the event is co-hosted by two African nations
- The tournament will run from January 15 to February 6, 2026, featuring 16 teams across league, Super Six, and knockout stages
- Matches will be played at major venues including Harare Sports Club, Queens Sports Club, and Windhoek's HP Oval
- Teams will be divided into four groups, progressing to Super Six and then semifinals and final.
- The event highlights southern Africa's rising profile in hosting major international cricket tournaments.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Stellarus to Launch First 3D Global Wind Data Satellite Network

- Hong Kong-based Stellarus Technology announced the Feilian Constellation, the world's first satellite network designed to deliver hourly, kilometer-scale 3D global wind maps.
- The constellation will consist of six satellites that measure wind speed, direction, and vertical atmospheric movement, filling major gaps in current meteorological data.
- The first two satellites will launch within 18 months, followed by the complete network enabling continuous global wind monitoring.
- Each satellite costs about \$2.8 million due to China's efficient manufacturing ecosystem, significantly cheaper than comparable U.S. systems priced near \$100 million.
- Led by NASA JPL veteran Professor Hui Su, the project aims to transform forecasting, renewable energy planning, aviation safety, and disaster-risk modeling by surpassing limitations of balloons and aircraft observations.

### Russia Unveils Poseidon Nuclear-Powered Underwater Drone

- Russia revealed new operational details of its Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone, considered a major shift in autonomous sea-based warfare.
- Poseidon can carry nuclear or conventional payloads across intercontinental distances at depths up to 1,000 metres and speeds exceeding 100 km/h.
- It is being integrated into Russia's Belgorod and Khabarovsk nuclear submarines to strengthen second-strike capability.
- The drone uses a miniature nuclear reactor enabling long-duration autonomous travel with minimal detection risk.
- Analysts warn that Poseidon falls outside current arms-control treaties, complicating future global disarmament efforts.

### Amazon FACE Experiment Simulates Future CO<sub>2</sub> Levels in Rainforest

- The Amazon FACE experiment was launched near Manaus, Brazil, as the world's largest forest-based climate research initiative.
- Led by INPA with partners including the U.S. Department of Energy and UK Met Office, it simulates future CO<sub>2</sub> levels expected between 2050 and 2070.
- FACE technology enriches CO<sub>2</sub> around forest plots without enclosing them, preserving natural interactions between trees, soil, and atmosphere.
- Researchers will study impacts on tree growth, soil processes, and carbon uptake to determine whether the Amazon remains a carbon sink or becomes a carbon source.
- Findings will be crucial for global climate models, Paris Agreement targets, and strategies for sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

### Pravaig Launches VEER: India's First Defence-Ready Electric Vehicle

- Pravaig Dynamics unveiled **VEER**, India's first electric vehicle designed specifically for defence operations, marking a major milestone in indigenous military mobility.
- The multi-terrain platform offers ballistic protection, high torque performance, and a **500+ km range**, allowing reliable operation in extreme environments.



- Developed entirely in India, VEER incorporates locally sourced components and **AI-enabled control systems** to enhance situational awareness.
- The EV is expected to support reconnaissance, logistics, and rapid mobility roles, with potential deployment in UN peacekeeping and disaster-relief missions.
- The launch advances India's vision of a **Green Defence Corridor**, integrating EV technology, renewable energy, and sustainable logistics into national security.

### **India Launches First Fully Digitised National Marine Fisheries Census 2025**

- India launched the first **Fully Digitised National Marine Fisheries Census**, modernizing marine-sector governance under the Blue Economy Vision 2047
- The census replaces paper surveys with mobile apps, cloud dashboards, and GIS mapping for real-time, transparent data collection
- It will cover coastal states and UTs, documenting fishers, vessels, landing centres, aquaculture assets, and women's cooperatives.
- The initiative will strengthen policy planning, sustainable fisheries management, and welfare delivery using validated digital data.
- Conducted with CMFRI and FSI, the census uses analytics and geo-tagging to create a unified national marine database.

