CONTENTS

IMPORTANT ONE LINERS

NATIONAL

National Legal Services Day: Promoting Access to Justice for All
In the News: Observed annually on **9 November**, National Legal Services Day commemorates the enforcement of the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into effect on this day in **1995**. It highlights India's commitment to providing **free legal aid** and ensuring **access to justice for all**, especially for the weaker sections of society.
Key Points:
- Established under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which mandates free legal aid and promotes **Lok Adalats** for speedy dispute resolution.
- The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** oversees legal aid implementation through State, District, and Taluk Legal Services Authorities.
- The observance aims to spread legal awareness and uphold Article 39A of the Constitution, ensuring equal justice regardless of economic status.
- Activities include legal aid camps, Lok Adalats, and public outreach programs across India.
- The day reinforces the importance of accessible, affordable, and fair justice for every citizen.
- Celebrations in 2025 focused on strengthening digital legal aid platforms and inclusive justice delivery mechanisms.

Goa formally invokes the National Security Act, 1980 (NSA)
In the News: On 5 November 2025, the Goa government authorised the district magistrates of North Goa and South Goa to exercise powers under Section 3(2) of the NSA for a period of three months, citing "prevailing circumstances" in the state.
Key Points:
- The order issued by the Home Department under Secretary Manthan Manoj Naik directed that the NSA's preventive-detention powers may be exercised by the two district magistrates until early February 2026.
- The government cited a sharp rise in gang violence, organised criminal activity and repeated incidents of public-order disruption as the basis for invoking the NSA.
- A specific trigger for the decision was the assault of social activist Rama Kankonkar in Caranzalem near Panaji by at least seven individuals, most of them repeat offenders.
- The NSA empowers authorities to detain persons without formal charge or trial for up to 12 months if acting in a manner "prejudicial to the maintenance of public order or essential supplies and services".
- The police had earlier communicated that conventional preventive arrests under criminal law had proven insufficient to "neutralise repeat offenders and organised elements" and therefore recommended invocation of the NSA.
- The move marks a significant escalation in the state's law-and-order strategy, indicating a transition from ordinary criminal measures to extraordinary preventive-detention powers.

Centre Notifies New Deep-Sea Fishing Rules for EEZ
In the News: The Central Government notified the Deep-Sea Fishing Rules for India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), introducing a modern regulatory framework to promote sustainable fishing, ensure marine biodiversity protection, and strengthen coastal livelihoods. The move aligns with India's Blue Economy Vision 2047.
Key Points:
- **Policy Notification:** The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying issued the Deep-Sea Fishing Rules 2025 under the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.
- **Objective:** The new rules aim to regulate fishing operations within India's EEZ (12–200 nautical miles), ensuring ecological balance and fair access for domestic fishing fleets.
- **Licensing System:** All deep-sea fishing vessels must obtain a centralised permit through a National Fisheries Digital Portal, with mandatory vessel tracking and catch reporting systems.
- **Ban on Foreign Vessels:** The rules reinforce the prohibition of foreign vessels from operating in Indian waters, safeguarding national marine resources for Indian fishermen.

- **Sustainability Measures:** Fishing will be regulated through species-specific quotas, seasonal restrictions, and bycatch control norms, aligned with FAO guidelines on responsible fisheries.
- **Support for Fisherfolk:** The government announced schemes for modernising fishing vessels, cold-chain infrastructure, and capacity-building programmes for coastal communities

Mumbai Tops Asia's Happiest Cities in 2025

In the News: Mumbai was ranked as Asia's Happiest City in the World Happiness Index 2025 – Asian Cities Edition, marking a historic first for India. The city topped the regional rankings for its strong sense of community, cultural vibrancy, and rapid improvements in urban well-being and inclusivity.

Key Points:
- **Report Release:** The findings were published in the World Happiness Index 2025 (Asian Cities Report), compiled by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) in collaboration with Gallup World Poll.
- **Top Ranking:** Mumbai secured the #1 position in Asia and #12 globally, ahead of cities like Tokyo, Singapore, and Seoul, due to its rising urban resilience and social optimism.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The ranking assessed mental well-being, social trust, environmental quality, healthcare access, cultural engagement, and economic satisfaction among city residents.
- **India's Performance:** Other Indian cities — Bengaluru (6th) and Delhi (9th) — also featured in the Asian top ten, reflecting India's growing urban happiness and livability quotient.
- **Government Initiatives:** Mumbai's ranking was attributed to projects under the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, Mumbai Climate Action Plan, and Ease of Living Index reforms, which improved sustainability and civic engagement.

National Urban Conclave 2025

In the News: The National Urban Conclave 2025 concluded in New Delhi, marking a major step toward achieving the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision through the launch of transformative initiatives focused on urban renewal, smart governance, and sustainable infrastructure. The conclave brought together policymakers, state ministers, and urban planners to chart India's roadmap for inclusive and resilient cities.

Key Points:
- **Event Overview:** The National Urban Conclave 2025 was organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to align urban development goals with India's long-term Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.
- **Major Launches:** Key initiatives unveiled included the National Smart Mobility Mission, the Urban Climate Resilience Framework, and the Digital City Dashboard 2.0 for real-time governance and citizen engagement.
- **Focus Areas:** Discussions centred on affordable housing, clean water and sanitation, public transport modernisation, and waste-to-energy projects in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. **Participation:** The conclave saw participation from urban development ministers of all states, mayors of 100 Smart Cities, and representatives from NITI Aayog, World Bank, and UN-Habitat.
- **Sustainability Goals:** A renewed emphasis was placed on net-zero urban planning, green building codes, and the integration of renewable energy in municipal systems.
- **Citizen-Centric Approach:** The government announced measures to enhance urban employment, promote women-led entrepreneurship, and strengthen digital service delivery in cities.

Assam Passes Bill to Ban Polygamy

In the News: The Assam Legislative Assembly passed the **Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill, 2025**, making it the first state in India to explicitly outlaw the practice of polygamy through a state-level law. The move aligns with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's commitment to promote gender equality and reform outdated personal laws through a uniform legal framework.

Key Points:
- **Legislative Approval:** The Assam Polygamy Prohibition Bill, 2025 was passed by the Assembly, prohibiting Muslim men — and citizens of all communities — from contracting more than one marriage during the lifetime of their spouse.
- **Objective:** The law seeks to uphold women's rights, equality, and justice, reinforcing the constitutional principles of dignity and non-discrimination.
- **Applicability:** The prohibition applies across all religions and personal laws, ensuring uniformity and overriding any conflicting customary practices.

- **Penalty Provisions:** Violators may face rigorous imprisonment up to seven years and monetary fines, with the offence classified as cognizable and non-bailable.
- **Constitutional Context:** The Bill draws inspiration from Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy), which encourages a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for citizens across India.
- **State Initiative:** Assam became the first Indian state to enact such legislation, following the recommendations of a legal committee constituted by the state government in 2023 to examine the legality of banning polygamy under existing laws.

