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IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

ADR report: 40% of sitting Chief Ministers have declared criminal cases

- The Association for Democratic Reforms and National Election Watch report finds that 12 of India's 30 sitting Chief Ministers constituting 40 percent have declared criminal cases in their pre-election affidavits.
- The highest counts are reported for Telangana CM Revanth Reddy (89), followed by Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin (47), Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu (19), Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah (13), and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren (5), with others including Devendra Fadnavis and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (4 each), Pinarayi Vijayan (2), Bhagwant Mann (1), and in some lists P. S. Tamang, Mohan Charan Manjhi, and Bhajan Lal Sharma (1 each)
- Ten Chief Ministers about 33 percent face serious charges such as attempt to murder, kidnapping, bribery, and criminal intimidation.
- The analysis is based on self-sworn affidavits filed by all 30 sitting Chief Ministers prior to their most recent elections.
- The report's release coincides with the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, proposing automatic removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and other ministers if detained for 30 days or more for offences carrying at least five years' minimum punishment, which has triggered sharp political debate.

Government forms high-level committees for Patel, Vajpayee, and Birsa Munda anniversaries

- Between August 23–25, 2025, the Ministry of Culture notified three national committees—each chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—to commemorate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (150th), Birsa Munda (150th), and Atal Bihari Vajpayee (100th).
- Each committee includes 100+ members, featuring Union ministers, governors, chief ministers, and eminent public figures, to plan and supervise year-long, pan-India programmes.
- The Patel committee highlights his leadership in the integration of 565+ princely states and foundational roles as Deputy PM and Home Minister; the Vajpayee committee focuses on statecraft from nuclear policy to infrastructure; the Birsa Munda committee centers on the "Ulgulan" movement and wider tribal history and pride.
- Activities will span seminars, cultural events, and public outreach, aiming for inclusive national participation beyond regional confines.

NARI 2025: Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Mumbai among safest cities for women

- The NCW's NARI 2025 report, based on 12,770 women across 31 cities, lists Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai among the safest cities, with Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar, and Ranchi among the least safe.
- With a national safety benchmark of 65%, cities are banded as much above/above/below/much below this score based on gender equity, civic participation, policing, and women-friendly infrastructure.
- Sixty percent of women feel safe overall; however, night-time, public transport, and recreational spaces remain major concern zones.
- Institutional settings score better (86% feel safe in education, 91% at workplaces), yet nearly half are unsure about POSH policies and only 25% trust authorities to act effectively.

- Harassment affected 7% overall (14% among under-24s), most often in neighbourhoods (38%) and public transport (29%); only one in three incidents is reported, indicating undercounting in official data.

Rajasthan issues first state guidelines on stray dogs after SC directive

- Following the Supreme Court's August 22, 2025 order reinstating the ABC Rules, 2023, Rajasthan issued comprehensive guidelines mandating designated feeding zones in every ward in consultation with RWAs and animal-welfare groups.
- Urban bodies must establish or upgrade sterilisation and veterinary facilities for deworming, vaccination, and surgery, with humane capture limited to trained personnel and a ban on tongs, snares, and force.
- Puppies under six months and lactating females are exempt from capture/sterilisation, and treated, tagged dogs must be returned to their original localities; rabid/aggressive dogs require quarantine and veterinary supervision.
- Each municipal body will form a monitoring committee, install CCTV in OT/centres, and maintain detailed records, while AWBI-recognised NGOs receive ₹200 per captured dog and ₹1,450 per sterilisation and care.
- All civic bodies must submit compliance reports within 30 days, aligning public safety with humane, evidence-based population control.

Reliance announces mega Kutch solar project

- At its 48th AGM (Aug 29, 2025), Reliance Industries unveiled a 550,000-acre solar project in Kutch, Gujarat, about three times Singapore's area, as part of the Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Complex.
- The project targets daily deployment of 55 MW of solar modules and 150 MWh of battery containers, with potential within a decade to meet nearly 10% of India's power demand.
- The integrated ecosystem includes 20 GW/yr module manufacturing, a battery giga-factory, electrolyser facilities, and green hydrogen output aiming for 3 MTEPA by 2032.
- Reliance positions this as a pivot from hydrocarbons to a scaled, cost-efficient clean-energy portfolio, linking solar, storage, and hydrogen for resilient supply chains.

Supreme Court to reconsider blanket RTE exemption for minority institutions

- A Supreme Court Bench led by Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan questioned the 2014 Pramati ruling that exempted aided and unaided minority schools from the RTE Act, referring the issue for possible larger Bench review.
- The Court observed that applying RTE norms does not erode minority identity, and that Articles 21A and 30(1) can be harmonized to further educational inclusion.
- It noted Section 12(1)(c) reservations are financially neutral with state reimbursements and do not inherently alter a school's minority character.
- The Bench warned that blanket exemption risks fragmenting common schooling and reinforcing divides, inviting a fact-based, not immunity-based, approach.

Maharashtra approves longer working hours in private sector

- The Maharashtra Cabinet cleared amendments extending the maximum workday to 10 hours in shops/establishments and 12 hours in factories, with a mandatory break after six hours.
- Overtime will be paid at twice the normal wage, requires written employee consent, and the cap rises from 115 to 144 hours per quarter.
- The rules apply only to units with 20+ workers, reducing direct regulatory coverage from about 8.5 million establishments to ~56,000, while core safeguards like Minimum Wages and Maternity Benefits continue for all.

- The government cites productivity, investment, and job creation aims; unions and commentators warn of fatigue risks, potential exploitation, and possible tensions with ILO norms.

Exercise MAITREE-XIV: India–Thailand joint drill in Meghalaya

- MAITREE-XIV runs September 1–14, 2025 at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, strengthening interoperability and trust between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.
- India has 120 personnel from the Madras Regiment and Thailand 53 troops from the 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.
- Training focuses on counter-terrorism in semi-urban terrain under UN Charter Chapter VII, covering joint planning, tactical drills, weapons handling, fitness, and raiding operations.
- A 48-hour validation exercise caps the drill, underscoring bilateral defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

PSA Mumbai Terminal Phase-II inaugurated by PM Modi and Singapore PM Wong

- On September 2, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong virtually inaugurated Phase II of PSA's Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal (BMCT) at JNPT, Uran, alongside the signing of several India–Singapore MoUs.
- The expansion doubles BMCT capacity from 2.4 to 4.8 million TEUs, taking JNPA's total capacity past 10 million TEUs, the highest in India.
- The terminal spans 200 hectares with a 2-km quay, 24 quay cranes, 72 RTGs, rail-mounted gantries, six rail sidings, and deep-draft berths capable of handling 18,000-TEU vessels.
- It is India's first 100% renewable-powered container terminal, integrates with the DFC and connects to 63+ ICDs, strengthening multimodal logistics.
- Developed under a PPP with PSA International involving about \$1.3 billion FDI, the project is positioned to boost Maharashtra's maritime hub ambitions ahead of the upcoming Vadhavan Port.

India's first Vulture Knowledge Portal launched in Assam

- India unveiled "The Vulture Network" in Assam on International Vulture Awareness Day, a cloud-based portal led by We Foundation India with Gauhati University (Zoology) to advance vulture conservation.
- The platform aggregates scientific information, outreach materials, and threat alerts on issues such as carcass poisoning, harmful veterinary drugs like diclofenac, and negative social perceptions.
- It is supported by partners including Assam Bird Monitoring Network, LASA Foundation, Suraksha Samitee, and independent conservationists to widen stakeholder engagement.
- Content is offered in local languages starting with Assamese for grassroots reach, with a focus on critically endangered species such as the slender-billed vulture (~800 mature individuals).

India's first port-based green hydrogen pilot launched at VOC Port, Tuticorin

- On September 5, 2025, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated a 10 Nm³/hour green hydrogen pilot at V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tamil Nadu, aligning with net-zero goals in the maritime sector.
- The hydrogen will power port-colony streetlights and an EV charging facility, while a ₹3.87 crore outlay established the plant as India's first green-hydrogen production unit within a port ecosystem.
- Complementary green assets include a green methanol bunkering pilot (750 m³, ₹35.34 crore) to support the Kandla–Tuticorin Green Shipping Corridor, a 400 kW rooftop solar addition taking rooftop capacity to 1.04 MW, and a 6 MW wind farm.
- Logistics upgrades feature a ₹24.5 crore link conveyor adding 0.72 MMTPA capacity, foundation for Multi-Cargo Berth No. 10 (10 MT, up to 125,000 DWT), and a 3.37-km four-lane road (₹34.77 crore) to ease cargo movement.

- The minister also opened a Tamil Nadu Maritime Heritage Museum (₹3 crore), and the port signed MoUs with IPRCL for rail connectivity and NTPC for green-mobility initiatives.

Manipur peace push falters as both sides reject key steps

- Between September 5–7, 2025, major Meitei and Kuki-Zo civil groups repudiated the Centre’s announcements extending the SoO pact with Kuki-Zo insurgents and reopening NH-2, imperiling the peace process.
- COCOMI called the SoO extension undemocratic, citing prior cabinet (Mar 2023) and assembly (Feb 2024) votes to abrogate SoO and the absence of a state mandate under President’s Rule.
- Kuki-Zo groups led by VVCC opposed NH-2 “free movement” until demands for separate administration are addressed, while KNO/UPF clarified the highway was not blocked and sought essential-traffic passage through Kangpokpi with security by central forces.
- The state affirmed compliance with the new SoO—relocating camps and pursuing structured dialogue—yet both communities questioned the consultation’s legitimacy amid conflict since May 2023 that displaced 60,000+ and caused hundreds of deaths.

Govt to replace Indian Science Congress with innovation-focused ESTIC

- The government will discontinue the Indian Science Congress (est. 1914) and launch the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) on November 3–5, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ESTIC will feature 11 thematic sessions spanning quantum, biotech, advanced materials, semiconductors, space, AI, bio-manufacturing, agri-tech, climate-energy, health tech, and blue economy, with plenaries by Nobel laureates and global experts.
- The conclave’s design centers on applied research, academia–industry bridges, and policy dialogue aligned to Viksit Bharat 2047, distinct from the science-popularization focus of the IISF.
- Organized by DST with partner ministries and expected to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, ESTIC aims to position India more prominently in global S&T leadership.

Arunachal’s first “Sun Rise Festival” announced

- Arunachal Pradesh will host a five-day Sun Rise Festival at Dong village, Anjaw from December 29, 2025 to January 2, 2026, India’s easternmost accessible spot famed for the earliest sunrise.
- The event aims to boost border tourism, offering a unique New Year experience centered on first light at dawn.
- Programming will showcase traditional music and dance, indigenous cuisine, art exhibits, and nature-based adventures highlighting local heritage.
- The state plans a professionally managed, self-sustaining festival with infrastructure support to ensure a quality visitor experience.

India’s literacy rate rises to 80.9% (2023–24)

- India’s literacy rate increased from 74% in 2011 to 80.9% in 2023–24, as announced by the Union Education Minister on International Literacy Day 2025.
- The improvement is linked to programmes such as ULLAS–Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram, under which over 3 crore learners were enrolled.
- The Minister underscored literacy as a path to dignity, empowerment, and self-reliance, not merely the ability to read and write.
- Gender and regional gaps persist, with females, rural areas, and states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan trailing the national average.

- Since Independence, literacy has climbed from about 12% (1947) to 80.9%, reflecting sustained long-term progress.

Himachal Pradesh declared fully literate at 99.3%

- On September 8, 2025, Himachal Pradesh declared itself fully literate with a 99.3% rate, becoming the fourth state to do so after Goa, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- The state's literacy rose from 7% (1951) to 99.3% (2025), credited to decades of outreach and policy continuity under ULLAS.
- Himachal surpasses the 95% benchmark and leads on quality indicators such as student-teacher ratio.
- The milestone was announced at 'Puran Sakshar Himachal Samaroh' and ULLAS Mela-2025, with leadership highlighting a near-zero dropout rate.
- The state articulated a forward vision to position Himachal as a centre of educational excellence.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2025: Indore tops; Wetland City honours for Indore & Udaipur

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav conferred the 2025 awards under NCAP and presented Ramsar "Wetland City" recognition to Indore and Udaipur.
- Category I (10+ lakh): Indore scored 200/200 (₹1.5 crore); Jabalpur placed second (199, ₹1 crore); Agra and Surat joint third (196, ₹25 lakh each).
- Category II (3–10 lakh): Amravati led with 200 (₹75 lakh); Jhansi and Moradabad tied second (198.5, ₹25 lakh each); Alwar third (197.6, ₹25 lakh).
- Category III (<3 lakh): Dewas first (193, ₹37.5 lakh); Parwanoo second (191.5, ₹25 lakh); Angul third (191, ₹12.5 lakh).
- NCAP reports >₹1.55 lakh crore mobilised, 64 cities achieving ≥20% PM10 reduction and 25 cities achieving ≥40%, with new ward-level guidelines and a best-practices compendium launched.