### **PayPal Becomes ChatGPT's First Integrated Digital Payments Wallet**

- PayPal partnered with OpenAI to become the **first fully integrated digital payments wallet** within ChatGPT.
- The integration enables users to send money, make purchases, or manage payments directly through conversational commands in ChatGPT.
- Transactions are secured through PayPal's AI-driven fraud detection, encryption systems, and global compliance protocols.
- Users can create invoices, track spending, or initiate peer-to-peer transfers without leaving the chat interface.
- The partnership represents a major milestone in the AI-commerce ecosystem, paving the way for AI-native financial tools.

### **China Launches Shenzhou-21 with Youngest Astronaut and Lab Mice to Tiangong**

- China launched the **Shenzhou-21** mission to the Tiangong Space Station, carrying three astronauts and lab mice for deep-space biomedical research
- The crew includes **26-year-old Tang Shengjie**, now China's youngest astronaut in space, reflecting the nation's shift toward youth-driven space exploration
- Biological experiments will study long-duration microgravity effects on mammalian physiology, development, and reproduction
- Astronauts will also conduct spacewalks, install upgraded life-support systems, and expand Tiangong's laboratory modules.
- The mission features enhanced spacecraft automation, improved docking accuracy, and advanced biological experiment modules.

### **China Achieves Thorium-Uranium Fuel Conversion in Thorium Molten Salt Reactor**

- China announced the world's first successful thorium-to-uranium fuel conversion in a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor at the Shanghai Institute of Applied Physics.



- Scientists achieved self-sustaining breeding of uranium-233 from thorium-232, a key step for long-term thorium-based nuclear energy
- The TMSR uses molten fluoride salts as fuel solvent and coolant, offering higher efficiency, passive safety, and reduced waste compared to conventional reactors
- The breakthrough strengthens China's energy security by exploiting abundant thorium reserves and supporting low-carbon power generation.
- China plans to scale up its TMSR programme in Gansu and integrate it with renewables as part of its 2060 carbon-neutrality roadmap.

### **Skyroot's Vikram-II Marks India's Maiden Private Rocket Launch**

- India's first private rocket launch was successfully conducted from Sriharikota by Hyderabad-based startup Skyroot Aerospace
- The suborbital Vikram-II launcher became the first privately built and operated rocket to fly from Indian soil under ISRO's regulatory oversight
- The mission tested 3D-printed cryogenic engines, lightweight carbon-fibre structures, and advanced avionics for future reusable small-satellite launches.
- Supported by IN-SPACe, the launch exemplifies India's new space policy encouraging private participation in space activities.
- Vikram-II's success positions India to compete in the global small-satellite launch market and advances the vision of making the country a commercial space hub.

### **Project Suncatcher: Space-Based AI Data Centres to Cut Carbon and Cooling Costs**

- A consortium of tech and space partners is developing Project Suncatcher, a plan to build orbiting AI data centres powered by space-based solar energy.
- The project involves NASA, SpaceX, and Alphabet's DeepMind to combine launch logistics, satellite networking, and AI energy optimisation.
- The first prototype module, Suncatcher-1, is scheduled for a 2027 launch into a 1,200 km orbit, with connectivity supported via Starlink's laser-linked satellites.
- These orbital facilities will use solar concentrators and AI-regulated thermal systems to achieve up to 60% lower energy use than Earth-based centres.
- If successful, Project Suncatcher could redefine global cloud infrastructure, making space a new frontier for sustainable high-performance computing.

### **Earth Hit by Strongest Geomagnetic Storm of 2025**

- A series of powerful CMEs from sunspot region AR3891 triggered a severe G4-level geomagnetic storm on Earth.
- The storm reached a Kp index of 8, causing disruptions to satellite communications, GPS services, and power grids across multiple regions.
- Temporary outages led airlines to reroute polar flights, while vivid auroras appeared as far south as Italy, northern India, Texas, and Arizona.
- NASA and ISRO tracked solar wind speeds exceeding 900 km/s using SOHO and Aditya-L1 missions.
- Scientists warned that Solar Cycle 25 is nearing its peak in 2025–26, increasing the probability of more intense space-weather events.

