Weekly Current Affairs 1st November to 7th November 2026

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IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

Cyclone 'Murasu' forms over Bay of Bengal, southern Odisha on high alert

In the News: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) confirmed the formation of Cyclonic Storm Murasu over the southwest and adjoining west-central Bay of Bengal. The cyclone subsequently intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and was forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast during the night of November 2–3. Southern Odisha was placed on high alert due to the possibility of heavy rainfall and flooding.

Key Points:

- **Cyclone Formation and Naming:** Cyclone Murasu developed over the Bay of Bengal on November 1, 2026. The name 'Murasu', meaning a traditional drum or war drum in Tamil, was contributed by India. Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are named under the system coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and ESCAP.
- **Expected Landfall and Wind Speed:** According to the IMD's November 2 forecast, Cyclone Murasu was expected to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapur, close to Ongole. The landfall was predicted between late November 2 and early November 3, with sustained winds of 100–110 kmph, gusting to 120 kmph.
- **High Alert in Odisha:** The Odisha government intensified disaster preparedness in southern districts, including Ganjam, Gajapati, Koraput and Malkangiri. Authorities monitored vulnerable areas and prepared emergency response measures. Heavy rainfall at isolated locations was expected, raising concerns about flooding and disruption of essential services.
- **Disaster Management Measures:** The Andhra Pradesh and Odisha governments strengthened emergency preparedness with the assistance of disaster response agencies. Fishermen were advised to avoid venturing into the sea, while vulnerable coastal communities were instructed to follow official warnings. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **IMD and Cyclone Classification:** The India Meteorological Department functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is headquartered in New Delhi. It classifies cyclonic storms according to maximum sustained wind speed. A severe cyclonic storm has winds of 89–117 kmph, whereas a very severe cyclonic storm has winds of 118–166 kmph.

PM Modi cites World Bank report to highlight 'historic' fall in India's extreme poverty

In the News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted findings from the World Bank's India Poverty and Equity Brief: October 2026, describing India's reduction in extreme poverty as a historic achievement. The report stated that India's extreme poverty rate declined from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 2.6% in 2023–24, representing an approximately 90% reduction. The Prime Minister highlighted improvements in living standards and economic opportunities.

Key Points:

- **Historic Reduction in Extreme Poverty:** According to the World Bank, India's extreme poverty rate declined from 27.1% in 2011–12 to 2.6% in 2023–24. The calculation uses the international extreme poverty threshold of USD 3 per person per day at 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). This represents one of the fastest recorded declines in poverty globally.
- **Population Emerging from Poverty:** Approximately 49.6 crore people (496 million) moved above the lower-middle-income poverty threshold between 2011 and 2023. The estimate uses the USD 4.20 per day poverty line, under which India's poverty rate declined from 57.7% to 16.1%. This measure is broader than the extreme poverty threshold.
- **International Poverty Measurement:** The World Bank uses Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to compare living standards across countries. Its updated international poverty thresholds, based on 2021 PPP, include USD 3 for extreme poverty, USD 4.20 for lower-middle-income economies and USD 8.30 for upper-middle-income economies.
- **World Bank and Development Indicators:** The World Bank, headquartered in Washington, D.C., was established in 1944 following the Bretton Woods Conference. It publishes Poverty and Equity Briefs covering poverty, inequality and shared prosperity in developing countries. The reports help policymakers assess development outcomes and progress towards poverty reduction.

Cyclone Murasu 2026

In the News: Severe Cyclonic Storm Murasu made the expected landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast near Ongole on November 3, 2026, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds. Originating over the Bay of Bengal, the cyclone prompted evacuations, weather alerts and emergency preparations across coastal districts. It followed Cyclone Arnab, which had affected the eastern coast in late October.

Key Points:

- **Cyclone Formation and Landfall:** Cyclone Murasu developed over the Bay of Bengal and crossed the southern Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narsapur, near Ongole. The landfall occurred during the early hours of November 3, 2026, with sustained winds of 100–110 km/h and gusts reaching 120 km/h.
- **Naming of the Cyclone:** The name Murasu was proposed by India and originates from Tamil, where it refers to a traditional drum. The India Meteorological Department (IMD), functioning as the Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre in New Delhi, assigns names to cyclones in the North Indian Ocean region.
- **Cyclone Naming System:** Tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are named using a predetermined list prepared by 13 participating countries under the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) framework. The 2020 naming list contains 169 names, with each participating country contributing 13 names.
- **Affected States and Precautionary Measures:** Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu experienced heavy rainfall and disruptions to transportation and public services. Authorities evacuated residents from vulnerable coastal locations and mobilised disaster-response personnel to address flooding, damaged infrastructure and other cyclone-related emergencies.
- **Disaster Management Framework:** The IMD issues cyclone warnings and forecasts, while the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) coordinates national disaster-management policies. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, undertakes specialised rescue and relief operations during major disasters.

India's First State-Government-Run Proton Therapy Centre

In the News: The Assam government signed an agreement with IBA Particle Therapy India Pvt. Ltd. to establish India's first state-government-run Proton Beam Therapy Centre in Guwahati. The ₹600-crore project aims to expand access to advanced cancer treatment, particularly for patients from Assam and other northeastern states.

Key Points:

- **Project Location and Investment:** The proposed Proton Beam Therapy Centre will be established in Guwahati, Assam, with an estimated investment of ₹600 crore. The project is intended to become India's first proton therapy facility established by a state government, strengthening specialised cancer-treatment infrastructure in the Northeast.
- **Funding and Implementation:** The project will receive ₹315 crore in loan from the World Bank, while the Assam government will contribute ₹285 crore. It will be implemented through the World Bank-supported Assam State Secondary Healthcare Initiative for Service Delivery Transformation (ASSIST), under the Assam Health Infrastructure Development and Management Society.
- **Technology Partnership:** The Assam government signed the agreement with IBA Particle Therapy India Pvt. Ltd., associated with Belgium-based Ion Beam Applications SA. The proposed facility will use the ProteusONE proton therapy system, which is designed to deliver precisely targeted radiation treatment to cancer patients.
- **Working of Proton Therapy:** Proton beam therapy is an advanced form of radiation treatment that uses accelerated protons to destroy cancer cells. Its characteristic dose distribution, associated with the Bragg peak, enables radiation to be concentrated near a tumour while reducing exposure to certain surrounding healthy tissues.
- **Cancer Care and Medical Infrastructure:** Proton therapy can be particularly useful for selected paediatric, brain, spinal and other cancers requiring precise radiation delivery. Assam a planned network of 17 cancer hospitals, 12 of which are operational.

202nd Victory Celebration of Rani Chennamma

In the News: The 202nd victory anniversary and birth anniversary of Kittur Rani Chennamma were commemorated at Prerana Sthal in the Parliament complex, New Delhi. The programme was organised under the leadership of Union Minister of State V. Somanna and attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other dignitaries.

Key Points:

- **Birth and Historical Background:** Kittur Rani Chennamma was born on October 23, 1778, in Kakati village in present-day Belagavi district, Karnataka. She became the queen of Kittur after marrying Raja Mallasarja and is remembered as an early leader of armed resistance against British colonial expansion.
- **Kittur Rebellion of 1824:** Rani Chennamma led a rebellion against the British East India Company in October 1824 after colonial authorities refused to recognise the succession of her adopted heir, Shivalingappa. The dispute arose from British interference in the succession and political autonomy of the princely state of Kittur.
- **Victory Against British Forces:** On October 23, 1824, Kittur's forces defeated British troops led by St. John Thackeray, the Collector and political agent of Dharwad. Thackeray was killed during the fighting, marking an important early victory against the East India Company's military authority.
- **Capture and Historical Legacy:** Following the initial victory, the British launched another military offensive in December 1824 and captured Rani Chennamma. She was imprisoned at Bailhongal Fort, where she died on February 21, 1829. Sangolli Rayanna, one of her prominent associates, subsequently continued resistance against British rule.
- **2026 Commemoration:** The 202nd victory anniversary was observed at Prerana Sthal within the Parliament premises. The programme recognised Rani Chennamma's contribution to India's anti-colonial resistance and highlighted her historical significance as a symbol of courage, regional identity and opposition to imperial authority.