India Shines: Mumbai and Delhi Make World's Billionaire City List

In the News: According to the latest Hurun Research Institute report, India's two major cities — Mumbai and New Delhi — have climbed into the top 10 globally for the number of billionaires residing there. Mumbai secured the third-rank with 92 billionaires, while New Delhi entered the list at ninth place with 57 billionaires.

Key Points:

- **Global Rankings:** Mumbai ranked **3rd worldwide** and New Delhi **9th**, highlighting India's growing influence in global wealth creation.
- **Wealth Concentration:** Mumbai's rise is powered by its role as India's commercial and financial hub, with booming sectors like finance, real estate and technology driving ultra-high-net-worth growth.
- **Economic Implications:** The inclusion of these cities underscores India's expanding billionaire class and reflects broader trends of entrepreneurship, stock-market growth and asset accumulation.
- **Urban Wealth Geometry:** The figures illustrate how major Indian metros are becoming global wealth centres, aligning with emerging patterns of wealth concentration in urban areas.

Red Fort Blast 2025 – Full Incident Overview

In the News: A devastating car explosion near the iconic Red Fort metro station in Old Delhi killed at least eight people and injured over 20. Indian authorities are investigating it under anti-terror legislation, while the monument remains a high-symbol site.

Key Points:

- **What happened:** Around 7 p.m. local time, a slow-moving white Hyundai i20 stopped at a red light near the Red Fort metro station gate, then exploded, triggering fires in at least six vehicles and three auto-rickshaws.
- **Casualties and damage:** Eight people were confirmed dead, at least 20 injured, multiple vehicles destroyed, and damage to nearby structures and a Sikh place of worship.
- **Investigation & legal action:** The case has been registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over. Authorities are probing suspicions of a fidayeen-style attack rather than an accident.
- **Symbolic impact:** The Red Fort, a 17th-century UNESCO World Heritage site and the venue for the Prime Minister's annual Independence Day address, adds emotional and political weight to the incident.
- **Response & security alerts:** India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed the "conspirators … will not be spared." Home Minister Amit Shah ordered high-level review meetings and directed full pursuit of the perpetrators. Security alerts were raised nationwide.
- **International and domestic reactions:** Global leaders expressed condolences, while several Indian states and major cities heightened security at transport hubs and public sites.

Co-Op Kumbh 2025

In the News: The Co-Op Kumbh 2025 an international conference on the future of India's urban cooperative banking sector was inaugurated in New Delhi by Amit Shah, Union Minister of Cooperation. The two-day event culminated in the adoption of the Delhi Declaration 2025, a strategic roadmap designed to modernise, digitise and expand Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) across the country.

Key Points:

- **Major Launches:** Two digital initiatives — Sahkar Digi-Pay and Sahkar Digi-Loan — were unveiled to enable smaller UCBs to offer real-time digital payment and credit services.
- **Expansion Target:** A goal was announced to establish at least one UCB in every Indian city with a population above 2 lakh within five years.

- **Blueprint for Reform:** The Delhi Declaration 2025 outlines reforms in governance, capital adequacy, risk-management and digital inclusion for UCBs and credit societies up to 2030.
- **Sectoral Progress:** Addressing the event, the minister noted that NPAs in the UCB sector had fallen significantly — from about 2.8 % to 0.6 % — signalling the effect of recent reforms.

Global Context: The conference coincided with the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, aligning India's cooperative banking reforms with global cooperative movement goals.

Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav Inaugurated at University of Colombo

In the News: The Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav was inaugurated at the University of Colombo to strengthen cultural and linguistic ties between India and Sri Lanka. The event, jointly organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the University of Colombo, celebrates Sanskrit's shared heritage and its contemporary relevance in the two countries.

Key Points:

- **Event Inauguration:** The Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav was jointly inaugurated by India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan government officials at the University of Colombo, marking a new cultural collaboration between the two nations.
- **Organizing Institutions:** The event is organized by ICCR in partnership with the University of Colombo's Sanskrit Department, with support from India's Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Objective:** The Mahotsav aims to promote Sanskrit studies, foster academic exchanges between Indian and Sri Lankan scholars, and highlight the language's enduring contribution to philosophy, literature, and science.
- **Cultural Exchanges:** The festival features lectures, panel discussions, recitations, and cultural performances by scholars and students from both nations, showcasing Sanskrit's influence on South Asian thought and shared civilizational values.
- **Academic Cooperation:** Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were discussed to enhance Sanskrit education, digital resources, and joint research projects between Indian universities and Sri Lankan institutions.

Tata Power Plans India's Largest Solar Wafers & Ingots Plant

In the News: Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a subsidiary of Tata Power, announced plans to establish India's largest solar ingots and wafers manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu. The project marks a major step in advancing India's renewable energy manufacturing capacity and reducing import dependence in the solar value chain.

Key Points:

- **Project Overview:** Tata Power Solar will set up a 4 GW solar cell and module manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu, along with an integrated 3 GW ingot and wafer production unit—India's largest such facility.
- **Investment and Location:** The project involves an investment of around Rs 4,500 crore and will be located in Gangaikondan, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu, developing the region as a renewable energy manufacturing hub.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to promote domestic manufacturing under the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision, reducing the country's reliance on imported solar equipment, especially from China.
- **Employment Generation:** The plant is expected to create over 2,000 direct and 5,000 indirect job opportunities, significantly contributing to the local economy.
- **Technological Advancement:** The facility will employ advanced monocrystalline PERC and TOPCon cell technologies to produce high-efficiency ingots, wafers, and modules, strengthening India's position in global solar supply chains.
- **Government Partnership:** The project aligns with the Government of India's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for High-Efficiency Solar PV Modules, encouraging domestic integrated manufacturing.

India Improves Its Rank in Global Climate Risk Index 2025

In the News: According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2025 released by Germanwatch, India has improved its global ranking, moving from 7th position in the 2024 index to 12th. The improvement reflects India's enhanced disaster preparedness, stronger climate policies, and investment in renewable energy and resilience-building initiatives.

Key Points:

- **Report Release:** The Global Climate Risk Index 2025 was published by Germanwatch, assessing the impact of extreme weather events and climate-related losses among 180 countries based on data from 2023.
- **India's Improved Rank:** India moved from 7th in the previous year to 12th in 2025, indicating reduced vulnerability to climate-induced disasters and improved adaptive capacity.

- Reason for Improvement: Key contributors include expanded renewable energy capacity, implementation of the National Adaptation Plan, and better early warning systems through the IMD and NDMA.
- **Climate Preparedness Efforts:** Initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement, and coastal restoration programs have strengthened India's climate resilience.
- **Global Context:** The report highlights that countries like Pakistan, the Philippines, and Mozambique remain among the most affected, showing the continued global disparity in climate vulnerability.

Shailesh Chandra Becomes First Indian to Lead OICA

In the News: Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director and CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, has been elected as the President of the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA). With this appointment, he becomes the first Indian to lead the global association of automotive manufacturers, marking a milestone for India's automobile industry on the international stage.