### **PM Modi Launches India's First Homegrown CAR T-Cell Therapy 'NexCAR19'**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled NexCAR19, India's first indigenously developed CAR T-cell therapy for treating blood cancers

- Developed by IIT Bombay and ImmunoACT, the therapy engineers a patient's own T-cells to target B-cell lymphomas and leukemias.
- With this launch, India becomes the fifth country globally to develop an indigenous CAR T-cell treatment.
- NexCAR19 will cost under ₹50 lakh, marking a significant reduction compared to imported therapies priced at ₹3–4 crore.
- The project was supported by the Department of Biotechnology, reinforcing India's scientific self-reliance under Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### **China Launches Third Aircraft Carrier 'Fujian' with Next-Gen Capabilities**

- China launched its third and most advanced aircraft carrier, Fujian, at the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai.
- The carrier features electromagnetic catapult launch systems, placing it technologically closer to U.S. Gerald R. Ford-class carriers.
- Weighing around 80,000 tonnes, Fujian supports fixed-wing aircraft and drones using a flat-deck design.
- The vessel strengthens China's naval reach in the South China Sea, Indian Ocean, and Western Pacific.
- Global powers, including the U.S., are closely monitoring the development amid rising Indo-Pacific tensions

### **India Launches First Tribal-Focused Genome Project**

- India launched its first genome initiative dedicated to tribal communities to map their genetic diversity and health patterns.
- The DBT and ICMR project aims to identify tribe-specific variations, rare genetic disorders, and disease risks for precision health interventions.
- Fifty tribal groups across the Northeast, Central India, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands will be studied initially.
- Leading institutes such as CCMB, NIBMG, and AIIMS will conduct the research with strict ethical oversight and informed consent.
- The project strengthens India's position in inclusive genomic research alongside major global initiatives.

### **Godrej Delivers Human-Rated Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Mission**

- Godrej Aerospace delivered a flight-ready, human-rated Vikas Engine to ISRO for use in the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission.
- The liquid-propellant engine, already used on PSLV and GSLV variants, has been upgraded to meet stringent human-rating standards.
- Human-rating involves enhanced reliability, redundancy and extensive testing to protect astronauts during all phases of flight.
- The engine will power the L110 liquid stage of the LVM3 rocket that will launch the Gaganyaan crew module.
- This milestone strengthens ISRO–industry collaboration and moves India closer to uncrewed tests in 2025 followed by a crewed mission.

### **Exercise Garuda-25: India–France Deepen Aerial Cooperation**

- India and France began the seventh edition of **Exercise Garuda-25** at Air Force Station Jodhpur to enhance bilateral air combat interoperability.
- The exercise features advanced fighter operations with India deploying **Rafale, Su-30MKI, and Tejas**, while France fields Rafale jets and A330 MRTT tankers.
- Training focuses on **BVR engagements, refuelling missions, defensive counter-air operations**, and multi-domain planning.

- The drill reflects expanding India–France strategic cooperation following recent collaborations in space, maritime security, and defence technology.
- Started in 2003, the Garuda series alternates between the two nations, with the previous edition held in France in 2022.



### WHO Global TB Report 2025 Highlights Gains and Gaps

- WHO's **Global TB Report 2025** shows that 10.2 million people contracted TB in 2024, with 1.2 million deaths worldwide.
- India recorded a **16% reduction in TB cases** since 2015 due to initiatives such as Ni-kshay Mitra and the TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.
- Global TB detection reached a record **7.5 million new cases**, supported by molecular diagnostics and shorter drug regimens.
- Funding remains inadequate, with USD 6.7 billion mobilised against the required USD 13 billion for achieving 2030 targets.
- Emerging vaccines like **M72/AS01E** and digital adherence tools show promise, but WHO stresses that stronger political commitment is essential.

