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## NATIONAL

### Government releases 'Children in India 2025' at CoCSSO

- The Government of India released the "Children in India 2025" report during the 29th CoCSSO conference in Chandigarh, presenting seven chapters and new datasets on causes of death, adoption, device use, and state comparisons.
- Infant mortality fell from 44 in 2011 to 25 in 2023, under-five mortality is 29 in 2023 with male IMR 26 and female 25, rural U5MR 33 versus urban 20, and the 2023 birth rate is 18.4 per 1,000 (rural 20.3; urban 14.9).
- School outcomes improved between 2022–23 and 2024–25, with dropout rates declining at preparatory (8.7% to 2.3%), middle (8.1% to 3.5%), and secondary (13.8% to 8.2%) levels, alongside GER increases to 90.3% in middle and 68.5% in secondary.
- Health concerns persist as over one-third of children aged 5–9 have high triglycerides, with West Bengal at 67%, Sikkim 64.6%, Assam 57%, and Nagaland 55.5%, and adolescents in Goa showing 15% high cholesterol.
- Nutrition and protection indicators show stunting at 35.5% and underweight prevalence at 32.1% as per NFHS-5, while the 2022 crime rate against children is 36.6 per lakh population with Delhi at 134.9 per lakh and kidnapping and abduction constituting 45.7% of cases; adoptions rose from 3,927 in 2017–18 to 4,515 in 2024–25.

### Government Plans Nuclear Liability Fund to Cover Claims Beyond Operator Cap

- The government announced a Nuclear Liability Fund to handle compensation claims that exceed **₹1,500 crore** in the event of a nuclear accident.
- Under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, the operator remains liable up to ₹1,500 crore, after which the government assumes responsibility.
- The proposed fund aims to reduce uncertainty that has discouraged global suppliers and private firms from India's nuclear expansion.
- It is expected to be a structured pool backed by government allocations and possible industry contributions, with legal provisions likely via a new atomic energy bill.
- Strategically, the measure seeks to attract foreign investment, enable advanced reactor technology, and support **clean energy** goals.

### National Geoscience Awards 2024 honour India's leading earth scientists

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognising outstanding work across exploration, mineral technology, and basic and applied geosciences.
- Established in 1966 by the Ministry of Mines, the programme honoured 20 geoscientists across 12 awards, including a Lifetime Achievement award and a National Young Geoscientist award.
- Major awardees included Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai (Lifetime Achievement), Shri Susobhan Neogi (Young Geoscientist), Dr. V. V. S. Sarma (basic geosciences), and Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Singh (mineral beneficiation and sustainability).
- The ceremony highlighted the strategic role of **REEs** and called for innovation, sustainable mining, and strengthened geoscience capacity to support technological sovereignty.

### 500 new Atal Tinkering Labs announced for Jammu & Kashmir

- On 25 September 2025, Atal Innovation Mission announced **500** new labs in Jammu & Kashmir under its Frontier Region Programme.
- This represents the largest share among 2,500 sanctioned labs, supported by an allocation of ₹100 crore for establishment.
- The launch at the University of Kashmir featured Dr. Jitendra Singh, LG Manoj Sinha, and senior officials, reflecting high-level backing.

- The labs will expose students to **robotics**, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and rapid prototyping to develop problem-solving skills.
- An ATL Sarthi support mechanism will connect labs to **mentorship**, institutional linkages, and capacity building in remote and tribal areas.

#### **DRDO wins BusinessLine ‘Changemaker of the Year’**

- **DRDO** received the BusinessLine Changemaker of the Year award for advancing strategic defence technologies and strengthening national security.
- The recognition highlighted Director General Raja Babu Ummalaneni’s leadership in directing innovations and strategic initiatives.
- The award underscored progress in indigenous systems that respond to evolving threats and enhance deterrence.
- **Operation Sindoor** was cited among contributions, involving support to neutralise hostile assets along India’s border.
- The honour also reflected broader impact on technological **self-reliance**, alongside acknowledgements to organisations such as the Azim Premji Foundation.

#### **AFSPA extended in parts of Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh**

- The Union Home Ministry extended **AFSPA** for **six months** from October 1, 2025, retaining “disturbed area” status in multiple jurisdictions.
- In Manipur, the Act continues across most areas except 13 exempt police station limits in valley districts including Imphal West and Imphal East.
- In **Nagaland**, AFSPA applies in nine full districts and 21 police station areas across five additional districts.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, it remains in Tirap, Changlang, and Longding, and covers three police stations in Namsai district bordering Assam.
- The extension cites persistent security challenges and empowers armed forces with search, arrest, and use-of-force authorities amid ongoing controversy over rights concerns.

#### **India, Bhutan approve first cross-border rail links**

- India and Bhutan cleared two projects connecting **Kokrajhar–Gelephu** and Banarhat–Samtse, marking Bhutan’s entry into India’s rail network.
- The combined estimated cost is **₹4,033 crore**, with India expected to finance and lead initial implementation.
- Kokrajhar–Gelephu is ~57 km (~69 km with allied works) needing major bridges and crossings, while Banarhat–Samtse is ~20 km with two intermediate stations.
- Target timelines are about four years for the longer line and three years for the shorter link, with Kokrajhar–Gelephu fast-tracked as an SRP after surveys and tender prep.
- The links will deepen trade access and regional **connectivity**, aligning with “Neighbourhood First” and broader integration goals.

#### **Balod declared India’s first certified child marriage-free district**

- Chhattisgarh declared Balod child marriage-free after two consecutive years without a single registered case across the district.
- Following rigorous verification, all 436 gram panchayats and nine urban local bodies received formal certificates.
- The outcome stemmed from coordinated efforts by the district administration, public representatives, anganwadi workers, NGOs, and community stakeholders.
- The certification aligns with the national “Child Marriage-Free India” campaign launched on August 27, 2024.
- The state aims to be child marriage-free by 2028–29, and 75 gram panchayats in Surajpur have also been certified.

**Tata–Airbus to build H125 helicopters at Karnataka’s first private FAL**

- TASL, in partnership with Airbus, will establish India’s first private helicopter final assembly line in **Vemagal**, Karnataka to produce the **H125**.
- The plant will handle assembly, integration, mechanical, electrical and avionics testing, and final flight tests before delivery.
- Initial output is about 10 helicopters per year, with the first delivery targeted for early 2027 and capacity planned to scale.
- Plans include producing a military **H125M** variant with higher indigenisation and localised fuselage structures through Bengaluru partners.
- The project aims to boost aerospace **self-reliance**, jobs, supply chains, and complements the Tata–Airbus C295 collaboration.

**UPSC enters centenary year with reforms and outreach**

- The **UPSC** marks 100 years from October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026, commemorating its establishment in 1926.
- Founded under the Government of India Act, 1919 and the Lee Commission’s recommendations, it became the Federal Public Service Commission in 1937 and was renamed on January 26, 1950.
- Under Articles 315–323 of the Constitution, it is a constitutional body overseeing recruitment, examinations, and services.
- Centenary plans include a commemorative logo, a tagline, process modernisation, and a first-ever interactive town hall with the Chairman and aspirants.
- Chairman Ajay Kumar has invited suggestions from staff and stakeholders to shape inclusive, **reform-oriented** celebrations.

**RBI sets up Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)**

- The **PRB** has been constituted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 via Regulations effective May 20, 2025.
- It replaces the earlier **BPSS** committee structure under the RBI’s Central Board.
- The **six-member** board is chaired by the RBI Governor, with the payments Deputy Governor, one RBI nominee, and three government nominees.
- Decisions are by majority with a casting vote for the Chair, meetings at least twice a year, and powers delegable with expert invitees.
- The **autonomy** question arises as government nominees now sit on the regulator while PRB oversees licensing, supervision, and oversight across payment systems.

**Assam–Nagaland Border Violence Sparks Major Crisis**

- On 2 October 2025, severe violence erupted along the **Assam–Nagaland border** in the B Sector of Golaghat district, when armed groups attacked Assamese villages and burned nearly 100 houses.
- The long-standing **border dispute** dates back to the colonial era, and tensions persisted after Nagaland’s creation in 1963 due to overlapping territorial claims in the Disputed Area Belt.
- Nearly 90–100 homes were destroyed and hundreds of families displaced, losing property, documents, and livestock during the overnight assault.
- Assam Police and the CRPF’s 155th Battalion were deployed, while the **Union Home Ministry** initiated an investigation and both state governments pledged cooperation.
- The violence revived political and social tensions in the region, prompting calls to revive inter-state dialogue mechanisms and enhance central oversight for lasting peace.

### E-Waste Surge in India

- India has become the world's **third-largest e-waste generator**, producing about 2 million metric tonnes annually, trailing only China and the United States.
- Between 2019–20 and 2023–24, e-waste generation rose by nearly 73%, reaching about 1.75 million MT last year, with continued rapid growth projected.
- Over 95% of India's e-waste is handled by the **informal sector**, using unsafe dismantling and burning practices that harm both health and the environment.
- Valuable materials like gold, silver, and rare earth elements remain underutilized due to limited formal recycling, despite high **economic potential** in urban mining.
- The **E-Waste (Management) Rules 2022** strengthened producer responsibility and recycling mandates, but weak enforcement and informal-sector exclusion remain key obstacles.

### Rajasthan's First Namo Biodiversity Park Inaugurated in Alwar

- Rajasthan inaugurated its first **Namo Biodiversity Park** in Alwar in October 2025, led by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.
- The 85-acre park, located in the **Aravalli foothills** near Tijara, was developed under the Green Rajasthan Mission to preserve native flora and fauna.
- It aims to restore degraded land, combat desertification, and promote ecological balance in one of India's oldest mountain ranges.
- Facilities include herbal gardens, butterfly zones, and an interpretation centre to enhance public awareness of biodiversity conservation.
- The initiative aligns with national campaigns such as "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, advancing India's green goals.

### ICGS Akshar Commissioned

- The Indian Coast Guard commissioned **ICGS Akshar** at Chennai, enhancing India's maritime security and coastal surveillance capabilities.
- Built indigenously by GRSE, Kolkata, under the '**Make in India**' programme, the ship demonstrates growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- Akshar, an Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel, is equipped with modern surveillance systems and a helicopter deck for extended EEZ operations.
- The 105-metre vessel, manned by 115 personnel, will perform anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, and pollution-response duties along the eastern coast.
- Its induction strengthens India's SAGAR vision of regional maritime security while incorporating green shipbuilding and energy-efficient systems.

### BRO Builds World's Highest Road at 19,400 ft

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** constructed the world's highest motorable road at 19,400 feet in eastern Ladakh under Project Himank.
- The 55-km Chisumle–Demchok stretch surpasses the previous record held by the Umling La road, securing a Guinness World Record.
- Built under extreme climatic conditions, the project showcases India's indigenous engineering excellence in **high-altitude infrastructure**.
- The road enhances all-weather access to forward military posts and remote border villages near the LAC.
- Emphasizing sustainability, BRO used eco-friendly cold mix technologies, aligning with **Viksit Bharat 2047** and Atmanirbhar Bharat objectives.



**Pandit Chhannulal Mishra: Thumri Maestro Passes Away**

- Legendary vocalist **Pandit Chhannulal Mishra** of the Banaras Gharana passed away at 89 in Varanasi.
- Trained under Ustad Abdul Ghani Khan and Pandit Bade Ram Das Ji, he mastered Thumri, Dadra, and Khayal forms.
- His soulful renditions drew from devotional poetry, preserving the **Banaras musical tradition** globally.
- Honoured with the Padma Bhushan (2010) and Padma Vibhushan (2019), he symbolized India's classical heritage.
- Tributes poured in nationwide, with leaders hailing him as a torchbearer of Hindustani classical music.

**Cabinet Approves Nationwide Celebration of 150th Anniversary of Vande Mataram**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved year-long celebrations marking 150 years since Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed *Vande Mataram* in 1875.
- The programme will include exhibitions, music festivals, public recitations, and theatre performances highlighting the song's role in India's **freedom movement**.
- The **Ministry of Culture** will coordinate activities with education departments, Prasar Bharati, and state governments for nationwide outreach.
- A grand inaugural event in **Kolkata**, the song's birthplace, will feature artists, scholars, and youth groups.
- The celebration aligns with the *Azadi Ka Amrit Kaal* vision, including a **commemorative stamp, coin**, and documentary on the song's legacy.

**India's First Cooperative-Run CBG & Potash Project Launched at Kopergaon**

- Union Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated India's first cooperative-run Compressed Biogas (CBG) and Potash Project at **Kopergaon, Maharashtra**.
- Developed by the **Kopergaon Cooperative Sugar Factory**, it integrates biogas generation with potash production for sustainable energy and fertilizer use.
- The project converts sugarcane press-mud and residues into CBG and bio-potash, advancing the **Waste-to-Wealth** mission.
- Supported under the **GOBARdhan** and National Bioenergy schemes, it promotes renewable energy and cooperative-led rural growth.
- It is expected to enhance farmers' income, reduce fertilizer imports, and create **rural employment** through circular economy practices.

