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## IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

## NATIONAL

**National Migration Survey (2026–27)**

**In the News:** The Government of India has launched the **National Migration Survey (NMS) 2026–27**, a comprehensive nationwide study to map internal and international migration trends, labour mobility patterns, and socio-economic conditions of migrant households for evidence-based policymaking.

**Key Points:**

- **Survey objective:** The NMS aims to generate detailed data on **inter-state, intra-state, rural–urban, seasonal, circular, and international migration**, filling a major data gap since migration has not been systematically surveyed at this scale in recent years.
- **Coverage:** The survey will cover **all States and Union Territories**, including urban slums, industrial clusters, border districts, and regions with high seasonal/circular migration.
- **Key themes examined:** Employment-linked migration, education-driven movement, marriage-related migration, distress migration, remittances, living conditions of migrants, access to welfare, and gender-specific migration drivers.
- **Labour mobility focus:** Special emphasis on **construction, domestic work, manufacturing, agriculture, gig platforms, and MSME clusters**, where migrant labour forms a large share but remains undercounted.
- **Remittance mapping:** The survey will quantify **domestic and international remittance flows**, their usage, and impact on poverty reduction and household consumption.
- **Welfare access:** Data will be collected on migrants' access to **ration portability, health insurance schemes (PM-JAY), social security codes, and digital identity portability** under One Nation–One Ration Card (ONORC).
- **Gendered migration trends:** The survey will separately analyse **female migration for work**, which is often underreported due to marriage-linked categorization, helping estimate true women's labour mobility.
- **Climate-linked migration:** The NMS will document **displacement caused by floods, droughts, heatwaves, and coastal erosion**, reflecting India's growing vulnerability to climate pressures.
- **Urban stress assessment:** Cities will be evaluated on housing conditions, rental burdens, slum expansion, and access to basic services among migrant workers.

**Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) Initiative**

**In the News:** The Government of India has launched the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB)** initiative as a nationwide, community-driven water conservation programme to tackle India's rising water scarcity, declining groundwater tables, and increasing climate-induced hydrological stress.

**Key Points:**

- **Launch purpose:** The initiative aims to mobilise citizens for water harvesting, groundwater recharge, and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies to address India's annual water demand gap.
- **Priority districts:** JSJB will initially target over-exploited and critical groundwater blocks, based on Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) assessments.
- **Hydrological focus:** Activities include desilting tanks, restoring ahars–pyne, baolis, johads, stepwells, construction of check dams, percolation tanks, recharge shafts, and contour trenches in drought-prone belts.
- **GIS-based planning:** Implementation will use GIS mapping, ISRO satellite data, and hydrological modelling to identify depleted aquifers and monitor seasonal recharge levels.
- **Jan Bhagidari model:** The initiative emphasises public participation, requiring contributions from panchayats, urban local bodies, SHGs, RWAs, NSS units, and civil society groups.
- **Convergence with central schemes:** JSJB works in synergy with Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, PMKSY-Watershed Development, MGNREGA water conservation works, and Namami Gange rejuvenation efforts.
- **Water budgeting:** States will prepare village-level water budgets detailing annual rainfall, consumption estimates, groundwater extraction levels, and recharge potential.
- **Urban component:** Cities must integrate rooftop rainwater harvesting mandates, storm-water drain mapping, and blue-green infrastructure planning within master plans.

- **Monitoring mechanism:** A national dashboard will record water storage created (in cubic metres), groundwater level changes (pre- and post-monsoon), number of assets restored, and community participation metrics.
- **Climate resilience:** JSJB addresses rising heatwaves, irregular monsoons, and declining per capita water availability (projected to fall below 1,500 m<sup>3</sup> by 2030).

## ECONOMY

### India Targets 55% Female Workforce Participation by 2030

**In the News:** India has announced an ambitious national target to raise **female labour force participation (FLFP) to 55% by the year 2030**, marking a major push toward accelerating economic growth, improving gender equity, and aligning with global development commitments.

#### Key Points:

- **Current situation:** India's female workforce participation is estimated to be around **37%**, reflecting structural barriers such as unpaid care burdens, limited childcare access, safety concerns, and gendered social norms.
- **Policy goal:** The Government aims to **increase FLFP to 55% by 2030**, aligning with national demographic needs and global benchmarks under the **SDGs (Goal 5 & Goal 8)**.
- **Economic rationale:** Higher women's participation could add **hundreds of billions of dollars** to India's GDP by 2030 through increased productivity, better utilisation of human capital, and a broader consumer base.
- **Key interventions announced:** Expansion of **crèche facilities**, more **flexible and remote work options**, gender-inclusive skilling under **PMKVY**, incentives for companies hiring women, and safety improvements in workplaces and public transport.
- **Sectoral focus:** Special push in **manufacturing, services, digital economy, textiles, healthcare, and education**, where women's participation can rise quickly with appropriate training and compliance enforcement.
- **Legal and policy reforms:** Strengthening implementation of the **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017**, stricter compliance with the **PoSH Act 2013**, and revising labour codes to make workplaces more gender-inclusive.
- **Social support measures:** Greater investment in **childcare infrastructure**, menstrual health support, and awareness campaigns to reduce stigma associated with women working in non-traditional sectors.
- **State-level action:** States have been directed to design **gender-focused employment missions**, especially in regions with historically low FLFP.
- **Monitoring mechanism:** A national dashboard will track progress through indicators like skilling numbers, formal job creation for women, workplace safety compliance, and sector-wise participation rates.
- **Long-term vision:** The initiative aims to create a **more inclusive, productive, and resilient Indian economy** by ensuring that women's participation becomes central to the country's growth trajectory for the next decade.

### Gold Imports Triple to Record USD 14.72 Billion in October 2025

**In the News:** India's gold imports surged to a record 14.72 billion USD in October 2025, nearly triple compared to 5.1 billion USD in the same month last year. The sharp rise was driven by festive season demand, wedding purchases, and stable global prices, marking the highest monthly import value in recent years.

#### Key Points:

- **Trade Performance:** Gold imports in October 2025 touched an unprecedented 14.72 billion USD, contributing significantly to India's overall trade deficit, which widened to over 31 billion USD for the month.
- **Drivers of Growth:** The surge was fueled by strong retail and jewelry demand during festivals like Dussehra and Diwali, a traditional period for gold purchases, coupled with steady international prices and a softer rupee.
- **Comparison with 2024:** Imports nearly tripled from October 2024 levels, when gold inflows were valued at around 5.1 billion USD, reflecting revived consumer sentiment and recovery in rural demand.
- **Impact on Trade Balance:** The spike in gold imports exerted pressure on India's current account, offsetting gains from robust merchandise exports, and raising concerns over the sustainability of the trade deficit.

- **Global and Domestic Trends:** Globally, gold prices stayed near 2,400 USD per ounce amid geopolitical uncertainties, making the metal attractive as a safe-haven asset. Domestically, strong jewelry demand and investment appetite further propelled imports.

### Sixteenth Finance Commission Submits Report for 2026–31 To President

**In the News:** The Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVI FC), chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, submitted its report for the period 2026–31 to President Droupadi Murmu in November 2025. The report outlines the formula for tax devolution, grants-in-aid to states, and recommendations for fiscal consolidation, aiming to strengthen cooperative federalism and fiscal stability in India.