"Swacchotsav 2025": SHS campaign to drive clean & green festivities (17 Sept–2 Oct)

- MoHUA and DDWS announced Swachhata Hi Seva 2025 themed "Swacchotsav – Celebrating Clean and Green Festivities" spanning 17 Sept–2 Oct 2025.
- A preparatory meet, co-chaired by the Union ministers, tasked States/UTs to identify Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs) and accelerate legacy waste clearance.
- Citizens and ULBs were urged to use the Swachhata App for reporting and swift grievance resolution, framing cleanliness as a shared civic dharma.
- The drive aims to leverage festival crowds for eco-friendly behaviours, targeted CTU clean-ups, legacy dump remediation, and digital monitoring via the app.

India participates in Exercise ZAPAD 2025, Russia (10–16 Sept)

- India deployed 65 personnel—57 Army, 7 Air Force, 1 Navy—with the Army led by a Kumaon Regiment battalion at Mulino Training Ground.
- The multilateral drill hones interoperability and conventional/counter-terror tactics through joint company-level operations in open terrain.
- Training includes mission planning, tactical manoeuvres, specialised arms modules, and engagement with emerging technologies.
- The participation underscores India–Russia defence cooperation, fostering operational camaraderie and preparedness in multinational settings.

Digvijay Diwas: 132 years since Vivekananda's Chicago address

- Observed annually on 11 September, Digvijay Diwas marks Swami Vivekananda's 1893 Parliament of the World's Religions address in Chicago.
- His greeting "Sisters and Brothers of America" framed a message of religious tolerance and universal brotherhood rooted in Vedanta.
- The speech rejected sectarianism, fanaticism, and intolerance, presenting India's spiritual heritage as a bridge between East and West.
- The day is commemorated through seminars, lectures, and cultural programmes that urge compassion, ethical living, and unity in diversity.

SPREE-2025: ESIC drive to widen social security coverage (1 Jul–31 Dec 2025)

- SPREE-2025 enables unregistered employers and employees (including contractual/temporary workers) to enrol under the ESI Act, 1948.
- Registration via the ESIC, Shram Suvidha, and MCA portals is encouraged, with no inspections or back-dues demanded for pre-registration periods.
- The scheme prioritises voluntary compliance and is paired with Amnesty-2025 to settle legacy disputes.
- Newly registered workers become immediately eligible for ESIC health and social-security benefits from the date of registration.

First overseas Atal Innovation Centre launched at IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first overseas AIC at IIT Delhi–Abu Dhabi to serve Indian and UAE innovators.
- New programmes—Ph.D. in Energy & Sustainability and B.Tech in Chemical Engineering—were announced alongside the AIC.
- The centre will foster startups in AI, clean energy, and deep tech, and expand Atal Innovation Labs in UAE schools.
- The initiative aligns with NEP 2020 goals on internationalisation, innovation, and entrepreneurship-led education.

India reaches 250 GW of non-fossil electricity capacity

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced that India's non-fossil power capacity has reached 250 GW in 2025, up from about 81 GW in 2014.
- The mix comprises roughly 123.13 GW solar, 52.68 GW wind, 55.22 GW hydro, 11.60 GW bio-energy, and 8.78 GW nuclear.
- The government reiterated its 2030 goal of 500 GW non-fossil capacity, aligning with wider sustainability drives such as "Swachh Energy."
- A utility-led solar model has delivered free electricity to 20 lakh households, with a stated target to scale benefits to 1 crore households.

'Namo Bharat' RRTS becomes India's fastest train service

- The Namo Bharat RRTS on the New Ashok Nagar–Meerut South stretch achieved a top speed of 160 km/h, surpassing the curtailed 130 km/h limits of Gatimaan Express and Vande Bharat
- The operational segment is part of an 82.15 km corridor from Sarai Kale Khan to Modipuram with 16 stations, enabling high speeds between stops spaced 5–8 km apart.
- Alstom-built six-car trainsets feature ATP, ATC, and ATO systems, and currently operate at 15-minute headways.

- With full commissioning, the Delhi–Meerut travel time is expected to fall to under one hour, and ridership has reportedly crossed 1.5 crore on the open section.

Five key challenges ahead of PM Modi's visit to Manipur

- The state remains scarred by Meitei–Kuki-Zo ethnic violence since May 2023, with 260+ deaths and tens of thousands displaced and living as IDPs.
- President's Rule has been in force since February 2025, raising concerns about governance, accountability, and the roadmap to a stable political dispensation.
- Security remains fragile amid clashes and insurgent activity, prompting reinforced deployments and reviews in districts like Churachandpur, Bishnupur, and Imphal.
- Community grievances—including land rights, representation, and justice—persist, and large development backlogs heighten needs for health, education, connectivity, and livelihoods.

'Samudra Pradakshina': all-women tri-service circumnavigation flagged off

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually flagged off Samudra Pradakshina, India's first tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing mission from Mumbai's Gateway of India.
- The expedition will span ~26,000 nautical miles over September 2025–May 2026, crossing the Equator twice and rounding the three great capes including Cape Horn.
- The crew of 10 women officers sails the 50-ft indigenously built IASV *Triveni*, led by Lt Col Anuja Varudkar, after three years of rigorous training.
- The mission integrates scientific research on micro-plastics and ocean health, international port calls, and adheres to WSSRC norms for true circumnavigation.

Dr Manmohan Singh awarded PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics (posthumous)

- The PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation conferred its Economics Award posthumously on Dr Manmohan Singh, accepted by Gursharan Kaur in New Delhi.
- The honour, presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, recognises Singh's pivotal role in India's 1991 economic liberalisation and subsequent nation-building contributions.
- The ceremony was attended by PVNMF leaders including K. Ramchandra Murthy and Madhamchetty Anil Kumar.
- The award underscores Singh's enduring legacy in macroeconomic reform, institutional strengthening, and long-term growth policy.

Ayurveda Day 2025 Announced for Goa

- The 10th Ayurveda Day will be observed on 23 September 2025 at the All India Institute of Ayurveda, Goa.
- Authorities have fixed 23 September as the permanent date, ending the earlier practice of aligning it with Dhanvantari Jayanti.
- The theme is "Ayurveda for People & Planet," linking human health with environmental sustainability.
- Nationwide activities and international outreach through Indian Missions, universities, wellness bodies, and diaspora groups aim to surpass last year's global participation.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Aravali at Gurugram

- INS Aravali was commissioned on 12 September 2025 in Gurugram to strengthen command, control, communications, and information capabilities.
- Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi presided over the ceremony attended by senior naval leadership.

- Captain Sachin Kumar Singh became the first Commanding Officer, with ceremonial unveiling, ensign hoisting, and commissioning pennant raising.
- The base supports maritime domain awareness and operates under the motto that translates to “Maritime Security through Collaboration.”

SC Restores Raja Bahadur Sardar Singh’s Estates to Trust

- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of Raja Bahadur Sardar Singh’s will, restoring properties worth around ₹3,000 crore to the charitable trust he created.
- The ruling concludes nearly four decades of litigation between the trust and the State of Rajasthan over the vesting of these estates.
- The Court affirmed that Sardar Singh’s charitable intentions, as expressed in a valid will, must be honoured.
- The trust will now manage the estates for public benefit in accordance with his original vision.

New Delhi Declaration on Manuscript Heritage

- On 13 September 2025, participants at the ‘Gyan Bharatam’ conference adopted the New Delhi Declaration at Vigyan Bhawan.
- The declaration recognised manuscripts as living sources of knowledge and cultural continuity.
- It called for preservation, digitisation, and broad dissemination to modernise access to manuscript wisdom.
- The outcome positioned India as a leader in global knowledge preservation efforts.

Tirumala Hills, Erra Matti Dibbalu Enter UNESCO Tentative List

- Tirumala Hills and Erra Matti Dibbalu were added on 27 August 2025 to India’s UNESCO Tentative List under natural heritage, signalling state intent to conserve them.
- Erra Matti Dibbalu near Visakhapatnam spans roughly 1,500 acres, is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, and records late Quaternary sea-level and climate shifts, but faces tourism and encroachment pressures.
- Tirumala Hills host the Eparchaeon Unconformity, the Silathoranam natural arch, and rich biodiversity within the Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve and Venkateswara National Park.
- The listing advances research, education, and sustainable tourism prospects while underscoring the need for buffer zones and tighter regulation; India’s Tentative List now totals 69 sites.

Delivery of ‘Androth’ – Second ASW Shallow Water Craft to Navy

- GRSE delivered Androth, the second of eight ASW Shallow Water Crafts, in Kolkata on 13 September 2025, about four months after the first craft, Arnala.
- The 77-metre diesel-engine, water-jet propelled vessel carries lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, shallow-water sonar, a combat management system, and a 30 mm naval gun.
- With over 80% indigenous content, Androth supports anti-submarine warfare in littoral zones and roles like surveillance, mine-laying, and coordinated operations with aircraft.
- Its shallow draught enhances manoeuvrability along India’s coastlines and aligns with self-reliance goals in defence manufacturing.

Amit Shah Opens 5th Rajbhasha Sammelan in Gandhinagar

- The Union Home Minister called for expanding Hindi’s functional use into science, technology, law, policing, and other formal domains alongside regional languages.

- He emphasised mother-tongue learning in early education and cited tools like Bahubhashi Anuvad Sarthi and the growing Hindi Shabd Sindhu dictionary project.
- Gujarat was presented as an example of balanced bilingual practice in public life, drawing on historical leaders who advanced linguistic coexistence.
- The broader objective is to strengthen accessibility and public trust by making Indian languages more relevant across everyday and institutional contexts.

SC on amended Waqf Act: What has been stayed, what remains

- The Supreme Court issued an interim order declining to stay the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 in its entirety, so most provisions continue to operate.
- The Court stayed select clauses, including the requirement that a person must have practised Islam for at least five years before making a waqf and caps on the number of non-Muslims on Waqf bodies.
- Certain contested provisions relating to property definitions and powers of designated officers have been kept in abeyance pending final adjudication.
- The interim stay will remain until the petitions are decided, and the order does not reflect a final view on constitutionality.
- Provisions aimed at transparency, registration and auditing that are not specifically stayed remain in force.

IAF proposal for 114 Rafale jets under “Make in India”

- The Indian Air Force has proposed procuring 114 Rafale fighters in a deal estimated at about ₹2 lakh crore, now under Defence Ministry review.
- Around 18 aircraft are planned as fly-away units, with the remainder produced in India in collaboration with Dassault and domestic firms.
- The proposal targets roughly 60% indigenous content across components, assembly, and lifecycle support.
- The acquisition aims to address squadron strength gaps and accelerate domestic aerospace manufacturing capacity.

PM Modi inaugurates PM MITRA Park in Dhar

- The first greenfield PM MITRA Park was launched in Behnsola, Dhar, spanning about 2,158 acres with industrial units planned over roughly 1,300 acres.
- The park targets the full farm-to-exports textile value chain under the 5F vision, with secured investments of over ₹20,000 crore from 84 investors.
- It is positioned to boost local heritage such as the Maheshwari saree, strengthen processing, design, and export infrastructure, and expand employment.
- At the event, benefits under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana worth over ₹450 crore were released to more than 15 lakh women.

ASI to revise Sarnath plaque attribution

- The Archaeological Survey of India will credit Jagat Singh’s family for the 1787–88 exposure of Sarnath’s archaeological significance, replacing later British attributions.
- Updates will amend the main plaque and related boards to reflect earlier local discovery rather than the 1798 accounts of British officials.
- The revision follows earlier corrections at Dharmarajika Stupa and aligns with efforts to decolonise site narratives.
- The move coincides with India’s push for Sarnath’s World Heritage nomination in the 2025–26 cycle.