### ISRO to Triple Spacecraft Output; Chandrayaan-4 in 2028

- ISRO announced plans to **triple spacecraft production** to nearly 15 per year and confirmed Chandrayaan-4 for launch in 2028.
- The expansion involves enhanced manufacturing and testing capacity across Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Sriharikota centres.
- Chandrayaan-4 will undertake India's **first lunar sample return mission**, building on the success of Chandrayaan-3.
- A new launch complex at **Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu**, will support high-frequency missions under the Atmanirbhar Space initiative.
- ISRO's roadmap includes Gaganyaan, Mars orbiter upgrades, and global partnerships, reinforcing India's advancing space capabilities.

### Google Unveils Gemini 3, Its Most Advanced AI Model

- Google launched Gemini 3, a major leap in AI capabilities integrating multimodal understanding, deep reasoning, and agentic task execution.
- The model achieves top global benchmark scores, including 1501 Elo on LMArena and advanced performance on GPQA Diamond and ARC-AGI-2.
- "Deep Think" mode further strengthens complex problem-solving and will roll out to Google AI Ultra subscribers.
- Gemini 3 powers Search, the Gemini app, AI Studio, Vertex AI, and the new Antigravity platform, enabling immersive coding, apps, and 3D experiences.
- Google deployed extensive safety protocols to mitigate bias, misuse, and prompt-injection risks while making the model widely available to users, developers, and enterprises.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### Sahitya Akademi Releases Hindi Translation of Lithuanian Novel “The Last Day”

- The Sahitya Akademi launched “**Antim Din**”, the Hindi translation of the Lithuanian novel *The Last Day*, promoting global literary exchange.
- The translation was released in New Delhi by Sahitya Akademi Secretary Dr. K. Sreenivasarao alongside noted writers and diplomats.
- The original novel by Antanas Škėma explores themes of existentialism, exile, and post-war identity, now made accessible to Hindi readers.
- Translated by Dr. Meena Tandon, the book is part of the Akademi’s World Literature Project to translate global classics into Indian languages.
- The launch strengthens India–Lithuania cultural ties and enriches India’s multilingual literary landscape.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 Begins Nationwide

- Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 is being observed across India from 27 October with the theme “**Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility**,” coinciding with the birth anniversary week of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- The campaign seeks to promote integrity, transparency, and accountability in public life by involving ministries, PSUs, banks, schools, and civil society.
- The week opened with pledge ceremonies at government offices, including a central event at the CVC headquarters in New Delhi led by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and Vigilance Commissioner.
- Activities include seminars, integrity workshops, school competitions, integrity clubs, anti-corruption drives, and grievance redressal camps to popularise vigilance mechanisms.
- The observance underscores that vigilance is a collective societal duty, supporting the CVC’s mandate under the CVC Act, 2003 to strengthen ethical governance and public trust in institutions.

### National Unity Day 2025: 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) 2025 is celebrated on 31 October to mark the **150th birth anniversary** of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the “Iron Man of India”
- The day honours Patel’s decisive role in integrating over 560 princely states into the Indian Union after independence through instruments such as the Instrument of Accession
- Nationwide events include the Run for Unity, pledge ceremonies, cultural programmes, and tributes at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.
- The observance highlights Patel’s contribution to strong institutions, including his support for a unified civil service structure and constitutional democracy.
- In the contemporary context of regionalism and communal tensions, National Unity Day 2025 reiterates the importance of national integration, tolerance, and collective identity.

### National Legal Services Day: Access to Justice for All

- National Legal Services Day is observed every year on **9 November** to commemorate the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 coming into force on this date in 1995.
- The Act created a three-tier structure of legal aid—NALSA at the national level, State Legal Services Authorities, and District Legal Services Authorities—to provide free legal services to the weaker sections.