Key Points:

- **Historic Appointment:** Shailesh Chandra's election as OICA President is the first time an Indian executive has assumed leadership in the century-old global automobile manufacturers' body.
- **About OICA:** The Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles, headquartered in Paris, represents automobile manufacturers worldwide and works with the United Nations and other international bodies on automotive standards, sustainability, and policy advocacy.
- **India's Representation:** His appointment enhances India's global profile in the automotive sector, underscoring the country's growing leadership in green mobility, EV adoption, and sustainable transport innovation.
- **Professional Background:** Shailesh Chandra has led Tata Motors' passenger and electric vehicle divisions, playing a pivotal role in advancing electric mobility and positioning Tata Motors as a front-runner in India's EV revolution.
- **Significance:** His election highlights global recognition of India's progress in the automobile and clean energy sectors, aligning with the country's goals under the FAME-II scheme and automotive PLI initiatives.
- **Tenure and Role:** As OICA President, Chandra will guide global discussions on emission standards, EV transformation, safety regulations, and future mobility trends, fostering cooperation among international automobile manufacturers.

6th National Water Awards Winners For 2024 Announced

In the News: The Ministry of Jal Shakti announced the winners of the 6th National Water Awards for 2024, recognizing outstanding contributions toward water conservation, resource management, and sustainable development across India. The awards honor individuals, organizations, and states working to promote the objectives of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and water-positive practices.

Key Points:

- **Award Announcement:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti declared the results for the 6th edition of the National Water Awards on November 2025, highlighting best-performing states, districts, institutions, and individuals in water resource management.
- **Objective:** The awards aim to motivate citizens and institutions to adopt water conservation strategies, efficient irrigation methods, and sustainable groundwater management as part of the nation's "Jal Andolan."
- **Top Performing State:** Rajasthan was awarded the first prize among states for its effective water management strategies, community participation in river rejuvenation, and traditional water harvesting programs.
- **Best District Award:** Kutch district of Gujarat received the top district award (Western Zone) for implementing innovative groundwater recharge and rainwater harvesting projects.
- **Notable Institutional Winners:** IIT Madras received recognition for research excellence in water treatment technologies, while the Art of Living Foundation was honored for its nationwide river rejuvenation efforts through citizen participation.
- **Public Participation:** The awards encourage replication of water conservation models through grassroots movements involving Panchayati Raj institutions, NGOs, and local communities.

Infosys Prize 2025 Honours Six Young Researchers for Scientific Excellence

In the News: The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2025, recognizing six exceptional Indian researchers for their contributions to science and research across diverse fields. The award celebrates excellence and innovation in academic work that advances knowledge and benefits society.

Key Points:

- **Award Announcement:** The Infosys Science Foundation declared the 2025 winners across six categories—Engineering and Computer Science, Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences.
- **Purpose:** Instituted in 2008, the Infosys Prize promotes scientific research and inspires young scientists to pursue world-class innovation in India. Each category winner receives a gold medal, citation, and a prize of USD 100,000.
- **Notable Winners:** Six Indian researchers were honored for outstanding work in areas such as artificial intelligence, biomedical sciences, mathematics, climate modeling, and economic policy research.
- **Focus on Young Talent:** The 2025 edition especially recognized emerging scientists under 45, emphasizing the role of youth in driving India's future knowledge economy.

Row over 'Jana Gana Mana': Why Tagore composed it and how it became the national anthem

In the News: A renewed debate emerged in 2025 over the interpretation and origin of India's national anthem, 'Jana Gana Mana', composed by Rabindranath Tagore in 1911. The controversy stems from claims regarding whom Tagore addressed in the anthem and how it was chosen as the national anthem in post-independence India.

Key Points:

- **Composition Background:** Rabindranath Tagore wrote 'Jana Gana Mana' in December 1911 in Bengali. It was first sung at the Indian National Congress session in Calcutta on December 27, 1911.
- **Meaning and Context:** Tagore composed it as a hymn celebrating the "Dispenser of India's destiny," symbolizing the divine guiding spirit of the nation. It expressed unity in diversity and invoked India's collective identity rather than praising any individual ruler.
- **Misinterpretations:** Some early commentators incorrectly believed the song was written to welcome King George V during his visit to India in 1911. Tagore, however, clarified in later writings that the anthem referred to the eternal spirit of India, not to the British monarch.
- **Adoption as National Anthem:** On January 24, 1950, 'Jana Gana Mana' was officially adopted by the Constituent Assembly as India's National Anthem. Only the first stanza of the original Bengali song was selected for official use.
- **Language and Translation:** The anthem was composed in highly Sanskritized Bengali, making it intelligible across India due to its linguistic resonance with several Indian languages.
- **Musical Legacy:** The tune was arranged by Captain Ram Singh Thakuri of the Indian National Army (INA), giving it a martial yet melodious national character.

Punjab Becomes First State to Implement Amended Bharat Net Scheme Statewide

In the News: Punjab achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first state in India to fully implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across its entire territory. Chief Secretary KAP Sinha received the award from Ajay Kumar Kararha, CGM, BSNL Punjab Circle, marking a significant step toward digital inclusion in rural areas.

Key Points:

- **Statewide Rollout Achievement:** Punjab has emerged as the first state to successfully implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme throughout the entire state. Internet and broadband services have already reached 43 shadow areas, with only one village remaining to be covered by end of November 2025. This achievement demonstrates the state's commitment to bridging the digital divide and establishing a "one big digital family" with easy access to government services across all villages.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Over 1,000 kilometers of fiber-optic cables have been laid (more than ten times the distance between Ludhiana and Delhi), along with approximately 1,000 kilometers of HDD in 22 blocks of Punjab. The project commenced from Harsha Chinna block in Amritsar and is being executed with active coordination from various state government agencies and district-level officers, following a coordination meeting held under joint chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and Secretary of Telecom in June 2025.
- **Border Monitoring and Governance:** Under the Amended Bharat Net Project, BSNL Punjab operates the first State Network Operations Center (S-NOC) in India, enabling live monitoring of the border state from any location across the country. This technological advancement strengthens governance capabilities and supports e-governance and e-health services in rural sectors, with particular emphasis on monitoring even remote border villages like Ramkalwan in Pathankot District.
- **Rural Transformation and Agricultural Empowerment:** The scheme will revolutionize rural Punjab, where nearly 60% of the population depends on agriculture. Farmers will now access market prices, weather updates, and direct buyer

connections from home, eliminating middlemen and enabling direct MSP and PM-KISAN scheme applications on mobile phones. Additionally, approximately 3 million children in government schools will access quality education comparable to urban institutions through online classes and IIT professor lectures, while remote healthcare areas can utilize telemedicine services from major hospitals like PGI Chandigarh.

Andhra Teen Selected for 2029 Space Mission Training — India's Rising Space Star

In the News: Kunchala Kaivalya Reddy, a 17-year-old from Nidadavole in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, was selected for an elite astronaut training programme with Titans Space Industries in Florida, making her one of India's rising talents in space exploration. The selection was officially confirmed through a personal email from the organization's CEO, Neil S. Lachman.