**INS Androth Commissioned into Indian Navy**

- The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Androth**, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, at **Visakhapatnam**.
- Designed by the **Directorate of Naval Design** and built by GRSE, Kolkata, it reflects growing indigenous shipbuilding capacity.
- The 77.6-metre ship features advanced sonar, sensors, and weapon systems for coastal and **anti-submarine operations**.
- Powered by water-jet propulsion, it achieves 25 knots and supports multi-role tasks including patrol and search-and-rescue.
- Over 80% of its components are **Made in India**, reinforcing *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and bolstering maritime readiness on the eastern seaboard.

**India to Host 8th International Solar Alliance Assembly in Delhi**

- India will host the **8th ISA** Assembly at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, from October 27–30, 2025, featuring ministerial sessions and policy dialogues on solar deployment.
- Delegations from over 120 countries will review progress under ISA programmes and set cooperative goals for infrastructure, technology transfer, and finance.

- India will spotlight support for the **Global South**, advocating affordable access, resilient supply chains, and scalable models from domestic renewable successes.
- Agenda themes include universal solar electrification, solar agriculture, rooftop adoption, blended finance, risk-mitigation tools, and links to PM-KUSUM and the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Expected outcomes include a roadmap aligned with COP-30 to scale technologies and deepen technical and financial collaboration.

### IAF to Receive First Tejas Mk1A Fighter Jet

- The first two **Tejas Mk1A** aircraft are scheduled for handover on October 17, 2025, at HAL Nashik in a ceremony attended by the Defence Minister.
- The Mk1A adds an AESA radar, advanced electronic warfare, and improved maintainability, representing a major upgrade over the base variant.
- A ₹62,370-crore contract for 97 jets targets 60–65% indigenous content with participation from 105 Indian suppliers.
- Earlier delays from late GE F404-IN20 engine deliveries and integration issues have been addressed to enable induction.
- The programme will help replace MiG-21 fleets, bolster air combat strength, and advance the Make in India aerospace vision.

### SC Opens Route for Junior Judges to Become District Judges

- A five-judge Bench in *Rejanish K.V. vs K. Deepa* reinterpreted Article 233(2), allowing serving judicial officers to compete for bar-quota **district judge** posts.
- The Court held that a minimum of seven years' continuous experience—across advocacy or judicial service, or a combination—must exist at the time of application.
- A uniform minimum age of 35 years applies to all candidates, with breaks in service potentially disqualifying eligibility.
- The ruling is prospective, and states and High Courts must amend recruitment rules within three months.
- Earlier views in *Satya Narain Singh* and *Dheeraj Mor* were expressly overruled to permit this broader eligibility.

### Sherry Singh Wins India's First Mrs Universe Crown

- **Sherry Singh** became the first Indian to win the Mrs Universe 2025 title at the global pageant in Manila, Philippines.
- She triumphed over contestants from more than 80 countries, earning praise for her grace, intellect, and advocacy for women's empowerment.
- Representing India, she promoted women's self-reliance and education, reflecting national priorities of gender equality.
- Her performance, combining cultural pride and global appeal, highlighted India's growing influence in international forums.

### Three Indian Ports Named Green Hydrogen Hubs

- The Ministry designated **Kandla, Paradip, and Tuticorin** as India's initial Green Hydrogen Hubs under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.
- The plan targets self-sufficiency in green fuels, export of hydrogen derivatives, and emissions cuts across port-led shipping.
- Ports have been directed to build hydrogen and ammonia bunkering and refuelling systems by **2030**, aligning with net-zero 2070 goals.
- Public-private investments exceeding ₹20,000 crore will fund renewables-based hydrogen production, desalination, storage, and allied infrastructure.

## 20 Years of RTI Act, 2005

- Enacted on October 12, **2005**, the **RTI Act** replaced the Freedom of Information Act, granting citizens time-bound access to public records.
- The **CIC** and State Commissions were established to hear appeals and enforce compliance across government bodies.
- Over four crore applications have enabled accountability in welfare, spending, and recruitment, aided by online portals and e-hearings.
- Reforms now focus on capacity building, faster redressal, proactive disclosure under **Section 4**, and AI-enabled information retrieval.

## Filmfare Awards 2025 Held in Ahmedabad

- The **70th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2025** were hosted at EKA Arena, Ahmedabad, on October 11—the first-ever edition held in Gujarat.
- Hosted by **Shah Rukh Khan**, **Karan Johar**, and **Maniesh Paul**, the event marked Shah Rukh Khan's return as host after 17 years.
- **Laapataa Ladies** dominated with 13 wins including Best Film and Best Director (**Kiran Rao**), while **Alia Bhatt** won Best Actress for *Jigra*.
- **Abhishek Bachchan** (*I Want to Talk*) and **Kartik Aaryan** (*Chandu Champion*) shared the Best Actor award; **Pankaj Tripathi** won Best Supporting Actor for *Main Atal Hoon*.
- The choice of Ahmedabad as the venue reflected Bollywood's **decentralization** and promoted Gujarat as a rising hub for **film tourism** and culture.

## India's First Semiconductor Innovation Museum Opens

- India inaugurated its first **Semiconductor Innovation Museum** in Bengaluru, dedicated to chronicling the country's advancements in chip design, fabrication, and nanotechnology.
- Established in **October 2025**, the museum serves as an educational and innovation hub to strengthen awareness of India's semiconductor ecosystem.
- Exhibits include interactive fabrication process simulations, AI-integrated circuit displays, and galleries honoring pioneers in Indian and global semiconductor innovation.
- Developed jointly by **MeitY**, the Semiconductor Industry Association of India, and **IISc Bengaluru**, the museum also hosts workshops and research programs on chip design and nanoelectronics.
- It reinforces India's vision under the **India Semiconductor Mission** to become a global semiconductor manufacturing and design hub.

## Shah Rukh Khan Becomes First Bollywood Actor to Join Billionaire Club

- **Shah Rukh Khan** entered the billionaire club with an estimated net worth of ₹12,490 crore in the **Hurun India Rich List 2025**.
- His wealth stems from acting, production under **Red Chillies Entertainment**, IPL franchise **Kolkata Knight Riders**, endorsements, and real estate.
- This marks the first time an Indian film actor has featured among billionaires traditionally dominated by industrialists.
- Globally, SRK's net worth—around USD 1.4 billion—surpassed entertainers like **Taylor Swift**, symbolizing India's entertainment industry power.

## Google to Invest \$15 Billion in AI Data Centre in Andhra Pradesh

- **Google** announced a USD 15 billion investment to establish its first AI hub in India at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh, for 2026–2030.
- The gigawatt-scale facility will include compute infrastructure, subsea cable gateways, and renewable-energy-based data operations



- Partnerships with **AdaniConnex** and **Airtel** will support construction and network integration.
- The project is expected to create over **25,000 jobs** and contribute about ₹10,000 crore to the state economy, strengthening India's digital infrastructure.

### India Unveils \$77 Billion Hydro Plan Amid China's Dam Push

- India launched a ₹6.4 trillion (**USD 77 billion**) hydropower master plan to harness 76 GW potential in the **Brahmaputra basin** by 2047.
- The scheme covers 208 projects across 12 sub-basins, with **Arunachal Pradesh** contributing over 52 GW.
- Phase I (till 2035) will cost ₹1.91 trillion, and Phase II (till 2047) ₹4.52 trillion, led by **NHPC**, **NEEPCO**, and **SJVN**.
- The initiative counters China's upstream dams and supports India's **energy security** and **non-fossil capacity** targets of 500 GW by 2030.

### Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh Wins Global Sustainability Award

- **Dr. Sonali Ghosh**, Director of Kaziranga National Park & Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to win the **Kenton R. Miller Award** by IUCN-WCPA.
- She was recognised for community-based conservation integrating local knowledge and modern science.
- Under her leadership, Kaziranga addressed **floods, poaching, and conflict**, strengthening ecosystem resilience.
- Her award spotlights India's innovation in conservation and gender leadership in protected-area management.

### Hindustan Shipyard Granted Mini Ratna Status

- The Government of India conferred **Mini Ratna-I** status on Hindustan Shipyard Limited for sustained profitability and strategic performance.
- The designation allows its Board to approve capital expenditure up to ₹500 crore without prior government clearance, expediting modernization and capacity expansion.
- Established in 1941 at Visakhapatnam, HSL has evolved into a key yard for submarine refits, naval vessels, and support ships.
- The move aligns with Maritime India Vision 2030 and *Make in India*, strengthening indigenous defence shipbuilding.

### Uttarakhand Hosts AI Impact Summit Ahead of India-AI 2026

- **Dehradun** hosted the **AI Impact Summit 2025**, organized by MeitY and the Uttarakhand government, as a precursor to the India-AI 2026 Global Summit.
- The event centered on the theme "Harnessing AI for Bharat: Innovation, Ethics, and Inclusion," focusing on AI's role in healthcare, climate resilience, and education.
- Over **1,500 delegates**, including representatives from NITI Aayog, IITs, DRDO, ISRO, and global institutions like OECD and UNESCO, attended the summit.
- Indian startups showcased AI innovations for Himalayan disaster management, precision farming, and green energy optimization.
- Discussions reaffirmed India's commitment to the **National AI Programme** and the upcoming **AI (Accountability and Governance) Bill 2026**, ensuring responsible, inclusive, and ethical AI use.

### Ministry Releases State Mining Readiness Index Rankings

- The **Ministry of Mines** launched the first **State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)** in January 2025 to assess states' preparedness in the non-coal mining sector.
- The rankings evaluate reform implementation, transparency, and sustainability to promote **competitive federalism** in mineral governance.
- Madhya Pradesh, Goa, and Punjab topped **Categories A, B, and C** respectively, reflecting leadership across different resource capacities.
- The index emphasizes sustainable practices, community welfare, and early mine operationalisation to reduce allocation delays.

- SMRI performance is linked with incentives under **PMKKKY** and **DMF**, aiming to strengthen mineral self-reliance and reduce import dependency.

### **FSSAI Bans 'ORS' Label on Food Products**

- The **FSSAI** issued a directive on October 18, 2025, banning food manufacturers from using the term '**Oral rehydration solutions (ORS)**' on beverage and electrolyte drink labels.
- The regulator clarified that ORS is a **medical formulation** under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and cannot be used for marketing food products.
- All food business operators must remove "ORS" or similar expressions from packaging and advertising within 30 days.
- FSSAI warned that imitation ORS drinks with high sugar and sodium levels could pose **public health risks**, especially to children and athletes.
- Misbranding violations will invite penalties under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, and only CDSCO-approved drugs may claim rehydration therapy benefits.

### **India Restores Full Embassy in Kabul**

- India upgraded its Kabul mission from a technical office to **full embassy status**, signalling renewed diplomatic engagement after the 2021 Taliban takeover.
- The step follows a policy of engagement without recognition, balancing humanitarian assistance with regional security interests in Afghanistan.
- The embassy will coordinate developmental assistance, humanitarian projects, and people-to-people ties while enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation to safeguard India's strategic interests.
- The move aligns with wider regional diplomacy involving Iran, Russia, and Central Asian partners to support stability in and around Afghanistan

### **Kerala Declared India's First Extreme Poverty-Free State**

- Kerala was declared India's first **extreme poverty-free** state under the Nava Keralam Mission after a statewide review across fourteen districts.
- The programme identified and rehabilitated more than sixty-four thousand families using a data-backed mapping of multiple deprivations.
- Interventions combined pucca housing, free healthcare access, educational assistance, and skill-linked livelihoods while dovetailing existing welfare schemes.
- The United Nations Development Programme supported monitoring and evaluation to ensure measurable progress and sustainable outcomes aligned with inclusive governance.

### **Article 371-Type Safeguards Offered to Ladakh**

- The Union Government proposed **Article 371 safeguards** for Ladakh during talks on statehood and institutional protections.
- The offer emerged in discussions with the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance representing diverse regional and religious communities.
- Article 371-type provisions provide region-specific protections without changing the Union Territory's structure, balancing local aspirations and strategic considerations.
- The proposed scope covers land ownership, public employment priority for locals, and preservation of cultural and linguistic heritage.

### **Jammu and Kashmir Restores Biannual Darbar Move**

- The administration revived the **Darbar Move** after a four-year pause, restoring the biannual shift of offices between Srinagar and Jammu.

- Initiated in 1872 by Maharaja Ranbir Singh, the tradition ensured governance across two distinct regions and climates.
- The revival aims to balance development and public service delivery while honouring the cultural legacy of the erstwhile princely state.
- Key departments will alternate every six months to strengthen outreach, grievance redressal, and administrative coordination.

#### **Kerala to Build First Underwater Tunnel Linking Vypin and Fort Kochi**

- Kerala approved India's first **underwater road tunnel** beneath Vembanad Lake to connect Vypin and Fort Kochi.
- The twin-tube, four-lane design spans about three kilometres using immersed tunnel technology to ensure safety and durability.
- With an estimated cost of ₹1,950 crore, the project will follow a public-private partnership model over an expected five-year timeline.
- The tunnel targets faster cross-channel travel, decongested roads, and enhanced connectivity to commercial and tourism hubs with rigorous environmental safeguards.

#### **Jammu and Kashmir to Hold First Rajya Sabha Elections Since 2019**

- Jammu and Kashmir will conduct its first **Rajya Sabha elections** since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, restoring regular parliamentary representation for the Union Territory.
- The Election Commission of India scheduled polls in late October 2025 to fill four Upper House seats vacant since February 2021.
- The electoral college will comprise the newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly from ninety constituencies across Jammu and Kashmir.
- The polls follow Assembly elections and signal the normalization of democratic processes after years under President's Rule and Lieutenant Governor's administration.