- Between 2022 and 2025, over 44 lakh people received free legal aid, while Lok Adalats disposed of more than 23.58 crore cases through conciliation-based dispute resolution
- New mechanisms such as the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System (LADCS) and the DISHA digital justice initiative have expanded access via dedicated legal defence, Tele-Law services and technology-enabled outreach.
- Complementary measures include Fast Track and Special Courts (especially for POCSO and SC/ST cases), Gram Nyayalayas, Nari Adalats, and extensive legal literacy campaigns to make justice accessible, affordable, and timely.

### National Education Day 2025: Honouring Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

- National Education Day 2025 is observed on **11 November** to mark the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister and a key architect of its modern education system.
- The day is celebrated nationwide through seminars, debates, quizzes, and awareness activities focused on educational reforms and the right to education.
- Azad's tenure (1947–1958) saw the creation or strengthening of institutions such as the UGC, IITs, IISc, AICTE, Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, and Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- National Education Day recognises his vision of inclusive, secular, and quality education as central to nation-building and social transformation.
- The observance is also situated in a global context alongside the UN's International Day of Education (24 January), with 2025's UN theme focusing on "AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation."

### Birsa Munda Jayanti 2025: 150th Birth Anniversary and Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

- Birsa Munda Jayanti 2025 is observed on **15 November**, marking the **150th birth anniversary** of the iconic tribal freedom fighter and social reformer Birsa Munda.
- The year is being celebrated as *Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh*, with a special *Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada* from 1–15 November highlighting tribal heritage, rights, and contributions
- November 15 is also observed as *Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas*, with schools, colleges, and cultural institutions conducting events to showcase tribal traditions, art, and history
- Government initiatives such as PM-JANMAN, DAJGUA, Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana and special releases like commemorative coins and stamps are being foregrounded during the celebrations.
- The observance recalls Birsa Munda's leadership of the Ulgulan movement against colonial exploitation and unjust land laws, which ultimately contributed to protective legislations like the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908.

## OBITUARIES

### Saalumarada Thimmakka, Iconic Green Crusader, Passes Away

- Saalumarada Thimmakka, famed as the 'Mother of 385 Banyan Trees,' passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 114.
- Along with her husband, she planted and nurtured hundreds of banyan trees along a 4 km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur in Karnataka
- Her lifelong devotion to tree planting, begun as a response to childlessness, made her a symbol of personal commitment to nature
- She received the Padma Shri in 2019 and numerous other honours for grassroots environmental stewardship.

- Environmental groups, leaders and citizens paid tribute, and many afforestation and awareness programmes now bear her name as inspiration.

## RANKINGS

### Shiv Nadar Tops Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025 for Third Consecutive Year

- The Hurun India Philanthropy List 2025 named HCL founder Shiv Nadar as India's top philanthropist for the third straight year.
- He donated ₹2,580 crore in the past year, primarily to education, healthcare, and rural development through the Shiv Nadar Foundation.
- Azim Premji ranked second with ₹1,940 crore, while Mukesh Ambani placed third with donations of ₹510 crore.
- Education accounted for 42% of all giving, followed by healthcare and environmental sustainability, with 129 philanthropists contributing a total of ₹11,200 crore.
- New entrants like Nikhil Kamath and Roshni Nadar signal a growing culture of young and next-generation philanthropy, especially from Maharashtra and Karnataka.

### North 24 Parganas Overtakes Thane as India's Most Populated District

- North 24 Parganas in West Bengal was declared India's most populated district, with a population exceeding 11.2 million in 2025 estimates.
- It displaced Thane in Maharashtra, which had held the top position since the 2011 Census.
- Rapid urbanisation, proximity to Kolkata, and growth in manufacturing, services, and logistics have driven its high population density.
- The district has an urbanisation rate above 60% and a literacy rate over 87%, making it a major metropolitan extension of Kolkata.
- Rising numbers pose challenges in housing, infrastructure, sanitation, and environment, prompting new urban-planning measures amid slowing national population growth.