Vyommitra to fly on uncrewed Gaganyaan test

- ISRO's AI-enabled half-humanoid will ride the uncrewed Gaganyaan mission planned for December 2025 to simulate human presence and validate systems.
- The robot will monitor life-support and environmental parameters and flag anomalies to de-risk future crewed flights.
- The mission includes an escape system and sea splash-down with a multi-parachute recovery sequence.
- The broader programme involves collaboration with the Air Force, Navy, DRDO, and partner institutions ahead of a planned crewed flight in 2027.

NTCA narrows official tiger corridors to 32 "least cost pathways"

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority has clarified that only 32 "least cost pathways" from its 2014 analysis, plus corridors explicitly designated in state Tiger Conservation Plans, will be treated as officially recognized tiger corridors.
- This represents a reversal from earlier practice that referenced multiple scientific sources, excluding Wildlife Institute of India studies (2016, 2021) and recent All-India Tiger Estimation-based refinements.
- The clarification follows scrutiny in the Bombay High Court, which is hearing a PIL on Maharashtra's use of these least-cost corridors to grant project clearances.
- Under the narrowed definition, projects such as Western Coalfields' Durgapur open-cast mines and Lloyds Metals & Energy's Surajgarh iron-ore mines in Maharashtra now fall outside recognized corridors and face fewer regulatory hurdles.
- Conservationists warn the move disregards telemetry and landscape-modelling evidence; a July 2025 Circuitscape study by Nagpur's LRC Foundation mapped 192 potential corridors across central India, and even NTCA's 2014 report cautioned its 32 pathways were only a minimal baseline.

Green Credit Programme: stricter, quality-first tree-plantation rules

- On August 29, 2025, MoEFCC revised the Green Credit Programme methodology, granting credits only after five years of verified restoration (earlier two) and achieving $\geq 40\%$ canopy density.
- Credits are non-tradable and non-transferable except within holding-subsidiary groups; one credit accrues per surviving tree ≥ 5 years old, measured against canopy and survival improvements.
- A one-time exchange of credits is permitted for compensatory afforestation, CSR obligations, or other legal tree-planting duties; exchanged credits are extinguished but may support ESG reporting.
- The update shifts focus from planting counts to long-term ecological outcomes, replacing earlier benchmarks (e.g., 1,100 trees/ha in two years) with durability and canopy quality.

India records H1 2025 power-sector CO₂ dip

- Power-sector emissions fell about 1% year-on-year in January–June 2025, marking a rare half-year decline outside pandemic years.
- Softer electricity demand due to milder weather and stronger hydropower output contributed to the drop.
- Non-fossil capacity additions rose sharply, lifting solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear generation while fossil generation declined.
- Oil demand growth stalled, though emissions from steel and cement rose on infrastructure activity.

Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana approved

- On August 29, 2025, the Bihar Cabinet cleared a women's self-employment scheme granting ₹10,000 to one woman per household to start income-generating activities.
- After six months, eligible beneficiaries may receive up to ₹2 lakh in additional assistance based on an assessment to scale their ventures.
- Applications will open shortly with DBT transfers from September 2025; the Rural Development Department is the nodal agency, supported by UD&HD for urban outreach.
- The plan includes setting up haat bazaars across rural and urban areas to aid market access for women-made products and aims to curb out-migration by boosting local livelihoods.
- The scheme builds on Bihar's women-empowerment measures since 2005, including 50% local-body reservations, liquor prohibition (2016), and enhanced pensions benefiting 1.12 crore women.

Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh launched

- On September 2, 2025, PM Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi Saakh Sahkari Sangh Ltd., a cooperative to extend easy, low-cost credit to women in Jeevika self-help groups.
- The initiative began with a ₹105 crore transfer and a ₹1,000 crore sanctioned corpus backed by the Centre and Bihar, targeting around 20 lakh women entrepreneurs.
- A digital-first system enables direct transfers without in-person visits, with 12,000 community cadres equipped with tablets to support onboarding and transactions.
- The programme aims to reduce dependence on high-interest lenders and aligns with broader women-centric schemes such as Lakhpati Didi, Drone Didi, and Bank Sakhi to expand incomes and agency.

IEPFA launches Niveshak Didi Phase II to boost women's financial literacy

- The IEPFA launched Phase II of Niveshak Didi at a financial awareness camp in Patelguda Panchayat, Hyderabad, expanding a "for women, by women" financial-literacy model.
- The new phase deepens outreach with interactive, local-language trainings on savings, safe investments, fraud prevention, and secure digital finance, delivered by women trainers.
- IPPB's postal network underpins last-mile awareness and service delivery across villages and panchayats for broader inclusion.
- Building on an April 8, 2025 MoA with IPPB and Phase I's 55,000+ beneficiaries, Phase II targets 4,000+ camps run by ~40,000 women postal workers acting as Niveshak Didis.

INTERNATIONAL

Bhutan's 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II completed; big boost to clean power

- Unit 6 synchronized in August 2025 completed Bhutan's 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II (6×170 MW), lifting national installed capacity by ~40% to 3,500+ MW.
- Earlier units came online in Dec 2024 (1–2), Mar 2025 (3), May 2025 (4), and Jul 2025 (5), marking a phased commissioning on the Punatsangchhu River in Wangdue Phodrang.
- The run-of-river project, funded by India (~30% grant, 70% loan ~10%), uses Vertical Francis turbines with engineering inputs from WAPCOS and NIRM.
- It reinforces India–Bhutan clean-energy cooperation (Chukha, Kurichhu, Tala, Mangdechhu) and supports regional energy security with lower environmental footprint.

Deadly earthquake in eastern Afghanistan

- A magnitude 6.0 quake on August 31, 2025 struck Kunar near the Pakistan border, followed by a 5.2 aftershock, causing widespread damage across Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Nuristan, and Panjshir.
- At least 1,469 deaths and over 3,700 injuries have been reported, with 8,000+ homes collapsed and several villages—such as Mazar-e-Dara—nearly flattened.
- Rescue is hampered by landslides, aftershocks, terrain and weather, prompting air-drops of commandos to remote mountain areas.
- Aid from India, the UK, Australia and others has begun, but WFP warns food stocks could run out in four weeks amid funding gaps and donor hesitancy linked to the Taliban context.

IPC Declaration: Famine in Gaza Governorate

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has formally declared famine (Phase 5) in Gaza Governorate—including Gaza City—the first confirmed famine in the Middle East
- Over 500,000 Palestinians are in catastrophic conditions, projected to exceed 640,000 by late September, while about 1.07 million more face emergency-level food insecurity (Phase 4).
- As of mid-August, 100% of Gaza's population is acutely food insecure: roughly 20% in famine (Phase 5), 58% in emergency (Phase 4), and 20% in crisis (Phase 3).
- Reports cite rising child malnutrition and at least 281 hunger-related deaths, prompting the UN Secretary-General to call it a "man-made disaster" and spurring appeals from UNICEF and EU leaders for urgent measures such as lifting blockades and enabling aid.

UNGA launches twin global initiatives for AI governance

- The UN General Assembly unveiled two mechanisms: a 40-member Independent International Scientific Panel on AI for rigorous, non-prescriptive scientific assessments, and a Global Dialogue on AI Governance to convene states, industry, academia, and civil society.
- The Scientific Panel will deliver annual summary reports to inform the Global Dialogue, with members chosen via an open nomination process and appointed by the UNGA.
- First Global Dialogue sessions are scheduled for July 2026 (Geneva) and July 2027 (New York), creating a staged pipeline from assessment to deliberation.
- These moves operationalise pillars of the Global Digital Compact within the wider Pact for the Future, aiming to balance AI's benefits with systemic risk mitigation.

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (30 Aug 2025)

- Observed annually on 30 August, the day highlights unlawful detentions or abductions by state agents (or with their acquiescence) and the resulting human-rights violations and family suffering.
- Since the ICPPED was adopted, the UN has recorded ~61,500 cases across 115 countries; 1,278 new cases arose between May 2024–May 2025 in 38 countries.
- A Syria spotlight by SNHR documents 177,057 disappearances (including 4,536 children and 8,984 women) since March 2011, attributing about 90% to the Assad regime.
- The ICPPED (adopted 2006, in force 2010) requires states to criminalize, investigate, exercise jurisdiction/extradite, and provide reparations, recognizing enforced disappearance as a grave violation and potential crime against humanity.

Thailand PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra removed for ethics breach

- Thailand's Constitutional Court dismissed Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra on August 29, 2025 (6–3 ruling) for violating ethical standards by appearing to prioritise personal ties with Cambodia's Hun Sen during a sensitive border dispute.

- The case centred on a leaked call in which she referred to Hun Sen as “uncle” and promised to “take care of” requests, prompting public anger, coalition withdrawal, and national-security concerns.
- She had been suspended since July 1, 2025 pending the verdict; Deputy PM Phumtham Wechayachai became acting PM, with Chaikasem Nitisiri the remaining Pheu Thai nominee.
- The ouster extends a pattern of judicial interventions against the Shinawatra dynasty (Thaksin, Yingluck, Somchai), heightening political volatility and raising prospects of early elections.

‘Educate Girls’ wins 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award

- Indian NGO Educate Girls won the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award for transformative grassroots work advancing girls’ education and agency across rural India.
- Founded in 2007, it operates in 30,000+ villages, has re-enrolled 2+ million girls in schools, and provided remedial learning to 2.4+ million children.
- Flagship programmes include Vidya (enrolment up to age 14) and Pragati (second-chance learning for ages 15–29), powered by Team Balika—23,000+ community volunteers.
- The Foundation cited its impact against cultural stereotyping; the award ceremony is scheduled for November 7, 2025, in Manila.

Exercise Bright Star 2025 begins in Egypt

- Bright Star 2025, the 19th biennial multilateral tri-service exercise co-hosted by US CENTCOM and the Egyptian Armed Forces, runs from August 28 to September 10, 2025 at Mohamed Naguib Military Base.
- Originating in 1980 after the Camp David Accords, it has become one of CENTCOM’s largest and longest-running drills for collective defence readiness.
- Participation exceeds 40 countries, including 1,800+ U.S. personnel and 700+ Indian personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and IDS.
- Activities span command-post exercises, field training with live firing, and senior-leader seminars, aimed at improving joint planning, interoperability, and strategic dialogue.

IONS: Emerging Leaders forum highlights maritime cooperation

- The Indian Navy hosted an “Emerging Leaders Panel Discussion” under IONS at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, with young officers from 18 member nations and 300+ participants.
- IONS, founded in 2008 as a voluntary maritime-cooperation forum, today includes 25 member states and 9 observers across the Indian Ocean Region.
- Alongside the IWG-MARSEC meeting (June 24–25, 2025, New Delhi), the Kochi event examined maritime security, emerging technologies, and a training roadmap for IONS navies.
- Delegates concurred on enhancing maritime domain awareness, tech collaboration, and shared training, reaffirming India’s foundational role and 2023–25 co-chair responsibilities in MarSec and HADR.

India–Japan pact on critical minerals and defence cooperation

- During PM Modi’s Tokyo visit (Aug 29–30, 2025), India and Japan signed an agreement to cooperate on critical minerals and defence industrial collaboration.
- The pact covers joint exploration, processing, refining, and technology synergies to diversify and secure clean-energy and advanced-tech supply chains.
- It aligns with Indo-Pacific economic security and Quad goals, complementing India’s National Critical Minerals Mission and Japan’s strategic energy plans.

- The agreement dovetails with broader cooperation in semiconductors, AI, clean energy, and next-gen mobility, strengthening their Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

India-US Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025 commences in Alaska

- The 21st Yudh Abhyas runs September 1–14, 2025 at Fort Wainwright, Yukon Training Area, and Donnelly Training Area, focusing on joint readiness in subarctic terrain.
- India's contingent from the Madras Regiment trains with the US 1/5 Infantry (Arctic Wolves), 11th Airborne Division, emphasizing high-altitude warfare and counter-UAS tactics.
- The curriculum covers heliborne ops, UAS integration, mountain warfare, CASEVAC, and combined artillery–aviation–EW employment.
- The exercise advances interoperability and doctrine under the Indo-Pacific framework despite broader trade/tariff frictions.

India-EFTA TEPA to take effect on October 1, 2025

- India and EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) will implement the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) on October 1, 2025, after 16 years of talks.
- The pact features legally binding sustainable-development provisions, a first in India's FTAs, and an investment pledge of USD 100 billion over 15 years with an estimated 1 million jobs.
- India will cut or eliminate tariffs on selected EFTA goods (e.g., Swiss watches, chocolates, cut & polished diamonds), while Switzerland gains wider access for ~94–94.7% of its exports.
- All parties have completed ratification and instrument deposit, enabling smooth commencement.