#### **Chhattisgarh Successfully Revives Blackbuck Population**

- The **Chhattisgarh Forest Department** announced the return of blackbucks after 50 years through focused conservation at **Nava Raipur Jungle Safari**.
- Breeding programs using founders from Haryana and Telangana achieved a steady rise in population under strict monitoring.
- Grassland restoration and local participation improved habitat quality and reduced poaching incidents.
- Listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act**, blackbucks now serve as a flagship species for eco-tourism and biodiversity recovery.
- The initiative is hailed as a model for **species rewilding** and sustainable wildlife management in central India.

#### **Sundarbans' SAIME Model Wins FAO Global Recognition**

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** recognized the **SAIME model** (Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems) for balancing aquaculture with mangrove conservation.
- Developed by Kolkata-based **NEWS**, it integrates fish farming and ecosystem restoration to sustain local livelihoods.
- The model promotes indigenous species cultivation, mangrove-friendly ponds, and reduces reliance on forest resources.
- It enhances **climate resilience** against cyclones and sea-level rise through community-based participation and women's empowerment.
- The award strengthens India's global image in **nature-based livelihood** models aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **India Rises to Ninth in Forest Area, Retains Third in Annual Forest Gain**

- The Food and Agriculture Organization's **Global Forest Resources Assessment** 2025 records India rising to ninth in total forest area and retaining third in annual forest gain.
- India's forest cover exceeds twenty-four percent of its geographical area, reflecting sustained plantation drives and improved forest management.
- Growth is driven by the Green India Mission, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority projects, and the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, with strong community participation through Joint Forest Management.
- Enhanced remote sensing, geographic information system mapping, and digital inventories have strengthened monitoring, carbon sequestration estimates, and biodiversity protection including mangroves and urban green spaces.

#### **Wildlife Institute of India Reports Elephant Population at 30,150**

- The Wildlife Institute of India's 2025 report estimates India's wild **elephant population** at 30,150, confirming that over sixty percent of Asia's elephants live in India.
- Karnataka hosts the largest numbers followed by Assam and Kerala, with significant populations in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and West Bengal.
- The count shows roughly a ten percent rise since 2017, supported by Project Elephant, corridor restoration, and eco-bridge initiatives that improve landscape connectivity.
- Human-elephant conflict is increasing where agriculture, railways, and infrastructure intersect migration routes, and over one quarter of traditional corridors face encroachment pressures.
- Planned measures include higher allocations for Project Elephant and stronger eco-sensitive zones around reserves such as Wayanad, Nilgiri, and Kaziranga to secure long-term protection.

#### **Five Maharashtra Beaches Receive Blue Flag Certification**

- Maharashtra's Kunkeshwar, Tarkarli, Guhagar, Diveagar, and Aare Ware beaches earned **Blue Flag** certification in 2025 for meeting high environmental, safety, and accessibility standards.
- The Blue Flag label, awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Denmark, assesses thirty-three criteria including water quality, waste management, and ecosystem protection.
- With these designations, India's tally rises to twenty certified beaches, advancing eco-tourism and clean-coast initiatives led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The Society of Integrated Coastal Management implements the Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services programme nationwide, supporting tourism, livelihoods, and scientific shoreline stewardship.

#### **Mukhi becomes first India-born cheetah to reach adulthood at Kuno**

- **Mukhi** was born on March 29, 2023 to Jwala, a Namibian cheetah translocated under the reintroduction programme at **Kuno** National Park.
- After her siblings died during a heatwave and she was abandoned, authorities rescued and hand-reared her.
- At **915 days**, she has officially reached adulthood and can contribute to breeding and population stability.
- India now has 27 cheetahs across Kuno and Gandhi Sagar, with 16 India-born and 19 total deaths recorded since reintroduction.
- Her survival strengthens **Project Cheetah** prospects and supports plans to expand habitats and genetic diversity.

#### **Approval withdrawn for 11 animal-based biostimulants**

- The Agriculture Ministry removed 11 animal-derived **biostimulants** from Schedule VI of the **FCO**, suspending their authorisation.
- The decision responds to religious and dietary concerns regarding materials like bovine hide, feathers, and fish derivatives.
- **ICAR** indicated approvals are withheld pending adequate pre-harvest interval data for foliar sprays.
- Earlier 2025 clearances now face scientific and ethical review under the amended FCO framework.
- Industry may pivot to plant-based alternatives in a fast-growing market segment.



## INTERNATIONAL

### India Nominates IIT-Madras for UN Centre of Excellence in AI

- India has nominated **IIT-Madras** to host a UN Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence to strengthen research, skills, and global collaboration.
- The centre will prioritise capacity building for the **Global South**, emphasizing inclusive development and technology access.
- Core activities will include research, training, model development, and collaborative projects anchored at IIT-Madras.
- The move aligns with national AI goals under **IndiaAI** and broader tech strategy, reflecting growing international recognition of India's AI leadership.
- Formal UN approvals, mandate setting, and resource allocation will shape the centre's scope and operations.

### India's SDG 3 Progress Shows Gains with Persistent Gaps

- India's score on SDG 3 improved by roughly 22 points between 2018 and 2021, indicating progress on several health indicators.
- Maternal health remains off-track for 2030 targets, with current trends unlikely to meet desired **MMR** reductions.
- Child and neonatal deaths have declined, but the pace of improvement must accelerate to sustain SDG 3 momentum.
- Between 1991 and 2019, density of the **health workforce** fell from about 1.22 to 0.73 per 1,000, constraining service delivery.
- The rising burden of **NCDs** and injuries, along with wide state-level disparities and system fragmentation, continues to hinder overall target attainment.

### Türkiye and United States sign civil nuclear cooperation MoU

- During President Erdoğan's visit to Washington, the governments signed an **MoU** on Strategic Civil Nuclear Cooperation in the presence of both leaders and the U.S. Secretary of State.
- The accord spans large nuclear plants, collaboration on **SMRs**, and medical and industrial nuclear applications.
- Ankara seeks energy **diversification** and reduced dependence on external gas suppliers while strengthening the resilience of its energy mix.
- The cooperation balances Türkiye's existing Russian-led **Akkuyu** project by engaging U.S. partners without replacing legacy ties.
- For Washington, the agreement advances regional influence and counters Russian and Chinese presence in global nuclear markets.

### Wassenaar Arrangement debate after Microsoft-Azure allegations

- Global protests followed allegations that Microsoft Azure supported Israeli military operations in Palestine, prompting scrutiny of export-control gaps.
- The Wassenaar Arrangement, formed in 1996 with 42 participating states including India since 2017, promotes transparency in trade of conventional arms and dual-use technologies.
- Its control architecture comprises a Munitions List and a Dual-Use List, which expanded in 2013 to include "intrusion software."
- Critics argue the framework struggles to govern cloud, software, and remote-access services, as these can function like de facto exports without physical transfer.
- Activists pressed Microsoft to act, and the company later disabled some Azure subscriptions tied to an Israeli defence unit, fueling calls to update Wassenaar to cover cloud, AI, and surveillance tools.



**Elon Musk becomes world's first half-trillionaire**

- In October 2025, **Forbes** reported Elon Musk's net worth reaching USD 500 billion, briefly peaking at 500.1 billion before minor market dips.
- The surge was driven primarily by **Tesla** stock gains alongside high valuations for SpaceX, xAI, and other ventures.
- Earlier in 2025, Larry Ellison briefly overtook Musk, but Musk regained and widened the lead by October.
- A proposed ten-year **compensation** plan at Tesla worth up to USD 1 trillion could further raise his wealth if targets are met.
- The milestone spotlights extreme wealth concentration and renews debate on taxation, regulation, and market influence of ultra-rich individuals.

**India re-elected to ICAO Council (Part II) for 2025–2028**

- India won re-election to **Part II** of the **ICAO Council** for **2025–2028**, reflecting stronger member-state confidence than in 2022.
- Part II includes states that contribute significantly to global air-navigation infrastructure and services.
- The Council comprises 36 states elected by the Assembly and is divided into Parts I, II, and III for balanced representation.
- India mounted a diplomatic push through MoCA, MEA, and its ICAO mission ahead of voting.
- India pledged to advance safety, equitable connectivity, innovation, and **No Country Left Behind** capacity building.

**India-EFTA TEPA enters into force with \$100 billion pledge**

- **TEPA** with the **EFTA** bloc has taken effect, launching an investment objective of **\$100 billion** over 15 years and a plan to enable 1 million direct jobs.
- The commitment is phased: \$50 billion in the first 10 years and \$50 billion in the subsequent five, excluding FPIs in favour of long-term capital.
- Tariff liberalisation covers 92.2% of EFTA lines and 82.7% of India's, with sensitive sectors partially protected.
- Services provisions include professional recognition and mobility via multiple delivery modes.
- An India-EFTA Desk will facilitate investors, matchmake opportunities, and monitor implementation.

**Singapore renames island as 'Zubeen Garg Island' to honour late Assamese icon**

- Singapore renamed a prominent island to Zubeen Garg Island, replacing earlier public references to St. John's Island as a tribute after his death in September 2025 near Lazarus Island.
- Zubeen Garg died on September 19, 2025 while swimming during a cultural event, triggering widespread grief across Assam and India.
- The renaming highlights the cross-community reach of his music and its ability to transcend linguistic and regional boundaries.
- By inscribing his name on a major landmark, Singapore signals that his legacy extends beyond India into global cultural memory.

**Mukesh Ambani returns to No. 1 on Hurun India Rich List 2025**

- Mukesh Ambani reclaimed the top position with an estimated net worth of ₹9.55 lakh crore, ahead of Gautam Adani at about ₹8.15 lakh crore.
- India now counts 284 billionaires, ranking third globally by number, which underscores the competitive context of Ambani's lead.
- Despite a decline of nearly ₹1 lakh crore from the previous year, diversified holdings helped him retain the top spot.
- Reliance's portfolio across petrochemicals, refining, telecom, retail, digital services, and green energy underpins investor confidence and renewed scrutiny of wealth concentration.

**World Green Economy Summit 2025 spotlights innovation-led climate action in Dubai**

- The 11th WGES at the Dubai World Trade Centre centred on translating climate pledges into scalable outcomes under the theme “Innovating for Impact.”
- A ministerial roundtable brought together climate and environment leaders from several countries to align policies, unlock green finance, and deepen public–private cooperation.
- Organisers advanced mechanisms within the World Green Economy Organization to monitor voluntary commitments and strengthen accountability.
- Corporate speakers urged embedding sustainability into core business models rather than treating it as peripheral compliance, framing it as a driver of resilience and growth.

**Mirabai Chanu wins silver at 2025 World Weightlifting Championships**

- Competing in Fårde on October 2, 2025, she totaled 199 kg in the women’s 48 kg category with 84 kg in snatch and 115 kg in clean & jerk.
- Her snatch earned a segment bronze, and clean & jerk lifts of 109 kg, 112 kg, and 115 kg secured the overall silver.
- Gold went to North Korea’s Ri Song-gum with 213 kg, while Thailand’s Thanyathon Sukcharoen took bronze with 198 kg.
- The medal marks her first world podium since 2022 and signals a strong comeback after injury setbacks.

**Poland Joins NATO Fuel Pipeline Network After 25 Years**

- **Poland joined** NATO’s Central Europe Pipeline System (CEPS), marking the alliance’s first major network expansion in two decades.
- CEPS spans 5,300 km, delivering aviation fuel and diesel to military bases and NATO operations across Europe.
- Poland’s entry boosts NATO’s eastern logistics and energy resilience amid heightened regional tensions.
- State firm **PERN S.A.** will oversee national operations and integration under NATO logistics coordination.
- The move aligns with NATO’s 2030 framework to fortify supply chains and energy security on its eastern flank.

**Exercise Konkan 2025 Begins Off India’s West Coast**

- **Exercise Konkan 2025**, the annual India–UK naval drill, commenced off India’s western coast to enhance maritime cooperation.
- The Indian Navy deployed INS Chennai and P-8I aircraft, while the Royal Navy participated with HMS Portland and helicopters.
- The exercise focuses on surface warfare, anti-submarine drills, and cross-deck helicopter operations to improve interoperability.
- It underscores shared Indo-Pacific objectives of **freedom of navigation** and regional stability under India’s SAGAR vision.
- The engagement also fosters defence diplomacy and technological exchange within the UK’s Global Britain policy framework.

**Philippines Launches Southeast Asia’s First Coral Cryobank**

- The Philippines inaugurated the region’s first **Coral Cryobank** in Manila to preserve marine biodiversity amid climate threats.
- The project, led by the **DENR** with the University of the Philippines, will store coral gametes and tissues using cryogenic methods.
- Samples will be preserved in **liquid nitrogen**, enabling long-term reef restoration and research.
- It aims to protect coral diversity in the **Coral Triangle**, threatened by rising temperatures and pollution.
- Supported by the **ADB** and UNESCO’s Ocean Decade, it will serve as a model for regional cooperation in reef conservation.