#### Key Points:

- **Commission Formation:** The Sixteenth Finance Commission was constituted by the Government of India on December 31, 2023, under Article 280 of the Constitution to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the Centre and the states for 2026–31.
- **Chairperson and Members:** The Commission is chaired by economist Dr. Arvind Panagariya, with members including Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha, Annie George Mathew, Manoj Panda, and N. K. Singh as special invitee.
- **Report Submission:** The final report was presented to President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, marking the completion of nearly two years of consultations with central ministries, state governments, and fiscal policy experts.
- **Focus Areas:** The recommendations address vertical and horizontal tax sharing, fiscal deficit targets, state borrowing limits, local body grants, and incentive frameworks for fiscal responsibility and capital investment.
- **Objective:** The Commission aims to promote balanced regional development, enhance resource efficiency, and strengthen the financial autonomy of states while maintaining macroeconomic stability.
- **Next Steps:** The Union Government will table the Sixteenth Finance Commission's recommendations in Parliament. Once accepted, they will guide Centre–state financial relations and fiscal transfers for the five-year period beginning April 1, 2026.

### India's Forex Reserves to Reach All-Time High

**In the News:** For the week ending **November 14, 2025**, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that India's foreign exchange reserves rose by approximately **US \$5.543 billion**, bringing the total to around **US \$692.576 billion**—a strong rebound following a weekly decline, and a sign of greater resilience in India's external financial buffers.

#### Key Points:

- **Jump in reserves after recent dip:** Following a drop of about US \$2.699 billion the previous week, India's reserves surged by US \$5.543 billion to reach US \$692.576 billion in the week ended November 14.
- **Gold holdings as principal driver:** A significant portion of the increase came from gold reserves, which rose by roughly US \$5.327 billion to reach US \$106.857 billion—underscoring that the valuation of gold (rather than large-scale foreign-currency inflows) contributed majorly to the uptick.
- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs) saw modest growth:** The largest component of the reserves, FCAs, increased by about US \$152 million to US \$562.29 billion, indicating slower growth in currency holdings compared to gold.
- **Other constituents improved slightly:** The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased by about US \$56 million to US \$18.65 billion, and India's reserve position with the IMF rose by about US \$8 million to US \$4.779 billion, adding breadth to the reserves' components.
- **Strategic implications for India's external buffer:** With reserves nearing US \$700 billion, India is in a stronger position to manage external shocks—such as sudden capital outflows, fluctuations in the rupee, or global commodity price swings—though the reliance on valuation gains (especially from gold) reminds that underlying inflows and currency strength remain key considerations for sustainability.



## INTERNATIONAL

**Sheikh Hasina Sentenced to Death**

**In the News:** Bangladesh witnessed a major political upheaval as former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was sentenced to death by a special tribunal in Dhaka in connection with alleged human rights violations and corruption charges. The verdict marks one of the most dramatic moments in South Asia's recent political history, triggering both domestic unrest and international reactions.

**Key Points:**

- **Historic Verdict:** The Dhaka court delivered its verdict after months of proceedings linked to alleged misuse of power during Sheikh Hasina's tenure. The decision has deeply divided public opinion in Bangladesh.
- **Political Context:** Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League and Bangladesh's longest-serving Prime Minister, had been ousted from power earlier in 2025 following widespread anti-government protests and military intervention.
- **Domestic Reaction:** Her sentencing led to nationwide demonstrations and strikes by party supporters, while security forces were deployed across major cities to prevent large-scale unrest.
- **International Response:** The verdict has drawn global concern, with several countries and human rights organizations urging transparency, due process, and restraint amid growing political tensions.

**Exercise Garuda 25: India and France Strengthen Aerial Ties**

**In the News:** India and France commenced the seventh edition of the bilateral air exercise *Garuda 25* at Air Force Station Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The exercise aims to enhance operational cooperation, mutual understanding, and interoperability between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the French Air and Space Force (FASF).

**Key Points:**

- **Exercise Overview:** Garuda 25 marks one of the largest joint air exercises between India and France, showcasing advanced aerial maneuvers, fighter operations, and joint mission planning involving multi-role combat aircraft.
- **Participating Aircraft:** India has deployed Rafale, Su-30MKI, and Tejas aircraft along with airborne early warning and transport assets. France has fielded Rafale jets, A330 Multi-Role Tanker Transport, and other support platforms.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aims to strengthen mutual operational understanding in air combat tactics, refueling operations, and multi-domain coordination, while enhancing the tactical proficiency of both forces.
- **Strategic Significance:** Garuda 25 reflects the deep strategic partnership between India and France in defense and security domains, following recent collaborations in space, maritime, and defense technology.
- **Training Scope:** The two-week exercise includes complex simulated missions such as Beyond Visual Range (BVR) engagements, defensive counter-air operations, and joint refueling maneuvers under realistic combat scenarios.
- **Previous Editions:** The last edition, *Garuda VI*, took place in France in 2022. The series began in 2003 and alternates between India and France, symbolizing a growing bond in defense cooperation and shared commitment to regional stability.

**WHO Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2025**

**In the News:** The World Health Organization (WHO) released the Global Tuberculosis (TB) Report 2025, highlighting progress and challenges in ending the global TB epidemic. The report assesses global trends, treatment outcomes, and funding gaps, noting significant gains in detection and recovery but warning that TB remains one of the world's top infectious killers.

**Key Points:**

- **Global Burden:** In 2024, an estimated 10.2 million people fell ill with TB worldwide, and around 1.2 million died from the disease. While TB incidence has declined by about 19 percent since 2015, the pace remains slower than required to meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **India's Progress:** India continues to lead global TB elimination efforts, with a nearly 16 percent reduction in TB cases between 2015 and 2024. The country's "Ni-kshay Mitra" and "TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan" initiatives have strengthened community support and nutritional assistance for TB patients.
- **Treatment and Prevention:** Globally, about 7.5 million new TB cases were diagnosed and registered for treatment in 2024, the highest since WHO began monitoring. Expansion of molecular tests and shorter drug regimens have improved cure rates and reduced drug-resistant TB cases.

- **Funding and Gaps:** WHO noted that annual global funding for TB control reached 6.7 billion USD, still short of the 13 billion USD needed to achieve the 2030 targets. The report urges increased domestic investment and support from international donors.
- **Research and Innovation:** Advances in vaccine development, such as the M72/AS01E candidate vaccine, and digital adherence technologies show promise for accelerating TB elimination. However, stronger political commitment and equitable access remain vital.
- **Global Target:** WHO reaffirmed its goal to reduce TB deaths by 90 percent and incidence by 80 percent by 2030, emphasizing stronger primary health systems and sustained political leadership to achieve these outcomes.

### India-UK Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR-25' Begins

**In the News:** The India-UK Joint Military Exercise 'Ajeya Warrior-25' began in November 2025, strengthening defense cooperation and interoperability between the armies of both nations. The exercise focuses on joint tactical operations under the UN mandate, reflecting the growing strategic partnership between India and the United Kingdom in defense and security.

#### Key Points:

- **Exercise Overview:** 'Ajeya Warrior-25' is the eighth edition of the biennial joint military exercise conducted between the Indian Army and the British Army as part of ongoing bilateral defense cooperation.
- **Location and Duration:** The 2025 edition is being held at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India, from November 2025, featuring two weeks of intense field training, simulation, and combined missions.
- **Participating Units:** Troops from the Indian Army's Rajput Regiment and British Army soldiers from the Royal Gorkha Rifles Regiment are participating, with both contingents comprising around 120 personnel each.
- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance interoperability, share tactical knowledge, and practice counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in diverse terrain and weather conditions under United Nations peacekeeping scenarios.
- **Training Components:** Activities include joint field exercises, weapon handling, tactical drills, room clearance operations, and discussions on modern warfare techniques with special focus on hybrid and urban warfare.