### Mumbai Ranked Asia's Happiest City in 2025

- Mumbai topped the World Happiness Index 2025 – Asian Cities Edition, emerging as Asia's happiest city and ranking 12th globally.
- The report by UN SDSN and Gallup credited Mumbai's community bonds, cultural vibrancy, and improved urban well-being.
- The city scored highly on mental health, social trust, environmental quality, healthcare access, and cultural participation.
- Bengaluru and Delhi also ranked in the Asian top ten, highlighting India's rising urban livability.
- Government initiatives like Swachh Bharat 2.0, the Mumbai Climate Action Plan, and Ease of Living reforms contributed to the milestone.

### Mumbai and Delhi Enter Global Top 10 Billionaire Cities

- The Hurun Research Institute ranked Mumbai third and New Delhi ninth globally for the number of resident billionaires.
- Mumbai hosts 92 billionaires, driven by strong finance, real estate, and technology sectors.
- Delhi, with 57 billionaires, reflects rapid capital accumulation and entrepreneurial growth in northern India.
- The rankings highlight India's emergence as a major global wealth-creation hub.

- The trend underscores urban concentration of wealth and India's expanding ultra-high-net-worth population.



**India Improves to Rank 12 in Global Climate Risk Index 2025**

- India moved from rank 7 to 12 in the Global Climate Risk Index 2025, signalling stronger climate resilience and reduced disaster vulnerability.
- The report by Germanwatch assessed climate-related losses of 180 countries based on 2023 data.
- India's improvement is attributed to enhanced early warning systems, wider renewable energy adoption, and better preparedness mechanisms.
- Initiatives such as NAPCC, LiFE movement, and coastal restoration contributed significantly to adaptive capacity.
- Despite improvements, global disparities persist, with nations like Pakistan and Mozambique remaining among the most affected.

**QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026 Released**

- QS released the 2026 Sustainability Rankings evaluating over 700 universities on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impact.
- Institutions were assessed across eight indicators under Environmental Impact and Social Impact categories
- The rankings measure climate action, sustainability research, equality, educational quality, employability, and quality of life.
- Universities needed demonstrable research impact on environmental or social SDGs to qualify.
- Over 100 Indian universities—including leading IITs and central institutions—were featured, reflecting increasing focus on sustainability in Indian higher education.

**SUMMIT's AND MOU's****Over 120 Nations Attend Eighth International Solar Alliance Assembly**

- The Eighth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance convened in New Delhi with participation from over 120 member and signatory countries.
- Chaired by Union Minister R.K. Singh, the assembly reviewed progress under flagship programmes like SSAAU, Solar Mini-Grids, and the OSOWOG initiative.
- Delegates reaffirmed commitment to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 7 on clean and affordable energy.
- India emphasized ISA's central role in global climate cooperation and the just energy transition.
- Since its creation in 2015, the ISA has expanded to over 120 nations supporting global solar finance, capacity building, and technology partnerships.

**20th East Asia Summit Adopts Kuala Lumpur Declaration**

- Leaders from ASEAN and eight dialogue partners met in Kuala Lumpur for the 20th East Asia Summit and adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.
- The declaration underscores commitment to ASEAN-led regional architecture, peaceful dispute resolution, freedom of navigation, and adherence to UNCLOS 1982.
- Representing India, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized an inclusive Indo-Pacific vision, strong connectivity, and resilient supply chains.
- Member nations agreed to deepen cooperation in digital economy, renewable energy, AI governance, and disaster resilience under AOIP principles.
- The declaration advances shared climate goals by promoting green transitions, blue economy development, carbon neutrality, and biodiversity conservation.

**Delhi to Host 2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2025**

- India will host the second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine from 17–19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The theme focuses on integrating evidence-based traditional medicine with modern health systems.
- The event is co-organised by WHO and the Ministry of Ayush under an MoU signed in October 2025.
- The summit aims to advance the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 and strengthen regulatory frameworks.
- With over 170 countries using traditional medicine, the event will support global collaboration for health-system transformation.

**VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Opens 30th CII Partnership Summit**

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, marking three decades of global business engagement.
- The summit focuses on “Collaboration for a Sustainable and Resilient Global Growth,” aligning with India’s goals for inclusive and sustainable economic progress.
- Senior policymakers, diplomats and business leaders from over 50 countries are participating to discuss trade reforms, investment, innovation and global cooperation.
- Andhra Pradesh is using the platform to showcase opportunities in renewable energy, logistics, manufacturing and port-led development.
- Since its launch in 1995, the summit has served as a premier forum shaping India’s economic diplomacy and attracting foreign investment.

**India Reaffirms Equity-Centred Climate Action at COP30 Leaders’ Summit**

- At COP30 in Belém, India stressed that global climate action must adhere to **CBDR-RC**, equity, and national circumstances
- India highlighted reductions in emission intensity, achieving over **50% non-fossil power capacity**, and creating a 2.29-billion-tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e carbon sink since 2005
- It called on developed nations to lead with deeper cuts and provide predictable, concessional climate finance and technology transfer.
- India joined Brazil’s new **Tropical Forests Forever Facility** as an observer, supporting nature-based climate solutions.
- The statement emphasised implementation, resilience, and equitable finance as central to global climate progress in the coming decade.

**ECONOMY****RBI Repatriates Gold Reserves to India Under New Strategy**

- The RBI repatriated large quantities of gold from overseas vaults between 2023 and 2025 to enhance sovereign control over its reserves
- The move reduces dependence on foreign custodians like the Bank of England amid rising geopolitical risks
- It aligns with RBI’s broader objective of diversifying reserve management and strengthening domestic storage security
- The strategy reflects a shift toward prioritising physical gold holdings within India’s borders.
- The repatriation marks one of the largest such operations in decades for India’s financial system.

**IN-SPACe and SIDBI Launch ₹1,000-Crore SpaceTech Venture Fund**



- IN-SPACe and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd operationalised a ₹1,000-crore fund to boost India's private space-technology sector.
- The Union Cabinet approved the fund in 2024, with SEBI clearance obtained in October 2025.
- Investments will target startups working on launch vehicles, satellites, in-space services, EO platforms, and space applications.
- The initiative reinforces India's goal of building a globally competitive and self-reliant space industry.
- The agreement was signed in Ahmedabad, underscoring Gujarat's rising role in India's space ecosystem.

### **Gold Imports Surge to Record USD 14.72 Billion (October 2025)**

- India's gold imports soared to a record **USD 14.72 billion** in October 2025, nearly **three times** the USD 5.1 billion imported in October 2024.
- The spike was driven by strong festive and wedding demand during **Dussehra-Diwali**, steady global prices near USD 2,400/oz and a softer rupee.
- Elevated imports significantly widened the October trade deficit to **over USD 31 billion**, putting pressure on the current account.
- Robust jewellery buying and investment appetite for gold as a safe-haven asset amplified the inflows despite macro concerns.
- Policymakers now face the challenge of managing the external account while exports grow and gold demand remains structurally high.

### **Sixteenth Finance Commission (2026–31) Submits Report**

- The **Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVI FC)**, chaired by **Dr. Arvind Panagariya**, submitted its report for 2026–31 to President Droupadi Murmu.
- Constituted on **31 December 2023** under Article 280, it recommends sharing of taxes and grants between the Centre and states for the next five-year cycle.
- The report covers vertical and horizontal devolution, **fiscal deficit targets**, state borrowing norms, local body grants and incentives for fiscal prudence and capital spending.
- Members include **Dr. Niranjana Rajadhyaksha, Annie George Mathew, Manoj Panda**, with **N. K. Singh** as special invitee.
- Once tabled and accepted by Parliament, its recommendations will shape Centre–state financial relations and regional development from **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031**.