Key Points:

- **Elite Selection Achievement:** Kaivalya has been chosen among just 150 candidates selected from thousands of applications across 36 countries for the Titans Space Industries astronaut training programme. Her selection represents a remarkable milestone for Indian youth in space science and demonstrates India's growing presence in global space exploration.
- **Rigorous Training Programme:** The four-year training programme, scheduled from 2026 to 2029 in Florida, includes advanced spaceflight simulations, survival training in extreme conditions, technical instruction in orbital mechanics, spacecraft systems operations, and zero-gravity adaptation. The programme is designed to prepare candidates for actual space missions through comprehensive education covering all critical aspects of astronaut operations, from emergency procedures and psychological assessments to mission simulations and spaceflight operations supervised by veteran NASA astronaut William McArthur Jr., serving as Chief Astronaut at Titans Space.
- **2029 Space Mission Details:** Upon successful completion of training, Kaivalya will participate in a historic space mission in 2029 aboard Titans Space's spaceplane. The mission will orbit Earth twice at an altitude of approximately 300 kilometers, with a total mission duration of five hours including approximately three hours of weightlessness experience. This mission represents a significant milestone in commercial space education and youth involvement in orbital science, marking India's participation in private sector space exploration initiatives.

New Emblem, New Vision: Maharashtra Unveils Agriculture Logo and Motto

In the News: The Maharashtra Agriculture Department launched a new logo and slogan after 38 years, unveiling its updated visual identity at a ceremony in Mumbai led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The motto, "Sashwat Sheti, Samruddha Shetkari" (Sustainable Farming, Prosperous Farmer), was selected through an inclusive state-wide competition reflecting a renewed focus on technology-driven and sustainable agriculture.
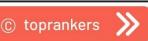
Key Points:

- **Logo and Motto Launch:** The department's updated logo and slogan were formally released by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne present. This marks the first branding update in 38 years, symbolizing a strategic shift in Maharashtra's approach to modern and resilient agriculture.
- **Public Participation and Selection:** The slogan, "Sashwat Sheti, Samruddha Shetkari," meaning "Sustainable Farming, Prosperous Farmer," was chosen through an open public competition which drew over 1,700 entries, with creative evaluation handled by a committee under the Agriculture Commissioner. The winning logo was designed by Virendra Bhaidas Patil (Bhusawal) and the slogan authored by Siddhi Bharat Desai (Parbhani).
- **Policy and Symbolism:** Leaders emphasized that the rebranding stands for technology-led progress, farmer empowerment, and sustainability. The initiative aims to inspire confidence in farmers, promote innovation, and connect with youth and agri-entrepreneurs. The department will use the emblem and motto across official communications, reflecting Maharashtra's commitment to integrating traditional wisdom with contemporary practices amid growing challenges in irrigation, climate adaptation, and market access for farmers.

India to Receive 8 Cheetahs from Botswana: A Major Step in Project Cheetah Revival

In the News: President Droupadi Murmu accepted the symbolic handover of eight cheetahs from Botswana's President Duma Gideon Boko at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve, Gaborone. The new arrivals, comprising both adults and sub-adults, mark a milestone in India's efforts to revive its cheetah population after an absence of decades, strengthening wildlife conservation alliances between India and Botswana.

Key Points:

- **Translocation Milestone:** The eight cheetahs from Botswana will soon be transported to India, joining the Cheetah Initiative project at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, following a quarantine period in Botswana. This marks the official start of a new phase in Project Cheetah, designed to restore the species to its historical habitat in India, which has recorded successes in previous years with cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa.
- **Ecological and Genetic Impact:** Botswana's gift is crucial for enhancing genetic diversity among the reintroduced cheetahs, as the country hosts one of Africa's largest wild cheetah populations. The animals are well-adapted to savannah-like conditions similar to those in India, promising better chances for breeding and ecological adjustment. Their arrival supports India's objectives to restore ecological balance, promote eco-tourism, and strengthen its wildlife frameworks.
- **International Conservation Collaboration:** The handover ceremony reflects deepening India–Botswana cooperation in conservation, with coordinated fieldwork by wildlife experts and veterinarians from both countries. Botswana's partnership underscores Africa's engagement with India's conservation goals and offers hope for future transcontinental wildlife projects and scientific exchange. President Murmu's state visit also promoted broader bilateral ties in agriculture, health, technology, and defence, reaffirming both nations' commitment to protecting endangered species and advancing global biodiversity.
- **Project Cheetah Achievements:** Since the beginning of Project Cheetah in 2022, India has received eight cheetahs from Namibia, twelve from South Africa, and now eight from Botswana, with the total brought to 35 cheetahs including those born on Indian soil. Despite challenges, 26 cubs have been born in India, marking measurable progress toward cheetah revival and ecosystem restoration.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2025
In the News: India celebrated Janjatiya Gaurav Divas to honor the contributions of tribal freedom fighters and recognize the cultural heritage of India's tribal communities. The day marks the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a revered tribal leader and freedom hero who led movements against British colonial rule.
Key Points:
- **National Celebration:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the national observance of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas by addressing a special event in Ranchi, Jharkhand, the birthplace of Birsa Munda. The event included tributes to tribal icons and the launch of new tribal welfare initiatives.
- **Commemorative Programs:** Across states, cultural exhibitions, folk performances, and art festivals showcased the traditions, languages, and crafts of various tribal communities, emphasizing their role in India's social and environmental conservation efforts.
- **Government Initiatives:** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced schemes promoting education, health, and livelihood support for tribal youth. Initiatives such as the "Adivasi Shiksha Mission" and "Van Dhan 2.0" were highlighted for empowering tribal entrepreneurship and forest-based economies.
- **Educational Outreach:** Schools and universities conducted special assemblies and essay competitions to spread awareness about tribal history and Birsa Munda's fight for land rights and indigenous self-determination.

IAF Chief Inaugurates Nyoma Airbase in Ladakh
In the News: Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal V. R. Chaudhari inaugurated the strategically significant Nyoma Airbase in eastern Ladakh. Situated at an altitude of nearly 13,700 feet, the new airbase strengthens India's air combat and logistical capabilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.
Key Points:
- **Strategic Location:** The Nyoma Airbase is located close to the LAC in eastern Ladakh, providing the IAF with a forward-operating platform to support defense operations and rapid troop deployment in high-altitude sectors.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the airbase features a 2.7-km-long runway capable of handling fighter aircraft such as the Rafale and Su-30 MKI, along with transport aircraft like the C-130J Super Hercules.
- **Boost to Border Security:** The operationalization of the Nyoma Airbase enhances India's surveillance coverage, quick response capacity, and logistical support to troops stationed in the Ladakh region, complementing existing airbases at Leh, Thoise, and Fukche.
- **Indigenous Construction Effort:** The project was completed under the Vibrant Villages and border infrastructure enhancement initiatives, utilizing advanced engineering methods to operate reliably in extreme weather conditions.

- **Diplomatic and Defense Significance:** The move signals India's commitment to strengthening its defense posture amid persistent border tensions with China, ensuring strategic depth and air dominance in the western sector of the Himalayas.
- **Long-Term Vision:** Nyoma's development aligns with the IAF's Vision 2035 for expanding high-altitude operational capability, improving connectivity, and supporting dual-use infrastructure for both defense and civil aviation needs in border regions.