### "Parasocial" Named Cambridge Dictionary's Word of the Year 2025

**In the News:** Cambridge Dictionary named "parasocial" as its Word of the Year 2025, highlighting the growing cultural phenomenon of one-sided relationships formed between individuals and celebrities, influencers, fictional characters, or AI entities. The term has gained mainstream relevance as social media and AI shape new modes of human connection.

#### Key Points:

- **Word of the Year:** "Parasocial" was chosen for its reflection of how millions of people experience intense emotional bonds with people or personalities they have never met, such as influencers, pop stars, or AI chatbots.
- **Definition:** Cambridge Dictionary defines parasocial as relating to a connection that someone feels with a famous person, fictional character, or AI despite having no real interaction with them.
- **Cultural Context:** The word captures the 2025 zeitgeist where parasocial relationships influence fandom, loyalty, and trust, sometimes leading to extreme emotional engagement or unhealthy dependencies.
- **Influence of AI:** The rise of AI chatbots has expanded parasocial dynamics, with users treating AI companions as friends or confidants, raising new questions about emotional wellbeing and social interaction.
- **Historical Roots and Modern Usage:** First coined in 1956 by sociologists studying TV viewers' engagement with on-screen personalities, parasocial relationships have evolved with digital media and intensified through platforms like TikTok, podcasts, and streaming services.
- **Academic Insight:** Experts highlight that parasocial ties can replace some real social connections and affect how people perceive trust and authority in media figures or influencers.
- **Language Evolution:** Once an academic term, "parasocial" became mainstream, reflecting a shift in language linked to societal and technological changes. Other AI-related words and internet slang also entered the Cambridge Dictionary in 2025.

### Google Launches Gemini 3: The Most Intelligent AI Model Yet

**In the News:** Google officially launched Gemini 3, its most intelligent and powerful AI model developed by Google DeepMind. Gemini 3 marks a significant advancement in artificial intelligence, integrating state-of-the-art reasoning, multimodal understanding, and agentic capabilities to deliver unprecedented problem-solving and creative potential.

**Key Points:**

- **Model Launch:** Gemini 3 is the latest iteration in Google's Gemini AI series, combining advanced reasoning and multimodal skills (text, image, video, audio, code) into a unified system available across Google Search, the Gemini app, AI Studio, Vertex AI, and the new Google Antigravity platform.
- **Superior Reasoning:** The model demonstrates PhD-level reasoning and deep understanding, achieving top benchmark scores such as 1501 Elo on LMArena, 93.8% on GPQA Diamond, and 45.1% on ARC-AGI-2 with code execution capabilities.
- **Deep Think Mode:** Gemini 3 Deep Think is an enhanced reasoning variant that further elevates the AI's performance in solving novel and complex problems, soon to be available to Google AI Ultra subscribers.
- **Developer Tools & Integration:** Gemini 3 supports agentic coding for building immersive apps, 3D games, and full-stack tools using natural language prompts, with integrations on third-party platforms like GitHub, Replit, and JetBrains.
- **Practical Uses:** The model excels in real-life planning tasks, such as booking appointments, managing schedules, and conducting multi-step autonomous tasks under user guidance.
- **Safety and Security:** Google deployed extensive safety frameworks, collaborating with global experts to mitigate risks including prompt injection attacks, biases, and misuse.
- **Availability:** Gemini 3 is available immediately to users through Google AI products, developers via APIs and CLI tools, and enterprises through Vertex AI, marking a new era of AI accessibility and intelligence.

**QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026**

**In the News:** QS released the World University Sustainability Rankings 2026, assessing over 700 universities worldwide on their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impacts. The rankings highlight higher education institutions' contributions toward sustainable development goals and their real-world impact on society and the planet.

**Key Points:**

- **Ranking Focus:** QS Sustainability Rankings evaluate universities based on their environmental impact, social responsibility, and governance practices, reflecting their role as educators, researchers, and employers committed to sustainability.
- **Assessment Categories:** The rankings use eight key indicators grouped under Environmental Impact (sustainable institutions, sustainable education, sustainable research) and Social Impact (equality, knowledge exchange, educational impact, employability & opportunities, quality of life).
- **Environmental Indicators:** These measure a university's climate action commitments, research on sustainability topics, availability of courses with embedded climate science, and the presence of student societies promoting environmental awareness.
- **Social Indicators:** These assess equality, collaboration with less economically developed institutions, research on education quality, employability of graduates, and overall quality of life including campus health and regional air quality.
- **Eligibility and Inclusion:** Institutions must have measurable research impact on at least some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to environmental and social areas to be considered.
- **Indian Universities:** Over 100 Indian institutions, including IITs and central universities, featured in the 2026 rankings, reflecting growing awareness and efforts toward sustainability in Indian higher education.

**Leonardo DiCaprio to Receive Desert Palm Achievement Award**

**In the News:** Leonardo DiCaprio will be honoured with the Desert Palm Achievement Award, Actor, at the Palm Springs International Film Awards held at the Palm Springs Convention Center. The award recognizes his outstanding performance in Paul Thomas Anderson's upcoming film "One Battle After Another" and his enduring contribution to the film industry.

**Key Points:**

- **Award Recognition:** The Desert Palm Achievement Award is bestowed to actors in recognition of their exceptional body of work and influence in the entertainment industry, often preceding Oscar wins or nominations.
- **Recent Performance:** DiCaprio's role in "One Battle After Another" has been praised for its emotional intensity, portraying a man confronting his troubled past while searching for his missing daughter.
- **Festival Details:** The Palm Springs International Film Festival will take place from January 2 to 12, 2026, with DiCaprio's award being a highlight of the Film Awards event.
- **Previous Honorees:** Past recipients include notable actors such as Jeff Bridges, Daniel Day-Lewis, Brad Pitt, and Eddie Redmayne, reflecting the award's prestige in Hollywood.

- **Environmental Engagement:** Beyond acting, DiCaprio is an environmental activist, co-founder of the production company Appian Way which produces nature-focused documentaries, and a board member of Re:wild, focusing on global conservation efforts.
- **Legacy:** Leonardo DiCaprio has been acclaimed for a diverse filmography across three decades, earning numerous awards including an Academy Award for Best Actor for "The Revenant" (2015).

### Saudi Arabia Named Major Non-NATO Ally by US

**In the News:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formally designated as a "Major Non-NATO Ally" (MNNA) by the Donald Trump administration of the United States of America during the visit of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Washington. This elevation marks a significant deepening of the bilateral security, defence and economic partnership between the two countries.

#### Key Points:

- **Announcement & Status:** President Trump announced at a White House dinner that Saudi Arabia would join the select group of countries holding MNNA status, which places it alongside allies such as Israel, Jordan and Kuwait. Defence & Arms Cooperation: As part of the new status, Saudi Arabia is set to gain access to advanced U.S. military hardware including the fifth-generation F-35 fighter jets and nearly 300 American tanks, as well as increased military logistics and storage rights on its territory.
- **Broader Strategic Deal:** The MNNA designation was part of a wider strategic framework between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia covering civil nuclear cooperation, artificial-intelligence technologies, critical-minerals partnerships and large-scale Saudi investment pledges in the U.S. economy.
- **What MNNA Means:** Under U.S. law, MNNA status grants priority access to U.S. defence articles and services, authorises participation in joint R&D with the U.S. Department of Defense, permission to host U.S. war-reserve stockpiles, and increased eligibility for U.S. defence-industry contracts — though it does *not* entail a mutual defence treaty like NATO membership.
- **Strategic & Regional Impacts:** The move signals a major shift in Middle Eastern geopolitics. It strengthens the U.S.–Saudi strategic alignment, potentially alters the balance of power in the Gulf region, and raises concerns among other regional actors (including Israel) about advanced weapon transfers and global technological access.