### First Woman to Lead NASA as Acting Administrator

- Janet E. Petro was appointed **Acting Administrator** of NASA on January 20, 2025.
- The appointment made **Janet Petro** the first woman ever to head NASA in any capacity.
- She oversaw NASA's programmes, operations, and budget during the leadership transition.
- She succeeded Bill Nelson and served until July 9, 2025, after which Sean Duffy became Acting Administrator.
- She has been Director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center since June 2021.

### WHO Flags Teen Vaping Surge as Global Addiction Risk

- The **WHO** warned of a worldwide rise in **teen vaping**, calling it a major public-health risk.
- At least 15 million adolescents aged 13–15 use e-cigarettes, and teens are nine times likelier than adults to vape in countries with data.
- More than 100 million people vape globally, of whom about 86 million are adults.
- The tobacco industry is pushing new nicotine products such as e-cigarettes as conventional smoking declines.
- WHO urged tighter regulation, ad bans, taxation, and enforcement, noting youth who vape are about three times likelier to start smoking later.

### Khaled El-Enany Set to Become First Arab UNESCO Chief

- The UNESCO Executive Board voted 55–2 to nominate **El-Enany** of Egypt as the next **Director-General**.
- His nomination now goes to all UNESCO member states for ratification at the November General Conference.
- If confirmed, he would be the first Arab to lead **UNESCO**, marking a historic first for the agency
- An Egyptologist and Helwan University professor, he earlier served as Minister of Tourism and Antiquities.
- He has directed the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and led major museum renovation projects.

### Israel, Hamas Agree to First Phase of Gaza Peace Plan

- The parties accepted a U.S.-brokered proposal featuring a ceasefire and phased Israeli withdrawal to a pre-agreed line.
- Hamas will release all living hostages within 72 hours of withdrawal, while Israel will free hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.
- Humanitarian convoys carrying food, medicines, and relief supplies will enter Gaza at higher volumes after hostilities halt.
- Implementation requires Israeli cabinet approval, after which the ceasefire is slated to begin within 24 hours.
- Unresolved issues—post-war governance, disarmament, security guarantees, and reconstruction—will be negotiated in subsequent phases.

### India and Australia Sign Key Defence Agreements

- India and Australia signed multiple **defence cooperation agreements** in New Delhi to strengthen Indo-Pacific security.
- The pacts cover logistics support, intelligence sharing, and joint research in advanced military technologies.
- Both nations emphasized **maritime collaboration** in the Indian Ocean through joint patrols, information exchange, and exercises.
- Defence Ministers Rajnath Singh and Richard Marles co-chaired the talks, reaffirming strategic alignment under the Quad framework.
- The agreements expand drills such as **AUSINDEX**, Pitch Black, and MALABAR, while promoting defence innovation and joint manufacturing.

### THE World University Rankings 2026 Released

- The 2026 edition of the **Times Higher Education** World University Rankings assessed over 2,000 institutions across 108 countries.
- The University of Oxford topped the list for the eighth year, followed by Stanford and Harvard.

- India recorded its best-ever representation with over 90 universities listed, led by **IISc Bengaluru** in the global top 200.
- IITs Delhi, Bombay, and Madras showed strong improvements in research and industry collaboration.
- The rankings adopted a new methodology stressing **research quality**, social impact, and alignment with UN SDGs.

### **World Mental Health Day 2025: “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right”**

- The **WHO** led the global observance of World Mental Health Day 2025 under the theme “Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.”
- The initiative underscored equitable access to mental healthcare and the need to combat stigma and neglect.
- First marked in 1992 by the **World Federation for Mental Health**, the day has grown into a global awareness movement.
- Over 150 countries hosted events and campaigns promoting resilience, workplace well-being, and youth mental health.
- In India, the **Health Ministry and NIMHANS** organized national programmes like “Mind Matters” to promote emotional wellness and early intervention.

### **Delhi Declaration Elevates Global South Cities at COP30**

- Over 60 mayors endorsed the Delhi Declaration to amplify **Global South** urban priorities in climate negotiations toward **COP30**.
- The statement urges equitable access to adaptation finance, recognition of urban loss and damage, and inclusive funding mechanisms.
- Cities committed to resilient infrastructure, clean mobility, renewables, and nature-based solutions aligned with India’s **LiFE** mission.
- A Global South Urban Climate Fund was proposed with partners including **C40** Cities, MDBs, private investors, and philanthropies.

### **Rishi Sunak Joins Microsoft and Anthropic as Adviser**

- **Sunak** will advise **Microsoft** and **Anthropic** on governance and safety of advanced **AI**, bridging policy and industry practice.
- His role follows the 2023 UK AI Safety Summit and creation of the UK AI Safety Institute during his premiership.
- The appointment aims to advance transparent, accountable standards while enabling secure frontier-model development.
- He is expected to strengthen cooperation among regulators, governments, and firms on ethics, cybersecurity, and global safeguards.

### **Palau Hosts World’s First Live Underwater Interview**

- The Pacific island nation **Palau** conducted the world’s first live underwater interview beneath its coral lagoons to promote ocean conservation.
- The broadcast, themed “*Voices Beneath the Waves*”, highlighted threats from **climate change**, coral bleaching, and rising sea levels.
- Organized with **UNESCO**, **OceanX**, and global media, it featured Palau’s President and marine scientists discussing blue economy strategies.
- Advanced submersible cameras, underwater communication systems, and satellite links enabled real-time global coverage.
- The initiative showcased Palau’s innovative environmental diplomacy and its leadership in ocean sustainability.

### **India, Australia Begin Joint Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025**

- India and Australia began the **AUSTRAHIND 2025** military exercise in **Perth**, focusing on interoperability and multi-domain warfare training.



- The exercise involves Gorkha Rifles from India and the **Royal Australian Regiment**, conducting counterterrorism and disaster-relief drills.
- It aims to boost coordination in semi-urban and jungle warfare and enhance operational readiness for **UN peacekeeping** roles.
- AUSTRAHIND strengthens Indo-Pacific defence cooperation under the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**, complementing the Quad framework.
- It also expands joint training, logistics, and defence innovation ties, highlighting deepening trust between both armed forces.

### **Maldives First to End Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hep B, and Syphilis**

- **WHO** validated the **Maldives** as the first country to achieve “triple elimination” of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B.
- Success came through near-universal antenatal screening, free treatment, and 95 % vaccine coverage for newborns.
- No new MTCT cases were reported in 2022–23, with a national school survey showing zero hepatitis B infections.
- The achievement reflects strong **universal health coverage** and equitable access for migrant populations.
- **Israel to Honor Donald Trump for Gaza Ceasefire Mediation**
- **Israel** will award the **Presidential Medal of Honor** to Donald J. Trump for his role in brokering the Gaza ceasefire and hostage release.
- The truce secured the freedom of all remaining Israeli hostages and over 1,700 Palestinian detainees.
- President **Isaac Herzog** praised Trump’s “steadfast support” and announced the medal will be conferred in coming months.
- The decision mirrors past honors to global leaders like **Barack Obama** (2013) and reinforces Israel’s diplomatic gratitude.

### **IUCN Releases 2025 World Heritage Conservation Outlook**

- **IUCN’s Outlook 4** reviewed 271 UNESCO World Heritage sites, finding only 57 % with a “positive conservation outlook,” down from 62 % in 2020.
- **Climate change** was cited as the most severe threat, impacting 43 % of sites through melting glaciers, coral bleaching, and wildfires.
- Invasive species affect 30 % of sites, while pathogens now pose high risk in 9 %.
- India’s **Sundarbans** declined to “Significant Concerns” due to salinity and storm damage, highlighting the need for improved management and funding.

### **Henley Passport Index 2025: Singapore Tops, India Slips to 85**

- **Singapore** retained the world’s most powerful passport with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 195 destinations, reflecting exceptional travel freedom.
- Japan, South Korea, and Germany jointly ranked second, with Spain, Finland, and Italy close behind, underscoring Europe and East Asia’s dominance in mobility.
- **India** fell two spots to rank 85, offering visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 62 destinations including Indonesia, Thailand, Kenya, and Sri Lanka.
- India now ranks below Kenya and Mongolia, highlighting comparatively limited access for Indian travellers among emerging economies.
- The index is compiled by Henley & Partners using **IATA** data, and regional trends place China at rank 64 while Bangladesh and Pakistan rank 98 and 106.



**US Announces \$20 Billion Aid to Stabilize Argentina**

- The United States unveiled a \$20 billion assistance package coordinated with the **IMF** and World Bank to stabilize Argentina's economy.
- The aid targets relief from triple-digit inflation, currency stress, and IMF debt overhang while enabling gradual structural reforms.
- Instruments include direct budget support, concessional lending, technical assistance, and measures to protect vulnerable households.
- Washington also seeks to bolster regional financial resilience and counterbalance expanding external influence in South America.

**India Elected to UN Human Rights Council for 2026–28**

- India won a UNHRC seat with **184/193** votes from the Asia-Pacific group, reflecting broad diplomatic support.
- This will be India's sixth term since 2006, reinforcing its role as a Global South advocate.
- India pledged to advance gender equality, digital inclusion, and the indivisibility of civil, political, economic, and social rights.
- It aims to pursue cooperation-focused approaches on rights issues while promoting climate justice and global digital rights frameworks.

**Samudra Shakti 2025: India–Indonesia Naval Exercise**

- The fifth **Samudra Shakti** began in the Java Sea to enhance interoperability, maritime security, and regional stability.
- India deployed INS Shivalik and a P-8I, while Indonesia fielded a Bung Tomo-class frigate, helicopters, and patrol vessels.
- Drills covered surface warfare, anti-submarine operations, replenishment at sea, and maritime interdiction.
- The exercise supports India's Act East Policy and Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum, strengthening a rules-based Indo-Pacific.

**Vivek Menon First Asian Chair of IUCN Species Survival Commission**

- **Vivek Menon**, founder-CEO of WTI, was elected Chair of the **IUCN SSC**, marking the first time an Asian leads the commission.
- The SSC coordinates 10,000+ experts across 180 specialist groups to assess species status, update the Red List, and guide action plans
- As Chair, he will steer global initiatives to protect threatened species and deepen collaboration among scientists, governments, and NGOs.
- The appointment spotlights Asia's growing conservation leadership and showcases India's strengths in species recovery, anti-poaching, and habitat restoration.

**U.S. Approves Tomahawk Missiles Sale to India**

- The United States cleared India's acquisition of **Tomahawk Block V** cruise missiles for integration on Visakhapatnam- and Kolkata-class destroyers.
- The subsonic missiles exceed 1,600 km range and strike land or maritime targets with high precision and network-enabled retargeting.
- The purchase boosts deterrence and power projection across the **Indo-Pacific**, enhancing sea-control and sea-denial options.
- Multi-platform launch flexibility and advanced navigation improve interoperability with U.S. and Quad partners; the system is built by Raytheon.

### Uruguay Legalises Euthanasia — First in Latin America

- **Uruguay** became the first Latin American country to legalise euthanasia and assisted dying after its Parliament passed the reform bill.
- The law permits terminally ill adults enduring unbearable suffering to seek medical assistance to end life under strict safeguards.
- A **National Commission on Euthanasia** will oversee ethical compliance and prevent coercion or misuse.
- The reform cements Uruguay's reputation for progressive rights, following its legalization of same-sex marriage and cannabis.
- Human rights groups hailed the law as compassionate, though religious organizations criticized it as contrary to the sanctity of life.

### Belgian Court Approves Mehul Choksi Extradition

- A **Belgian appellate court** approved India's request to extradite **Mehul Choksi**, key accused in the ₹13,500-crore **PNB fraud case**.
- The court dismissed Choksi's claim of political persecution, confirming the criminal nature of charges presented by **CBI** and **ED**.
- The 2018 scam involved fraudulent Letters of Undertaking from PNB's Mumbai branch, aiding Choksi and Nirav Modi in illegal credit acquisition.
- India's detailed case under **PMLA** and the Extradition Treaty convinced the court of fair trial assurance.
- The ruling reinforces India's success in pursuing economic fugitives abroad and strengthens its global anti-fraud credibility.

### India-MERCOSUR Preferential Trade Agreement Expansion Talks

- India and **MERCOSUR** began negotiations in 2025 to expand their **Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** signed in 2004 and operational since 2009.
- The updated framework will extend tariff concessions to **3,000–4,000 products** and may include services and investment chapters.
- Current bilateral trade exceeds **USD 17 billion**, with key Indian exports in chemicals and engineering, and imports of soy oil and minerals.
- The move enhances India's **South-South cooperation** and access to Latin America's critical minerals and agri-resources.
- A Joint Administrative Committee oversees the agreement's review, addressing issues like logistics, customs, and trade facilitation.

### Tuvalu Joins IUCN as 90th Member State

- **Tuvalu**, one of the world's most climate-threatened nations, became the **90th Member State** of the **IUCN** on October 22, 2025.
- Membership strengthens its efforts in **marine conservation**, coral reef protection, and coastal resilience against rising sea levels.
- Tuvalu gains access to IUCN's funding, research, and technical expertise for implementing projects like the **Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project**.
- The island nation aims to amplify its voice on **climate justice** and "loss and damage" financing within global climate negotiations.
- Its participation enhances Pacific regional coordination on ocean governance and environmental diplomacy.