Bihar election 2025 result explained

In the News: Results of the Bihar Assembly Election were declared, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar securing a clear majority. The Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) headed by Tejashwi Yadav underperformed compared to expectations, marking another consecutive victory for the NDA in Bihar's political landscape.

Key Points:

- **Election Outcome:** The NDA, comprising JD(U), BJP, HAM, and other allies, won a comfortable majority, retaining power in Bihar. Nitish Kumar is set for another term as Chief Minister, continuing his long political tenure in the state.
- **Factors Behind NDA Victory:** The NDA's success was driven by Nitish Kumar's emphasis on infrastructure development, women's empowerment, and welfare schemes. The BJP's campaign strategy, backed by Prime Minister Modi's rallies and welfare narratives, also consolidated rural and urban voter support.
- **Voter Segmentation:** The NDA performed strongly in northern and central Bihar, leveraging caste balance through JD(U)'s outreach to backward classes and women voters. The alliance also gained among first-time voters due to its narrative of stability and governance continuity.
- **What Hurt the Mahagathbandhan:** Tejashwi Yadav's campaign focusing on unemployment and price rise resonated with youth but failed to convert enthusiasm into votes in several constituencies. Weak seat-sharing coordination and the defection of smaller Left and regional allies diluted the Mahagathbandhan's impact.
- **Regional and Caste Dynamics:** Key swing groups such as Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) and women voters shifted toward NDA, while RJD retained dominance in pockets of southern Bihar and among Yadav-Muslim voters.
- **Political Implications:** The result strengthens the BJP-JD(U) alliance ahead of the 2029 general elections and signals diminishing influence of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar politics. It also reaffirms Nitish Kumar's role as one of India's most resilient state leaders.

GI Tag Awarded to Traditional Lepcha Musical Instruments

In the News: Traditional Lepcha musical instruments from Sikkim received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognizing their cultural uniqueness and craftsmanship. The GI registration protects the intellectual property rights of the indigenous Lepcha community and promotes the preservation of their musical heritage.

Key Points:

- **Instruments Covered:** The GI tag covers hand-crafted Lepcha instruments such as Tungbuk (drum), Yangjey (string instrument), and Pan (bamboo flute), which are integral to the community's rituals, folk music, and storytelling traditions.
- **Cultural Significance:** The Lepcha tribe, considered the indigenous inhabitants of Sikkim, uses these instruments in local festivals and spiritual ceremonies. The GI recognition affirms their deep-rooted connection between music, nature, and identity.
- **Registration Details:** The GI tag was granted by the Geographical Indications Registry, Chennai, under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The application was facilitated by the Sikkim Indigenous Lepcha Tribal Association.
- **Economic and Heritage Impact:** The GI status empowers local artisans and ensures protection against imitation. It also encourages sustainable livelihood development through tourism promotion and cultural marketing of authentic Lepcha instruments.
- **Broader Cultural Context**: With this recognition, Sikkim now adds to its growing list of GI-tagged traditional products, reflecting the state's commitment to preserving its rich indigenous craftsmanship and cultural diversity.

VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates 30th CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam

In the News: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 30th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The three-day global business conclave aims to foster international trade, attract investment, and strengthen India's role in the global economic landscape.

Key Points:

- **Summit Theme:** The 30th edition of the CII Partnership Summit focuses on "Collaboration for a Sustainable and Resilient Global Growth," aligning with India's vision of inclusive development and sustainable industry practices.
- **Opening Address:** Vice President Radhakrishnan emphasized India's potential as a trusted partner in global supply chains and underlined the country's leadership in renewable energy, technology, and manufacturing sectors.
- **Participation:** The summit brings together policymakers, industry leaders, and diplomats from over 50 countries, featuring discussions on trade reforms, technological innovation, investment facilitation, and global cooperation.
- **Host State:** Andhra Pradesh, known for its industrial infrastructure and maritime potential, is leveraging the event to highlight investment opportunities in sectors such as renewable energy, manufacturing, logistics, and ports.
- **Legacy of the Summit:** First launched in 1995, the CII Partnership Summit has served as a premier platform for shaping India's economic diplomacy and encouraging foreign direct investment. The 2025 edition marks three decades of fostering growth partnerships between India and the world.

India Emerges as the World's 6th-Largest Patent Filer

In the News: Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, announced that India has emerged as the world's 6th-largest patent filer with over 64,000 patent applications filed. More than 55% of these patents are filed by resident Indian innovators, marking a significant shift in India's innovation ecosystem.

Key Points:

- **Patent Filing Milestone:** India has surpassed many countries to become the sixth-largest filer of patents globally, reflecting its growing capabilities in research, technology, and innovation.
- **Resident Innovation:** Over half of the patent applications are from resident Indian innovators, signaling increased domestic R&D and reduced dependence on foreign institutions for projects and mentorship.
- **Global Innovation Ranking:** Alongside patent filings, India has advanced from the 81st to the 38th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) in recent years, highlighting its improving innovation performance internationally.
- **Policy Support:** The rise in patent filings is attributed to steady government policy support, research incentives, increased startup activity, and private sector participation fostering innovation growth.
- **Sectoral Focus:** Significant patent activity has been noted in areas like artificial intelligence, deep technology, healthcare, and ICT, aligning with India's agenda to boost advanced technology development.
- **Innovation Ecosystem:** The government's efforts also include accessible funding, mentorship, skill development programs, and encouraging innovation beyond traditional government jobs to nurture a conducive environment for creators and entrepreneurs.

Odisha Sets Global Standard as Two Beaches Win Blue Flag Again

In the News: Odisha's Sunapur and Puri beaches once again earned the prestigious International Blue Flag Certification for 2025–26. This recognition reaffirms these beaches as global benchmarks for cleanliness, safety, environmental sustainability, and eco-friendly tourism.

Key Points:

- **Blue Flag Certification:** Odisha's Sunapur Beach secured the Blue Flag status for the third consecutive year, while Puri's Golden Beach received the certification for the seventh consecutive year. The certification is awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark, after rigorous evaluation of 33 criteria including water quality, waste management, safety, and environmental education.
- **Global Standards:** Both beaches demonstrated excellence in infrastructure, environmental management, and visitor safety, featuring facilities such as wheelchair access, zero liquid discharge systems, lifeguard stations, CCTV monitoring, and trained emergency personnel.
- **Local Engagement:** The successful maintenance of these standards is attributed to active community participation, effective beach management committees, and cooperation between local administrations and villagers, especially notable at Sunapur Beach where ecological conservation and eco-sensitive design are prioritized.
- **Sustainable Tourism Impact:** The Blue Flag status enhances Odisha's reputation as a leader in sustainable coastal tourism, encouraging eco-conscious travelers and promoting responsible tourism practices aligned with environmental preservation.

- **National Context:** For 2025–26, 13 beaches across India were recognized with the Blue Flag certification, 12 of which received full certification. Odisha's achievement highlights the state's commitment to upholding international beach management and conservation standards.