### Michelle Bachelet Awarded Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

**In the News:** Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development in New Delhi. The award was presented by Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, recognizing Bachelet's lifelong dedication to human rights, gender equality, and global justice.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Ceremony:** Michelle Bachelet received the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize on November 20, 2025, in recognition of her remarkable contributions to peace and human rights.
- **Human Rights Leadership:** Bachelet served two terms as Chile's President and as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, with major achievements in advancing women's rights, education reforms, and LGBT rights.
- **Institutional Reforms:** She established Chile's Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, the National Institute for Human Rights, and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights.
- **Advocacy for Equality:** Bachelet worked extensively to promote gender quotas in politics and passed legislation supporting civil unions and reproductive rights.
- **Global Engagement:** As the first Director of UN Women, she focused on empowering women worldwide, combating violence against women, and advancing gender equality.
- **Vocal Critic and Advocate:** She has been vocal on global human rights issues, including raising concerns about laws impacting civil liberties and activists in various countries, including India.

### WHO's GLASS 2025 Report on AMR

**In the News:** The WHO released its Global Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Report 2025 (GLASS 2025), which presents global estimates of antimicrobial-resistance (AMR) prevalence and trends based on over 23 million bacteriologically confirmed infections from more than 104 countries. The report reveals that globally about one in every six confirmed bacterial infections in 2023 were resistant to antibiotic treatment, and it highlights that in the South-East Asia region (which includes India) the rate is as high as one in three.



**Key Points:**

- **Global AMR Burden:** GLASS 2025 finds that laboratory-confirmed bacterial infections from 93 infection-type/ pathogen/ antibiotic combinations showed high resistance levels; overall, antibiotic resistance rose in over 40% of the monitored combinations between 2018 and 2023.
- **India's AMR Situation:** Within India, the report notes that approximately one in three bacterial infections were resistant to commonly used antibiotics in 2023 — significantly above the global average.
- **Drivers of High AMR in India:** The high resistance is attributed to factors such as widespread over-the-counter antibiotic access, self-medication, incomplete treatment courses, environmental contamination (from pharmaceutical manufacturing and hospital/industrial waste) and weak regulation and enforcement.
- **Surveillance Gaps:** The report points to limitations in India's data — mostly derived from tertiary-care hospitals and public sector labs, with rural, primary-care and private-sector data under-represented; and limited pathogen/ specimen coverage, hampering a complete national picture.
- **Policy/Action Imperatives:** GLASS 2025 calls for strengthening of surveillance systems (including broader lab networks), adoption of One Health approaches (human-animal-environment links), stringent antibiotic stewardship, regulation of antibiotic sales, and support for new antibiotic development.

**Rabih Alameddine & Patricia Smith Crowned at National Book Awards 2025**

**In the News:** At the 76th National Book Awards ceremony in New York City, Rabih Alameddine and Patricia Smith were crowned major winners. Alameddine won the Fiction award for his novel *The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother)*, while Smith received the Poetry award for her collection *The Intentions of Thunder*. The event celebrated diverse global voices and featured strong political and humanitarian messages from the winners' speeches. Literary Hub+4AP News+4The Guardian+4

**Key Points:**

- **Award Ceremony & Venue:** The 76th National Book Awards were held on November 19, 2025, at Cipriani Wall Street in Manhattan, New York, featuring host Jeff Hiller and a performance by singer Corinne Bailey Rae, with prizes given across five main categories.
- **Rabih Alameddine – Fiction Winner:** Rabih Alameddine won the Fiction award for *The True True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother)*, a darkly comic, multi-decade narrative about family, identity, and Lebanon's turbulent history, praised for blending political insight with emotional depth and satire.
- **Patricia Smith – Poetry Winner:** Patricia Smith received the Poetry award for *The Intentions of Thunder*, a collection exploring race, memory, trauma and resilience through intense, lyrical verse, continuing her legacy as one of the most acclaimed contemporary American poets.
- **Other Major Category Winners:** The Nonfiction prize went to Omar El Akkad for *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This*; Daniel Nayeri won Young People's Literature for *The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story*; and Gabriela Cabezón Cámara, translated by Robin Myers, won Translated Literature for *We Are Green and Trembling*.
- **Speeches & Political Themes:** Many winners, including Alameddine and El Akkad, used their acceptance speeches to speak about war, Gaza, Western complicity, and the moral duty of writers to confront injustice, turning the ceremony into a forum for literary resistance and ethical reflection.
- **Lifetime & Special Honors:** The National Book Foundation also honoured George Saunders with the Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters and Roxane Gay with the Literarian Award for her work championing diverse voices in publishing, underscoring the ceremony's focus on both artistic excellence and social impact.

**Turkey to Host COP31 Climate Summit After Compromise with Australia**

**In the News:** It was announced at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, that Turkey will host the COP31 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2026 in Antalya, after a compromise deal in which Australia withdrew its bid to be the venue but will preside over the negotiations. This arrangement ends a long diplomatic standoff within the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) over who would host the crucial 2026 climate summit.

**Key Points:**

- **Compromise Deal:** Under the agreement, Turkey will host COP31 in Antalya in 2026, while Australia's climate and energy minister Chris Bowen will serve as conference president and lead government negotiations, giving both countries prominent roles.

- **End of Hosting Standoff:** The deal ends a years-long deadlock between Turkey and Australia, both of which had bid to host COP31 on behalf of the WEOG. The compromise avoided the fallback option of defaulting the summit venue to Bonn, Germany, which had raised logistical concerns.
- **Role of Pacific Nations:** Australia had campaigned to host a “Pacific COP” with support from Pacific Island nations highly vulnerable to climate change. As part of the compromise, a pre-summit event is expected to be held in the Pacific, ensuring these states retain a visible platform despite Turkey securing the main venue.
- **Significance of Antalya Venue:** Antalya, a Mediterranean resort city in Turkey, will showcase a region facing heatwaves, water stress, wildfires and sea-level impacts, symbolising the shared climate risks of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and highlighting Turkey’s aspiration to bridge developed and developing country interests.
- **Climate Diplomacy Signal:** The arrangement is seen as a diplomatic win-win: Turkey gains hosting rights and visibility for its 2053 net-zero pledge, while Australia gains leadership of negotiations, reinforcing its image as a partner of the Pacific on climate action, even as critics question both countries’ continued fossil fuel expansion.
- **Broader COP Trajectory:** COP31 in Antalya will follow COP30 in Belém, Brazil (2025) and precede COP32 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2027), forming a sequence in which major emerging economies and regional powers host critical negotiations on fossil fuel phase-out, climate finance, adaptation, and loss and damage.

### Seychelles Becomes New Member of Colombo Security Conclave

**In the News:** Seychelles officially became a full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) during the 7th National Security Adviser-level meeting held in New Delhi, India, chaired by India’s NSA Ajit Doval. With this, Seychelles joined India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Bangladesh in a key regional security grouping focused on the Indian Ocean Region.