Tiger Triumph 2026

In the News: The 5th edition of Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026, a bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise between India and the United States, commenced on 2 November 2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Visakhapatnam. The exercise focuses on joint planning, coordination and interoperability during large-scale disaster relief operations.

Key Points:

- **Exercise Details:** Tiger Triumph 2026 is being conducted as a Tabletop Exercise (TTX) involving the armed forces of India and the United States. The exercise strengthens bilateral defence cooperation and operational coordination during humanitarian emergencies.
- **Participating Forces:** The Indian contingent includes personnel from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, along with Special Forces. The US contingent includes representatives from its Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.
- **Key Military Officials:** The opening ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Vishal Bishnoi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, and Rear Admiral Joaquin J. Martinez de Pinillos, Vice Commander of the US Pacific Fleet.
- **NDRF Participation:** The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is participating in Tiger Triumph for the first time in 2026. The exercise also includes specialists in space, cybersecurity, medical operations and explosive ordnance disposal from the US side.

VB-G RAM G Act Grievance Redressal Rules 2026: 15-Day Deadline for Complaints

In the News: The Ministry of Rural Development notified the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026. The rules establish a multi-tier mechanism for resolving complaints related to rural employment schemes, requiring enquiries within seven working days and final resolution within 15 days.

Key Points:

- **Legal Framework:** The rules were notified under the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025, which came into force on 1 July 2026, replacing MGNREGA. The Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment annually to eligible rural households.

- **Three-Tier Mechanism:** State Governments must establish grievance redressal mechanisms at the Gram Panchayat, Block and District levels. Designated Grievance Redressal Officers handle complaints, while the District Programme Coordinator supervises district-level grievance resolution.
- **Complaint Registration:** Complaints can be submitted in person, through speed post, designated helplines or the government's digital platform. Physical complaints must be registered digitally on receipt or by the next working day, and registration cannot be refused on procedural grounds.
- **Mandatory Deadlines:** The prescribed enquiry and disposal process must be completed within seven working days, with final grievance resolution within 15 days of receipt. Findings and corrective actions must be recorded digitally and communicated to complainants.
- **Appeals and Escalation:** Complaints unresolved after 15 days must be automatically escalated to the next higher authority through the digital system. The 45-day and 30-day limits come from the Act itself, which provides 45 days to file an appeal and 30 days to dispose of it. The final rules give no day counts of their own: appeals simply follow Schedule I of the Act.

Bihar Becomes First State to Introduce Silt Management Policy

In the News: Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary highlighted Bihar's status as the first Indian state to adopt a comprehensive silt management policy. The Bihar Water Sources Restoration and Silt Management Policy, 2026 aims to restore rivers and water bodies, reduce flood risks and utilise excavated silt for infrastructure development.

Key Points:

- **Policy Approval:** The Bihar Government approved the policy on 15 September 2026, and it was notified on 17 September 2026. Implemented through the State Water Resources Department, it provides a framework for scientific desilting and sustainable management of accumulated sediments.
- **Nadi Sanjivani Initiative:** On 3 November 2026, the Bihar Government and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed an MoU under the Nadi Sanjivani initiative. It integrates river restoration with National Highway construction.
- **Infrastructure Utilisation:** The initiative envisages using 243 lakh cubic metres of silt in 16 ongoing National Highway projects and approximately 835 lakh cubic metres in 27 future projects. Suitable excavated material will serve as an alternative construction resource.
- **Implementation Agency:** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will coordinate the utilisation of suitable excavated silt in highway projects. Bihar's Road Construction Department will serve as the nodal agency, supported by a state-level coordination committee.
- **Environmental Objectives:** The policy seeks to improve the water-carrying capacity of rivers and reservoirs, support groundwater recharge and reduce flood risks. It also aims to protect agricultural land by reducing dependence on fertile soil for construction activities.

India Re-elected as President of International Solar Alliance for Third Consecutive

In the News: Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced that India had been re-elected as President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for the third consecutive term. The announcement was made during the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 2, 2026. France was also re-elected as Co-President of the ISA.

Key Points:

- **Establishment of ISA:** The International Solar Alliance was jointly launched by India and France in 2015 during the COP21 Climate Conference in Paris. The alliance promotes international cooperation for solar energy deployment, particularly among developing countries and nations facing energy-access challenges.
- **Membership and Headquarters:** The ISA has 130 signatory and member countries, with its headquarters at Surya Bhawan, Gurugram, Haryana. Its Assembly is the apex decision-making body, while the Secretariat is headed by a Director General responsible for implementing the organisation's programmes.
- **Leadership and Objectives:** India will continue as President of the ISA, while France will serve as Co-President. The organisation promotes solar energy investments, technology transfer, capacity building and energy security, particularly in the Global South, under the broader vision of One Sun, One World, One Grid.

- **Solar Financing Initiatives:** The ISA highlighted the USD 200 million Africa Solar Facility, aimed at mobilising investments in distributed renewable energy projects. India committed approximately ₹225 crore (USD 25 million), while the USD 300 million Nigeria Distributed Renewable Energy Fund was presented as another financing initiative.
- **Agricultural and Institutional Initiatives:** The alliance highlighted efforts to empower three million farmers through solar energy and agrivoltaics, drawing upon India's PM-KUSUM initiative. It also reported the establishment of 17 Solar Technology Application Resource Centres and introduced the AI-enabled ISA Academy for capacity building.

Nirmala Sitharaman Releases ₹250 Coin for Dikshitar Anniversary

In the News: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman released a ₹250 commemorative coin marking the 250th birth anniversary celebrations of Muthuswami Dikshitar, a renowned composer of Carnatic classical music. The coin was unveiled at the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, during a programme organised to honour his musical and cultural contributions.

Key Points:

- **Commemorative Coin:** The ₹250 commemorative coin was released during a programme organised by the Centre of Excellence in Indian Knowledge Traditions at IIT-BHU. The coin weighs 35 grams and contains 50% silver, 40% copper, 5% nickel and 5% zinc, and is intended primarily for commemoration rather than general circulation.
- **About Muthuswami Dikshitar:** Born in 1775, Muthuswami Dikshitar was a distinguished Carnatic composer, singer and veena player. He is recognised as one of the three members of the Carnatic Music Trinity, alongside Tyagaraja and Syama Sastri, who shaped the classical music traditions of South India.
- **Musical and Literary Contributions:** Dikshitar composed predominantly in Sanskrit, combining musical compositions with Indian philosophy, spirituality and temple traditions. His celebrated works include the Navagraha Kritis and Kamalamba Navavaranam, and he is believed to have composed approximately 450–500 musical works.

Supreme Court Clarifies 24-Hour Rule for Producing Arrested Persons Before Magistrate

In the News: The Supreme Court of India has addressed the constitutional requirement concerning the production of arrested persons before a magistrate within 24 hours. The rule is an important safeguard against arbitrary detention and protects the personal liberty of individuals. It is governed primarily by Article 22(2) of the Constitution and the applicable criminal procedure law.

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 22(2) requires every arrested and detained person to be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of arrest, excluding the time necessary for the journey. Detention beyond this period requires the authority of a magistrate.
- **Statutory Framework:** Section 57 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, provides for the production of arrested persons before a magistrate or the officer in charge of a police station without unnecessary delay. Section 58 governs the 24-hour detention limit for arrests without a warrant.
- **Judicial Oversight:** Production before a magistrate enables judicial scrutiny of detention and the legality of continued custody. The magistrate examines whether further detention is legally justified and whether the required procedural safeguards have been followed.
- **Fundamental Rights Protection:** Article 21 guarantees protection of life and personal liberty, while Article 22 provides specific safeguards relating to arrest and detention. Article 22(1) also protects the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of one's choice.
- **Important Exceptions:** Article 22(3) excludes enemy aliens and persons arrested or detained under preventive detention laws from the safeguards contained in Article 22(1) and Article 22(2). These exceptions are constitutionally specified and operate within the applicable legal framework.