WHO: one in 100 deaths globally was by suicide (2021)

- WHO data show about 727,000 deaths by suicide in 2021, constituting ~1.1% of all global deaths, with 20+ attempts per death on average.
- Suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death for women 15–29 and 3rd for men 15–29, highlighting a severe youth burden.
- Over 1 billion people live with mental health conditions, dominated by anxiety and depressive disorders, with ~73% of suicides occurring in low- and middle-income countries.
- Global rates have declined only modestly; WHO urges accelerated prevention, services scale-up, and equity-focused responses.

Singapore backs India's entry to the Malacca Strait Patrol

- Singapore formally supported India's interest in joining the Malacca Strait Patrol (MSP) on September 5, 2025, during talks between PM Modi and PM Lawrence Wong.
- The MSP's three pillars—sea patrols, Eyes-in-the-Sky aerial surveillance, and an Intelligence Exchange Group—have helped reduce piracy to single-digit incidents in recent years.
- India's participation would leverage its Andaman & Nicobar proximity, bolster energy-security corridors that carry most of India's LNG and 60% of seaborne trade, and align with the Act East Policy.
- The leaders also advanced cooperation in quantum, AI, automation, and unmanned vessels, which could directly enhance MSP surveillance and response capabilities.

Finland backs two-state declaration for Israel-Palestine

- Finland will join an international declaration, drafted at a UN-convened (Saudi Arabia–France co-hosted) conference in July 2025, endorsing a two-state solution with time-bound, irreversible steps.

- The plan outlines a 15-month roadmap beginning with ending the war in Gaza, followed by demilitarization measures, security guarantees, and reconstruction to enable Palestinian statehood.
- Helsinki supports the initiative without immediate recognition of Palestine, reflecting divisions within the governing coalition; the President is open to recognition if proposed by the government.
- The endorsement aligns Finland with partners such as France, Canada, and the UK, amid wider European moves linking recognition to reforms and aid frameworks.

WHO updates Essential Medicines Lists (EML/EMLc)

- In September 2025, WHO issued the 24th EML and 10th EMLc, adding 20 adult and 15 pediatric medicines plus 7 new indications.
- Additions include GLP-1 receptor agonists (for type 2 diabetes with comorbidities), rapid-acting insulin analogues, Trikafta/Kaftio (cystic fibrosis), and Keytruda (certain metastatic cancers).
- The lists now include 523 adult and 374 pediatric medicines, guiding procurement and access, especially as patents expire.
- Inclusion of high-cost therapies signals a push for equitable access in resource-limited settings through normative guidance.

Anuparna Roy wins Venice Orizzonti Best Director

- Anuparna Roy became the first Indian to win Best Director (Orizzonti) at the 82nd Venice Film Festival for *Songs of Forgotten Trees*.
- The 2024 drama follows two migrant women in Mumbai (Naaz Shaikh, Sumi Baghel) forging a quiet bond amid urban precarity.
- Orizzonti honors innovative cinematic voices; Roy's film was the sole Indian entry in that section.
- Receiving the award from Julia Ducournau, Roy called the moment "surreal," thanking her cast, crew, producers, and presenter Anurag Kashyap.

Arundhati Roy's memoir *Mother Mary Comes to Me* released

- Published September 2025 by Scribner, the memoir reflects on Roy's complex relationship with her mother, Mary Roy (d. Sept 2022).
- It intertwines childhood in Kerala, teenage flight to Delhi, and Roy's evolution as novelist-activist, portraying Mary as both "shelter and storm."
- Critics highlight the blend of intimate recollection and political commentary, exploring grief, identity, and dissent.
- Major outlets praised its emotional honesty and evocative prose, noting tensions between affection and alienation.

India leads agenda at the 28th Universal Postal Congress

- At the Dubai Congress (September 2025), India launched UPI-UPU Integration to enable faster, secure, low-cost cross-border remittances via the UPU Interconnection Platform.
- India announced candidatures to the Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council, signalling intent to shape global postal governance.
- A USD 10 million commitment was pledged to spur innovation in e-commerce and digital payments, building on Aadhaar, Jan Dhan, and India Post Payments Bank.
- India engaged delegates from 192 member countries, advocating technology-driven, inclusive, and sustainable postal services.

- The Congress will guide the 2026–2029 strategy to modernise services, boost quality amid rising e-commerce, and enhance sector resilience.

Younus Ahamed receives the Camel International Award 2025

- Younus Ahamed, an NRI entrepreneur from Palakkad, Kerala, was honoured with the Camel International Award 2025 for global business leadership.
- The award is conferred by Arabian World Records (Dubai) to recognise international impact through innovation and enterprise.
- Reports note ceremonies linked to March (Kerala) and a major gala on the Queen Elizabeth 2 in Dubai (August 2025).
- The recognition highlights Ahamed's contributions to the global diaspora business ecosystem and leadership credentials.
- The award underscores entrepreneurial excellence with international reach.

International Conference on Space 2025, Bengaluru (8–9 Sept)

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the conference themed "Harnessing Space for Global Progress: Innovation, Policy, and Growth."
- Co-hosted by CII with support from ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL, it convened 500+ delegates across government, industry, academia, and startups.
- Sessions covered NewSpace growth, private-sector roles, indigenous capability, 5G/6G & IoT SatCom, EO data commercialisation, space-defence synergies, and talent pipelines.
- The meet aligned with India's targets—Bharatiya Space Station by 2035 and Moon mission with an Indian astronaut by 2040—and highlighted ~USD 300 million in global investments and collaboration with 40+ countries.

Larry Ellison briefly tops global rich list on Oracle's AI-cloud surge

- A sharp Oracle stock rally (~40%) on stronger-than-expected AI and cloud results briefly lifted Larry Ellison above Elon Musk as the world's richest.
- Ellison's net worth touched about US\$393 billion, edging Musk's ~US\$384–385 billion at the peak.
- The lead was short-lived, with market moves narrowing or reversing the gap by day's end.
- Ellison's ~40–41% stake in Oracle amplifies wealth swings tied to the company's AI-driven performance.

Israel's airstrike in Doha targets Hamas negotiators, sparks backlash

- Israel struck Leqtaifiya, Doha, targeting senior Hamas political leaders amid a meeting on a U.S.-backed ceasefire proposal.
- Six people were killed, including the son of Khalil al-Hayya, multiple Hamas staffers, and a Qatari security officer; some leaders reportedly survived.
- Qatar condemned the attack as a violation of sovereignty; critics called it a breach of international law undermining mediation.
- Fallout includes risks to ceasefire/hostage talks, heightened regional tensions, damage to Israel's diplomatic standing, and civilian safety concerns in Doha.

Larry Ellison Briefly Becomes World's Richest

- On 10–11 September 2025, Larry Ellison briefly surpassed Elon Musk atop the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

- Oracle's stock jumped sharply on strong earnings and momentum in cloud and AI contracts, boosting Ellison's stake value.
- Ellison's net worth peaked around 393 billion dollars, with Musk at approximately 384–385 billion dollars during the window.
- The lead was short-lived, and Musk reclaimed the top position soon after.

Sushila Karki Sworn in as Nepal's Interim Prime Minister

- Former Chief Justice Sushila Karki became Nepal's interim Prime Minister, the first woman to hold the office.
- Her appointment followed large youth-led protests over corruption, nepotism, and a social media ban that culminated in the resignation of K. P. Sharma Oli.
- President Ram Chandra Poudel administered the oath of office, and the House of Representatives was dissolved with elections set for 5 March 2026.
- The unrest resulted in significant casualties and injuries, underscoring the gravity of the political crisis.

India Votes for UNGA Resolution on Two-State Solution

- India supported a UN General Assembly resolution endorsing the New York Declaration on peacefully resolving the Palestine question.
- The measure passed with 142 votes in favour, 10 against, and 12 abstentions, with opponents including Israel and the United States.
- The declaration urges a viable two-state solution, cessation of violence, adherence to humanitarian law, and halting settlement expansion and annexation.
- India's vote signals clearer support for renewed negotiations compared to some earlier abstentions on related resolutions.

Albania Appoints Virtual AI Minister "Diella"

- Albania introduced Diella, a non-human, AI-driven virtual minister assigned the public procurement portfolio.
- The initiative seeks to curb corruption, enhance transparency, and improve efficiency in tender evaluations and awards.
- Diella previously operated on the e-Albania platform, assisting citizens with digital services and processing tens of thousands of documents.
- The move raises legal and constitutional questions about oversight and accountability even as Albania pursues broader governance reforms.

2025 Primetime Emmy Awards

- The 77th Primetime Emmys were held on 14 September 2025 at the Peacock Theater, Los Angeles, hosted by Nate Bargatze and broadcast on CBS and Paramount.
- The Studio won Outstanding Comedy Series, The Pitt took Outstanding Drama Series, and Adolescence won Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series.
- Notable milestones included first-time wins for Seth Rogen and Noah Wyle, a record debut-season haul for The Studio, and Tramell Tillman's historic Supporting Actor win in Drama.
- Severance led overall nominations with 27, while the ceremony also featured a donation-linked acceptance-speech gimmick that raised about 350,000 dollars.

International Day of Democracy 2025

- Observed annually on 15 September since 2008, the day traces back to a 2007 UNGA resolution and the IPU's 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy.
- The 2025 theme is "Achieving Gender Equality, Action by Action," focusing on concrete steps to advance parity in political institutions and processes.
- The observance underscores democracy's links to dignity, inclusion, human rights, accountability, and transparent governance.
- It also highlights contemporary challenges such as misinformation, polarisation, constrained civic space, and under-representation of women.

US-South Korea-Japan "Freedom Edge" exercise

- The United States, South Korea and Japan began the five-day Freedom Edge exercise from 15 to 19 September 2025 around Jeju Island.
- The drills strengthen trilateral cooperation across air, maritime and cyber domains in response to North Korea's missile and nuclear threats.
- Activities include ballistic missile defence training, air-defence drills, maritime interdiction operations and medical evacuation practice.
- The exercise has been described as the most advanced demonstration of trilateral defence cooperation to date by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.
- North Korea condemned the drills and protests were observed in Seoul.

INS Nistar at Exercise Pacific Reach 2025

- The Indian Navy's indigenously designed Diving Support Vessel INS Nistar made its maiden port call at Singapore's Changi Naval Base to join Exercise Pacific Reach 2025.
- Commissioned on 18 July 2025 with over 80 percent indigenous content, the ship serves as the mothership for Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicles.
- The vessel carries side-scan sonar, work-class and observation-class ROVs and deep-sea diving systems to enable submarine intervention and rescue.
- The Submarine Rescue Unit (East) will operate from INS Nistar during the exercise, which includes harbour and sea phases with more than 40 nations participating or observing.
- Sea-phase activities in the South China Sea will involve multiple intervention and rescue operations with partner navies.

India-Mauritius satellite tracking station near Diego Garcia

- India and Mauritius agreed in September 2025 to set up a telemetry, tracking, and telecom station in Mauritius near the Chagos Archipelago.
- The facility will enhance tracking of satellites and launch vehicles and broaden space research and telecommunications cooperation.
- India's support is part of an economic and security package of about US\$680 million for development and infrastructure.
- The location provides strategic reach in the Indian Ocean Region amid evolving regional security dynamics.

World Ozone Day 2025: "From science to global action"

- Observed annually on 16 September, the day marks progress under the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention's 40th anniversary.

- The 2025 theme highlights science-driven policy actions to protect and restore the ozone layer while supporting climate goals.
- The Protocol regulates nearly 100 ozone-depleting substances and, via the Kigali Amendment, phases down HFCs due to their climate impact.
- Scientific assessments suggest ozone recovery to 1980s levels by mid-century if current policies are maintained, though challenges remain.

South Korea and US reaffirm denuclearisation goal

- Seoul and Washington reiterated denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula as a non-negotiable objective amid concerns over North Korea's programme.
- A three-stage roadmap envisions freezing, reducing, and ultimately dismantling North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities.
- South Korea stressed the importance of reviving dialogue while noting rising Russia-North Korea defence ties.
- The statement precedes the APEC summit in Gyeongju and follows renewed regional tensions.