#### Key Points:

- **Event and Venue:** Seychelles’ admission as a full member was announced at the 7th NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave, convened on 20 November 2025 in New Delhi, highlighting India’s role as convener and lead security partner in the grouping.
- **New Member of CSC:** Seychelles moved from Observer State to full member, becoming the 6th member of the CSC alongside India, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Bangladesh, thereby widening the Conclave’s footprint across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- **Participants and Leadership:** The meeting was chaired by NSA Ajit Doval of India and attended by top security officials, including Ibrahim Latheef (Maldives), Rahul Rasgotra (Mauritius), Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Sampath Thuyacontha (Sri Lanka), Khalil-ur-Rehman (Bangladesh), and Major General Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces of Seychelles. Malaysia joined as a Guest State for the first time.
- **Core Agenda and Pillars:** The Conclave reviewed progress and future plans under its five key security pillars: Maritime Safety and Security, Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation, Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime, Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- **Strategic Importance of Seychelles:** Located in the western Indian Ocean as an island state and maritime hub, Seychelles’ membership significantly enhances maritime domain awareness, strengthens efforts against piracy, smuggling and other sea-borne crimes, and improves overall security coverage across key sea lanes of the IOR.
- **Boost to India’s Regional Role:** The expansion of CSC with Seychelles’ inclusion reflects the growing relevance and institutional maturity of the Conclave and reinforces India’s position as a “net security provider” in the Indian Ocean, deepening its strategic and defence ties with Seychelles and other littoral states.
- **Future Cooperation & Capacity Building:** Member states reiterated commitment to joint training, information-sharing, coordinated patrols, and capacity-building initiatives, using the CSC framework to respond collectively to terrorism, cyber threats, trafficking, and natural disasters in the region.

### Tejas Aircraft Crashes at Dubai Air Show

**In the News:** An Indian Air Force HAL Tejas light combat aircraft crashed during an aerial display at the Dubai Air Show at Al Maktoum International Airport, Dubai. The aircraft burst into flames on impact, and the pilot, Wing Commander Namansh Syal, was killed. The Indian Air Force and UAE authorities have ordered a detailed investigation into the cause, with initial reports pointing to the crash occurring during a complex low-altitude manoeuvre.

#### Key Points:

- **Incident Timing and Location:** The crash occurred on the afternoon of **November 21, 2025**, during a flying demonstration at the **Dubai Air Show 2025** at Al Maktoum International Airport, one of the world's largest aviation events.
- **Pilot Casualty:** The sole pilot on board, **Wing Commander Namansh Syal** of the Indian Air Force, sustained fatal injuries. He was a mid-career officer from Himachal Pradesh; both the IAF and Dubai authorities officially confirmed his death and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.
- **Nature of the Crash:** Eyewitness videos showed the Tejas performing a low-altitude manoeuvre before it plunged to the ground, exploding into a fireball and sending up thick black smoke near the runway. The wreckage was quickly surrounded by firefighting and rescue teams who brought the blaze under control.
- **Immediate Response and Show Disruption:** Emergency crews from Dubai Civil Defence and airport authorities responded within minutes, cordoning off the crash site and briefly halting the flying display. After safety checks, other aerial displays resumed later in the afternoon, though the Tejas crash remained the focus of attention.
- **Official Reactions and Inquiry:** The **Indian Air Force** announced a **Court of Inquiry** to determine the exact cause of the accident, while India's Defence Minister and Chief of Defence Staff described themselves as "deeply anguished" and reaffirmed support to the pilot's family. UAE authorities also issued statements acknowledging the incident and coordinating investigative efforts with India.

### India & Israel Sign Terms of Reference to Initiate Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

**In the News:** The Governments of India and Israel formally signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) in Tel Aviv, marking the commencement of structured negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The ToR was signed by India's Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Israel's Economy & Industry Minister Nir Barkat.

#### Key Points:

- **Formal launch of negotiations:** The signing of the ToR formalises the decision of India and Israel to enter into negotiations for an FTA—ending a period of planning and bilateral engagement and starting the formally scheduled rounds of talks.
- **Comprehensive scope of the proposed agreement:** The FTA is intended to cover a broad range of economic dimensions including trade in goods and services, investment promotion and protection, regulatory cooperation, technology transfer, innovation partnerships and digital trade—thereby going significantly beyond a classical tariff-only framework.
- **Complementary strengths and sectoral synergies:** India's large domestic market, manufacturing and services potential are expected to be matched with Israel's strengths in high-technology sectors such as agritech, water and climate solutions, cybersecurity, defence-industry innovation, and startup ecosystems. Business leaders note limited direct competition between the two economies, which supports the view that the FTA can be a "force-multiplier" rather than a zero-sum arrangement.
- **Baseline trade and investment context:** Although trade between India and Israel has been expanding, in recent fiscal year 2024-25 India's exports to Israel stood at approximately US \$2.14 billion while imports from Israel were about US \$1.48 billion, total bilateral trade roughly US \$3.62 billion; the FTA aims to raise this baseline significantly by easing business-barriers and facilitating greater flows of capital, goods, services and investments.

### China To Builds First Nuclear-Resistant Artificial Floating Island

**In the News:** China is building the world's first artificial floating island capable of **withstanding nuclear blasts**, rough seas and typhoons, and is expected to become operational by 2028.

#### Key Points:

- **Project Overview:** The platform is called the Deep-Sea All-Weather Resident Floating Research Facility. It is a twin-hull, semi-submersible artificial island weighing around 78,000 tonnes — comparable to the size of China's latest aircraft carrier.
- **Technical Specifications & Capabilities:** It measures about 138 m in length and 85 m in width, with a deck height of 45 m above the waterline. It is designed to support up to 238 persons for about four months without resupply. The structure can handle rough seas (waves of 6–9 m) and withstand typhoons rated up to category 17.
- **Nuclear-Resistant Design:** A distinctive feature is its "metamaterial sandwich panels" that convert sudden shockwaves into controlled compression to protect critical compartments (emergency power, navigation, communications) from nuclear blast effects. It references China's military specification GJB 1060.1-1991 for nuclear-blast protection.
- **Strategic & Dual-Use Implications:** Although officially framed as a scientific research facility, the military-grade design and mobility suggest dual-use potential: presence in contested maritime zones, deep-sea resource exploration, surveillance, and extended endurance missions far from shore.



- **Timeline & Context:** Project is slated for operational readiness by 2028. It comes amid China's broader push into the "blue economy," ocean science infrastructure and maritime power projection.

### Larry Page Surpasses Jeff Bezos as World's Third Richest List

**In the News:** Larry Page, the co-founder of Alphabet Inc. (the parent company of Google), advanced to become the world's third-richest individual after a significant surge in the company's share price following the launch of its advanced AI model, "Gemini 3".

#### Key Points:

- **Wealth leap and ranking change:** As Alphabets shares rallied, Page's net worth was boosted by approximately **US \$7.6 billion** within a short span, elevating his estimated fortune to **US \$238.5 billion**, surpassing Jeff Bezos (whose net worth was pegged at around US \$230.4 billion) and propelling Page into the third position globally.
- **Catalyst: Gemini**• The surge in Page's wealth came largely as a result of Alphabet's shares ascending by nearly **6%** upon the Gemini 3 announcement, later settling around a **3.3%** increase. Page holds roughly **3.2%** of Alphabet, making his personal stake highly sensitive to share-price movements.
- **Broader implications for tech-ecosystem wealth:** The dramatic shift in rankings underscores how founders of major tech companies, particularly those richly endowed with concentrated equity holdings and aligned with emerging sectors such as AI and cloud services, can experience rapid upward movement in net worth. This event highlights the growing importance of institutional investor sentiment in frontier technologies and serves as evidence that billionaire wealth — especially among tech founders — is increasingly volatile and tightly coupled with product announcements, innovation breakthroughs and market expectations.

### UAE Becomes World's Third-Largest Humanitarian Donor in 2025

**In the News:** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been ranked as the world's third-largest humanitarian donor for 2025, following new data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) which records its contribution at approximately **US \$1.46 billion**.