Punjab Records 2,787 Stubble-Burning Cases

In the News: Punjab recorded 2,787 stubble-burning incidents between September 15 and November 5, 2026, according to data released by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB). The state imposed environmental compensation of ₹46.10

lakh and registered 710 FIRs against violators. The increasing number of farm fires has raised concerns about deteriorating air quality in Punjab and the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR).

Key Points:

- **District-Wise Incidents:** Tarn Taran recorded the highest number of stubble-burning incidents at 586, followed by Ferozepur (361), Sangrur (240), Amritsar (221), Bathinda (216) and Patiala (156). Punjab accounted for approximately 49.4% of the 5,637 farm-fire incidents recorded across seven monitored states by November 5.
- **Penalties and Enforcement:** The PPCB imposed ₹46.10 lakh in environmental compensation across 914 cases, recovering ₹24.85 lakh. Authorities registered 710 FIRs under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, concerning disobedience of orders issued by public servants. Additionally, 829 red entries were made in revenue records.
- **Monitoring and Inspections:** Field inspections were conducted at 2,194 locations, confirming stubble burning at 994 sites. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), chaired by Rajesh Verma, reviewed enforcement measures across 12 Punjab districts and directed officials to intensify monitoring and ensure accountability.
- **Environmental Impact:** Stubble burning releases particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and other pollutants that contribute to poor air quality. It also damages soil microorganisms, reduces soil fertility and causes the loss of valuable organic matter, making sustainable crop-residue management essential.
- **Alternative Management Practices:** Technologies such as the Happy Seeder, Super Seeder and Pusa Bio-Decomposer provide alternatives to burning agricultural residue. These methods support in-situ residue management, improve soil health and reduce agricultural pollution. CAQM plays an important regulatory role in managing air pollution across Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas.

Supreme Court Holds National Book Trust Is State Under Article 12

In the News: The Supreme Court, in The Chairman, National Book Trust, India v. A.R. Abdul Gaffar, held on 6 November 2026 that the National Book Trust (NBT) falls within the meaning of "State" under Article 12 of the Constitution. The Court upheld the Delhi High Court's conclusion, emphasising the Central Government's extensive control over the organisation.

Key Points:

- **Constitutional Provision:** Article 12 defines "State" for Part III of the Constitution. It includes the Union and State governments and legislatures, as well as local and other authorities. Bodies within this definition must comply with the applicable fundamental-rights obligations.
- **Government Control Test:** The Court examined financial dependence, administrative supervision, appointments and the organisation's functions together. No single factor settles the inquiry; the question is whether government domination is sufficiently deep and pervasive to make the body an instrumentality of the State.
- **Position of NBT:** Government involvement extended to the Trust's governing bodies, appointment of its chairperson, rules, finances, accounts and audit. These features supported its classification as an "other authority," even though it publishes and sells books.
- **Relevant Precedents:** The judgment drew on Ajay Hasia v. Khalid Mujib Sehravardi and Pradeep Kumar Biswas v. Indian Institute of Chemical Biology. These decisions explain why a body's legal form alone does not determine whether Article 12 applies.
- **Effect of the Ruling:** NBT's actions remain subject to constitutional scrutiny, including the requirement of non-arbitrariness under Article 14. Classification as "State" under Article 12 does not, by itself, convert every employee of the organisation into a government civil servant.

Supreme Court Clarifies OBC Creamy Layer Ruling

In the News: On 6 November 2026, the Supreme Court clarified the implementation of its earlier judgment in Union of India v. Rohith Nathan. It directed that the creamy layer principles explained in its 11 March 2026 judgment govern pending service allocations for OBC candidates selected through the Civil Services Examination 2025, while protecting completed selections and appointments from general reopening.

Key Points:

- **Creamy Layer Principle:** The creamy layer refers to the socially advanced sections of Other Backward Classes excluded from OBC reservation benefits. The exclusion seeks to ensure that affirmative action reaches the backward sections for whom the reservation policy is intended.
- **Parental Salary and Status:** The Court reiterated that parental salary cannot be used mechanically as the sole basis for exclusion. The applicable framework also requires attention to the category and status of the parents' employment, including the treatment of posts in public-sector and other organisations.
- **Pending Service Allocations:** Although the CSE 2025 results had preceded the March judgment, allocation of services remained incomplete. The Court found no reasonable justification for postponing application of the legal principles to this pending stage of the recruitment process.
- **Completed Appointments Protected:** The judgment does not authorise a general revision of concluded selections, appointments, seniority or promotions. Individual relief granted to the litigants must be distinguished from the binding legal principle, which may guide other pending claims according to their merits.
- **Constitutional Background:** Article 16(4) enables reservation in public employment for inadequately represented backward classes. The creamy layer doctrine for OBCs is associated with Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992), a foundational judgment on reservation and equality of opportunity.

INTERNATIONAL

Israeli protesters demand opposition ally with Arab parties to oust Netanyahu

In the News: Thousands of Israelis demonstrated in Tel Aviv, urging opposition parties to form an alliance with Arab-majority political parties to remove Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from power. The protests followed Israel's October 27 general election, in which neither political bloc independently secured a parliamentary majority. The demonstrations highlighted the growing importance of Arab political parties in determining Israel's next government.

Key Points:

- **Election Results and Parliamentary Composition:** Israel's parliament, known as the Knesset, consists of 120 members, and a minimum of 61 seats is required for a governing majority. In the October 2026 election, Jewish-majority parties opposing Netanyahu secured 48 seats, while Arab-majority parties won 19 seats. Together, they could potentially form a 67-seat majority.
- **Role of Arab Political Parties:** The two major Arab-majority political formations involved were Ra'am (United Arab List) and the Joint List. Together, they secured 19 parliamentary seats, making their support potentially decisive in government formation. Their electoral performance highlighted the importance of Arab political representation in Israel's parliamentary system.
- **Opposition Leadership and Coalition Differences:** Opposition leader Gadi Eisenkot, a former Israeli military chief, faced pressure to cooperate with Arab-majority political parties. While some opposition leaders supported such cooperation, Avigdor Liberman opposed forming a government dependent on Arab-party support. These differences complicated efforts to establish an alternative coalition.
- **Previous Arab Participation in Government:** The Ra'am party, led by Mansour Abbas, participated in Israel's governing coalition between 2021 and 2022. Its participation marked an important milestone in Arab political representation.

The 2026 developments revived discussions about a coalition supported by both Jewish-majority and Arab-majority parties.

- **Government Formation Process:** Under Israel's Basic Law: The Government, the President assigns the responsibility of forming a government to a member of the Knesset following consultations with political parties. The candidate normally receives 28 days, with a possible 14-day extension. President Isaac Herzog was responsible for overseeing the constitutional process after the October 2026 election.

Bhutan Dedicates Sacred Buddhist Stupa No. 76 to Narendra Modi

In the News: Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck dedicated Buddhist Stupa No. 76 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the consecration of 108 stupas at Gelephu Mindfulness City. The dedication recognised India's support for Bhutan's development initiatives and symbolised the close cultural, spiritual and diplomatic relationship between the two countries.