INTERNATIONAL

13th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Finland

In the News: The 13th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Finland was held in Helsinki on 6 November 2025, with the Indian delegation led by Shri Sibi George (Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs) and the Finnish side led by Jukka Salovaara (Permanent State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland).

Key Points:
- The two countries reviewed progress in their bilateral relationship and committed to strengthening cooperation in trade and investment, digitalisation, quantum computing, 5G/6G, artificial intelligence, sustainability, clean technologies, the circular economy, education, research and development, as well as people-to-people ties and mobility.
- India reiterated that it considers Finland a valued and trusted partner in the European Union and Nordic region, and Finland reaffirmed its support for the early conclusion of a comprehensive and mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement.
- The Finnish side reiterated its support for India's bid for permanent membership of a reformed United Nations Security Council.
- Both sides exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual concern and underlined the importance of multilateral engagement and ongoing dialogue on global challenges.
- The two nations agreed to continue holding regular consultations and scheduled the next round of Foreign Office Consultations to take place in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/2799 (XXVI)

In the News: Adopted on **13 December 1971**, this resolution addressed "The Situation in the Middle East" and reaffirmed key principles regarding territories occupied by force, as part of the UN's ongoing discourse on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Key Points:
- The General Assembly reaffirmed that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible and called for the restoration of territories occupied as a result of recent conflict.
- It emphasised that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must include withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the most recent hostilities.
- The resolution reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, national independence and sovereignty.
- It called on all states and parties to co-operate in achieving a peaceful solution on the basis of the United Nations Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and the interest of all parties in the region.
- The vote count for the resolution was 79 in favour, 7 against and 36 abstentions, indicating significant but not universal support among UN member states.
- This resolution built on earlier UN work related to the Middle East conflict and reaffirmed the UN's role in advocating resolution through peaceful means.

FAIFA criticises WHO-FCTC COP11 for excluding tobacco farmers

In the News: The Federation of All India Farmer Associations (FAIFA) strongly criticised the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) for excluding tobacco farmers and their representatives from the upcoming 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11), scheduled in Geneva from November 17 to 22, 2025. FAIFA expressed concern that farmer voices were being ignored in global policy discussions affecting their livelihoods.

Key Points:
- **Event Context:** The WHO-FCTC COP11 aims to discuss tobacco control measures among 180 member countries, focusing on reducing production and consumption through stricter global regulations.
- **FAIFA's Criticism:** The Federation of All India Farmer Associations condemned the exclusion of tobacco growers from the deliberations, arguing that decisions on tobacco policy should include stakeholder consultation with farming communities.

- **Farmers' Concerns:** FAIFA stated that millions of Indian farmers depend on tobacco cultivation for their livelihood, and unilateral restrictions without alternative livelihood planning could harm rural economies.
- **Policy Demand:** The organisation urged WHO and FCTC member states to adopt a participatory approach, allowing representation from tobacco-growing nations and farmer bodies during policy discussions.
- **India's Stake:** India, being the second-largest producer and exporter of tobacco, is expected to advocate for balanced regulation that considers both public health and farmer welfare.

David Szalay Wins the 2025 Booker Prize for Flesh: A Landmark for Hungarian-British Literature
In the News: The prestigious Booker Prize for fiction was awarded to David Szalay for his novel Flesh making him the first Hungarian-British author to win this major literary accolade.
Key Points:
- **Winner & Novel:** The novel *Flesh* was chosen by the judges for its distinctive style, minimalist prose and the way it traces the life of István, a Hungarian immigrant navigating class, trauma, migration and masculinity.
- **Cultural Significance:** Szalay's win marks a landmark moment for Hungarian-British literature, highlighting cross-national identity and opening doors for hybrid literary voices in English-language fiction.
- **Reactions:** The judging panel, chaired by Roddy Doyle, praised the book's "creative courage" and said they had never read anything quite like it.
- **Impact on Publishing:** The novel is published by Jonathan Cape, marking their tenth Booker win and reinforcing the imprint's status in literary publishing.
- **Broader Themes:** *Flesh* touches on themes of identity, power, alienation and the physicality of life — using silence, absence and sparse language to convey meaning.

Bangladesh Becomes First South Asian Nation to Join UN Water Convention
In the News: Bangladesh officially acceded to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (commonly known as the UN Water Convention) on June 20, 2025, thereby becoming the first country in South Asia to join this legal framework.
Key Points:
- **Treaty Details:** The Convention was adopted in Helsinki in 1992 and entered into force in 1996. It was opened to all UN member-states in 2016.
- **Significance for Bangladesh:** As a deltaic country reliant on more than 50 shared rivers, Bangladesh's accession offers a multilateral legal platform to address upstream water use, climate-driven flood/drought risk and transboundary water governance.
- **Regional Implications:** India remains a non-signatory, and Bangladesh's move may shift regional hydrodiplomacy, potentially affecting bilateral water-sharing arrangements and India's negotiation leverage.
- **Link to SDGs:** The Convention aligns with SDG 6.5 (integrated water resources management) and supports SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace, strong institutions).

2nd WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit Scheduled In Delhi
In the News: New Delhi will host the second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, co-organised by the WHO and India's Ministry of Ayush. The summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam under the theme "Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being".
Key Points:
- **Summit Dates & Venue:** Scheduled for 17–19 December 2025, venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- **Theme & Focus:** Theme emphasises integrating traditional medicine with modern health systems, promoting evidence-based research, regulation and global cooperation.
- **Hosts & Partners:** Co-hosted by the WHO and the Indian Ministry of Ayush; preparatory MoU signed in October 2025 between WHO and the Government of India.
- **Objectives:** Advance the implementation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034, enhance quality and safety of traditional medicine, strengthen regulatory frameworks and support universal health coverage.
- **Global Significance:** With over 170 countries reporting use of traditional medicine, the summit is set to mobilise multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships for health systems transformation.

6th India-Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX Begins in Hanoi

In the News: The 6th edition of the India–Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise, VINBAX-2025, began in Hanoi, Vietnam. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability, mutual understanding, and cooperation between the two armies in counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations under United Nations mandates.

Key Points:

- **Exercise Commencement:** The 6th edition of VINBAX was inaugurated in Hanoi, with both sides reaffirming their commitment to strengthen defense and strategic cooperation. The exercise is scheduled to run for two weeks.
- **Participating Forces:** An Indian Army contingent comprising personnel from an infantry battalion is participating alongside the Vietnam People's Army troops, focusing on joint tactical drills and field operations.
- **Training Focus:** The main objective is to build operational synergy through joint training in jungle warfare, counter-insurgency operations, and humanitarian assistance in semi-urban and forested terrains.
- **United Nations Context:** The exercise includes simulation-based training on peacekeeping operations following UN standards, reflecting both nations' contributions to global peace missions.
- **Defense Cooperation:** VINBAX forms part of the broader India–Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, strengthening defense engagement under India's 'Act East Policy'.