Australia sets 2035 emissions target

- Australia announced a 62–70% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 levels by 2035, consistent with a 43% cut by 2030 and net-zero by 2050.
- Advice from the Climate Change Authority and modelling by national agencies indicate the upper range is challenging but feasible.
- Policy levers include a strengthened Safeguard Mechanism, electrification, clean fuels, efficiency, EV infrastructure, and industrial decarbonisation.
- Economic analyses warn against a disorderly transition while projecting gains in jobs and energy costs under managed pathways.

WTO's 2025 World Trade Report on AI and trade

- The report projects global trade could be 34–37% higher by 2040 with broad AI adoption, potentially lifting global GDP by 12–13%.
- Benefits depend on closing gaps in data, compute, connectivity, skills, and interoperable regulation, especially for developing economies.
- Risks include widening digital divides and fragmented rules that curb gains and fairness.
- It urges policies for inclusive access, skills development, trustworthy AI, and coordinated international rules.

Marium Fatima becomes Bihar's first Woman FIDE Master

- Muzaffarpur's Marium Fatima earned the Woman FIDE Master title, the first woman from Bihar to do so.
- Beginning chess in primary school, she progressed through state-level age-group successes with coaching support in Patna.
- Her current rating is 2083, reflecting steady competitive development.
- The achievement has been officially recognised by state sports authorities and marks a milestone for Bihar chess.

Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound* selected as India's Oscars 2026 entry

- The Film Federation of India chose *Homebound* as India's official submission for Best International Feature Film at the 98th Academy Awards.
- The film, starring Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa, and Janhvi Kapoor, was selected from 24 Indian contenders.

- Inspired by Basharat Peer's 2020 New York Times essay, it follows two friends navigating exams and social discrimination.
- It premiered at Cannes 2025 (Un Certain Regard) and was second runner-up for the International People's Choice Award at TIFF 2025, with India release slated for 26 September 2025.

US revokes sanctions waiver for Iran's Chabahar Port

- The United States will end the Chabahar waiver on 29 September 2025, exposing operators to sanctions under IFCA.
- India's management of the Shahid Beheshti terminal through India Ports Global Limited faces legal and financial uncertainty.
- The move threatens India's trade and transit plans with Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypass Pakistan.
- New Delhi is assessing diplomatic and economic options as the decision aligns with broader US pressure on Iran.

US sets a \$100,000 sponsorship fee for new H-1B visas

- A presidential proclamation imposes a \$100,000 fee on companies sponsoring new H-1B applicants from 21 September 2025.
- Existing H-1B holders, petitions filed before the change, and in-country extensions or status changes are unaffected.
- Implementation specifics and possible exemptions remain unclear.
- The steep cost could significantly affect Indian IT services and US tech firms that rely on H-1B talent.

APPOINTMENTS

Justices Alok Aradhe and Vipul Pancholi elevated to the Supreme Court

- The Centre announced that Chief Justices Alok Aradhe (Bombay High Court) and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi (Patna High Court) have been elevated to the Supreme Court of India following the Collegium's August 25, 2025 recommendation, with appointments made by the President under Article 124(2).
- The five-member Collegium approved the elevations by a 4-1 majority, with Justice B. V. Nagarathna dissenting over Justice Pancholi's seniority position and regional balance concerns.
- Justice Aradhe's career spans the MP, J&K, and Karnataka HCs, later Chief Justice of Telangana and then Bombay HC (Jan 2025); Justice Pancholi was an Additional Judge, Gujarat HC (2014), later transferred to Patna HC and became its Chief Justice (July 2025).
- Upon their swearing-in, the Supreme Court returns to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges, though debate persists over seniority norms and the Collegium's credibility.

Justice Shree Chandrashekhar sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

- Justice Shree Chandrashekhar took oath as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court on September 5, 2025, at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai, with the ceremony led by Governor C. P. Radhakrishnan.
- The elevation followed a Supreme Court Collegium recommendation on August 25, 2025, and a Central Government notification on September 4, 2025, issued with Presidential approval.
- A graduate of DU (CLC) with ~19 years at the Bar and ~3,500 SC cases, he served as Additional (2013) and Permanent Judge (2014) in Jharkhand, Acting CJ (Dec 2023-Jul 2024), and later transferred to Rajasthan (2024) and Bombay (July 2025).

- He acted as Bombay HC's Acting CJ (Aug 29–Sept 5, 2025) following Justice Alok Aradhe's elevation to the Supreme Court, before assuming full charge as Chief Justice.

NDB appoints Dr. Rajiv Ranjan as Vice-President & Chief Risk Officer

- The New Development Bank appointed Dr. Rajiv Ranjan (former RBI Executive Director and MPC member) as Vice-President & Chief Risk Officer for a five-year term beginning around September 2025.
- With 35+ years at the RBI since 1989, including international service at the Central Bank of Oman (2012–15), he brings expertise in monetary policy, liquidity management, and economic research.
- Dr. Ranjan's portfolio includes shaping risk management, strategy, policy frameworks, partnerships, and ESG initiatives, alongside representation at global development and climate forums.
- His international engagement spans the G20, IMF, World Bank, BIS, FSB, OECD, SAARC, and central banks across the Global South, strengthening the NDB's multilateral footprint.

Urjit Patel appointed IMF Executive Director for India's constituency

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet named Dr. Urjit Patel as Executive Director at the IMF for a three-year term, representing India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan, succeeding Dr. K. V. Subramanian.
- Dr. Patel earlier served as RBI Governor (2016–2018), leading adoption of the inflation-targeting framework and key monetary policy reforms, and previously held roles as RBI Deputy Governor and IMF economist.
- His career spans public policy and the private sector, including stints with the AIIB and Reliance Industries, bringing extensive central-banking and international finance experience to the IMF Board.
- The appointment marks a return to the IMF and is positioned to strengthen India's macroeconomic voice within multilateral policy deliberations.

T.C.A. Kalyani appointed Controller General of Accounts

- T.C.A. Kalyani (ICAS, 1991 batch) assumed charge as India's 29th CGA on September 1, 2025, succeeding S.S. Dubey.
- With 34+ years in public financial management, she has served across key ministries and led budgeting and accounting at the Ministry of Home Affairs as Pr. CCA.
- Her contributions include initiating DBT for fertiliser subsidies, driving digital payment adoption at MTNL, and strengthening financial governance in PSUs.
- An alumnus of LSR (Delhi University) and JNU, she holds advanced degrees in political science and international studies.

Srinivas Injeti appointed Chairperson, NSE Governing Board

- SEBI approved the appointment of Srinivas Injeti as Chairperson of the NSE Governing Board, filling the post vacated after G. C. Chaturvedi's term ended in July 2024.
- An IAS (1983, Odisha cadre) officer, Injeti brings over four decades' experience in regulation, corporate law, and financial governance.
- He previously served as Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, steering reforms in insolvency, company law, and governance frameworks.
- He was the founding Chairperson of IFSCA (2020–2023), adding international finance expertise to his regulatory profile.

Acharya Devvrat given additional charge as Maharashtra Governor

- Following C. P. Radhakrishnan's election as Vice President, President Droupadi Murmu assigned Acharya Devvrat, Governor of Gujarat, additional charge of Maharashtra.
- Devvrat, about 66 years of age, has served as Governor of Gujarat since July 22, 2019, and earlier as Governor of Himachal Pradesh (2015–2019).
- He is known for initiatives in natural farming, afforestation, water conservation, and Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao.
- The additional charge is temporary and intended to ensure continuity of constitutional duties in Maharashtra until a full-time Governor is appointed.

Justice M. Sundar Appointed CJ of Manipur High Court

- On 11 September 2025, the Supreme Court Collegium recommended Justice M. Sundar as Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.
- His appointment is slated to take effect after the incumbent Chief Justice retires on 14 September 2025.
- Justice Sundar, the senior-most judge of the Madras High Court, has served as a permanent judge since 5 October 2016.
- The resolution also recommended Justices P. B. Bajanthri and Soumen Sen for the Patna and Meghalaya High Courts, respectively.

Dr. Sima Bahous reappointed to lead UN Women

- On 11 September 2025, the UN Secretary-General renewed Dr. Sima Sami Bahous's mandate as Executive Director of UN Women.
- Her second term aligns with the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan emphasizing measurable impact, accountability, and gender equality in crisis contexts.
- With over 35 years' experience in diplomacy and development, she prioritises protection of women and girls in emergencies and climate-related disasters.
- She plans to deepen partnerships with governments, civil society, youth, and the private sector for local-level outcomes.

SPORTS

FIDE World Cup 2025 to be hosted in Goa, India

- **FIDE** confirmed the **World Cup 2025** will be held in **Goa** from **October 30 to November 27, 2025**, marking the tournament's return to India after over two decades
- The event will feature **206 players** in an eight-round **knockout**; the **top three** qualify for the **2026 Candidates Tournament**, with a **USD 2 million** prize pool.
- A star lineup includes **World Champion D. Gukesh**, **Magnus Carlsen**, **Fabiano Caruana**, and **R. Praggnanandhaa**; while the champion is not chasing Candidates qualification, he competes for **prize money and rating points**.
- Following earlier consideration of **New Delhi**, hosting shifted to **Goa** after procedural delays, with the classical-games-first format and **rapid/blitz tiebreaks** promised for high-stakes drama.

Cabinet clears India's bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad

- The Union Cabinet approved the formal bid submission, Host Collaboration Agreement, and grant-in-aid/guarantees to Gujarat, positioning Ahmedabad—with the Narendra Modi Stadium and strong infrastructure—as the proposed host city.

- The bid is framed as a strategic step toward a 2036 Olympic bid, leveraging the Commonwealth Games to showcase readiness and enhance India's global sporting profile
- Proposal refinements, following a Commonwealth delegation visit, emphasise sustainability, gender balance, cultural diversity, and alignment with the UN SDGs.
- India proposes re-including sports dropped in recent editions—such as field hockey, badminton, table tennis, shooting, wrestling, women's cricket, squash, and archery—to broaden participation and relevance.
- The bid offers a chance to reset reputationally after the 2010 Delhi CWG controversies by delivering a transparent, well-managed mega-event.

Neeraj Chopra runner-up; Julian Weber wins Diamond League Final in Zurich

- At the Zurich Diamond League Final, Neeraj Chopra finished second for the third straight year, while Germany's Julian Weber captured his maiden title with two 90m+ throws, including a world-leading 91.51 m
- Chopra's best mark was 85.01 m on his sixth attempt, edging Keshorn Walcott (84.95 m) after a series of three mid-round fouls following a solid 84.35 m opener.
- The result gives Weber a 3–1 head-to-head edge over Chopra in 2025, though Chopra retains a 15–5 overall advantage since 2016.
- Chopra extended his extraordinary podium streak to 26 events, not finishing outside the top two since June 2021, and noted areas for improvement ahead of the World Championships in Tokyo.

Oscar Piastri wins the 2025 Dutch Grand Prix

- Oscar Piastri won from pole at Circuit Zandvoort, securing a Grand Chelem (pole, fastest lap, led every lap) as teammate Lando Norris retired late.
- The victory extends Piastri's Drivers' Championship lead to 34 points, reshaping the title contest with nine races remaining.
- Max Verstappen finished second at home; rookie Isack Hadjar claimed a maiden F1 podium in third for Racing Bulls.
- Multiple incidents triggered safety cars; Hamilton and Leclerc retired, while Piastri managed the race with composure to seal McLaren's landmark win.

ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 schedule announced

- The Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 will be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2, 2025, beginning with India vs Sri Lanka and proceeding through a round-robin, semifinals (Oct 29–30), and a final on Nov 2.
- The tournament features 8 teams, with the top four from the league stage advancing to the knockouts under a single-pool format.
- Matches in India are slated for Guwahati, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Navi Mumbai (DY Patil), and Bengaluru, alongside Colombo in Sri Lanka, with some sources differing on the opening-match venue.
- Holkar Stadium, Indore will host five marquee fixtures—including India vs England and Australia vs England—marking the return of women's international cricket to Madhya Pradesh after 28 years.

India wins Asia Cup hockey, qualifies for 2026 World Cup

- On September 7, 2025 in Rajgir, Bihar, India defeated South Korea 4–1 to reclaim the Asia Cup after eight years and secure direct qualification for the 2026 FIH Men's World Cup.
- Dilpreet Singh scored twice, with Sukhjeet Singh and Amit Rohidas adding goals; Dain Son netted Korea's lone strike.