Key Points:

- **Dedication of Stupa No. 76:** Bhutan's King dedicated Stupa No. 76 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his continued support for the Gelephu Mindfulness City initiative. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju represented the Government of India at the ceremony and conveyed the Prime Minister's gratitude for the honour.
- **Construction of 108 Buddhist Stupas:** The project involved the construction of 108 stupas, also known as Jangchub Chortens, along the Aie (Mau) River in Gelephu Mindfulness City. Each structure measures approximately 15 metres in height, with the stupas positioned 108 metres apart over an 11.7-kilometre stretch.
- **Gelephu Mindfulness City Project:** The initiative was conceived under the leadership of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Situated in southern Bhutan near the Assam border, Gelephu Mindfulness City is envisioned as a development centre combining economic opportunities, environmental sustainability and Bhutan's Buddhist cultural traditions.
- **Religious and Cultural Significance:** The consecration took place on Lhabab Duchen, an important Buddhist festival commemorating Lord Buddha's descent from the heavenly realm after teaching the Dharma to his mother. The 108 stupas reflect Bhutan's Vajrayana Buddhist heritage and the religious significance associated with the number 108.
- **India–Bhutan Bilateral Relations:** The ceremony highlighted cooperation between India and Bhutan in development, energy, trade, connectivity, investment and cultural exchanges. Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay and Union Minister Kiren Rijiju attended the event, reaffirming the importance of the bilateral partnership and India's support for Gelephu Mindfulness City.

UN Peacekeeping Mission in Western Sahara Ends After 35 Years

In the News: The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) ended its operations after its mandate expired on October 31, 2026. The UN Security Council failed to agree on an extension following disagreements between the United States and Russia. Established in 1991, the mission had operated for approximately 35 years in the disputed territory.

Key Points:

- **Establishment of MINURSO:** The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was established in April 1991 through UN Security Council Resolution 690. Its principal objectives included monitoring the ceasefire between Morocco and the Polisario Front and facilitating a referendum on Western Sahara's political future.
- **Mandate Expiry and Security Council Disagreement:** MINURSO's mandate expired on October 31, 2026, after the Security Council failed to adopt competing resolutions. Russia vetoed a United States-backed draft resolution, while a Russian proposal to extend the existing mission failed to secure the required nine affirmative votes.
- **Western Sahara Territorial Dispute:** Western Sahara is a disputed territory in northwestern Africa, largely administered by Morocco. The Polisario Front seeks independence and self-determination for the Sahrawi people and receives support from Algeria. The territorial dispute intensified following Spain's withdrawal from the region in 1975.

- **Ceasefire and Referendum Challenges:** A UN-backed ceasefire was established in 1991, alongside plans for a referendum on Western Sahara's status. However, disagreements concerning voter eligibility prevented the referendum from taking place. Hostilities resumed in 2020, further complicating negotiations and the mission's peacekeeping responsibilities.
- **Future UN Involvement:** Although MINURSO's operations ended, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to a political settlement respecting the Sahrawi people's right to self-determination. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for restraint, while his Personal Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, remained responsible for supporting diplomatic negotiations.

World Bank's India Poverty and Equity Brief

In the News: The World Bank's October 2026 India Poverty and Equity Brief highlighted a substantial reduction in poverty between 2011–12 and 2023–24. The report estimated that 496 million Indians moved above the lower-middle-income poverty threshold during this period. It also projected a further decline in poverty by 2028, although challenges concerning employment quality and inequality persist.

Key Points:

- **Reduction in Lower-Middle-Income Poverty:** India's poverty rate, measured at the international lower-middle-income threshold of $4.20 per person per day, declined from 57.7% in 2011–12 to 16.1% in 2023–24. This reduction represented approximately 496 million people moving above the specified poverty threshold.
- **Decline in Extreme Poverty:** Extreme poverty, measured using the World Bank's $3-per-day international poverty line, declined from 27.1% to 2.6% over the same period. Both the $3 and $4.20 poverty thresholds are expressed in 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP) terms to facilitate international comparisons.
- **Poverty Projections for 2028:** The World Bank estimated that India's poverty rate at the $4.20-per-day threshold would decline from 14.2% in 2026 to 12.1% by 2028. The projected improvement was linked to consumption growth, expanding employment opportunities and social protection measures, including food-related transfers.
- **Employment and Regional Disparities:** Employment increased by approximately 134 million between 2017 and 2023, with rural women contributing substantially to the increase. However, poverty remained unevenly distributed, affecting approximately 19.3% of rural residents compared with 8.6% of urban residents in 2023–24.
- **Inequality and Development Challenges:** The report highlighted persistent wage inequalities, limited access to productive employment and disparities in educational attainment. It noted that the median earnings of workers in the highest-paid decile were approximately 13 times those in the lowest-paid decile, indicating continued labour-market inequality despite poverty reduction.

Greenland Approves Trilateral Security Agreement with Denmark and US

In the News: Greenland's Parliament approved a trilateral security agreement with Denmark and the United States to strengthen defence cooperation in the Arctic and North Atlantic regions. The agreement, signed on September 22, 2026, expands American military access to Greenland while recognising Danish sovereignty and Greenland's right to self-determination.

Key Points:

- **Parliamentary Approval:** Greenland's Parliament approved the security agreement with 16 votes in favour, none against and seven abstentions. The agreement was signed by US President Donald Trump, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenlandic Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.
- **Expansion of US Military Presence:** The agreement permits the United States to expand its military operations in Greenland, including additional defence facilities at Narsarsuaq and Mestersvig. It also provides for modernising Pituffik Space Base and facilitating the proposed Golden Dome missile defence system.
- **Sovereignty and Self-Determination:** The agreement recognises Greenland's position within the Kingdom of Denmark and affirms the Greenlandic people's right to self-determination. It also provides that the security arrangements would continue if Greenland eventually became independent, subject to the obligations specified in the agreement.

- **Strategic Restrictions:** The agreement restricts non-NATO countries from establishing military installations in Greenland without the parties' consent. It also provides for screening investments in sensitive sectors involving countries outside NATO, its partner framework and the European Union, strengthening Arctic security cooperation.
- **Background and Implementation:** The agreement builds upon the 1951 US-Denmark Defence of Greenland Agreement and subsequent arrangements. Although Greenland has approved the treaty, it requires completion of Denmark's parliamentary procedures before entering into force; the Danish parliamentary vote is scheduled for November 19, 2026.

Collins Dictionary Names 'Mogging' as Word of the Year 2026

In the News: Collins English Dictionary selected "Mogging" as its Word of the Year for 2026, reflecting the growing influence of social media language among younger generations. The term gained widespread popularity among Generation Z and Generation Alpha, recording a 210% increase in usage during the year.

Key Points:

- **Meaning of Mogging:** The term "mogging" refers to outperforming, outshining or upstaging another person or object, particularly regarding appearance, confidence or status. It is frequently used on social media to describe situations where someone appears noticeably more impressive than another individual.
- **Origin and Evolution:** The expression is believed to have originated from the abbreviation AMOG, meaning "Alpha Male of the Group." It initially emerged in bodybuilding communities around 2016 before evolving into an internet expression used in broader social and cultural contexts.
- **Selection Process:** Collins Dictionary selects its Word of the Year by examining emerging vocabulary and changes in linguistic usage. Its lexicographers monitor a database containing approximately 27 billion words, drawing information from written publications, digital communication and social media platforms.
- **Other Shortlisted Terms:** The 2026 shortlist included "Firewave," describing a series of urban wildfires occurring within a short period, and "Ghost Job," referring to a job advertisement published without an intention to recruit. Other shortlisted words included "Carspreading," "Fricy," "Friendslop" and "P(doom)."
- **Previous Selections:** Collins Dictionary selected "Vibe Coding" as its Word of the Year in 2025 and "Brat" in 2024. The annual selection reflects evolving language trends, technological developments and changes in communication patterns across different generations.

Keisha Lance Bottoms Makes History as First Black Woman Elected US Governor

In the News: Democratic candidate Keisha Lance Bottoms won the gubernatorial election in Georgia, becoming the first Black woman elected governor of a US state. She defeated Republican businessman Rick Jackson, marking a historic milestone in American politics and returning the Georgia governorship to the Democratic Party after more than two decades of Republican control.