### India and United Kingdom Launch Ramanujan Fellowship for Young Scientists

- India and the United Kingdom launched the **Ramanujan Fellowship** to strengthen bilateral cooperation in science, technology, and innovation.

- The programme, led by the Department of Science and Technology and the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, will support early-career researchers in artificial intelligence, clean energy, health sciences, and quantum technologies.
- Over five years, the fellowship will support seventy-five young scientists from both countries through joint projects, exchanges, mentorship, and access to advanced research infrastructure.
- Named for Srinivasa Ramanujan, the initiative promotes research aligned with sustainable development, digital innovation, renewable technologies, and healthcare solutions.

### Peru Declares Thirty-Day State of Emergency in Lima

- On 21 October 2025, Peru declared a **state of emergency** in Lima for thirty days to address violent protests and threats to public order.
- The decree temporarily suspends freedoms of assembly, movement, and protest while authorising the Armed Forces to support the National Police in securing key infrastructure.
- Demonstrations demanding the resignation of President Dina Boluarte were driven by economic hardship, unemployment, inflation, and dissatisfaction with political reforms.
- Reports indicated injuries, fatalities, and damage to public buildings and transport routes, prompting calls from the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for restraint and dialogue.

### Rodrigo Paz Wins Bolivia's Presidential Runoff

- **Rodrigo Paz** of the Civic Community alliance won the 2025 presidential runoff, signalling a political shift from the long dominance of the Movement for Socialism.
- The president-elect, son of former president Jaime Paz Zamora, previously served as senator and mayor of Tarija with a moderate and reform-oriented stance.
- He pledged institutional stability, democratic reforms, anti-corruption measures, and economic diversification to reduce dependence on natural gas exports.
- He plans balanced diplomacy with regional partners while preserving national sovereignty and will assume office in January 2026 after announcing his cabinet.

### Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System

- Saudi Arabia announced the **Kafala system abolished**, replacing it with a rights-based labour framework under Vision 2030
- Migrant workers may change employers after contract completion or with prior notice and obtain exit and re-entry visas without employer consent.
- Reforms include digital grievance redressal, transparent wage protection, and enforceable contracts to curb exploitation and forced labour.
- The shift affects millions of South and Southeast Asian workers and has been welcomed by international human rights and labour organisations.

### Sunil Amrith Wins British Academy Book Prize

- Historian Sunil Amrith received the **British Academy Prize** for Global Cultural Understanding 2025 for "The Burning Earth."
- The work examines climate change, migration, and inequality in the Global South through historical analysis and narrative scholarship.
- The jury cited originality, depth of research, and relevance to public discourse on environmental justice and development.
- The London ceremony highlighted the book's contribution to linking environmental history with contemporary policy debates.

### United Nations Day 2025 Marks Eightieth Anniversary of the Charter

- **United Nations Day** on 24 October 2025 marked eighty years since the Charter entered into force in 1945, commemorating the organization's founding.
- The theme "Uniting for Peace, People, and Planet" emphasized multilateral cooperation on climate change, inequality, conflict, and humanitarian crises.
- Governments, agencies, schools, and civil society organized events worldwide to highlight contributions toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- India reaffirmed commitments to peacekeeping, climate action, and representation of Global South priorities, while the flag's olive branches and world map symbolized international unity.

### India Re-Elected Vice-Chair of Conference of Parties Bureau on Anti-Doping

- India was re-elected Vice-Chair of the Bureau of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Convention against Doping in Sport, underscoring **anti-doping leadership**.
- India was represented by the National Anti-Doping Agency under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, reflecting sustained compliance, testing, and education efforts.
- The tenth session in Paris included more than one hundred ninety member countries alongside the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and international sports bodies.
- India highlighted the National Anti-Doping Act 2022 and the National Dope Testing Laboratory in New Delhi as pillars of enforcement, investigation, and athlete outreach.

### IUCN recognises India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve

- At the **IUCN Congress 2025**, the **Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay** received formal global recognition.
- Notified in 2022, the 448.34 sq km reserve safeguards critical seagrass meadows and remnant dugong populations.
- Dugongs are Vulnerable on the Red List, with Indian numbers estimated around 200–250 individuals.
- Protection of seagrass beds aids biodiversity, fisheries, and carbon sequestration.
- The motion urged long-term monitoring, capacity building, and model replication across dugong habitats.

### India's First National Red List Unveiled at IUCN Congress

- India released its first **national Red List** of threatened species at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Geneva.
- Jointly launched by the **MoEFCC** and the Zoological Survey of India, it assesses over 12,000 species across major taxonomic groups.
- Many endemic species from the **Western Ghats** and **Eastern Himalayas** were found to be "Vulnerable" or "Endangered."
- The list, developed with 50 research institutions, will guide habitat protection and **policy integration** under the National Biodiversity Mission.
- It aligns with the **Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, reinforcing India's role in global biodiversity conservation.

### UN Reports Record CO<sub>2</sub> Rise in 2024

- The **WMO** reported global **CO<sub>2</sub> concentration** reached 422 ppm in 2024, marking one of the sharpest annual increases ever.
- Emissions were driven by fossil fuels, industry, and deforestation, with Asia and North America contributing over 60%.
- Natural carbon sinks weakened as forests and oceans absorbed less CO<sub>2</sub>, intensifying climate instability.
- The report warns that current **Paris Agreement** pledges are inadequate to meet 1.5°C targets without urgent emission cuts.
- It called for rapid renewable expansion, deforestation control, and stronger climate finance for developing nations.



## APPOINTMENTS

### India appoints first mycologist to lead Botanical Survey of India (BSI)

- Dr. Kanad Das became the first mycologist to head the **BSI**, with the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approving his appointment on September 6, 2025, and he taking charge on September 25, 2025.
- He is the 13th Director and will steer an institution under the **MoEFCC** that surveys India's flora, advances taxonomy, and supports conservation.
- His selection signals greater integration of **mycology** into mainstream botanical work, including digitisation of collections and stronger research pipelines.
- As a former Scientist-F, he has led teams discovering new fungal taxa and is expected to expand collaborations across academia and conservation agencies.

### Govt appoints MPs to Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)

- The Government appointed Lok Sabha MP Kanwar Singh Tanwar and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Jashvantsinh Parmar to the Rehabilitation Council of India through a Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment gazette notification under the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992.
- Under clause (h) of sub-section (3) of Section 3, the central government may nominate members including MPs, and that provision was invoked for these appointments.
- The **tenure** for both members is two years from the date of notification or until their successors are appointed, whichever is later.
- Tanwar represents Amroha in Uttar Pradesh and has prior committee experience, while Dr. Parmar serves in the Rajya Sabha.
- The appointments are intended to strengthen governance and legislative linkages in disability and rehabilitation policy within the **RCI**.

### Shirish Chandra Murmu appointed RBI Deputy Governor

- Shirish Chandra Murmu will serve a **three-year** term as **RBI Deputy Governor** from October 9, 2025, succeeding M. Rajeshwar Rao.
- Before this appointment, he was an Executive Director overseeing the **Supervision** Department at the central bank.
- His specific departmental portfolio as Deputy Governor has not yet been announced.
- The RBI typically has four Deputy Governors responsible for key domains including monetary policy, regulation, markets, and supervision.
- His selection reflects seniority among executive directors and aligns with statutory norms for top management composition.

### R. Venkataramani reappointed Attorney General of India till 2027

- The government extended R. Venkataramani's tenure as **Attorney General** by a **two-year extension**, effective October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027.
- Appointed under **Article 76(1)**, the Attorney General serves at the President's pleasure and advises the Union on legal matters.
- Venkataramani, designated a senior advocate in 1997, has four decades of practice across constitutional, civil, criminal, and fiscal law.
- He became the 16th Attorney General on October 1, 2022, succeeding K. K. Venugopal.
- He will continue to represent the Union in the Supreme Court, render opinions, and participate in Parliament without voting rights.



### Sonali Sen Gupta Appointed RBI Executive Director

- The **Reserve Bank of India** appointed Sonali Sen Gupta as Executive Director effective October 9, 2025, following her tenure as Regional Director for Karnataka.
- She will oversee the **Consumer Education and Protection, Financial Inclusion and Development, and Inspection** departments to enhance transparency and supervision.
- With over 30 years in RBI, she has contributed to regulation, HR, and inclusion, and represented India in G20's **GPFI** and OECD's **INFE**.
- She previously served on the boards of **Indian Overseas Bank** and the National Centre for Financial Education, strengthening policy outreach.
- Her appointment underscores RBI's commitment to gender diversity, inclusive growth, and leadership drawn from regional expertise.

### Akkai Padmashali Becomes First Transgender Member of SC-Appointed Committee

- Activist **Akkai Padmashali** became the first transgender person appointed to a **Supreme Court committee** in India.
- The committee will review the implementation of the **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019** and recommend reforms for inclusive welfare policies.
- Padmashali, founder of **Ondede**, has advocated for gender rights for two decades and played a pivotal role in awareness and anti-discrimination campaigns.
- Her inclusion reflects the Court's commitment to participatory governance and echoes the 2014 **NALSA judgment** on third-gender recognition.
- The panel will coordinate with the Ministry of Social Justice and state agencies to strengthen transgender welfare and representation.

### Sanae Takaichi Becomes Japan's First Woman Prime Minister

- **Sanae Takaichi** became Japan's **first female Prime Minister** after being elected leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).
- A protégé of **Shinzo Abe**, she supports constitutional reform, particularly recognizing the Self-Defense Forces under **Article 9**.
- Her agenda includes economic security, semiconductor production, and countering Japan's aging population and labour shortage.
- Takaichi emphasizes strengthening Japan's **defence partnership** with the U.S. amid regional threats from China and North Korea.
- Her nationalist stances, including Yasukuni Shrine visits, have drawn criticism from neighbouring countries and progressive groups.

## SPORTS

### Ashwin becomes first Indian to sign BBL deal with Sydney Thunder

- Ravichandran Ashwin became the **first Indian** male cricketer to join Australia's Big Bash League by signing with **Sydney Thunder**.
- He will link up in early January 2026 after completing his **ILT20** commitments.
- Retirements from international cricket in December 2024 and from the IPL enabled eligibility under the BCCI's overseas-league policy.
- Sydney Thunder called it their biggest overseas signing, and Ashwin praised the leadership and cultural fit.
- He brings over 500 Test wickets and proven all-format experience to a spin-rich squad expected to improve overall balance.

**India wins ninth Asia Cup with five-wicket victory over Pakistan**

- On 28 September 2025, India chased 150 to win by five wickets in 19.4 overs after Pakistan collapsed from 113/1 to 146 all out in 19.1 overs.
- **Tilak** Varma anchored the chase with 69\* off 53 balls, supported by Shivam Dube's 33 off 22 in a decisive 60-run stand.
- **Kuldeep** Yadav led the bowling with 4/30, while Varun Chakravathy, Axar Patel, and Jasprit Bumrah produced key breakthroughs.
- A **controversy** overshadowed celebrations as the team declined to accept the trophy from ACC chief Mohsin Naqvi, delaying the presentation.
- Captain Suryakumar Yadav later said the side had been "denied" the chance to lift the trophy, highlighting political undertones around the **final**.

**FIFA unveils Maple, Zayu, and Clutch as 2026 World Cup mascots**

- On 25 September 2025, FIFA introduced **Maple** for Canada, **Zayu** for Mexico, and **Clutch** for the United States as the tournament's official mascots.
- The trio embodies national fauna and traits, with Maple as a creative goalkeeper, Zayu as an agile striker, and Clutch as an optimistic midfielder.
- For the first time in a men's tournament, the mascots will be playable characters in the upcoming FIFA Heroes video game across major platforms.
- The rollout includes digital activations such as Roblox integrations and extensive merchandising in stadiums, fan zones, broadcasts, apparel, and toys.
- FIFA intends the characters to represent unity and diversity and to endure as **mascots** beyond matchdays.

**India clinches seventh SAFF U-17 title in Colombo**

- India defeated Bangladesh on **penalties** 4–1 after a 2–2 draw in the final of the **SAFF U-17** Championship in **Colombo**.
- India led 2–1 at halftime through Dallamuon Gangte and Azlaan Shah KH before Bangladesh equalised late to force the shootout.
- Indian takers converted four spot-kicks while Bangladesh faltered, sealing the victory.
- The result delivered India a record **seven titles** in the tournament's history.
- Tournament honours included top scorer Muhammad Abdullah of Pakistan and best player Nazmul Huda Faysal.

**Mithun Manhas elected unopposed as 37th BCCI President**

- **Mithun Manhas** was elected **unopposed** as the 37th **BCCI** President at the board's 94th AGM in Mumbai, succeeding Roger Binny.
- He is the first uncapped cricketer and the first person from Jammu & Kashmir to lead the board.
- His domestic career spanned Delhi and later Jammu & Kashmir, followed by coaching and administrative roles including IPL stints.
- Other office-bearers include Rajeev Shukla (vice president), Devajit Saikia (secretary), Prabhtej Singh Bhatia (joint secretary), and A. Raghuram Bhat (treasurer).
- The transition signalled broad consensus among state associations and continuity in governance.