- India's path included big wins over Malaysia (4–1) and China (7–0) after a Super-4s draw with Korea, delivering the nation's fourth Asia Cup title (2003, 2007, 2017, 2025).
- Captain Harmanpreet Singh earned plaudits for leadership and playmaking, underlining India's resurgence on the continental stage.

Sabalenka defends U.S. Open title over Anisimova

- On September 6, 2025, Aryna Sabalenka beat Amanda Anisimova 6–3, 7–6 (7–3) to claim her second straight U.S. Open singles crown at Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- The win marks Sabalenka's fourth Grand Slam and the first successful U.S. Open title defense since Serena Williams (2013–14), highlighting her dominance on hard courts.
- Sabalenka credited improved mental composure after near-misses at earlier 2025 Slams, while Anisimova capped a strong season with a second major final.
- Celebrations included a jubilant locker-room scene, as Sabalenka thanked her team and supporters for sustaining her championship push.

US Open & World Archery: Indian highlights

- Carlos Alcaraz beat Jannik Sinner 6–2, 3–6, 6–1, 6–4 to win his second US Open and sixth Grand Slam, reclaiming ATP No. 1; it was their third straight major final in 2025.
- India won its first men's compound team gold at the World Archery Championships (Gwangju): Aman Saini, Rishabh Yadav, Pratham B. Fuge edged France 235–233 with three final 10s.
- The team rallied from 57–59 after the first end, aided by a tactical shooting-order change; earlier, Yadav/Jyothi Surekha Vennam took mixed team silver.
- The victory boosts India's momentum ahead of future global events, including compound's addition to the 2028 Olympics (mixed team).

India Defeats Pakistan by Seven Wickets in Asia Cup 2025

- On 14 September 2025 in Dubai, India chased 128 to beat Pakistan by seven wickets in 15.5 overs.
- India's bowlers restricted Pakistan to 127/9, with Kuldeep Yadav taking 3/18 and Axar Patel adding two wickets.
- Suryakumar Yadav anchored the chase with an unbeaten 47, supported by quick contributions from Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma.
- The result strengthened India's Group A position amid heightened attention following the May 2025 border conflict.

China Beats India 4–1 in Women's Hockey Asia Cup Final

- On 14 September 2025 in Hangzhou, China defeated India 4–1 to claim its third Women's Asia Cup title.
- India led early through a first-minute penalty-corner conversion by Navneet Kaur before China rallied.
- Second-half goals from Li Hong, Zou Meirong, and Zhong Jiaqi secured a dominant win after Ou Zixia's equaliser.
- China secured direct qualification for the 2026 World Cup, while India, the silver medallist, must qualify through later rounds.

Jaismine Lamboria Crowned World Champion

- Jaismine Lamboria won gold in the women's 57 kg at the 2025 World Boxing Championships in Liverpool.

- She defeated Olympic silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland by a 4–1 split decision after tactical mid-bout adjustments.
- The victory makes her the ninth Indian boxer to clinch a World Championship gold.
- Her triumph capped a strong overall performance by India's women boxers at an overseas world event.

India Defeats Switzerland 3–1 in Davis Cup World Group

- India beat Switzerland 3–1 in a World Group I tie in Biel/Bienne, securing a place in the 2026 Davis Cup Qualifiers and its first away win over a European team since 1993.
- Debutant Dhakshinেশwar Suresh opened with a straight-sets win, and Sumit Nagal clinched the tie by winning both his singles rubbers, including the reverse singles.
- The Indian pair narrowly lost the doubles match to Jakub Paul and Dominic Stricker, but overall momentum stayed with India.
- The indoor hard-court setting and strong singles performances proved decisive despite Switzerland's home advantage.

Amit Shah inaugurates Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad

- On 16 September 2025, the ₹825-crore Veer Savarkar Sports Complex at Naranpura, Ahmedabad, was inaugurated to provide world-class athlete infrastructure.
- Spanning about 1,19,000 sq m, it includes athlete housing, medical support, a slow-motion analysis theatre, indoor/outdoor facilities, and hostels for coaches
- The complex incorporates seven entry gates, parking for roughly 900 vehicles, a 275 kW solar plant, and a 60 KLD sewage treatment plant.
- Amit Shah linked the project to India's rising sports budget since 2014–15 and projected Ahmedabad as a future "sports capital of India."

Apollo Tyres becomes Team India jersey sponsor

- On 16 September 2025, BCCI named Apollo Tyres the lead front-of-jersey sponsor for India's men's and women's teams until March 2028.
- The deal is valued at ₹579 crore, with about ₹4.5 crore per match for most fixtures, replacing Dream11 after regulatory changes to online gaming.
- Bidding excluded brands linked to gaming, betting, crypto, and tobacco under BCCI criteria.
- The partnership marks Apollo Tyres' first major sponsorship in Indian cricket, boosting its brand visibility.

2025 FIDE Grand Swiss titles in Samarkand

- From 3–15 September 2025, Anish Giri won the Open Grand Swiss with 8/11, while Matthias Bluebaum finished second to qualify for the 2026 Candidates.
- In the Women's event, R Vaishali Rameshbabu scored 8/11 and retained her title on tiebreak over Kateryna Lagno; both qualified for the 2026 Candidates.
- The Open had 116 players and a prize fund of about US\$625,000, with the winner earning roughly US\$90,000.
- The event featured notable storylines, including mixed results for top seeds and strong performances by rising talents.

Arshdeep Singh becomes first Indian to 100 T20I wickets

- During India's Asia Cup match against Oman on 19 September 2025, Arshdeep Singh reached 100 wickets in T20 Internationals.

- He achieved the milestone in 64 matches, with a bowling average near 18.5 and a strike rate around 13.3.
- The left-arm seamer debuted in July 2022 and is noted for swing, death bowling, and variations.
- His record places him among the quickest and most effective pace bowlers to the milestone in men's T20Is.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX completes 10th Starship test with first full-mission success

- On August 26, 2025, SpaceX's Starship-Super Heavy achieved its most complete test to date from Starbase, Texas, reaching ~192 km altitude, exceeding 26,000 km/h, deploying eight Starlink simulators, and executing controlled splashdowns of both stages.
- The flight saw all 33 Raptor engines ignite, clean stage separation, a Raptor in-space relight, and successful payload deployment, with only minor heat-shield and flap damage reported.
- The milestone advances the goal of a fully reusable launch system tied to missions such as NASA's Artemis III (2027) and future Mars objectives.
- Strong public interest (~1.8 million live viewers) contrasted with environmental concerns and protests in Texas and Mexican objections over debris, underscoring regulatory and community sensitivities.

Google launches "Nano Banana" (Gemini 2.5 Flash Image) AI photo editor

- Google unveiled "Nano Banana," an advanced AI image-editing model integrated into the Gemini app, with availability rolling out globally for both free and paid users on mobile and web.
- The tool supports multi-turn editing, image blending and scene creation, style mixing, prompt-based local edits (e.g., blur background, remove stain, colorize), and text-to-image generation while preserving visual consistency of faces, pets, and objects.
- Developers can access the model via the Gemini API, Google AI Studio, and Vertex AI, with pricing listed at **\$30 per 1 million output tokens** (about **\$0.039 per image**).
- All outputs include visible watermarks and an invisible **SynthID** watermark for provenance, though concerns persist that visible marks can be cropped, raising deepfake-misuse risks.

India licenses indigenous multi-stage malaria vaccine "AdFalcivax"

- India has licensed AdFalcivax, a recombinant, chimeric, multi-stage vaccine targeting Plasmodium falciparum, for manufacturing and commercialisation.
- Designed for dual action—preventing infection and reducing human-to-mosquito transmission—it aims to outperform single-stage vaccines.
- The vaccine is room-temperature stable for 9+ months, aiding deployment in remote areas; five Indian firms have received licences/EOIs.
- Currently at the preclinical stage, it will require clinical trials and regulatory approvals, with expected broad availability only in a few years.

ISRO-HAL SSLV Technology Transfer Pact

- On 10 September 2025, ISRO, NSIL, and IN-SPACe signed a Technology Transfer Agreement with HAL for SSLV.
- HAL received a non-exclusive, non-transferable licence covering design, manufacture, integration, launch operations, and post-flight analysis.
- The technology absorption is targeted over two years, followed by a 10-year production phase for domestic and global small-satellite markets.

- SSLV's quick-turnaround, on-demand launch profile supports India's space-sector reforms and industrial scale-up.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Amish Tripathi launches *The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath*

- Amish Tripathi launched his novel *The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath* in September 2025 at Crossword Bookstores, Kemps Corner, Mumbai
- The book is the second installment in his Indic Chronicles series, following *Legend of Suheldev*
- The novel centers on the Chola dynasty's retaliation for the Somnath temple invasion, blending history with mythological imagination.
- The launch event featured celebrities including Ravi Dubey, Sargun Mehta, and Jimmy Shergill.
- Tripathi, author of the *Shiva Trilogy* and *Ram Chandra Series*, has sold over 8 million copies of his books.

Arundhati Roy releases memoir *Mother Mary Comes to Me*

- Arundhati Roy released her 374-page memoir *Mother Mary Comes to Me* on September 2, 2025, published by Penguin Hamish Hamilton.
- The book documents her lifelong relationship with her mother, Mary Roy, a Kottayam-based educator and prominent women's rights advocate who founded the Pallikoodam school.
- Roy situates the memoir in the aftermath of Mary Roy's death on September 1, 2022, using grief as the starting point for the narrative.
- The memoir includes factual reflections on Roy's formative years, her creative process behind *The God of Small Things*, and early career experiences.
- Known for winning the Booker Prize for *The God of Small Things*, Roy returns to publishing in 2025 with this personal account focused on family, identity, and literary formation.

Ipsita Chakravarty releases *Dapaan: Tales from Kashmir's Conflict*

- *Dapaan* is a July 2025 book by journalist Ipsita Chakravarty that documents Kashmiri life amid decades of conflict through reportage, folklore, rumors, satire, and ghost stories.
- The title uses the Kashmiri word "dapaan" ("it is said"), signaling a focus on oral memory and unofficial narratives outside state accounts
- A recurring motif is "haalaat" ("the situation"), traced linguistically and culturally to describe worsening conditions, surveillance, loss, and displacement since 1989.
- Chapters such as "Zulm," "Crackdown Paether," and "You May Be Turned Into a Cat" show humor, coded language, and folk theater (bhand paether) as everyday tools of survival.
- Additional chapters on "Raantas," "The Braid Choppers," and "Ghosts in the Ground" connect urban legends and unmarked graves to collective fear, grief, and memory.

Christian Davenport's *Rocket Dreams* dissects the Musk-Bezos rivalry in the private space race

- *Rocket Dreams: Musk, Bezos, and the Inside Story of the New, Trillion-Dollar Space Race* is a 371-page book by journalist Christian Davenport, published by Crown Currency.
- The book charts how private space exploration has shifted from government leadership to billionaire-driven agendas, centering on Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin.
- A key episode is NASA's April 2021 lunar lander award to SpaceX, which prompted Blue Origin's formal challenges and litigation against the decision.

- Davenport documents how strategy, lobbying, and image management—such as Musk’s use of social media—compete with engineering priorities, with NASA increasingly acting as a client rather than commander.
- The narrative interrogates whether visions like multi-planetary living and off-Earth industry will benefit society broadly or concentrate power and access among wealthy private actors.

Ravi K. Mishra’s *Demography, Representation, Delimitation*

- Historian Ravi K. Mishra’s book *Demography, Representation, Delimitation: The North–South Divide in India* examines delimitation debates linking representation to regional demographic change.
- Using census data since 1881 (recast to current state boundaries), the book finds southern states’ population growth exceeded the North’s until 1971.
- It argues the South’s lower recent growth reflects an earlier demographic transition, not superior policy or culture.
- If seats are reapportioned strictly by current population, projected Lok Sabha gains include Uttar Pradesh from 80 to 134, Bihar from 40 to 73, and Maharashtra from 48 to 71, while Kerala remains at 20.
- To preserve federal balance, Mishra proposes using Kerala’s seat count as a baseline and increasing Rajya Sabha seats.