Key Points:

- **Historic Electoral Victory:** Keisha Lance Bottoms became the first Black woman elected governor of any US state and the first woman elected governor of Georgia. Her victory also ended Republican control of Georgia's governorship, which had continued since the party won the office in 2002.
- **Political Background:** Bottoms served as Mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, from 2018 to 2022 and previously represented District 11 on the Atlanta City Council. She subsequently served in the administration of President Joe Biden, including as Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.
- **Election and Political Transition:** Bottoms defeated Republican candidate Rick Jackson, a healthcare businessman, in the November 2026 gubernatorial election. She will succeed Republican Governor Brian Kemp, who was ineligible to contest another consecutive term because of Georgia's gubernatorial term limits.
- **Campaign Priorities:** Her election campaign focused on economic affordability, healthcare access, voting rights and public-sector welfare. Major proposals included expanding Medicaid, increasing the minimum wage to USD 15 per hour and reviewing Georgia's restrictive abortion legislation.

Bay of Bengal Countries Launch Fisheries Research Network

In the News: India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives jointly launched the Bay of Bengal Network of Ocean Researchers for Fisheries (BOB-NOR) in November 2026. The initiative was launched at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi, Kerala, to strengthen regional scientific cooperation and promote climate-resilient fisheries management.

Key Points:

- **Participating Countries:** BOB-NOR brings together India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives. The network promotes cooperation among marine scientists, oceanographers and fisheries researchers to study changing fish populations and marine ecosystems.
- **Coordinating Organisation:** The initiative is coordinated by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO). Its Director, Dr. P. Krishnan, introduced the network to strengthen connections between oceanographic research and fisheries management.
- **Scientific Research Areas:** The network will integrate satellite observations, oceanographic surveys, climate indicators and fisheries data. Research will examine sea surface temperature, monsoon patterns, salinity, ocean currents and their effects on fish distribution and migration.
- **International Collaboration:** Researchers from the United States, Brazil, Chile, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Greece participated alongside representatives of the four regional countries. The launch meeting was supported by GEO Blue Planet and the Trevor Platt Science Foundation.
- **Complementary Research Network:** BOB-NOR will complement the existing Bay of Bengal Stock Assessment Network (BOBSAN). While BOBSAN focuses on fish stock assessment, recruitment and fishing mortality, BOB-NOR will examine the environmental and oceanographic factors affecting fisheries.

Antarctic Ozone Hole Ranks Seventh Largest on Record

In the News: NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that the Antarctic ozone hole in 2026 was the seventh-largest in 48 years of monitoring. Scientists attributed its unusually large size to atmospheric conditions and a powerful polar vortex, while confirming that long-term ozone-layer recovery remains on track.

Key Points:

- **Ozone Hole Measurements:** During the peak depletion period from 7 September to 13 October 2026, the ozone hole averaged approximately 25 million square kilometres. Its maximum daily extent reached around 27.1 million square kilometres on 18 September 2026.
- **Scientific Monitoring Agencies:** NASA and NOAA jointly monitor Antarctic ozone depletion using satellite observations and atmospheric measurements. Scientists also use weather balloons equipped with ozonesondes to measure ozone concentrations at different atmospheric altitudes.
- **Causes of Ozone Depletion:** Chlorine- and bromine-containing chemicals contribute to the destruction of stratospheric ozone. A strong Antarctic polar vortex and extremely cold atmospheric conditions can intensify the chemical reactions responsible for seasonal ozone depletion.
- **Montreal Protocol:** The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted in 1987. This international environmental agreement regulates ozone-depleting substances, including chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and has contributed to the gradual recovery of the ozone layer.
- **Ozone Layer and Protection:** The stratospheric ozone layer protects life on Earth by absorbing harmful ultraviolet radiation. Scientists commonly identify the Antarctic ozone hole using an ozone concentration threshold of 220 Dobson Units, a standard measure of total atmospheric ozone.

US Midterm Elections 2026: Implications for India

In the News: The United States held its midterm congressional elections on 3 November 2026, during President Donald Trump's second term. The Democratic Party secured control of both chambers of Congress, changing the balance of

legislative power. The results have attracted attention in India because US congressional decisions can affect bilateral trade, immigration, technology cooperation and defence relations.

Key Points:

- **US Electoral System:** Midterm elections are conducted halfway through the US President's four-year term. All 435 voting seats in the House of Representatives and approximately one-third of the 100 Senate seats are normally contested during these elections.
- **Election Outcome:** The Democratic Party gained majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The results changed congressional control during the remaining two years of President Donald Trump's term and increased the scope for legislative oversight.
- **India–US Trade Relations:** Congressional developments may influence discussions concerning tariffs, trade agreements, market access and investment regulations. However, changes in congressional control do not automatically reverse existing executive trade policies.
- **Immigration and H-1B Visas:** US immigration legislation and congressional oversight are important for Indian professionals, particularly those working in technology and specialised occupations. The H-1B programme permits eligible US employers to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- **Strategic and Defence Cooperation**: India and the United States cooperate through bilateral defence arrangements and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), alongside Australia and Japan. Congressional decisions concerning defence authorisations, technology transfers and foreign policy can affect the broader framework of bilateral cooperation.

Exercise Malabar 2026: India, Australia, Japan and US Begin Multilateral Naval Exercise in Japan

In the News: The Malabar 2026 multilateral naval exercise commenced on November 5, 2026, in Japan, bringing together the navies of India, Australia, Japan and the United States. The exercise, scheduled until November 12, aims to strengthen maritime cooperation, operational coordination and interoperability among the four countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Key Points:

- **Participating Countries and Venue:** Malabar 2026 is hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), with the participation of India, Australia and the United States. The exercise is being conducted around Yokosuka and in waters south of Japan's Kanto region, reinforcing maritime cooperation among the four Quad countries.
- **India's Naval Participation:** The Indian Navy deployed INS Sahyadri, an indigenously built guided-missile stealth frigate belonging to its Eastern Fleet. The warship arrived at Yokosuka Naval Base on November 4, 2026, where it was welcomed by the JMSDF, highlighting the growing defence partnership between India and Japan.
- **Exercise Structure and Activities:** The exercise comprises harbour and sea phases, involving professional exchanges, coordinated operational planning and maritime manoeuvres. These activities focus on strengthening tactical proficiency, operational interoperability and communication among participating naval forces.
- **Historical Background:** Exercise Malabar began in 1992 as a bilateral naval exercise between India and the United States. Japan first participated in 2007 and subsequently became a regular participant, while Australia rejoined the exercise in 2020, establishing its present four-country format.

Bahamas Joins International Solar Alliance as 116th Member Country at 9th ISA Assembly

In the News: The Commonwealth of The Bahamas became the 116th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in November 2026. The accession took place on the sidelines of the Ninth Session of the ISA Assembly held in New Delhi. The development strengthens international cooperation in solar energy and supports renewable energy adoption among Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Key Points:

- **Accession to the Alliance:** The Bahamas' High Commissioner, Peter Nicholas Symonette Jr., handed over the Instrument of Accession to the ISA Framework Agreement to P.S. Gangadhar, Joint Secretary for Economic Diplomacy and Head of Depository. This formalised the Caribbean nation's membership in the alliance.

- **Ninth ISA Assembly:** The Ninth Session of the ISA Assembly was held in New Delhi on November 3, 2026, alongside the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026. The discussions focused on solar deployment, financing mechanisms, institutional capacity-building and international cooperation in renewable energy.
- **Establishment and Headquarters:** The International Solar Alliance was jointly launched by India and France on November 30, 2015, during the COP21 Climate Conference in Paris. Its headquarters is located in Gurugram, Haryana, and its Framework Agreement entered into force in December 2017, establishing ISA as a treaty-based international organisation.
- **Objectives of ISA:** The alliance promotes solar energy through technology cooperation, affordable financing, capacity-building and investment mobilisation. Its Towards 1000 strategy aims to mobilise USD 1 trillion in solar investments, support 1,000 GW of solar capacity and expand clean energy access to one billion people by 2030.