#### Key Points:

- **Ranking & Contribution:** The UAE achieved the global third-place position among humanitarian donors in 2025, placing behind only the United States and the European Union, with its contribution measured at around US \$1.46 billion.
- **Share of Global Aid:** The UAE's contribution amounts to about **7.2 % of the total global humanitarian funding** recorded by UNOCHA's Financial Tracking Service for the year, with the global total standing at approximately US \$20.28 billion.
- **Nature of Aid & Strategic Approach:** The aid from the UAE encompasses not only rapid emergency relief (such as food, shelter, medicine and clothing in crisis zones) but also long-term development support (including healthcare infrastructure, education projects, energy and clean water initiatives) and is guided by a principle of neutrality and inclusivity — serving people "regardless of origin, race, religion, belief or geography."
- **Global Reach & Focus Regions:** The UAE's humanitarian activities span several major crisis-affected regions worldwide including (but not limited to) Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan — illustrating both the breadth and diversity of its humanitarian engagement.

### 3 reasons why Trump's latest Russia-Ukraine peace deal favours Moscow

**In the News:** A draft **28-point peace proposal** reportedly developed by Donald Trump and Russia proposes terms for ending the war in Ukraine which critics say heavily favour Russia. The plan would require major concessions from Ukraine, including territorial recognition of Russian gains and limits on Ukraine's military and NATO ambitions.

#### Key Points — 3 Reasons the Deal Favors Moscow:

- **Recognition of Russian territorial control:** The plan would effectively accept Russian control over Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk and parts of Kherson/Zaporizhzhia, which Russia gained through invasion. Clause 21(a) reportedly states that "Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk will be recognised as de facto Russian, including by the United States."
- **Limitation of Ukraine's defence and NATO ambitions:** Under the terms, Ukraine would be barred from joining NATO, and its armed forces would be reduced (for example from ~800,000 to ~600,000 troops). This weakens Ukraine's long-term security and enhances Russia's strategic advantage.



- **Shift in security architecture favouring Russia:** The proposal invites a new Russia-NATO dialogue and potentially freezes the war in ways that institutionalise a Russian advantage rather than restoring Ukraine's full sovereignty. Analysts argue that recognising such arrangements would privilege Moscow's geopolitical goals.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Supreme Court Directs Jharkhand to Declare 31,468.25 Hectares of Saranda Forest as Wildlife Sanctuary

**In the News:** The Supreme Court of India has directed the **Jharkhand government** to notify **31,468.25 hectares** of the **Saranda forest** as a **wildlife sanctuary**, marking a major step toward conserving one of India's ecologically critical elephant habitats.

#### Key Points

- The Supreme Court issued the direction while hearing matters related to **forest conservation and mining activities** in the ecologically sensitive Saranda region of **West Singhbhum district** in Jharkhand.
- The Court observed that Saranda is a **critical wildlife habitat**, particularly for **Asian elephants**, and requires full legal protection to prevent habitat fragmentation caused by mining and linear infrastructure projects.
- The order mandates the Jharkhand government to declare **31,468.25 hectares** as a wildlife sanctuary under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**, ensuring statutory safeguards for biodiversity conservation.
- Saranda, known as "**the land of seven hundred hills**," forms part of the **Singhbhum Elephant Reserve** and supports rich flora and fauna, including elephants, leopards, sambar, and several endemic species.
- The region has faced increasing ecological pressure due to **iron ore mining**, prompting the Court to emphasise the need for strict protection, restoration of degraded areas, and regulation of extractive activities.
- The Court highlighted that the declaration of a sanctuary would help secure **elephant corridors**, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and enhance long-term conservation outcomes.
- The Supreme Court also emphasised the responsibility of the State to ensure **transparent compliance**, proper demarcation of the sanctuary boundary, and submission of a detailed status report on implementation.
- The order aligns with India's broader commitments to biodiversity protection and conservation planning under **Project Elephant**, the **National Wildlife Action Plan**, and global frameworks such as the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**.

### Turkey is Ready to Host COP31 Climate Summit

**In the News:** Turkey has secured the hosting rights for the COP31 United Nations Climate Change Summit, scheduled to be held in 2026 at the Antalya Expo Center in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya. This decision ended a prolonged stalemate with Australia, which had also bid to host the summit but ultimately conceded to Turkey. As part of a unique compromise, Australia will lead the conference's negotiations while Turkey will assume the formal presidency and hosting responsibilities of COP31.

#### Key Points:

- **Hosting Rights Secured:** Turkey will host COP31, marking a significant moment for the country as it prepares to welcome global leaders, climate experts, and thousands of delegates to Antalya in 2026.
- **Compromise with Australia:** Australia agreed to relinquish its bid to host but will lead the climate negotiations during the summit and organize a pre-COP event in the Pacific region. This arrangement resolves a diplomatic impasse between the two nations and exemplifies collaboration.
- **Turkey's Position:** As an emerging economy, Turkey aims to use its presidency of COP31 to promote unity among wealthy and developing nations by fostering a more global perspective on climate action rather than a regional focus.
- **Timeline and Challenges:** With only a year to prepare, Turkey faces a tight timeline amid the comprehensive logistical and diplomatic groundwork required for hosting the summit.
- **Significance of COP31:** COP summits are crucial global platforms for advancing climate action, encouraging international cooperation on emissions reduction, green technology, and sustainable development goals.

### SC strikes down Vanashakti judgment: Why ruling is significant

**In the News:** The Supreme Court of India, by a 2:1 majority, recalled its earlier May 2025 judgment (the Vanashakti judgment) which had barred the grant of ex-post-facto environmental clearances under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification

2006 framework. The Court held the earlier judgment was per incuriam for ignoring binding precedents and highlighted that blanket prohibition of retrospective clearances could lead to severe economic loss and potentially greater environmental harm.

**Key Points:**

- **Recall of Judgment:** The Supreme Court convened a new bench with Chief Justice B. R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran (majority) and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan (dissenting) and recalled the May 2025 Vanashakti judgment because it failed to consider earlier judgments allowing limited ex-post-facto clearances.
- **Ex-post-facto Environmental Clearances:** The heart of the matter is whether projects that begin work without prior environmental clearance (EC) may obtain clearance retrospectively. The Vanashakti judgment had struck down the 2017 Notification and 2021 Office Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) which provided for such clearance..
- **Legal Precedents:** The majority held that the May judgment ignored key decisions such as Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd v. Rohit Prajapati & Ors. (2020) and D. Swamy v. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (2022) which permitted retrospective clearances in exceptional cases. Because of this oversight the judgment was considered per incuriam.
- **Economic & Environmental Balance:** The Court emphasised that strictly insisting on demolition of projects undertaken without prior EC could paradoxically cause more environmental harm (through demolition debris, reconstruction waste) and waste thousands of crores of public money. A balanced approach was deemed necessary.

**The Supreme Court rarely exercises the power to review its own judgments.**

**In the News:** The Supreme Court of India, exercising its rare constitutional power under Article 137, recently recalled a significant judgment from May 16, 2025, which had declared ex post facto environmental clearances illegal. This recall has effectively reopened the issue for litigation, reflecting a cautious judicial approach in balancing environmental protection with developmental needs.