DY Chandrachud’s debut book *Why the Constitution Matters* — key facts

- Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud will release his debut book *Why the Constitution Matters* in 2025, published by Penguin Random House.
- The book aims to make constitutional principles accessible to the general public by linking them to everyday issues such as privacy, education, equality, and justice
- Drawing on 25+ years on the bench, Chandrachud illustrates how constitutional reasoning shapes justice, governance, and social progress.
- Core themes include judicial interpretation and responsibility, citizen engagement, human rights and equality, and the role of secularism and liberty in a plural society.
- Known as the 50th CJI (retired November 2024) with landmark rulings on privacy, gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and free expression, he positions the Constitution as a moral and social compass for democracy.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Women’s Equality Day 2025

- Women’s Equality Day is observed annually in the United States on August 26 to mark the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which granted women the constitutional right to vote.
- The observance gained official recognition after the Women’s Strike for Equality (1970), with Congresswoman Bella Abzug introducing a resolution in 1971 and Congress formally recognizing the day in 1973.
- Despite suffrage, ongoing issues highlighted in 2025 include the gender pay gap, underrepresentation in leadership, healthcare inequities, and barriers in education/STEM.
- Typical commemorations include community events, workshops, festivals, award ceremonies, and youth programs that celebrate contributions and promote gender equity.
- Suggested actions for citizens include learning suffrage history, supporting women-owned businesses, joining public discussions, amplifying women’s voices, and advocating for equal pay, education access, and healthcare.

National Sports Day 2025

- India observes National Sports Day on 29 August 2025, commemorating the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand
- The 2025 theme is “Sport to Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies,” highlighting sport’s role in social cohesion, peace, and inclusivity.
- Major Dhyan Chand, known as the “Hockey Wizard,” led India to Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936, inspiring the day’s institution.
- A three-day Fit India Mission campaign runs from 29–31 August 2025, urging citizens to devote an hour daily to outdoor activity and hosting fitness drives and workshops.
- Nationwide celebrations emphasize fitness, teamwork, recognition of sporting talent, inclusivity, national pride, and promotion of Olympic values.

Major Dhyan Chand’s 120th Birth Anniversary observed on 29 August 2025

- India marked 29 August 2025 as the 120th birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, with the day observed nationally as National Sports Day.
- Known as the “Wizard of Hockey,” he won three Olympic gold medals for India in 1928 (Amsterdam), 1932 (Los Angeles), and 1936 (Berlin).
- He was born on 29 August 1905 in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh.
- Dhyan Chand served in the Indian Army, retiring as a Major in 1956, the same year he received the Padma Bhushan.
- His legacy includes the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award and multiple memorials such as statues, stadiums, and commemorative stamps.

Teacher’s Day 2025

- India observes Teacher’s Day annually on September 5 to honor Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, whose birthday the government has commemorated as National Teacher’s Day since 1962.
- The 2025 theme is “Inspiring the Next Generation of Learners,” highlighting teachers’ roles in fostering curiosity, creativity, character, and adaptability beyond classrooms.
- Dr. Radhakrishnan was India’s first Vice President (1952–1962) and second President (1962–1967), and a renowned philosopher and academic who advocated education as a national priority.
- Celebrations across schools and colleges include student-led cultural programs, symbolic role-reversal classes, public tributes, and awards recognizing educator contributions.
- Government initiatives aligned with NEP 2020 include NISHTHA teacher training, the National Mission for Mentoring (NMM), National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST), and the National Teachers’ Awards presented on September 5.

International Literacy Day 2025

- International Literacy Day is observed globally on September 8; UNESCO proclaimed it in 1966 after the 1965 Tehran conference, and it was first celebrated in 1967.
- The 2025 themes are “Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era” and “Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace.”
- The digital-era theme emphasizes integrating digital skills with traditional literacy and closing access gaps for marginalized and rural communities.
- The multilingual theme promotes inclusive, culturally relevant education that reduces dropout rates and empowers marginalized and Indigenous groups, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

- UNESCO estimates 750+ million adults remain illiterate worldwide, two-thirds women, highlighting persistent inequalities ILD seeks to address.

Digvijay Diwas: Swami Vivekananda's 1893 Chicago Address

- Digvijay Diwas is observed annually on 11 September to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's 1893 address at the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago
- Vivekananda opened with "Sisters and Brothers of America," receiving a standing ovation and introducing India's spiritual-philosophical heritage to a global audience.
- The speech emphasized universal brotherhood, interfaith understanding, and denounced sectarianism and fanaticism.
- The day is also known as Universal Brotherhood Day, underscoring themes of religious tolerance and spiritual inclusivity.
- It is widely referenced in current affairs for its enduring legacy in India's cultural diplomacy and youth inspiration.

Engineers' Day 2025

- India marks Engineers' Day on 15 September 2025 to honor Sir M. Visvesvaraya on his 164th birth anniversary.
- The 2025 theme is "Deep Tech & Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade," selected by the Institution of Engineers (India) to spotlight AI, quantum, robotics, advanced materials, and space engineering.
- Engineers' Day has been observed nationally since 1967, recognizing engineering's role in infrastructure, technology, and nation-building.
- Sir Visvesvaraya (born Muddenahalli, 1861) was a civil-engineering pioneer behind projects like Krishna Raja Sagara Dam, Hyderabad flood protection, and statewide modernization as Diwan of Mysore (1912–1918).
- He received the Bharat Ratna (1955) for engineering and public service; the 2025 observance urges cutting-edge yet socially impactful, sustainable innovation.

International Day of Democracy 2025

- Observed globally on 15 September, the day underscores democratic values, human rights, and citizen participation, established by a UNGA resolution in 2007 with the first observance in 2008.
- The 2025 theme, set by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), is "Achieving Gender Equality, Action by Action," urging gender parity, inclusive institutions, and action against gender-based discrimination in politics.
- Democracy is framed as people-powered governance grounded in political equality, free and fair elections, rule of law, rights protection, and accountability, with minority rights safeguarded.
- The observance aligns with the 1997 IPU Universal Declaration on Democracy, affirming participation in public life, transparent governance, and independent institutions.
- Typical activities include awareness campaigns, civic education, debates, voter drives, and advocacy aimed at countering backsliding and strengthening inclusive, rights-based governance.

World Environmental Health Day 2025

- Observed annually on 26 September, World Environmental Health Day 2025 focuses on the theme "Clean Air, Healthy People," highlighting air pollution's links to respiratory and cardiovascular disease and to climate change.
- The day spotlights policy priorities such as sustainable urban planning, clean energy transitions, and stronger environment-health integration aligned with SDGs.

- Established by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) in 2011, the observance raises global awareness of how environmental quality shapes health outcomes.
- Key 2025 objectives include public education on air-quality risks, research and emission-reduction policies, community action, and health-system preparedness.
- Typical activities across 100+ countries include clean-up drives, tree plantation, health check-ups, school programs, media campaigns, and expert workshops on pollution and climate risks.

OBITUARIES

Giorgio Armani, icon of Italian fashion, dies at 91

- Legendary designer Giorgio Armani died at 91 on September 4, 2025, a passing confirmed by the Armani Group.
- Founder of the Armani Group (1975), he built a multi-billion-euro empire spanning couture, ready-to-wear, beauty, interiors, hotels, and homeware.
- Renowned for minimalist, soft-tailored elegance, he revolutionized men's suits and defined "quiet luxury."
- He dressed global stars—from Richard Gere to Julia Roberts—and became known as "Re Giorgio" (King Giorgio) in Italian fashion.
- Despite recent illness and missing Milan Men's Fashion Week (June 2025), he remained hands-on, personally overseeing collections, campaigns, and styling until late in life.

Former Meghalaya CM D.D. Lapang passes away at 91

- Veteran Meghalaya leader D.D. Lapang died in Shillong on 13 September 2025, aged 91.
- He served as Chief Minister four times (1992–2008), steering coalition governments and emphasizing administrative stability.
- Born 10 April 1934, he began as a road labourer and later a school sub-inspector before entering politics.
- First elected in 1972 from Nongpoh as an Independent, he was a long-time Congress stalwart thereafter.
- Revered for consensus-building, humility, and focus on inclusive development, he was honoured with a life-size statue (2024) in Ri-Bhoi.

Bharatanatyam guru Sarada Hoffman (Kalakshetra) passes away at 96

- Sarada Hoffman (Alladi Sarada), known as Chinna Sarada/Sarada teacher, died on 14 September 2025 in California, aged 96 (born 15 June 1929, Adyar, Chennai).
- A pillar of the Kalakshetra Foundation, she helped codify and refine the Kalakshetra style of Bharatanatyam under Rukmini Devi Arundale, shaping global pedagogy.
- Her methodology emphasized clarity of movement, precise abhinaya, and spiritual grounding, forming the core of Kalakshetra's formal curriculum.
- She trained generations, including Yamini Krishnamurthy, C.V. Chandrasekhar, V.P. & Shanta Dhananjayan, and later alumni like G. Narendra and Sheejit Krishna.
- Honors include the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1996) and being the first recipient of the Rukmini Devi Medal for Excellence in the Arts.

RANKINGS

SEEI 2024: Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh lead their groups

- The State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024 (FY 2023–24) ranks Maharashtra (80.5%) top in Group-1 (>15 MToE) and Andhra Pradesh (79.3%) top in Group-2 (5–15 MToE), with Assam leading Group-3 and Tripura leading Group-4.
- The index uses 66 indicators spanning buildings, industry, transport, agriculture, municipal services, DISCOMs, and cross-sector initiatives to assess implementation progress.
- Front Runners (>60%) fell from seven to five: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.
- Highlights include 24 states notifying ECBC 2017, 31 EV policies adopted, 13 states promoting solar pumps (with Kerala's 74% adoption), and SEEAPs prepared by all 36 States/UTs.
- The SEEI steers policy toward India's climate goals, supporting a 45% emissions-intensity cut by 2030 and net-zero by 2070 through best-practice diffusion and targeted interventions.

IMD Smart City Index 2025: Zurich leads; Indian cities outside top 100

- The IMD Smart City Index 2025 ranks Zurich first globally for the sixth consecutive year, followed by Oslo (2nd) and Geneva (3rd), with the rest of the top ten including Dubai, Abu Dhabi, London, Copenhagen, Canberra, Singapore, and Lausanne.
- The index balances technology–economy metrics (infrastructure and digital integration) with “humane dimensions” such as quality of life, environment, and inclusiveness.
- Indian cities remain outside the top 100, with Delhi at 104, Hyderabad at 109, and Bengaluru at 110 despite its IT prominence.
- These placements indicate continuing gaps in urban governance, infrastructure, and sustainable mobility when benchmarked against global peers.

Singapore tops Asia in 2025 Global Peace Index

- The Global Peace Index 2025 ranks Singapore 6th globally and safest in Asia, the only Asian country in the global top ten.
- Despite slipping one place from 2024, Singapore's GPI score improved from 1.339 to 1.357, reflecting gains in safety and reduced conflict.
- The GPI assesses safety and security, ongoing conflict, and militarization, areas in which Singapore performs strongly due to low crime, stable governance, and an effective legal framework.
- Regional peers such as Japan, Malaysia, Bhutan, Mongolia, and Vietnam trail Singapore, reinforcing its appeal for travelers, businesses, and expats.

25 Most Dangerous Cities in the World (2025)

- According to mid-2025 rankings, the most dangerous cities include Pietermaritzburg (South Africa, Crime Index 82), Pretoria (81.8), Caracas (Venezuela, 81.5), Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea, 81.2), Johannesburg (80.8), and Durban (80.6).
- Other cities high on the list are San Pedro Sula (Honduras), Port Elizabeth (South Africa), Memphis (USA), and Salvador (Brazil).
- Mexico records the highest homicide rates, with Zamora (~125.94 per 100,000, 2023), Tijuana (95.92), Fresnillo (91.05), Celaya (82.89), and Cancún (81.89).

- Violence has escalated in Durán (Ecuador) and Colima (Mexico), while cartel bloodshed increasingly threatens tourist hubs like Cancún, Playa del Carmen, and Tulum.
- Warnings extend to Karachi (Pakistan) for sanitation and crime, Manila (Philippines) for risks to solo female travelers, and San Salvador (El Salvador) for attempted kidnappings.

Singapore tops Asia in Global Peace Index 2025

- Singapore is Asia's safest country in the 2025 Global Peace Index (GPI), ranked 6th globally with a score of 1.357 (slightly improved from 2024).
- The GPI by the Institute for Economics and Peace ranks 163 countries using 23 indicators across safety & security, ongoing conflict, and militarisation (lower score = more peaceful).
- Iceland remains #1 globally (score 1.095); the rest of the top 10 include Ireland, New Zealand, Austria, Switzerland, Singapore, Portugal, Denmark, Slovenia, and Finland.
- Asia's top 10: Singapore, Japan (1.440), Malaysia (1.469), Bhutan (1.536), Mongolia (1.719), Vietnam (1.721), Taiwan (1.730), South Korea (1.736), Timor-Leste (1.758), and Laos (1.783).
- India ranks 115th/163 with an unchanged score of 2.229, reflecting internal security challenges, border tensions, and urban safety concerns.