INS Savitri Arrives in Mozambique For India–Mozambique Maritime Cooperation

In the News: Indian Naval Ship (INS) Savitri arrived at Port Maputo, Mozambique, as part of a bilateral maritime partnership initiative to strengthen defense cooperation and regional security in the Western Indian Ocean. The visit underscores India's commitment to deepen ties with African coastal nations under its SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
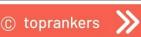
Key Points:

- **Ship Visit:** INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy, reached Mozambique for a port call aimed at enhancing maritime collaboration, interoperability, and capacity building between the two navies.
- **Purpose of Deployment:** The visit is part of India's ongoing outreach to partner nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) for cooperative maritime security, humanitarian assistance, and anti-piracy operations.
- **Joint Activities:** During the visit, Indian and Mozambican naval personnel will engage in training exercises, professional exchanges, and joint harbor and sea-based drills to enhance mutual understanding.
- **Humanitarian Aspect:** The crew of INS Savitri will participate in community outreach programs, including medical camps and cultural interactions, fostering people-to-people relations.
- **Strategic Context:** The visit reinforces India's SAGAR initiative and contributes to strengthening the India–Africa maritime partnership, with Mozambique being a key partner along the southwest Indian Ocean littoral.
- Defense Diplomacy: Naval cooperation with Mozambique supports regional stability, counter-terrorism measures, and secure seaborne trade routes in the Mozambique Channel—an important international maritime corridor.

Why Donald Trump targetted Nigeria, and what lies beneath

In the News: Former U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks and policy proposals in 2025 targeting Nigeria have sparked global attention and diplomatic concern. The statements, focused on immigration, trade, and oil-sector dynamics, highlight deeper geopolitical and domestic factors influencing U.S.–Africa relations.

Key Points:

- **Context of Remarks:** During his recent campaign speeches, Donald Trump criticized Nigerian immigration and business practices, signalling that his administration, if re-elected, would impose stricter visa and trade regulations on Nigerian nationals.
- **Immigration Concerns:** Trump alleged misuse of U.S. visas and overstays by Nigerian citizens, proposing measures to limit student and work visas. Analysts see this as an extension of his earlier "America First" policy aimed at curbing African migration.
- **Trade and Oil Dynamics:** Nigeria, being Africa's largest oil producer, faces renewed scrutiny as the U.S. seeks to balance energy security with protectionist policies. Trump's criticism aligns with shifting global oil alliances and competition from China in West Africa.
- **Political Messaging:** The rhetoric is also viewed as an appeal to Trump's conservative voter base, emphasizing tougher immigration laws and protection of U.S. jobs—a recurring theme in his campaign narrative.

- **Diplomatic Implications:** Nigerian officials have described the comments as unfounded and contrary to the spirit of U.S.–Nigeria partnership, which spans counterterrorism, energy cooperation, and democratic governance.
- **Underlying Geopolitical Factors**: Experts link Trump's stance to broader U.S. anxieties over Chinese influence in Africa, particularly in infrastructure and resource sectors, where Nigeria serves as a strategic partner for Beijing.

Oman Joins UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Council
In the News: Oman secured membership in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Council for the term 2025–2029, following an election at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. This achievement recognizes Oman's growing leadership in sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and international cooperation for balancing development and environmental stewardship.
Key Points:
- **Election and Representation:** Oman's election to the MAB Council marked a major stride for the Sultanate's Environment Authority, reflecting consistent engagement and visible contribution to global biosphere reserve management. The selection followed sustained efforts to integrate national development with ecological preservation, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As a member of the MAB Council, Oman will participate in shaping policies and strategies for biosphere reserves, promoting scientific research, expanding conservation areas, and fostering international collaboration. The council's focus areas include conservation, youth and researcher empowerment, climate adaptation, and supporting innovative solutions for sustainable livelihoods worldwide.
- **Track Record and Global Standing:** Oman's leadership in biodiversity conservation is already demonstrated by its successful inscription of Al Sareen and Al Jabal Al Akhdar reserves in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Council membership allows Oman to share best practices, influence global policies, and enhance the visibility of sustainable development initiatives, reinforcing its strategic presence on international environmental platform.

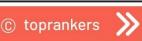## Singapore Introduces World's First Green Fuel Levy
In the News: Singapore announced it will become the first country in the world to impose a Green Fuel Levy on air passengers departing from its airports. The landmark measure, set to take effect for flights departing from October 1, 2026 (with tickets issued from April 1, 2026 onwards), aims to accelerate the adoption of sustainable aviation fuels and support the city-state's net-zero aviation goals.
Key Points:
- **Levy Rollout:** The Green Fuel Levy will apply to all tickets sold from April 1, 2026, for flights departing Singapore starting October 1, 2026, covering economy, business, and first-class passengers. Levy amounts range from S$1 (for short-haul economy flights within Southeast Asia) to S$41.60 (for long-haul business/first-class flights to the Americas), with the charge determined by travel distance and cabin class. The levy appears as a distinct line item on tickets for full transparency and will not affect transit or humanitarian flights.
- **Environmental Impact:** All funds raised from the levy will be used to purchase and supply sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), which produces far fewer carbon emissions than traditional jet fuel and is typically made from waste oils or low-carbon sources. Singapore aims for SAF to constitute 1% of all jet fuel used at Changi and Seletar Airports in 2026, with targets ramping up to 3–5% by 2030. The measure is a core pillar of Singapore's Sustainable Air Hub Blueprint, which sets a pathway to net-zero aviation emissions by 2050.
- **Global Leadership and Market Integration:** The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and the Singapore Sustainable Aviation Fuel Company (SAFCo) will manage levy revenues and secure SAF supplies. Singapore's pioneering strategy could inspire similar policies globally, fostering market shifts toward cleaner aviation and reaffirming its position as a leader in green transport innovation. The levy also extends to cargo shipments and chartered flights, with proportional charges based on distance and aircraft size

India and Nepal Sign Letter of Exchange to Boost Rail-Based Trade Connectivity
In the News: India and Nepal signed a Letter of Exchange to enhance rail-based trade connectivity, further strengthening bilateral economic cooperation. The agreement aims to expand cross-border freight movement, improve logistical efficiency, and promote regional integration under the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit.
Key Points:

- **Agreement Signing:** The Letter of Exchange was signed between officials of India's Ministry of External Affairs and Nepal's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies during a high-level meeting held in Kathmandu. It updates the 2004 India-Nepal Rail Services Agreement.
- **Expanded Rail Routes:** The new arrangement allows cross-border freight movement through additional rail routes, including Bathnaha–Biratnagar and Nautanwa–Bhairahawa, adding to the existing Jaynagar–Kurtha and Raxaul–Sirsiya routes.
- **Trade Facilitation:** The agreement aims to decongest key border points, lower transportation costs, and facilitate faster movement of goods between Indian ports and Nepalese markets, boosting bilateral trade efficiency.
- **Role of Indian Railways and CONCOR:** The Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Nepal Railway Company will jointly manage logistics operations, emphasizing digital cargo tracking and simplified customs procedures.