**Key Points:**

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 137 of the Indian Constitution empowers the Supreme Court to review its judgments, but this power is sparingly used to correct glaring errors, omissions, or judicial mistakes within 30 days of the original decision.
- **Exceptionality of Reviews:** The Supreme Court treats reviews as exceptions to the finality of its rulings, permitting them only in the rarest of cases where miscarriage of justice is evident.
- **Recall of May 16, 2025 Judgment:** The Court, by a 2-1 majority, recalled its earlier judgment from May 16, 2025, that had deemed retrospective environmental clearances illegal and barred their grant, citing the adverse economic impact and challenges to public infrastructure projects.
- **Dissent and Precautionary Principle:** Justice Ujjal Bhuyan dissented strongly, underscoring the precautionary principle as a cornerstone of environmental law and opposing the recall.
- **Legal and Practical Balance:** The majority highlighted that strict enforcement of the original judgment could cause massive project demolitions and economic loss, pointing to the need for judicial pragmatism in environmental and development matters.
- **Impact:** The recall has put ex post facto environmental clearances up for fresh litigation and review, signaling an ongoing judicial engagement with the complexities of environmental governance and sustainable development.

## SCIENCE AND TECH

**Drone City and Space City Project**

**In the News:** During the **30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit**, the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry laid the foundation stone for **India's first Drone City** and a new **Space City** in **Andhra Pradesh**, marking a major step toward building a high-technology hub in the state.

**Key Points**

- Andhra Pradesh has become the first state to simultaneously host a dedicated **Drone City** and **Space City**, aimed at positioning the region as a national centre for aerospace, drones, and space technology.
- The **Drone City** will be established at the **Orvakal Industrial Node near Kurnool**, covering **300 acres**, and will function as a specialised hub for drone manufacturing, testing, certification, and innovation.

- Drone City is expected to strengthen India's self-reliance in high-quality drone production and support national missions such as **Kisan Drones**, **Swamitva Yojana**, and national security operations including **Operation Sindoor**.
- The **Space City** will be developed near **Sriharikota**, India's premier rocket launch centre, enhancing Andhra Pradesh's role in satellite development, launch-related industries, and commercial space activity.
- The Space City is designed to complement national efforts under **IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)** by expanding private-sector participation in the space ecosystem.
- The State Government will provide strong investment incentives, including a **100% State GST refund through an escrow mechanism** and **20% capital investment reimbursement**, creating a transparent and industry-friendly environment.
- These projects align with national development visions under **Viksit Bharat 2047** and also support **Swarna Andhra 2047**, the State's long-term strategy to transform Andhra Pradesh into a **USD 2.4 trillion economy by 2047**.
- The initiatives aim to attract significant domestic and foreign investment and generate large numbers of **high-skilled jobs** in avionics, aerospace engineering, robotics, propulsion systems, electronics, and advanced manufacturing.
- The foundation stone was laid during the **CII Partnership Summit**, an annual event organised with the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led organisation founded in **1895**, headquartered in **New Delhi**, and plays a major role in shaping India's industrial and economic policy.

### ISRO to Triple Spacecraft Output and Launch Chandrayaan-4 in 2028

**In the News:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled an ambitious plan to triple its spacecraft production and announced that its next lunar mission, Chandrayaan-4, is scheduled for launch in 2028. The initiative marks a major step in India's growing leadership in space technology and exploration.

#### Key Points:

- **Expansion Plan:** ISRO aims to increase spacecraft production from around 5–6 currently to nearly 15 per year. The expansion focuses on strengthening manufacturing and testing facilities at major ISRO centers in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, and Sriharikota.
- **Industry Participation:** The production scale-up will involve close collaboration with private industries under the "Atmanirbhar Space" initiative, encouraging Indian companies to contribute to satellite design, payload integration, and mission support.
- **Chandrayaan-4 Mission:** Planned for 2028, Chandrayaan-4 will attempt India's first lunar sample return mission. It represents a technological advancement from Chandrayaan-3's soft landing at the Moon's south pole in 2023.
- **New Launch Complex:** ISRO is developing an additional spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu to support high-frequency launches and improve turnaround efficiency for upcoming missions.
- **Strategic Goals:** The initiative supports India's long-term ambitions in planetary exploration, commercial satellite deployment, and deep-space research, solidifying its global standing in space science.
- **Recent Achievements:** Following the successes of Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 missions, ISRO's future roadmap includes human spaceflight under Gaganyaan, Mars orbiter upgrades, and expanded international partnerships.

### India's First Commercial PSLV Set to Launch Oceansat

**In the News:** India is poised to mark a milestone in its space industry as the first commercial-build version of the PSLV-XL rocket — manufactured entirely by the private sector consortium of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) — is scheduled to launch the Oceansat Earth-observation satellite in early 2026, signalling a major shift in India's launch-vehicle manufacturing paradigm.

#### Key Points:

- **Commercial launch vehicle manufacturing:** The HAL-L&T consortium has built the first end-to-end industry-manufactured PSLV-XL rocket under a contract signed in 2022 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (via its commercial arm), marking the first time the production of this launch vehicle platform has shifted from ISRO in-house manufacturing to private industry.
- **Mission timeline:** The rocket is expected to launch early in 2026 carrying the Oceansat satellite, and the industry-team anticipates two to three launches in the coming year once the new model of manufacturing is operational.

- **Strategic significance:** By transferring manufacturing of a proven launch vehicle to industry, ISRO aims to focus more on high-end missions, research and development, while enabling a higher cadence of launches through private-sector participation, boosting India's position in the global commercial launch market.
- **Industrial ecosystem boost:** The move is expected to strengthen India's domestic space manufacturing ecosystem, encourage private investment, create supplier networks, and enhance the country's credibility as a reliable launch partner in the international market.

**Launch vehicle variant:** The PSLV-XL variant used here features extended strap-on boosters for increased payload capacity and has been India's workhorse launcher, now being repurposed through a commercial manufacturing model.

## AWARDS

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

**In the News:** Educationist Mohammed Lateef Khan, Chairman and Managing Director of MS Education Academy, Hyderabad, was conferred the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad National Award 2025. The award recognizes his outstanding contributions to education, particularly in expanding access to quality learning for underprivileged students across India.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Recognition:** The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad National Award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of education and national integration. Mohammed Lateef Khan was recognized for his efforts to promote inclusive and value-based education.
- **Achievements in Education:** Under his leadership, MS Education Academy has established over 100 institutions across India, offering integrated academic and competitive exam coaching for students from diverse backgrounds.
- **Focus on Empowerment:** His initiatives aim to empower economically disadvantaged youth, especially from minority and marginalized communities, through modern education and skill development programs.
- **Legacy of the Award:** Named after India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the award carries a legacy of honoring educators committed to advancing knowledge, unity, and nation-building.
- **National Impact:** Mohammed Lateef Khan's recognition highlights the growing role of private educational initiatives in complementing government efforts to widen educational participation and improve learning outcomes nationwide.

### Tom Cruise Receives Honorary Oscar at 2025 Governors Awards

**In the News:** Hollywood actor and producer Tom Cruise received an Honorary Oscar at the 2025 Governors Awards held in Los Angeles. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honored him for his exceptional contributions to global cinema, decades of iconic performances, and influence on modern action filmmaking.

#### Key Points:

- **Award Ceremony:** The 2025 Governors Awards, organized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, celebrated distinguished lifetime achievements in film. Tom Cruise was presented with the Honorary Oscar alongside other veterans recognized for their cultural and creative impact.
- **Reason for Recognition:** Cruise was honored for redefining the modern action genre through his commitment to practical stunts, innovative filmmaking, and consistent dedication to the cinematic craft across a career spanning more than four decades.
- **Career Highlights:** Known for blockbusters such as the Mission: Impossible series, Top Gun, Jerry Maguire, and Rain Man, Cruise's films have collectively grossed billions worldwide, making him one of Hollywood's most enduring and bankable stars.
- **Industry Impact:** Beyond acting, Cruise's influence extends to film production and the evolution of action cinematography. His insistence on realism in stunts and use of advanced cinematographic techniques has set a benchmark in global film standards.
- **Event Significance:** The Honorary Oscar marks a rare institutional acknowledgment from the Academy for Cruise, who previously received three Oscar nominations but had not won a competitive award.