**ICC-UNICEF 'Promise to Children' campaign launched during Women's World Cup**

- **ICC** and **UNICEF** unveiled "Promise to Children" at the 2025 Women's **World Cup** to mobilise public **pledges** for children's rights in education, health, nutrition, WASH, and protection.
- Ambassadors Ayushmann Khurrana and Smriti Mandhana are fronting outreach to expand youth engagement and visibility.
- ICC Chairman Jay Shah framed the drive as a whole-ecosystem effort, while UNICEF's India office highlighted sport's power to unify social messaging.

- Activities include clinics for children, expert roundtables, integrated broadcast messaging, and sustained digital engagement across the tournament.

### World Para Athletics Championships open in New Delhi

- The 12th edition begins in **New Delhi** from 27 September to 5 October 2025, the first time India and South Asia host the event.
- More than **1,200** para-athletes from over 100 nations will compete across **186** medal events, up by 15 from the previous edition.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium upgrades include a new outdoor Mondo track (~₹24.25 crore) and enhanced accessibility features.
- India fields a record 73-member squad, and mascot **Viraaaj**—a young elephant with a blade prosthesis—symbolises resilience and optimism.

### Abhishek Sharma sets all-time high in ICC T20I batting

- Abhishek Sharma reached a record **931** rating in ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings to become **No.1**.
- His surge followed 314 runs at a strike rate of 200 in the Asia Cup 2025.
- He is the fourth Indian to top T20I batting after Gambhir, Kohli, and Suryakumar Yadav.
- Pakistan's Saim Ayub rose to No.1 T20I all-rounder, reflecting shifting dynamics.
- The previous peak by **Malan** at 919 stood for nearly five years.

### Bumrah Becomes First Indian Pacer with 50 Matches Across All Formats

- **Bumrah** became the first Indian fast bowler to play 50 **Tests**, 50 **ODIs**, and 50 **T20Is**, achieving the mark against New Zealand in Hyderabad
- Since 2016, he has led India's pace attack with over 400 international wickets and renowned control under pressure.
- His leadership stints and overseas wins in Australia, England, and South Africa underline his match-defining impact.
- Career highlights include a Melbourne six-for in 2018, decisive 2019 World Cup spells, and a dominant post-injury return in 2024–25.

### Messi Becomes Top Assist Maker in International Football

- **Lionel Messi** set the all-time men's international assists record with his 59th assist versus Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier.
- Since 2005 he has earned 180+ caps, 106 goals, and now the highest assist tally for Argentina.
- The record came in a 3–0 win in Buenos Aires, highlighted by an incisive pass to Lautaro Martínez.
- FIFA and CONMEBOL recognized the milestone, praising his dual impact as scorer and creator.

### Cape Verde Qualifies for FIFA World Cup for First Time

- **Cape Verde** secured its maiden **FIFA World Cup** berth by defeating Cameroon 2–1 in Praia, making history in African football.
- The win sparked nationwide celebrations and drew praise from FIFA and CAF for its inspirational achievement.
- Led by coach **Pedro "Bubista" Brito**, the team's strategy blended youth development and European club experience.
- The success follows a decade of progress since AFCON appearances in 2013 and 2024.
- The government announced expanded sports infrastructure and youth academies to build on this landmark accomplishment.

### Khelo India University Games 2025 Kicks Off in Rajasthan

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Khelo India University Games 2025** across multiple Rajasthan cities, with Jaipur as the main venue.
- Over **7,000 athletes** from 200+ universities are competing in 20 sports under the theme "Sports, Spirit, and Sustainability."

- Infrastructure upgrades include new tracks, aquatic complexes, and athlete villages across Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Kota
- A digital results-tracking system ensures real-time transparency through the Khelo India app and Doordarshan broadcasts.
- Sustainability initiatives include **zero-plastic zones**, solar-powered venues, and rainwater harvesting at all major arenas.

#### **Ahmedabad Recommended to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games**

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** selected **Ahmedabad** as India's official bid city for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**.
- The **Sardar Patel Sports Enclave** will anchor events, supported by upgraded metro, athlete villages, and smart infrastructure.
- Central and Gujarat governments pledged full financial and logistical backing to ensure a world-class event.
- If successful, India would host the Games for the second time after **New Delhi 2010**, boosting tourism and youth sports engagement.
- Sustainability will be prioritized through **green venues**, renewable energy, and low-emission logistics in line with global standards.

#### **Morocco Wins Historic U-20 FIFA World Cup**

- **Morocco** won the **2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup** by defeating **Argentina 2-0** in Santiago, Chile — its first-ever FIFA tournament title.
- Star forward **Yassir Zabiri** scored both goals, marking a milestone for African and Arab football.
- The victory follows Morocco's strategic investment in youth development through the **Mohamed VI Football Academy**.
- Under coach **Mohamed Ouahbi**, the team's disciplined defence and quick counterattacks proved decisive against stronger opponents.
- FIFA hailed the triumph as a turning point for African football, inspiring expanded youth programs across the continent.

#### **International Chess Federation World Cup 2025: Logo and Anthem Unveiled**

- India unveiled the **International Chess Federation** World Cup 2025 logo and anthem at a ceremony in Chennai.
- The design blends Indian artistic motifs with chessboard geometry, while the anthem celebrates the game's origins in ancient Chaturanga.
- Dignitaries included Viswanathan Anand and the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, underscoring India's organisational role in global chess.
- The tournament will be hosted in Chennai from 10 August to 25 August 2025 with elite players and emerging prodigies competing.

#### **Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Rank in Territorial Army**

- Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra received the honorary rank of **Lieutenant Colonel** in the Indian Territorial Army.
- The ceremony at Army Headquarters in New Delhi recognised his discipline, perseverance, and contributions to national pride.
- The honour acknowledges his historic Tokyo 2020 gold in athletics and his influence on youth across India.
- Similar honorary distinctions have been awarded to distinguished sportspersons such as Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Kapil Dev.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NISAR releases first Earth radar images

- **NISAR**, the joint NASA-ISRO Earth mission, carries dual-band **L-band** and **S-band** SAR to image day-night and through cloud cover.
- Launched on **GSLV-F16** on 30 July 2025, it orbits ~14 times per day and revisits most land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days.
- Initial August 2025 images mapped wetlands, forests, and farmlands with fine boundary detail, demonstrating high-precision surface characterisation.
- The three-year baseline mission will track deformation, biomass change, glaciers, floods, and hazards, with NASA providing L-band systems and ISRO delivering S-band, spacecraft, launch, and operations.

### India's Dhvani Hypersonic Missile

- India successfully tested its indigenous **Dhvani hypersonic missile** from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha.
- The missile achieved speeds above **Mach 6**, validating its scramjet propulsion and precision-guidance systems.
- Developed under DRDO's HSTDV programme, it marks India's shift from experimental hypersonic tech to operational systems.
- Dhvani can execute both conventional and strategic missions, reducing enemy reaction time with superior speed and manoeuvrability.
- The project strengthens India's deterrence capabilities and supports the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** vision in defence innovation.

### Maitri II Research Station in Antarctica

- India launched construction of **Maitri II**, a new Antarctic research station near the existing Maitri base in **Queen Maud Land**.
- Managed by **NCPOR, Goa**, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, it replaces the 1989 Maitri base to extend India's polar research presence.
- The energy-efficient facility includes modular laboratories, renewable power systems, and waste management to minimize ecological impact.
- It will support multidisciplinary research in glaciology, **climate change**, oceanography, and biodiversity, contributing to global data-sharing efforts.
- Maitri II reinforces India's commitment to the **Antarctic Treaty System** and sustainable scientific exploration in extreme environments.

### GalaxEye Launches India's First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite

- Indian startup GalaxEye launched **Drishti** aboard ISRO's **PSLV-C60** from Sriharikota, marking a milestone for India's private space sector.
- The satellite combines **SAR** and optical payloads on a single platform to deliver high-resolution, day-night, all-weather imaging.
- It will provide Analysis Ready Data for applications in climate monitoring, agriculture, urban planning, disaster response, and national security.
- The mission was developed under the **IN-SPACE** framework and supports India's Space Policy 2023 by promoting innovation-led private participation.
- GalaxEye plans a constellation of multi-sensor satellites to enable faster, more precise global situational awareness.

### India Extends Astra Mark 2 Missile Range Beyond 200 km



- DRDO and the **IAF** validated the Astra Mk-2 BVRAAM with a dual-pulse motor, improved seeker, and advanced ECCM.
- Trials from Su-30MKI off Odisha confirmed beyond-200 km engagements under heavy electronic jamming.
- The programme elevates India into a small group producing long-range air-to-air missiles indigenously.
- Integration is planned across Su-30MKI, Tejas Mk1A, Rafale-M, and future TEDBF platforms to deepen air-dominance options.

#### National Aeronautics and Space Administration Confirms Earth's New Quasi-Moon 2025 PN7

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration confirmed Earth's new **quasi-moon** designated 2025 PN7, a small asteroid co-orbiting the Sun near Earth's path.
- Observations from the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System in Hawaii and the Center for Near-Earth Object Studies estimate its diameter at roughly fifty to one hundred metres.
- The object follows a horseshoe-shaped orbit relative to Earth and is projected to remain in a stable co-orbital relationship for at least one hundred and fifty years.
- Continuous tracking by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and international networks will refine orbital evolution, informing planetary defence studies and co-orbital dynamics research.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

#### DY Chandrachud's Debut Book: Why the Constitution Matters

- Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has authored his first book, **Why the Constitution Matters**, scheduled for release in 2025.
- Published by Penguin Random House, the book explains how the Indian Constitution shapes everyday life beyond formal legal analysis.
- Drawing on over 25 years on the bench, it offers an insider's view of how constitutional reasoning influences justice, governance, and social progress.
- The themes include judicial responsibility and interpretation, citizen engagement, human rights and equality, and the roles of secularism and liberty.
- Aimed at students, civil service aspirants, legal enthusiasts, and the general public, it encourages deeper engagement with constitutional values in daily issues.

#### Harinder Baweja's Conflict Memoir Released

- The memoir "They Will Shoot You, Madam: My Life Through Conflict" was launched in Delhi on October 1, 2025, recounting over four decades of reporting.
- **Harinder Baweja** traces assignments from Operation Blue Star and the **26/11** Mumbai attacks to coverage in Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and underworld hideouts in Malaysia.
- Notable episodes include post-26/11 reporting in Pakistan, an interview with Chhota Rajan in Malaysia, and an encounter with Yasin Malik described by Baweja as harassment.
- At the launch, Captain Amarinder Singh recalled aiding Baweja after Operation Blue Star, while Omar Abdullah and Rajdeep Sardesai discussed ethical dilemmas in conflict reporting.
- Baweja emphasized her ethos as a **memoir** of ground reporting under risk, highlighting journalism's role in documenting contested events within a democracy.

#### Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment — T. N. Khoshoo

- "Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment: Analysing Gandhian Environmental Thought" compiles Gandhi's ecological ideas and relates them to modern challenges with a foreword by Dr. R. K. Pachauri
- The book presents Gandhi's emphasis on simplicity, minimalism, and human-nature interconnectedness as guiding principles for **environmental** stewardship.

- It details themes of sustainable resource use, village-centric development, **decentralization**, and a critique of unbridled industrialization for social and ecological balance.
- Policy-linked suggestions include community-based resource management, accessible eco-friendly technologies, and non-violence as an ecological ethic advancing **sustainability**.
- The work connects environmental justice with social justice by addressing gender roles, Dalit empowerment, and conflict resolution within a Gandhian framework centered on **Gandhi's** ethics.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### International Day of Peace 2025

- The International Day of Peace 2025 was observed worldwide on **21 September** with the theme "Act Now for a Peaceful World."
- The United Nations General Assembly established the observance in **UNGA 1981** and fixed 21 September as its permanent date in 2011.
- Each year, the **Peace Bell** at UN Headquarters in New York is rung to symbolize global solidarity and non-violence.
- The 2025 observance emphasized dialogue, education, and cooperation aligned with the **SDGs** to address conflicts and humanitarian crises.

### Antyodaya Diwas 2025: Honouring Deendayal Upadhyaya

- Antyodaya Diwas 2025 was observed on **25 September** to mark the 109th birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.
- The day underscores **Antyodaya**, which prioritizes upliftment of the last person and the most marginalized sections of society.
- Instituted in 2014, the observance reflects Upadhyaya's **Integral Humanism**, advocating holistic and dignified development.
- Related welfare programmes include **AAY & DAY**, targeting food security and livelihoods for rural and urban poor through NRLM and NULM components.

### World Environmental Health Day 2025: Clean Air, Healthy People

- World Environmental Health Day 2025 was observed on **26 September** with the theme "Clean Air, Healthy People."
- The observance, launched by **IFEH 2011**, promotes recognition of the links between environmental quality and public health.
- Key objectives included public education on pollution-related diseases, research and policy to cut emissions, and integrating health with environmental planning.
- Activities in over 100 countries featured campaigns, workshops, and community actions aligned with **SDG targets** on climate, health, and sustainable cities.
- The theme **Clean Air** highlighted respiratory disease burdens and the need for sustainable urban planning and energy transitions.