MINURSO's 35-Year Mission Ends Amid US–Russia Standoff at UN Security Council

In the News: The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) ended its operations after its mandate expired on October 31, 2026. The UN Security Council failed to adopt competing resolutions proposed by the United States and Russia regarding the mission's future. The development brought an end to 35 years of UN peacekeeping operations in Western Sahara, leaving the territory's political dispute unresolved.

Key Points:

- **Establishment of MINURSO:** MINURSO was established in April 1991 through UN Security Council Resolution 690 to support the peace process in Western Sahara. Its original mandate involved monitoring the ceasefire and preparing a referendum through which the Sahrawi population could determine the territory's political future.
- **Western Sahara Dispute:** Western Sahara is a disputed territory in northwestern Africa, claimed by Morocco and the Polisario Front, which seeks self-determination for the Sahrawi people. Morocco supports an autonomy arrangement under its sovereignty, while the Polisario Front advocates a process allowing the population to determine its political status.
- **US–Russia Disagreement:** The United States proposed extending MINURSO's mandate until October 31, 2027, while renaming it the UN Mission in Western Sahara (MINUSO). Russia vetoed the proposal despite 11 votes in favour. A competing Russian proposal seeking a straightforward one-year extension also failed to secure the required votes.
- **Failure of the Referendum Process:** Although MINURSO was originally established to facilitate a referendum, the proposed vote never took place because of continuing disagreements over the political settlement. The mission nevertheless continued ceasefire monitoring and other peacekeeping responsibilities for 35 years, including during renewed hostilities beginning in 2020.
- **UN's Continued Diplomatic Engagement:** Despite the termination of MINURSO's operations, the United Nations has committed to continuing diplomatic efforts toward resolving the Western Sahara dispute. UN Secretary-General António Guterres reaffirmed support for the peace process through his Personal Envoy, Staffan de Mistura, while arrangements for the mission's orderly withdrawal were initiated.

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2026 Held in Antigua and Barbuda

In the News: The 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) brought leaders together in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, with the principal leaders' sessions held on 3–4 November. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented India. The summit focused on investment, trade, resilient development and stronger partnerships among Commonwealth countries.

Key Points:

- **Host and Theme:** Antigua and Barbuda hosted the summit under the theme "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth." Prime Minister Gaston Browne chaired the meeting, which brought together government representatives, businesses, young people and civil society.

- **About the Commonwealth:** The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 56 independent countries. Its members include large economies and small island states. The Commonwealth Secretariat is based in London, and cooperation is guided by shared commitments including democracy, development and the rule of law.
- **India's Priorities:** India highlighted the role of Digital Public Infrastructure, diversified supply chains, skills and capacity-building. Jaishankar emphasised trusted trade links and cooperation that can help member countries improve governance, economic resilience and access to opportunities.
- **Development Commitments:** The Commonwealth announced around US$500 million in new commitments for initiatives including renewable energy, skills and economic opportunities. Small-state priorities formed part of the wider discussions on sustainable growth and resilience.
- **Institutional Significance:** CHOGM is the main meeting of Commonwealth leaders and ordinarily takes place every two years. The Commonwealth is distinct from the United Nations, and membership does not require a country to retain the British monarch as its head of state.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Bihar-Based Women's Movement Gets Global Recognition at UN SDG Action Awards 2026

In the News: The documentary Mothers of Courage, highlighting a women-led movement promoting girls' education in Bihar, won the Creativity Award at the 2026 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action Awards. The award was presented at the ninth Heroes of Tomorrow ceremony held in Rome, Italy.

Key Points:

- **International Recognition:** Mothers of Courage received the 2026 UN SDG Action Award in the Creativity category, following a selection process involving over 7,000 entries from 190 countries. The award recognises creative grassroots initiatives advancing sustainable development.
- **Shikshagraha Movement:** The documentary highlights the Shikshagraha movement, supported by ShikshaLokam and Mantra4Change. The movement promotes girls' education, prevents school dropouts and addresses child marriage through community-led participation.
- **Community Initiatives:** The campaign organises Shiksha Chaupals, village-level gatherings where mothers and community members discuss educational barriers. Since October 2024, nearly 45,000 gatherings have been organised, mobilising over 11.9 lakh people across 14 districts in Bihar.
- **Key Personalities:** The documentary was directed by Vandana R. and produced by Butterfly Effect Media. Khushboo Awasthi, co-founder of Mantra4Change and chief curator of Shikshagraha, received the award in Rome.

Nirmala Lakshman Wins Sharjah Award for Best International Non-Fiction Book

In the News: Indian author and journalist Nirmala Lakshman received the Best International Non-Fiction Book Award at the 2026 Sharjah International Book Fair Awards. She was honoured for her book The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community, published by Aleph Book Company. The award recognises literary excellence in international non-fiction writing.

Key Points:

- **Award Recipient:** Nirmala Lakshman won the Best International Non-Fiction Book Award for The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community. The recognition formed part of the literary awards presented during the 2026 Sharjah International Book Fair.
- **Award-Winning Book:** The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community explores the Tamil community, its cultural identity and historical heritage. The book was published by Aleph Book Company Pvt Ltd, an Indian publishing house.
- **Awarding Platform:** The honour was presented through the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF), held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. The fair brings together authors, publishers, literary professionals and readers from different countries.

- **International Fiction Category:** Marcia Hutchinson received the Best International Fiction Book Award for The Mercy Step, published by Cassava Republic Press. This was a separate category from the international non-fiction award received by Nirmala Lakshman.
- **Other Literary Honours:** Antoine Douaihy received the Sharjah Award for Best Arabic Novel for Al Shitaa Al Kabeer. The 2026 awards also recognised achievements in Emirati academic writing, poetry, debut fiction and publishing.

Filipino Engineer Wins 2026 James Dyson Global Sustainability Award

In the News: Filipino structural engineer Aldrei Ong won the 2026 James Dyson Global Sustainability Award for developing *Sentinel*, an innovative building-damage detection system. The award was announced on November 4, 2026, recognising his contribution to structural safety and disaster resilience. The invention aims to detect concealed damage in concrete buildings following earthquakes.

Key Points:

- **Award Recipient and Innovation:** Aldrei Ong, a graduate of De La Salle University in the Philippines, developed Sentinel, a structural monitoring system designed to identify hidden cracks and damage in concrete buildings. The technology enables engineers to assess potential structural risks following earthquakes and improve building safety.
- **Working Mechanism of Sentinel:** Sentinel converts conventional concrete spacer blocks used in reinforced concrete construction into intelligent damage-detection sensors. It incorporates conductive materials such as graphene and carbon fibre, enabling electrical resistance changes to indicate structural damage and transmit monitoring data wirelessly.
- **Significance for Disaster Management:** The technology addresses the challenge of identifying internal structural damage that may not be visible during routine inspections. By enabling continuous monitoring and early detection of potential failures, Sentinel could improve post-earthquake safety assessments and reduce the risk of building collapses.
- **About the James Dyson Award:** Established in 2005, the James Dyson Award is an international design engineering competition organised by the James Dyson Foundation. It recognises innovative solutions developed by current and recent design engineering students. The 2026 Global Sustainability Winner received **£30,000** to support further development of the invention.
- **Other Global Winner in 2026:** The Global Medical Award was presented to Radhika Saran, Cleo Pontone and Sophia DeVito of Harvard University for developing *Rumble Rims*. Their innovation uses infrared eye-tracking technology to help identify potential concussions among athletes, supporting quicker screening and safer return-to-play decisions.