### Oscar Piastrri Receives Australia's Prestigious Don Award for Exceptional 2025 F1 Season



**In the News:** Australian Formula 1 driver Oscar Piastri received the nation's most prestigious sporting honor, the Don Award, in November 2025. The award recognizes his exceptional performance during the 2025 Formula 1 season, where he emerged as one of the sport's most promising young talents, representing Australia with distinction on the global stage.

**Key Points:**

- **Award Overview:** The Don Award, presented annually by the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, honors an athlete who has most inspired the nation through their achievements and conduct in the sporting arena.
- **Reason for Recognition:** Piastri was selected for his outstanding 2025 F1 season with McLaren, where he consistently delivered strong finishes, secured race victories, and demonstrated extraordinary skill and composure against seasoned competitors.
- **Career Milestone:** His recognition follows a breakthrough season in which he cemented his reputation as Australia's next racing superstar, continuing the legacy of legendary drivers like Mark Webber and Daniel Ricciardo.
- **Public and Sporting Impact:** Piastri's success not only rejuvenated Australia's presence in Formula 1 but also inspired a new generation of motorsport enthusiasts across the country. His professionalism and determination were widely praised by fans and experts alike.
- **Event Details:** The Don Award 2025 ceremony was held in Melbourne, attended by leading figures from Australia's sporting community and previous award recipients.

**Thota Tharani Conferred France's Prestigious Chevalier Award**

**In the News:** Renowned Indian art director and production designer Thota Tharani was conferred France's prestigious Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) in November 2025. The French government honored him for his outstanding contribution to cinema, visual arts, and cross-cultural artistic collaboration between India and France.

**Key Points:**

- **Award Overview:** The Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres is one of France's highest civilian honors, recognizing individuals who have significantly enriched the fields of art and culture at the global level.
- **Recipient Profile:** Thota Tharani is a veteran art director, production designer, and painter celebrated for his extensive work in Indian cinema, particularly in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi films, spanning over four decades.
- **Major Works:** His acclaimed projects include visual masterpieces such as Nayakan, Indian, Guru, Hey Ram, and international co-productions that showcased innovative set design blending traditional and modern aesthetics.
- **Recognition by France:** The French government acknowledged Tharani's artistic excellence and his role in promoting Indo-French creative exchange through cinema, stage design, and visual arts education.
- **Artistic Legacy:** Recipient of multiple National Film Awards and Filmfare honors, Tharani's work is known for its attention to detail, architectural precision, and ability to authentically recreate historical and cultural settings.

## SPORTS

**Ravindra Jadeja Becomes 4th Cricketer in History to Achieve This**

**In the News:** Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja etched his name in cricket history by becoming only the fourth player ever to achieve the dual milestone of 4000 runs and 300 or more wickets in Test cricket. He joined an elite list featuring legendary all-rounders, becoming the second Indian after Kapil Dev to reach this remarkable feat.

**Key Points:**

- **Historic Achievement:** Ravindra Jadeja reached the 4000-run and 300-wicket milestone during the ongoing Test series, further cementing his reputation as one of India's greatest all-rounders.
- **Elite Company:** Jadeja is only the fourth cricketer in Test history to achieve this all-round record, following legends Kapil Dev (India), Shane Warne (Australia), and Sir Richard Hadlee (New Zealand).
- **Consistent Performer:** Known for his accuracy and control as a left-arm spinner, Jadeja has been a match-winner for India, especially on home pitches. With the bat, he has provided depth to the lower order with crucial innings over the years.
- **Significance for India:** He joins Kapil Dev as the only other Indian to record this rare double, highlighting India's growing strength in producing dynamic all-rounders across generations.

- **Career Overview:** Debuting in 2012, Jadeja has played over 70 Tests, contributing to several series victories in India and abroad, and is currently regarded as one of the most complete all-rounders in modern cricket.

### Zimbabwe and Namibia will jointly host the 2026 U-19 Cricket World Cup

**In the News:** Zimbabwe and Namibia will jointly host the 2026 ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup, marking the first time the tournament is co-hosted by two African nations. The event will take place from January 15 to February 6, 2026, with matches split between key venues in both countries.

#### Key Points:

- **Tournament Hosts:** Zimbabwe and Namibia have been selected by the ICC to co-host the 16th edition of the U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup, showcasing southern Africa as an emerging hub for global cricket events.
- **Event Schedule:** The tournament will run from January 15 to February 6, 2026, giving teams over three weeks of competition across league, Super Six, and knockout stages.
- **Participating Teams:** A total of 16 teams will compete, including automatic qualifiers from the previous edition, hosts Zimbabwe, and regional qualifiers from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and East Asia-Pacific.
- **Match Venues:** In Zimbabwe, games will be held at Harare Sports Club, Takashinga Sports Club, and Queens Sports Club, while Namibia will host matches at Namibia Cricket Ground and HP Oval in Windhoek.
- **Format and Progression:** Teams will be divided into four groups, with sides advancing to a Super Six stage followed by semi-finals and a final, maintaining the ICC's standard under-19 World Cup structure.

### India Wins Record Nine Golds at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025

**In the News:** At the finals of the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 held in Greater Noida, India secured a **record nine gold medals**, marking a landmark achievement for Indian boxing at the global level. According to the official medal table, India topped the hosts' list of participating nations.

#### Key Points:

- **Historic gold-medal haul:** India's nine gold medals form the largest gold tally ever achieved by the country in this tournament. The haul underscores not only individual excellence but a collective peak in performance.
- **Women's boxing leads the charge:** Of the nine gold medals, seven were earned by Indian women boxers, underlining the increasing dominance of the women's contingent. Among the gold winners were established world-champions such as Nikhat Zareen (51 kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (57 kg), whose victories fuelled the overall success.
- **Depth of performance across categories:** India did not just win golds but secured medals in all 20 weight categories of the competition, finishing with nine gold, six silver and five bronze — a demonstration of both elite winners and broad qualification strength.
- **Home-ground advantage and momentum:** The event being hosted on Indian soil (at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, Greater Noida) provided a supportive competitive environment; the athletes translated this into conversion of finals appearances into gold medals. The presence of a large number of Indian finalists (15 boxers reached gold-medal bouts) further emphasises the depth of the field.
- **Broader significance for Indian boxing:** The leadership of the Boxing Federation of India described this performance as a "red-letter day" for Indian boxing, indicating that the sport in India has moved beyond emerging status toward a position of global competency and ambition in the lead-up to major events such as the Asian Games and Olympics.

### Roger Federer Elected to International Tennis Hall of Fame

**In the News:** Legendary tennis player Roger Federer was announced as having been elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) in his first year of eligibility, marking a crowning recognition of his extraordinary career.

#### Key Points:

- **First year of eligibility and selection:** Federer was eligible for induction five years after stepping away from professional competition, and the Hall announced his selection immediately—he was the only player in the 2026 Class to receive enough votes in the player category.
- **Career achievements underpinning the honour:** Over his career, Federer won 20 Grand Slam singles titles (becoming the first male player to reach that mark), claimed 103 tour-level singles titles, and held the world No. 1 ranking for a record 237 weeks in a row (310 weeks in total).

- **Legacy beyond statistics:** Beyond the numbers, Federer's elegant all-court style, his role in what he described as a "golden time for tennis", and his influence on players, fans and the sport at large were particularly highlighted by his peers and the tennis media in their congratulatory responses.