### World Tourism Day 2025: Tourism's Green Transformation

- World Tourism Day 2025 was observed on **27 September** under UN leadership by **UNWTO** with the theme "Tourism and Sustainable Transformation."
- The observance traces to 1980 and commemorates the 1970 adoption of the UNWTO Statutes as a marker of tourism's global role.
- The 2025 theme urged alignment with the **SDGs** by reducing emissions, conserving biodiversity, empowering communities, and strengthening small enterprises.
- Governments and industry were encouraged to expand **green tourism** via eco-infrastructure, community-based models, and education for a climate-resilient sector.

- The day also emphasized tourism's roles in cultural preservation, accessibility, and cross-border understanding that supports social cohesion.

### Google Turns 27

- On **27 September** 2025, Google marked its 27th anniversary with a commemorative **Google Doodle** that revived its first logo.
- Founded in **1998** by Larry Page and Sergey Brin as a Stanford research project, Google evolved from a search engine into a diversified technology platform.
- Although formally incorporated on September 4, the company observes its symbolic birthday on September 27 due to early Doodle traditions
- As part of **Alphabet Inc.**, Google operates across Search, YouTube, Android, cloud computing, advertising, and advanced research in AI and quantum computing.
- Under CEO Sundar Pichai, Google continues investments in artificial intelligence tools, e-commerce solutions, and cloud services to expand digital access.

### World Animal Day 2025: Centenary of a Global Movement

- World Animal Day 2025 was observed on 4 October, marking the 100th anniversary of advocacy for animal rights and welfare.
- Initiated in 1925 by Heinrich Zimmermann, the observance moved to 4 October in 1929 to align with St. Francis of Assisi's feast day.
- The 2025 theme "Save Animals, Save the Planet!" linked animal protection with biodiversity, climate action, and ethical coexistence.
- Campaigns addressed poaching, habitat loss, weak enforcement, and climate threats while urging laws, conservation, and public awareness.
- Key facts highlighted the **100th anniversary** and **October 4** observance alongside calls for volunteering, education, and cruelty-free choices.

### World Habitat Day 2025, Urban Crisis Response

- World Habitat Day 2025 fell on 6 October, the first Monday of October, with the theme **Urban Crisis Response**.
- Established by the UN General Assembly in 1985, it was first observed in 1986 at Nairobi and later introduced the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour in 1989.
- The 2025 focus addressed climate change, conflict-driven displacement, and widening urban inequality with resilient, inclusive policies
- Activities included high-level panels, awards, workshops, and community programmes launching "Urban October" through World Cities Day on 31 October.

### Indian Air Force Day 2025: Legacy and Modernization

- Indian Air Force Day 2025 was celebrated on **8 October**, marking the **93rd anniversary** of the IAF's founding in 1932.
- National events featured air shows, parades, static displays, and exhibitions that honored service and showcased expanding capabilities.
- The celebrations highlighted modernization, operational readiness, joint operations, and advanced platforms across the force.
- Historical roles referenced the 1947–48 Kashmir conflict, the 1965 and 1971 wars, the 1999 Kargil War, disaster relief, and UN missions.

### National Post Day 2025, India Post's Evolving Role

- National Post Day 2025 was observed on **10 October** during National Postal Week (9–15 October) to honor **India Post**.

- Established in 1982, the observance traces a legacy from the 1774 system and the 1854 modern postal service to today's digital logistics.
- Milestones include UPU membership in 1876, the 1972 PIN system, Speed Post in 1986, and the 2018 launch of India Post Payments Bank.
- India Post now supports financial inclusion, e-governance, welfare delivery, and last-mile e-commerce while expanding sustainable operations.

### World Mental Health Day 2025

- World Mental Health Day is observed on **10 October** to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and strengthen support systems for psychological well-being.
- The 2025 theme, "Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies," prioritizes care during wars, pandemics, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises.
- Initiated in 1992 by the **WFMH**, the observance first adopted a dedicated theme in 1994 and has since expanded global advocacy and policy dialogue.
- Campaigns in 2025 call for community care, emergency mental-health units, cross-border collaboration, and integration with public health systems supported by the **WHO**.

### Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's Birth Anniversary 2025

- India marked the 94th birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on **15 October** 2025, honoring his roles as scientist, teacher, and former President.
- Born in 1931 at Rameswaram, he studied physics and aeronautical engineering before leading India's SLV-III, Rohini satellite launch, and IGMDP.
- He contributed to the 1998 Pokhran-II tests and later served as President (2002–2007), championing Vision 2020 and youth engagement.
- Widely known as the **Missile Man**, he received the Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Bharat Ratna, and inspired millions through books like "Wings of Fire."

### International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2025

- Observed on **17 October**, the UN day originated in 1987 Paris events and was recognized by the General Assembly in 1992 to spotlight dignity and inclusion.
- The 2025 theme calls for ending social and institutional maltreatment by building respectful, family-focused support systems shaped by lived experiences.
- Global efforts align with **SDG 1**, emphasizing rights, access to services, and accelerated action during the Third Decade for Poverty Eradication (2018–2027).
- India's indicators note steep declines in extreme poverty alongside employment gains, while challenges persist in youth joblessness, informality, and gender gaps.

### Police Commemoration Day 2025- Honouring Service and Sacrifice

- Police Commemoration Day is observed on **21 October** to honor personnel who died in the line of duty, with national ceremonies at the National Police Memorial.
- The date commemorates the 1959 **Hot Springs** ambush in Ladakh, where ten policemen were killed and several captured by Chinese troops.
- Observances include wreath-laying, joint CAPF–Delhi Police parades, and public events during Commemoration Week from 22 to 30 October.
- The memorial features a 30-foot granite monolith, a Wall of Valour inscribed with over 36,000 names, and a museum documenting the history of Indian policing.

### United Nations Day 2025



- United Nations Day is observed on 24 October to mark the UN's establishment in 1945 following the San Francisco Conference and the signing of the Charter.
- The 2025 observance reaffirms the Charter's values by emphasizing peace, human rights, equality, and sustainable development across all regions.
- UN objectives highlighted include maintaining international peace and security, reducing poverty and inequality, advancing renewable energy, and ensuring equal rights for all.
- The Security Council's permanent members (**P5**) are the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China, while agencies such as **UNICEF**, **UNESCO**, WHO, and UNDP address sectoral challenges.
- Activities underline unity around the 2030 Agenda and the **SDGs**, with cultural programs, exhibitions, and dialogues reinforcing multilateral cooperation.

### World Polio Day 2025

- World Polio Day is observed on 24 October to promote eradication efforts for poliomyelitis, a viral disease that can cause paralysis and death.
- The 2025 theme "End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere" stresses universal immunization access and quality dosing in all contexts.
- Rotary established the day in honor of Dr. Jonas Salk, whose 1955 inactivated polio vaccine (**IPV**) preceded Dr. Albert Sabin's 1962 oral polio vaccine (**OPV**).
- The 1988 Global Polio Eradication Initiative (**GPEI**) drove a 99.9% global case reduction, though wild poliovirus persists in limited areas such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- India was certified polio-free in 2014, and continued surveillance, routine immunization, and outreach remain essential to eliminate **WPV** globally.

## OBITUARIES

### Dickie Bird, Legendary Umpire, Dies at 92

- **Dickie Bird** (born April 19, 1933, Yorkshire) passed away at home at the age of 92 after a five-decade association with cricket.
- He played 93 first-class matches as a top-order batsman for Yorkshire and Leicestershire before injury ended his playing career at 32.
- Beginning umpiring in 1970, he officiated 66 Tests and 69 ODIs, including the **1983 final** and the 1975 and 1979 World Cup finals.
- His final Test was England vs India at Lord's in June 1996, where he received a guard of honour and a standing ovation.
- He later served Yorkshire Cricket Club as president and was honoured with the MBE and OBE for services to cricket.

### Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa Passes Away at 94

- Celebrated Kannada novelist **Bhyrappa** died in Bengaluru on 24 September 2025 at age 94 after a cardiac arrest during treatment.
- Over six decades, he authored more than 25 novels, including "Parva," "Aavarana," "Vamshavruksha," "Grihabhanga," and "Sartha."
- His works blended philosophical inquiry with history and society, and several were adapted into acclaimed films.
- Major honours include the **Padma Bhushan** (2023), the Saraswati Samman (2010 for "Mandra"), and the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship (2015).
- His writings sparked robust debate on Indian identity, social structures, and tradition-modernity dialogues.

### G G Parikh, Gandhian Socialist, Dies at 100

- **G G Parikh**, freedom fighter and physician-activist, passed away in Mumbai on 2 October 2025 at the age of 100.

- He joined the freedom struggle as a student, was jailed for ten months during the Quit India Movement, and later embraced **Gandhian** socialism.
- Post-independence, he led student, trade union, and cooperative efforts, edited the “Janata” weekly, and co-founded the Yusuf Meherally Centre.
- He was imprisoned during the 1975–77 Emergency for resisting the suspension of democratic rights.
- His life’s work focused on civil liberties, rural development, and ethical, non-violent social change.

#### **Pandit Chhannulal Mishra Passes Away at 89**

- Hindustani vocalist **Chhannulal Mishra** died in Mirzapur on 2 October 2025 at age 89, coinciding with Dussehra.
- Trained in the Kirana tradition, he became a leading voice of the **Banaras Gharana** with deep devotional and classical repertoire.
- His mastery spanned khayal, thumri, dadra, chaiti, kajri, sohar, and bhajans, with widely cherished performances and recordings.
- He occasionally contributed to cinema, including songs in the 2011 film “Aarakshan,” while remaining rooted in classical pedagogy.
- Tributes from artists and audiences highlighted his humility, spirituality, and role as a guardian of tradition.
- **Varinder Ghuman, Actor and Bodybuilder, Dies at 41**
- Punjabi actor and professional bodybuilder **Varinder Ghuman** died of a heart attack in Amritsar on 9 October 2025 at age 41.
- A former **Mr India** (2009) and Mr Asia runner-up, he appeared in “Tiger 3,” “Roar,” “Marjaavaan,” and “Kabaddi Once Again.”
- He championed a strict vegetarian lifestyle, promoting plant-based fitness and sharing routines and guidance with a large following.
- His journey from small-town athlete to films and international bodybuilding inspired young sports enthusiasts nationwide.
- His gym in Jalandhar and online content continue to motivate aspirants in strength training and disciplined living.

#### **Veteran Actor Asrani Dies at 84**

- **Asrani** passed away on 20 October 2025 at age 84 after a prolonged illness, concluding a career of over 350 films.
- His satirical “British-era jailer” in **Sholay** (1975) became iconic, while the 1970s–80s marked his peak as a prolific comic actor.
- He won two **Filmfare** Best Comedian awards (“Aaj Ki Taaza Khabar,” 1974; “Balika Badhu,” 1977) and worked closely with Rajesh Khanna.
- He also acted in Gujarati cinema, directed films including “Chala Murari Hero Banne” (1977), and later appeared in hit comedy franchises.
- He served as FTII director (1988–1993), mentored talent, and remained active in TV and web series into his later years.

#### **Piyush Pandey, Advertising Legend, Passes Away at 70**

- **Piyush Pandey** died at age 70, leaving a transformative legacy in Indian advertising built since joining Ogilvy in 1982.
- He pioneered storytelling rooted in Indian languages and culture, crafting enduring campaigns for Fevicol, Cadbury Dairy Milk, Asian Paints, and Hutch.
- He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** and the 2018 Cannes Lions “Lion of St. Mark” (shared with Prasoon Pandey).
- His political and social messaging included widely recognized slogans, alongside brand narratives that resonated with mass audiences.
- Even after stepping down as Executive Chairman of Ogilvy India in 2023, he mentored creatives and advocated simple, human, and honest advertising.

## RANKINGS

### Index of Economic Freedom 2025 — India's Rank and Global Top 10

- The 2025 index by **Heritage Foundation** reported a global average score of 59.7, leaving the world “mostly unfree” with only three “economically free” countries.
- Singapore led the top ten ahead of Switzerland and Ireland, followed by Taiwan, Luxembourg, Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Norway, and the Netherlands.
- The United States fell to rank 26 with 70.2, its lowest on record, reflecting structural economic weaknesses.
- **India #128** with 53.0 (“mostly unfree”) showed strengths in government spending, business freedom, and tax burden but weak fiscal health (6.2), investment and financial freedom (40), and government integrity (37.6).
- Globally, 89 countries are mostly unfree and 29 are repressed, including Pakistan (150) and China (151).

### Manipur Tops Northeast in Violent Crimes — NCRB 2023

- **NCRB 2023** recorded **Manipur** as the Northeast's most violent state, driven by ethnic clashes since May 2023 between Meitei and Kuki communities.
- Violent crimes surged to 14,427 in 2023 from 631 in 2022, including 5,421 **rioting** cases and 6,203 incidents of arson.
- Crimes against Scheduled Tribes rose to 3,339 from just one in 2022; murders numbered 151 and attempted murders 818.
- Kidnappings totaled 89 and rapes 27, while crimes against women declined to 201 from 248 in 2022; Assam ranked second with 11,552 violent crimes.

### Elon Musk Reaches \$500 Billion Net Worth

- **Forbes** recorded Elon Musk at **\$500B** in October 2025, about \$150 billion ahead of Larry Ellison on the real-time list.
- Wealth gains were powered by **Tesla**, **SpaceX**, and xAI; Musk owns 12.4% of Tesla and bought \$1 billion of its shares.
- Tesla rose 14% year-to-date and 4% in a day, while a proposed \$1 trillion pay plan could make Musk a trillionaire by 2033.
- SpaceX was valued near \$400 billion in July 2025, and xAI valuations were projected to climb with future fundraising.