REACH Receives Kochon Prize 2026 for Community Based Tuberculosis Care

In the News: The Chennai-based Resource Group for Education and Advocacy for Community Health (REACH) received the Kochon Prize 2026 for its work on integrated, people-centred tuberculosis care. The organisation announced that the award was presented during the Stop TB Partnership Board Meeting in Indonesia on 5–6 November 2026.

Key Points:

- **Award Recipient:** REACH is a non-profit organisation established in Chennai in 1999. It works with communities, healthcare providers and public-health authorities to improve tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment and support for people affected by the disease.
- **Awarding Organisations:** The Kochon Prize is awarded through the Stop TB Partnership and the Kochon Foundation. It recognises substantial contributions to the response to tuberculosis, including leadership and practical work that improves access to diagnosis and treatment.
- **Integrated Care Approach:** The 2026 recognition highlighted integration of TB services with other health services. REACH's approach considers conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, alongside factors including nutrition, poverty and gender that can affect treatment and recovery.

- **Community Participation:** People-centred care involves those affected by TB in designing and delivering support. Awareness, counselling, reduction of stigma and links to social assistance can help patients seek timely diagnosis and continue prescribed treatment.
- **About Tuberculosis:** TB is an infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis and most commonly affects the lungs. It spreads through the air. Diagnosis and a complete course of appropriate medicines are essential, including to reduce the risk of drug resistance.

ENVIRONMENT

All 13 South Asian Coral Reef Ecoregions Classified Critically Endangered

In the News: The Zoological Survey of India highlighted findings from the first global coral reef ecosystem assessment under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. The assessment, unveiled at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP17) in Yerevan, Armenia, classified all 13 South Asian coral reef ecoregions as Critically Endangered when projected climate-change impacts were included.

Key Points:

- **Regional Assessment:** The assessment covered 13 coral reef ecoregions across India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and the Chagos Archipelago. These ecosystems collectively cover approximately 8,282.6 square kilometres, representing around 4% of the world's coral reef area.
- **Threat Classification:** Based on observed changes during the previous 50 years, seven South Asian ecoregions were categorised as Vulnerable, four as Endangered and two as Critically Endangered. However, incorporating projected marine heat stress over the next 50 years elevated all 13 to the Critically Endangered category.
- **Indian Coral Reef Regions:** India has four major coral reef ecoregions covered by the assessment: the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands, Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, and Gulf of Kachchh. All four were classified as Critically Endangered when future climate projections were considered.
- **Major Environmental Threats:** Marine heatwaves and climate-induced coral bleaching were identified as the principal threats to coral reef survival, with major bleaching events recorded in 1998 and 2016. Additional pressures include coastal development, sedimentation, marine pollution, overfishing and the loss of ecologically important fish populations.
- **Global Findings and India's Contribution:** The global assessment examined 127 coral reef ecoregions, identifying 122, or approximately 96%, as Critically Endangered based on overall risk. Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India contributed to the study, with Indian ecoregions accounting for 162 of the 350 regional monitoring sites.

SCIENCE AND TECH

Tanvi Patri Creates History, Becomes First Indian Woman to Secure Badminton Medal at Youth Olympic Games

In the News: Indian badminton player Tanvi Patri created history on November 5, 2026, by becoming the first Indian woman to win a badminton medal at the Youth Olympic Games. The 15-year-old secured the silver medal in women's singles at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Senegal. She achieved the milestone after a closely contested final against China's Zhang Yi Xin.

Key Points:

- **Historic Silver Medal:** Tanvi Patri, a 15-year-old badminton player from Odisha, became the first Indian woman to win an individual badminton medal at the Youth Olympic Games. She secured silver in the women's singles competition, marking a significant achievement for Indian women's badminton at the international junior level.
- **Final Match Performance:** Tanvi faced China's reigning world junior champion **Zhang Yi Xin** in the gold medal match on November 5, 2026. She lost the closely contested final 21-15, 13-21, 24-26 in 82 minutes, narrowly missing the gold medal after staging a remarkable comeback in the deciding game.

- **Journey to the Final:** Tanvi defeated Japan's Yuzuno Watanabe in the semifinals with a score of 21-14, 11-21, 21-19, securing India's first women's singles badminton medal at the Youth Olympics. She had earlier defeated Thailand's Kungkaew Kakanik in the quarterfinals to enter the medal rounds.
- **India's Previous Badminton Medallists:** Before Tanvi's achievement, H.S. Prannoy (2010) and Lakshya Sen (2018) had won individual silver medals in badminton at the Youth Olympic Games. Lakshya Sen also secured a mixed-team gold medal in 2018 as part of Team Alpha, comprising players from multiple countries.
- **About Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games:** The fourth edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games is being held in Dakar, Senegal, from October 31 to November 13, 2026. It marks the first Olympic sporting event hosted on African soil, featuring approximately 2,650 young athletes from 204 National Olympic Committees, alongside the Youth Refugee Olympic Team.

DEFENCE

India and Myanmar Conduct First Tri Services HADR Exercise Rahat Mitra

In the News: India and Myanmar conducted their inaugural bilateral tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Rahat Mitra, at Chennai on 5–6 November 2026. Coordinated by the Indian Navy, the exercise aimed to improve cooperation between the two countries' armed forces during natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.

Key Points:

- **Participating Forces:** More than 300 personnel from the defence forces of India and Myanmar participated. The engagement brought together representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force, creating a platform for joint planning and professional exchanges across all three services.
- **Theme and Objectives:** The exercise was centred on the theme "Together for Humanity, Stronger through Partnership." It focused on mutual trust, exchange of operational experience and better coordination of relief activities during emergencies affecting vulnerable populations.
- **Meaning of HADR:** Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief involves measures such as rescue, emergency medical support, evacuation and delivery of essential supplies. Military transport, engineering and communication capabilities can support civilian authorities when normal infrastructure is disrupted.
- **Neighbourhood First Policy:** Rahat Mitra reflects India's emphasis on cooperation with neighbouring countries. Familiarity with each other's procedures can improve the speed and coordination of a combined response to disasters in the region.
- **MAHASAGAR Vision:** The exercise also supports MAHASAGAR, meaning Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. This vision links regional security with development and cooperation, including assistance to partner countries during humanitarian crises.

STATIC

117th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha

In the News: India commemorated the 117th birth anniversary of Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha on 30 October 2026, remembering his contributions to nuclear science and scientific institution-building. Born on 30 October 1909 in Bombay, Bhabha is widely recognised as the Father of India's Nuclear Programme and the architect of the country's atomic energy research infrastructure.

Key Points:

- **Early Life and Education:** Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha was born on 30 October 1909 and pursued higher education at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge. He completed his doctorate in 1935 and made important contributions to theoretical and nuclear physics.
- **Scientific Contributions:** Bhabha's research included electron–positron scattering, commonly known as Bhabha Scattering, and cosmic-ray physics. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1941 and received the Padma Bhushan in 1954.
- **TIFR Establishment:** In 1945, Bhabha established the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai with support from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. TIFR became a leading institution for fundamental research in physics, mathematics and related disciplines.
- **Atomic Energy Programme:** Bhabha became the first Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), established on 10 August 1948. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) was created in 1954 to develop India's nuclear research and energy capabilities.
- **Legacy and Nuclear Research:** Bhabha established the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) in 1954, renamed BARC in 1967. India's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, achieved criticality on 4 August 1956, becoming Asia's first operational research reactor. Bhabha died on 24 January 1966.

ART AND CULTURE

Three Indian Manuscripts Enter UNESCO Memory of the World Regional Register

In the News: Manuscripts of the Mahabharata, Kautilya's Arthashastra and Kalhana's Rajatarangini were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register. The recognition, announced on 5 November 2026, followed the 11th regional session in Jakarta, Indonesia. It increased India's inscriptions on this regional register to six.