SUMMIT's AND MOU's

India-AI Impact Summit 2026 announced

- MeitY will host the summit at Bharat Mandapam to shift focus from abstract AI governance to measurable impact for development and inclusion.
- Planned participants include governments, industry, startups, researchers, multilaterals, and civil society under the IndiaAI Mission.
- Themes cover democratising data and compute, multilingual and culturally grounded applications, safe and trusted AI, and Global South priorities.
- Features include hackathons, an expo, working groups, and initiatives for startups, local models, fellowships, and lab networks shaped by 2025 consultations.

India-Japan 15th Annual Summit: next-decade partnership

- India and Japan adopted a Joint Statement, "Partnership for Security and Prosperity of our Next Generation," alongside a Joint Vision for the Next Decade, a Security Cooperation Declaration, and a Human Resource Exchange Action Plan.
- The vision spans eight pillars—economy, economic security, mobility, environment, technology & innovation, health, people-to-people ties, and state-to-prefecture engagement—with mechanisms for supply-chain resilience.
- Japan pledged to mobilize ¥10 trillion (≈ USD 68 bn) in private investment in India over ten years, covering Digital Partnership 2.0, AI cooperation, high-speed rail, clean energy (hydrogen/ammonia), and next-gen mobility.
- Security cooperation will deepen via cybersecurity, counter-terrorism, defence-industrial collaboration, and joint exercises, aligning with Quad and Indo-Pacific priorities; the HR plan targets 500,000 exchanges in five years.

China unveils funding and AI cooperation package at SCO Summit

- At the 25th SCO Summit (Tianjin), President Xi Jinping announced 2 billion yuan in grants for 2025 and 10 billion yuan in loans via the SCO Interbank Consortium over three years.
- China pledged to double SCO scholarships, launch an Innovative PhD programme, establish 10 Luban Workshops, and offer 10,000 training opportunities in five years.
- SCO members committed to deepen AI cooperation with principles of security, accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and fairness, as noted in the Tianjin Declaration.
- The initiatives reflect a push for multilateral development and a more inclusive global governance model under the SCO framework.

26 nations pledge post-war security guarantees for Ukraine

- At a Paris summit on September 4, 2025, 26 countries committed to a post-war “reassurance force” for Ukraine, offering land, sea, and air support upon a ceasefire or peace deal.
- The guarantees aim to deter renewed aggression without constituting a declaration of war on Russia, with France and the U.K. championing a tangible support framework.
- The U.S. signaled positive intent to participate, while details on its role are under discussion amid broader planning among allies.
- The coalition paired security commitments with vows to tighten sanctions and cut off funding lines to Russia if Moscow delays peace, seeking to anchor stability in a post-conflict Ukraine.

India at the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit, Rome

- A two-member Indian Coast Guard delegation led by Director General Paramesh Sivamani participated in the summit.
- The meeting, co-chaired by Italy and Japan, drew delegates from about 115 countries and international organisations.
- India presented operational lessons in maritime fire emergencies and contributed to dialogues on safety, environment protection, and law enforcement.
- India reaffirmed support for global maritime cooperation and expressed intent to host the 5th summit in 2027.

India to host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in 2027

- India will host the three-day 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in Chennai in 2027, coinciding with the Indian Coast Guard’s Golden Jubilee year.
- The event will feature an International Coast Guard Fleet Review and a World Coast Guard Seminar to discuss shared maritime challenges.
- The decision was taken unanimously at the 4th summit in Rome in September 2025, which had delegates from 115 countries and international organisations.
- The summit aims to enhance interoperability, information exchange, capacity building and cooperation in areas such as search and rescue, marine pollution response and maritime law enforcement.
- Hosting the summit underscores India’s maritime leadership and continuity after assuming the presidency from Italy.

ECONOMY

India’s GDP grows 7.8% in Q1 FY26

- The NSO reported 7.8% real GDP growth in April–June FY26, a five-quarter high, beating the RBI’s 6.5% forecast and consensus estimates.

- Growth was driven by services, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and strong government capex, with services GVA ~9.3% leading the expansion.
- PFCE rose about 7%, signaling robust domestic demand alongside public investment momentum.
- Low deflators boosted real growth mechanically, raising questions on durability amid risks from prospective 50% U.S. tariffs, which could weigh on exports and private investment.

Govt raises ₹1.42 lakh crore via asset monetisation till FY25

- The Indian government has mobilised ₹1,42,758 crore through asset monetisation up to FY25, targeting an additional ₹30,000 crore in FY25 to fund infrastructure without adding fiscal burden.
- Three primary models are used: Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) with 15–30 year concessions and open bidding; InvITs via NHAI's NHIT offering SEBI-regulated units/bonds; and securitisation of toll revenues through SPVs
- ToT unlocks upfront liquidity from mature highway assets by awarding bundles to the highest bidder above reserve price
- InvIT (NHIT) monetises road stretches for 15–30 years, raising funds through bonds and unit sales while benchmarking offers to reserve prices for value maximisation.
- Securitisation taps long-term bank/bond finance against toll cash flows (e.g., Delhi–Mumbai Expressway), and the Cashless Road Accident Scheme provides up to ₹1.5 lakh coverage per victim.

India's outbound investments surge 67.7% in FY25

- India's outbound investments rose 67.74% to USD 41.6 billion in FY25 (from USD 24.8 billion in FY24), per EY's 2025 report.
- Growth is driven by ESG-aligned strategies, regulatory pressures (e.g., carbon pricing, supply-chain audits), and reforms enabling GIFT City-based structuring.
- GIFT City channelled rising flows, with RBI data showing investments increasing from USD 0.04 billion (FY23) to USD 0.81 billion (FY25) via tax-efficient, transparent frameworks.
- Active outbound sectors include IT, energy/green tech, pharma, automotive & mobility, and hospitality/lifestyle infrastructure; top emerging destinations include the UAE, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.
- Deal-making broadened under BEPS 2.0/global minimum tax norms, with outbound transaction counts up ~15%, prompting substance-based, compliant cross-border structures.

India's crude oil imports hit 18-month low (July 2025)

- India's crude oil imports fell 8.7% month-on-month to 18.56 million metric tons in July 2025, the lowest since February 2024.
- On a year-on-year basis, crude imports declined 4.3% from 19.40 million tons in July 2024.
- Oil product imports dropped 12.8% YoY to 4.31 million tons, while product exports eased 2.1% to 5.02 million tons.
- Domestic fuel consumption decreased 4.3% MoM to 19.43 million tons, indicating a broad slowdown in petroleum sector activity.
- The decline coincided with U.S. tariff threats up to 50% on Indian goods from August 27 and shifting procurement, especially regarding Russian oil; an existing 25% tariff on Indian exports remains in place.

India's GDP grows 7.8% in Q1 FY26 — key facts (Apr–Jun 2025)

- GDP growth hit 7.8% in Q1 FY26 (Apr–Jun 2025), up from 6.5% in Q1 FY25 and above RBI/market expectations.

- Services +9.3%, manufacturing +7.7%, construction +7.6%; agriculture rebounded to +3.7% on an above-normal monsoon.
- GFCF +7.8%; government final consumption +9.7% (nominal), reflecting strong capex in transport and infrastructure.
- Private final consumption rose more slowly, indicating softer household/rural demand despite robust investment and services momentum.
- RBI maintains 6.5% FY26 growth guidance; IMF sees India as the only major economy likely to grow >6% despite global headwinds.

Personal income tax surpasses corporate tax in India

- For the first time, personal income tax (PIT) collections have overtaken corporate tax, reflecting digitisation, formalisation, and higher individual compliance.
- PIT's share in direct taxes rose from 38.1% (FY14) to 53.4% (FY24), while corporate tax fell from 61.9% to 46.6% over the same period.
- The taxpayer base expanded sharply, with ITR filers up from 30.5 million (FY14) to 69.7 million (FY23) and total taxpayers (including TDS-only) from 53.8 million to 99.2 million.
- Upfront compliance strengthened: TDS collections doubled (₹2.5T → ₹6.5T) and advance tax quadrupled (₹2.9T → ₹12.8T) between FY14 and FY24; GST improved cross-verification and widened the tax net.
- Declared salaries rose from ₹9.8T (FY14) to ₹35.2T (FY23), pushing PIT from ₹2.4T to ₹8.3T; the direct tax-to-GDP ratio improved to 6.6% (FY24), though only ~6.9% of Indians pay income tax.

India's forex reserves dip to \$690.72 billion

- India's foreign exchange reserves fell \$4.38 billion to \$690.72 billion, easing from the September 2024 record of \$704.88 billion
- Foreign currency assets (FCA) led the decline, down \$3.65 billion to \$582.25 billion, reflecting moves in the USD, euro, pound, and yen
- Gold reserves rose \$665 million to \$66.58 billion, while SDRs fell \$46 million to \$18.73 billion and the IMF reserve position dipped \$23 million to \$4.73 billion.
- The prior week saw a \$1.48 billion increase to \$695.10 billion; the latest fall mirrors currency valuation shifts and market adjustments.
- Despite the dip, reserves remain among the world's largest, aiding rupee stability, import cover, and shock absorption; the RBI intervenes to curb volatility without targeting a fixed exchange rate.

India's Current Account Deficit in Q1 FY26

- India recorded a CAD of \$2.4 billion (0.2% of GDP) in Q1 FY26, reversing Q4 FY25's \$13.5 billion surplus (1.3%) but narrower than Q1 FY25's \$8.6 billion deficit (0.9%).
- The narrower gap was driven by remittances rising to \$33.2 billion (from \$28.6 billion; +18% YoY) and net services receipts at \$47.9 billion (from \$39.7 billion), led by business and computer services.
- Financial flows improved via FPI net inflows of \$1.6 billion (vs \$0.9 billion) and ECBs of \$3.7 billion (vs \$1.6 billion).
- Headwinds included a wider merchandise trade deficit of \$68.5 billion (vs \$56.7 billion), weaker net FDI \$5.7 billion (vs \$6.2 billion), lower NRI deposits \$3.6 billion (vs \$4.0 billion), and higher primary income outflows \$12.8 billion (vs \$10.9 billion).
- Overall, the outturn beat ~\$7 billion deficit expectations, with resilient services and remittances offsetting trade pressures and supporting external stability.

FDI in India rises 15% in Q1 FY26

- FDI inflows rose 15% YoY to USD 18.62 billion in Apr–Jun FY26 (total FDI incl. reinvested earnings/other capital: USD 25.2 billion, up from USD 22.5 billion).
- The United States was the top source at USD 5.61 billion (nearly triple YoY), followed by Singapore (USD 4.59B), Mauritius (USD 2.08B), Cyprus (USD 1.1B), and UAE (USD 1B).
- Karnataka (USD 5.69B) led state-wise FDI, ahead of Maharashtra (USD 5.36B) and Tamil Nadu (USD 2.67B).
- Leading sectors: Computer software & hardware (USD 5.4B), services (USD 3.28B), automobiles (USD 1.29B), and non-conventional energy (USD 1.14B).
- Policy backdrop: India permits 100% FDI in most sectors (automatic route); recent moves include proposals to raise insurance FDI to 100% (with full premium investment in India) under the FEMA/RBI-administered regime.

India's WPI inflation rises to 0.52% in August 2025

- India's wholesale price index (WPI) inflation turned positive at 0.52% YoY in August 2025, rebounding from -0.58% a year earlier and exceeding a Reuters-poll estimate of 0.30%.
- The upturn was led by food products (0.21% vs -2.15% in July) and a 2.55% rise in manufactured products (vs -2.05% in July), with additional support from non-food articles, non-metallic mineral products, and transport equipment.
- Primary articles inflation improved to -2.10% from -4.95% in July, indicating easing contractions in key upstream commodities.
- Fuel & power prices fell -3.17% in August (vs -2.43% in July), while crude petroleum & natural gas registered -9.87% YoY (vs +1.77% in August 2024).
- Retail inflation (CPI) edged up to 2.07% in August from 1.55% in July, signaling a modest firming in consumer prices alongside the wholesale rebound.