### Hurun India Rich List 2025 — Ambani Leads, New Trends Emerge

- The M3M **Hurun** list placed **Ambani** first at ₹9.55 lakh crore, ahead of Adani at ₹8.15 lakh crore.
- **Roshni** Nadar became India's richest woman and entered the top three with ₹2.84 lakh crore.
- India counted 350+ **billionaires**, with total list wealth at ₹167 lakh crore, about half of India's GDP.
- Notables included Niraj Bajaj's largest gain (+₹69,875 crore), Vijay Shekhar Sharma's rebound, and Shah Rukh Khan's first entry.

### Six Richest Bollywood Actors — Hurun India 2025

- SRK led with ₹12,490 crore, becoming Bollywood's first billionaire on the Hurun list.
- **Juhi** Chawla & family ranked second with ₹7,790 crore, followed by **Hrithik** Roshan at ₹2,160 crore.
- **Amitabh** Bachchan, Karan Johar, and Akshay Kumar posted ₹1,630 crore, ₹1,880 crore, and ₹1,500 crore respectively.
- The rankings highlighted diversification across production, endorsements, sports franchises, brands, and real estate.

**BrandFinance Energy 100-2025 — Shell Tops, India's Brands Rise**

- **BrandFinance** valued global energy brands at \$688.6 billion in 2025 amid economic and geopolitical uncertainty.
- **Shell** led for a sixth year at \$45.4 billion, with **Aramco** at \$41.7 billion; ADNOC rose 25% to \$19.0 billion to rank sixth.
- The top ten also featured PetroChina, Sinopec, ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies, BP, Equinor, and Chevron.
- **Indian Oil** ranked 21; HPCL and BPCL ranked 42 and 43, with India contributing 3.5% of total brand value.

**THE World University Rankings 2026 — Oxford Leads, India Expands**

- **THE** rankings released on 9 October 2025 kept **Oxford** #1 for a tenth consecutive year.
- **India** became the second most-represented nation with 128 universities, up from 19 in 2016.
- **IISc** held the 201–250 band, Saveetha advanced to 351–400, and Jamia Millia Islamia moved to 401–500.
- Delhi University improved to 601–700, while BITS Pilani slipped to 801–1000 following a research-score decline.

**Henley Passport Index 2025 — Singapore First, India Slips**

- The **Henley Index** ranked **Singapore** first with access to 193 destinations, while the United States dropped to 12th.
- The United Kingdom fell to a record-low rank 8, and the **UAE** rose to joint 8th reflecting expanding partnerships.
- **India** slipped to rank 85 from 80 in 2024; regional peers stood at China 64, Bhutan 89, Sri Lanka 96, Nepal 98, Bangladesh 103, and Pakistan 106.
- The table reflected Asia's mobility gains alongside tighter Western policies and changing reciprocity.

**Sustainable Trade Index 2025 — UK Leads; India at 23**

- The **STI** by Hinrich Foundation and **IMD** ranked the **UK** first, ahead of New Zealand and Australia, as sustainability shaped trade competitiveness.
- The index measures 30 economies across economic, societal, and environmental pillars to assess resilient and responsible trade.
- **India** ranked 23rd with an overall score of 33.2, scoring 60.0 (economic), 23.4 (societal), and 37.4 (environmental).
- 2025 saw growing unilateralism, tariff escalations, and selective decoupling that influenced supply chains and sustainability strategies.

**SUMMIT'S AND MOU'S****World Food India 2025**

- **World Food India 2025** was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as the 4th edition of the global food-processing summit.
- The event is organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
- Participation is expected from over 1,700 exhibitors, 500+ international buyers, and delegations from 100+ countries.
- New Zealand and Saudi Arabia are partner countries, with Russia, UAE, Japan, and Vietnam as focus countries.
- The summit prioritises sustainability, investment, startup linkages, and resilient food systems aligned with India's food security goals.

**Visakhapatnam Declaration 2025**

- **Visakhapatnam Declaration 2025** was adopted at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance on 23 September 2025.
- Co-hosted by DARPG, MeitY, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, it aligns with Viksit Bharat 2047.
- The roadmap emphasises AI, ML, Blockchain, GIS, IoT, data analytics, cybersecurity, and civil-service upskilling.
- It scales successful models like SAMPADA 2.0, eKhata, Rohini Gram Panchayat, and NHAI's DAMS.



- The declaration advances multilingual digital services (e.g., BHASHINI), digital inclusion, and Vizag's growth as a tech hub.

### 7th Future Food Forum 2025

- **Future Food Forum** opened in Dubai to strengthen food security, sustainability, and agri-trade cooperation.
- Dialogues focus on CEPAs for tariff reduction, SME participation, and cross-border food corridors.
- Agri-tech solutions—precision farming, AI crop forecasts, smart irrigation, and vertical farming—feature prominently.
- Consumer trends highlight sustainable proteins and farm-to-fork traceability for health and climate goals.
- The UAE targets raising its food sector contribution from \$8.1 billion to \$10.9 billion through innovation and policy support.

### National Conference on Land & Disaster Management- Gandhinagar

- **ILA System** and the Revenue Diary were launched to integrate land records, registration, case management, and resurvey workflows.
- SVAMITVA property cards were distributed, including to nomadic tribes, to secure land rights and reduce disputes.
- New revenue offices were inaugurated to extend institutional reach and citizen-centric services.
- Sessions cover modernising revenue laws, GIS mapping, paperless registries, and disaster-risk-informed land use.
- The conference, held on 3–4 October 2025, supports DILRMP and cross-state best-practice exchange.

### 68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

- **68th CPC** in Bridgetown (5–12 October 2025) is themed “The Commonwealth – A Global Partner.”
- India's delegation is led by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla with MPs from both Houses and multiple State legislatures.
- Agendas include digital democracy, legislative transparency, gender-sensitive parliaments, and bridging the digital divide.
- India participates in CPA Executive and CWP forums, underscoring multilateralism and inclusive policymaking.
- Bilateral meetings aim at inter-parliamentary cooperation, capacity building, and youth engagement strategies.

### Global Fintech Fest 2025- Mumbai

- **Global Fintech Fest** opened at Jio World Centre with the theme “Empowering Finance for a Better World Powered by AI.”
- The event hosts 7,500+ companies, 800 speakers, 400 exhibitors, and 70 regulators from 75 countries.
- Keynotes by India's and the UK's Prime Ministers spotlight AI-driven inclusion, ethics, and cross-border collaboration.
- The Bharat AI Experience Zone (NPCI-NVIDIA) showcases AI for payments, CX, and risk management.
- Focus areas span digital lending, regtech, Web3, neobanking, cross-border payments, and India-UK fintech partnerships.

### Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference 2025

- **Vibrant Gujarat** Regional Conference in Mehsana highlights North Gujarat's strengths under “Regional Aspirations, Global Ambitions.”
- Gujarat cites 7,100+ MoUs for the region from 2024, with 72% already commissioned, and long-term FDI of \$68.9 billion.
- Day-1 saw 22 new MoUs across renewable energy, dairy, food processing, and allied sectors.
- A six-zone Regional Economic Master Plan targets a \$3.5 trillion state economy and ₹15 lakh crore investments.
- Plans include 500+ projects, 28 million jobs, and skilling centres for Green Skills, AI, Logistics, and the Blue Economy.

### Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025: National School Innovation Drive

- **Buildathon 2025** launched on 23 September 2025 for Classes VI–XII to foster innovation, design thinking, and problem solving.
- Led by the Education Ministry with AIM–NITI Aayog and AICTE, it expects participation from 1.5 lakh+ schools.
- Themes include Atmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, Vocal for Local, and Samriddhi for real-world, scalable solutions
- Teams of 5–7 students submit concepts to working models between 14–31 October 2025.
- Evaluation runs through Nov–Dec 2025, with 1,000+ teams recognised in January 2026.

### 45th GITEX Global: Dubai (Oct 13–17)

- **GITEX Global 2025** hosts 6,800+ exhibitors and 2,000 startups from 180+ countries across DWTC and Dubai Harbour.
- The show centres on AI, quantum computing, biotechnology, sustainable tech, and digital sovereignty.
- India records its largest presence with 237 exhibitors led by ESC, NASSCOM, TEPC, and Kerala IT Parks.
- Keynotes feature a virtual address by Sam Altman and sessions with leaders from G42, Microsoft, and Cerebras.
- Programmes address climate resilience, cybersecurity, urban mobility, and inclusive digital growth alongside deep-tech showcases.

## ECONOMY

### India's Trade Deficit Hits 16-Month High

- India's **trade deficit** widened to \$32.15 billion in **September 2025**, up from \$28.3 billion in August.
- Merchandise exports fell 5.4% year-on-year to \$34.5 billion, led by declines in engineering goods, chemicals, and textiles.
- Imports rose 8.2% to \$66.65 billion on higher crude oil, gold, and electronics demand amid elevated energy prices and festive buying.
- Rising electronics and energy imports highlight reliance on high-value inputs despite domestic-production pushes under PLI schemes.

### India-US Smartphone Exports Jump

- India's smartphone exports to the United States rose **148%** year-on-year in August 2025 to USD 965 million, according to **ICEA**.
- Overall smartphone exports increased 39% to USD 1.53 billion versus August 2024, indicating continued momentum under the **PLI** scheme.
- ICEA rebutted a **GTRI** report that flagged a May–August drop, calling month-to-month comparisons misleading due to model transitions and festive-season production.
- Seasonality typically depresses shipments in August–early September and lifts them from mid-October through December on global holiday demand.

### RBI Bi-Monthly Policy

- The RBI kept the **repo** rate unchanged at 5.50% with a **Neutral** stance; SDF stood at 5.25%, MSF and Bank Rate at 5.75%, and CRR at 3%.
- The MPC unanimously maintained rates while upgrading **GDP** growth for FY26 to 6.8% from 6.5%.
- The central bank cut **CPI** inflation forecast for FY26 to 2.6% from 3.1%, with quarterly prints at 2.1% (Q2), 3.1% (Q3), 4.4% (Q4), and 4.9% (Q1 FY27).
- Policy measures included re-KYC camps for Jan Dhan accounts, standardized claim settlement for deceased customers, and Retail Direct auto-bidding in T-bills.

**ADB Trims India Outlook on Tariffs**

- **ADB** lowered India's **FY26** growth forecast to 6.5% from 6.7%, citing elevated U.S. **tariffs** affecting about 60% of exports to the U.S.
- The bank also reduced India's 2026–27 projection to 6.5% from 6.8%, flagging slower export momentum despite resilient domestic demand.
- For developing **Asia**, ADB now expects 4.8% growth in 2025 (down from 4.9%) and 4.5% in 2026 (down from 4.7%).
- A strong Q1 FY26 start in India was noted, but external trade headwinds could temper second-half performance.

**GST Collections Hit ₹1.89 Lakh Crore**

- **GST** revenue for September 2025 reached **₹1.89 lakh** crore, up **9.1%** year-on-year and 1.5% month-on-month.
- The outturn captured initial effects of **GST 2.0** rate rationalisation from September 22 on 375 items, alongside pre-festival demand and strong compliance.
- Domestic GST rose to ₹1.36 lakh crore (↑6.8% YoY) and GST from imports to ₹52,492 crore (↑15.6% YoY).
- Refunds increased 40.1% YoY to ₹28,657 crore, while net GST stood at ₹1.60 lakh crore, up 5% YoY.

**World Bank Lifts India FY26 to 6.5%**

- The World Bank raised India's FY26 growth forecast to **6.5%**, citing robust domestic demand, rural recovery, and **GST** reform dividends.
- The FY27 projection was cut to 6.3% due to the U.S. **tariff** shock on Indian exports.
- India is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy, supported by consumption-led services and manufacturing.
- South Asia is projected at 6.6% growth in 2025, with a moderation to 5.8% in 2026 amid global uncertainty.

**Net Direct Taxes Reach ₹11.89 Lakh Crore**

- India's **direct** tax receipts netted **₹11.89 lakh** crore, up 6.33% year-on-year, with gross collections at ₹13.92 lakh crore and **refunds** at ₹2.03 lakh crore (↓16%).
- **Corporate** tax rose to ₹5.02 lakh crore, while non-corporate (primarily personal income tax) reached ₹6.56 lakh crore.
- STT collections were ₹30,878 crore, against a full-year target of ₹78,000 crore.
- The Union Budget set a ₹25.20 lakh crore direct-tax target for FY26, implying further acceleration is needed in later quarters.

**Trade Deficit Widens to \$32.15 Billion**

- India's merchandise **deficit** widened to **\$32.15** billion, an 11-month high, as imports climbed to \$68.53 billion and exports to \$36.38 billion.
- The gap reflected U.S. **tariffs** raised to 50% on select Indian goods such as textiles, shrimp, and gems & jewellery.
- Despite tensions, April–September data showed India's exports to the U.S. up over 13%, with imports from the U.S. also higher.
- A **services** surplus of \$15.53 billion in September partly offset the large goods trade gap ahead of impending U.S.–India trade talks.