Key Points:

- **Mahabharata Manuscript:** The recognised birch-bark manuscript of the Mahabharata is housed at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, Maharashtra. The inscription recognises a particular documentary collection associated with the epic, rather than every version of the text.
- **Arthashastra Manuscript:** The recognised palm-leaf manuscript of Kautilya's Arthashastra is held at the Oriental Research Institute in Mysuru, Karnataka. The work is associated with governance, administration, economic policy and statecraft in ancient India.
- **Rajatarangini Manuscript:** The manuscript of Kalhana's Rajatarangini is housed at the Oriental Research Library in the Sri Pratap Singh Library Complex, Srinagar. Composed in the twelfth century, the work is an important Sanskrit chronicle of Kashmir's history.
- **Role of IGNCA:** The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts helped prepare the nomination dossiers. Earlier Indian regional inscriptions included manuscripts of the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-Locana, recognised in 2024.
- **Memory of the World Programme:** UNESCO's programme promotes preservation of and access to documentary heritage, such as manuscripts and archival records. Its regional register is separate from the International Register and from the World Heritage List for cultural and natural sites.

SPORTS

Manisha Bhanwala: The 29-year-old who ended India's wait for a women's wrestling world title

In the News: 29-year-old Indian wrestler Manisha Bhanwala created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Senior World Wrestling Championships 2026, held in Astana, Kazakhstan. She defeated Abigail Elizabeth Nette of the United States 8–6 in the women's 59 kg freestyle final. Her victory ended India's long wait for a women's wrestling world title and contributed to the country's record medal haul in women's wrestling.

Key Points:

- **Historic World Championship Victory:** Manisha Bhanwala secured the gold medal in the women's 59 kg freestyle category at the 2026 Senior World Wrestling Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. She became the first Indian woman and the second Indian wrestler overall to win a senior world championship gold medal. Her achievement marked a significant milestone in India's wrestling history.
- **Final Match and Opponent:** Manisha defeated Abigail Elizabeth Nette of the United States 8–6 in the final. Despite trailing 0–6 during the match, she staged a remarkable comeback through successful takedowns and technical moves. Her victory was especially significant because India had previously won silver and bronze medals in women's wrestling but never a world championship gold.
- **India's Previous World Champion:** Before Manisha's achievement, Sushil Kumar was the only Indian wrestler to have won a gold medal at the Senior World Wrestling Championships. He secured the men's 66 kg freestyle title at the 2010 World Wrestling Championships in Moscow, Russia. He defeated Russian wrestler Alan Gogaev in the final to become India's first senior wrestling world champion.
- **India's Record Medal Haul:** India's women's wrestling contingent secured four medals at the 2026 championships, its best-ever performance in the women's category. The medal winners were Manisha Bhanwala (Gold, 59 kg), Neelam Sirohi (Silver, 50 kg), Kajal Dhochak (Silver, 76 kg) and Tanu Sharma (Bronze, 72 kg). The achievement surpassed India's previous best performance in women's wrestling at the championships.
- **Previous Achievements and Governing Body:** Manisha had earlier won the women's 62 kg gold medal at the 2025 Asian Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jordan. The Senior World Wrestling Championships are organised by United World Wrestling (UWW), the international governing body responsible for freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling. UWW is headquartered in Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland.

Kimi Antonelli Becomes Youngest F1 World Champion at 20: Career and Achievements

In the News: Italian racing driver Andrea Kimi Antonelli became the youngest Formula One World Drivers' Champion at the age of 20 years and 68 days. Driving for Mercedes, Antonelli secured the 2026 championship after finishing third in the Mexico City Grand Prix, surpassing Sebastian Vettel's previous age record.

Key Points:

- **Historic Championship Victory:** Kimi Antonelli became Formula One's youngest World Drivers' Champion at 20 years and 68 days. He secured the 2026 championship at the Mexico City Grand Prix, where he finished third behind Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, establishing an unassailable lead with four races remaining.
- **Previous Record and Italian Milestone:** Antonelli surpassed Sebastian Vettel, who had become the youngest F1 World Champion at 23 years and 134 days in 2010 while competing for Red Bull Racing. Antonelli also became the first Italian driver to win the Formula One World Drivers' Championship since Alberto Ascari in 1953.
- **Early Life and Racing Career:** Andrea Kimi Antonelli was born on August 25, 2006, in Bologna, Italy. He began karting at a young age and joined the Mercedes Junior Programme in 2019. His junior achievements included the 2022 Italian and ADAC Formula 4 championships and the 2023 Formula Regional European Championship.
- **Formula One Debut and First Victory:** Antonelli made his Formula One racing debut with Mercedes in 2025, replacing Lewis Hamilton after Hamilton's move to Ferrari. He secured his first Formula One Grand Prix victory at the 2026 Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai, where he also became the youngest driver to achieve a Grand Prix pole position.
- **Records During the 2026 Season:** Antonelli established several records during his championship-winning season, including becoming the youngest driver to lead the Formula One Drivers' Championship. His victory at the Japanese Grand Prix helped him achieve this milestone at 19 years, seven months and four days, strengthening his position in the title race.

Tammer Tournament 2026: India Tops Medal Tally with 14 Medals in Finland

In the News: India topped the medal standings at the 46th International Tammer Boxing Tournament 2026, held in Tampere, Finland, from 30 October to 1 November 2026. The 14-member Indian contingent secured 14 medals, comprising four gold, two silver and eight bronze, finishing first in the overall medal tally.

Key Points:

- **Tournament Details:** The Tammer Tournament is an international boxing competition organised by the Tampere Boxing Association in Finland. First held in 1977, the competition provides international exposure to amateur boxers across multiple weight categories.
- **India's Performance:** The Indian team secured 4 gold, 2 silver and 8 bronze medals, topping the overall standings. The tournament provided competitive exposure to India's emerging boxing talent and helped evaluate the country's depth across weight categories.
- **Gold Medal Winners:** Aarti Dhariyal (women's 54 kg), Ankushita Boro (women's 65 kg), Arundhati Chaudhary (women's 70 kg) and Pawan Bartwal (men's 55 kg) won gold medals for India in their respective categories.
- **Silver Medal Winners:** Mohammed Hussamuddin (men's 60 kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (women's 57 kg) secured silver medals. Jaismine is also an Olympian and a Commonwealth Games gold medallist, making her one of India's prominent women boxers.
- **Bronze Medal Winners:** India's eight bronze medallists were Vivek Meena (65 kg), Hitesh (70 kg), Akshay (80 kg), Bobin Chauhan (90 kg), Chetan Choudhary (90+ kg), Tanu (51 kg), Disha Patil (60 kg) and Imroz Khan (75 kg).

Cristiano Ronaldo Announces Retirement from Portugal's National Team After 23 Years

In the News: Portuguese football legend Cristiano Ronaldo announced his retirement from international football on 5 November 2026, ending a 23-year career with Portugal's national team. The 41-year-old forward, who made his international debut in August 2003, retired after representing Portugal in six FIFA World Cups and establishing major international scoring records.

Key Points:

- **International Career:** Cristiano Ronaldo made his senior international debut for Portugal in August 2003. He represented the national team for 23 years and became one of the longest-serving players in international football.
- **International Records:** Ronaldo retired with 234 international appearances and 146 goals for Portugal. He holds the men's international football records for the highest number of appearances and goals.
- **Major International Titles:** Ronaldo captained Portugal to victory in the UEFA European Championship in 2016. He also helped Portugal win the UEFA Nations League in 2019 and 2025, establishing himself as a central figure in the country's football history.
- **FIFA World Cup Achievements:** Ronaldo represented Portugal in six FIFA World Cups and became the first player to score in six different editions of the tournament. His final World Cup appearance came during the 2026 tournament hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- **Retirement Announcement:** Ronaldo announced his decision through a social media message, marking the end of his association with Portugal's national team. The announcement concerned international football and did not constitute retirement from professional club football.