Pakistan's 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill now law

In the News: Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari signed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill into law, significantly altering the balance of power between the judiciary, military, and civilian government. The amendment expands the authority of the Pakistan Army Chief, General Asim Munir, while curbing the Supreme Court's independence in key matters.

Key Points:

- **Passage of the Bill:** The 27th Amendment was passed by both houses of Parliament after an accelerated debate, with strong backing from the ruling coalition and limited opposition resistance, amid allegations of growing military influence over governance.
- **Enhanced Military Authority:** The amendment strengthens the role of the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in matters of national security, internal stability, and appointments to key advisory and administrative positions, giving General Asim Munir direct input into policy decisions.
- **Curbs on Judiciary:** The law dilutes the powers of the Supreme Court by limiting its ability to initiate suo motu cases and review executive or military actions. It establishes a new Judicial Review Council to approve major judicial interventions, reducing judicial autonomy.
- **Oversight and Accountability Provisions:** The amendment introduces new clauses allowing for disciplinary proceedings against judges via a military-civil committee, further blurring the civilian-military divide in governance.

IAF Contingent Arrives in France for Garuda-2025 Air Exercise

In the News: An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent arrived in France to participate in the multinational air exercise Garuda-2025. The exercise, hosted by the French Air and Space Force (FASF), aims to enhance interoperability, tactical coordination, and mutual understanding between participating nations' air forces.

Key Points:

- **Exercise Overview:** Garuda-2025 is the 8th edition of the bilateral air exercise between India and France, scheduled to take place at the Mont-de-Marsan Air Base. The drill focuses on joint operational tactics, large-force engagements, and air combat missions in varied threat scenarios.
- **IAF Participation:** The IAF contingent includes Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft, IL-78 air-to-air refueller, and C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft, along with more than 120 air warriors. The participation demonstrates India's advanced air combat capabilities and global operational readiness.
- **French Participation:** The French Air and Space Force is fielding Rafale fighter jets, A400M transport aircraft, and refuelling assets, providing an opportunity for close coordination and exchange of best practices with the IAF..
- **Previous Engagements:** The first Garuda exercise was held in 2003, and the last edition, Garuda VII, took place in 2022 in India. Over the years, the exercise has evolved into a major platform for air diplomacy and skill enhancement between the two nations.

ENVIRONMENT

India reaffirms commitment to equitable climate action at the COP30 Leaders' Summit

In the News: At the COP30 Leaders' Summit held in Belém, Brazil (10-21 November 2025), India delivered its national statement emphasising that climate action must be guided by equity, national circumstances and the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC).

Key Points:

- India underscored that its climate action is progressing: it has reduced the emission intensity of GDP by 36 % between 2005 and 2020, achieved over 50 % non-fossil power installed capacity and created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion t CO_2e between 2005-2021.
- It called for developed nations to take the lead by accelerating emission reductions and delivering "adequate, predictable and concessional" climate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to developing countries.
- India welcomed the launch of the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) by Brazil for tropical-forest conservation and joined it as an observer, signalling support for nature-based solutions.
- The statement reaffirmed India's commitment to multilateralism and the architecture of the Paris Agreement, emphasising that the upcoming decade must focus not just on new targets but on implementation, resilience and shared responsibility.
- India stressed that climate finance must be **equitable**, **predictable**, and **concessional**, and must form the cornerstone of effective global climate action in order for developing countries to meet ambitious climate goals.

COP30 (2025 UN Climate Change Conference)

In the News: The COP30 (2025 UN Climate Change Conference) is scheduled to take place from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Brazil, marking the first-ever UN Climate Conference to be hosted in the Amazon region. The summit aims to accelerate global action on climate finance, biodiversity protection, and emission reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Key Points:

- **Conference Dates and Venue:** COP30 will be held from November 10–21, 2025, in Belém, Pará, Brazil, emphasizing the Amazon's vital role in global climate balance.
- **Theme:** The theme of COP30 is "From Commitments to Action: Accelerating Climate Solutions", focusing on implementing pledges made under previous climate accords and ensuring measurable progress toward net-zero goals.
- **Participating Countries:** More than 190 nations, including all UNFCCC member states, the European Union, and observer organizations, will participate. Key delegations include India, the United States, China, Brazil, and members of the European Union.
- **Agenda Focus:** Discussions will center on climate finance, loss and damage fund implementation, carbon markets (Article 6), renewable energy transition, and adaptation measures for vulnerable nations.
- **Host Nation's Goals:** Brazil intends to highlight the Amazon rainforest's global importance, advocate for forest-based carbon credits, and promote sustainable livelihood models for local communities.**India's Role:** India will focus on climate equity, technology transfer, green energy financing, and reaffirm its Net Zero 2070 commitment.**Significance:** COP30 coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement (2015–2025), making it a crucial moment for assessing global progress toward limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C.

India Enters Global Forest Fund: What It Means

In the News: India officially joined the Global Forest Fund (GFF), a multilateral initiative aimed at financing sustainable forest management, conservation, and climate resilience. The move reinforces India's leadership in global environmental governance and its commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Key Points:

- **Initiative Entry:** India became a member of the Global Forest Fund (GFF), which mobilizes international financing to protect and restore forests in developing countries.
- **Objective of the Fund:** The GFF supports projects that enhance carbon sequestration, curb deforestation, and promote community-led forest restoration aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goal 15.
- **India's Role:** As part of its membership, India will contribute to and benefit from forest conservation investments, particularly in the Western Ghats, Sundarbans, and Himalayan ecosystems.
- **Funding Mechanism:** The Fund pools resources from G20 nations, multilateral banks, and climate funds, channeling them toward verified forest-based carbon and biodiversity projects.
- **Policy Integration:** India plans to integrate GFF participation with domestic missions such as the National Afforestation Programme and the Green Credit Programme, enhancing both climate and livelihood outcomes.

India's Top 1% Grew its Wealth by 62% Since 2000: G20 Report

In the News: A G20 Report on Global Wealth Inequality revealed that India's top 1% population increased its wealth by 62% since 2000, highlighting the widening gap between the richest and the rest. The report underscores the urgent need for inclusive economic policies and equitable distribution of resources.

Key Points:

- **Report Release:** The findings were published in the G20 Report on Global Wealth Inequality 2025, focusing on disparities in wealth accumulation among member countries.
- **India's Wealth Growth:** The top 1% of India's population witnessed a 62% increase in their share of national wealth since **2000,** while the bottom 50% saw only marginal growth.
- **Global Context:** The report ranked India among countries with the fastest-growing income inequality, **alongside Brazil and South Africa.**
- **Economic Implications:** The report cautioned that such disparities could impact social mobility, economic stability, and sustainable development goals.
- **Policy Recommendations:** It urged governments to strengthen progressive taxation, expand social safety nets, and promote inclusive digital and financial access
- **G20's Objective:** The G20 aims to address global wealth imbalances by fostering cooperation on taxation reforms, fair trade, and equitable economic growth among its member nations.

India Improves Its Rank in Global Climate Risk Index 2025

In the News: According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2025 released by Germanwatch, India improved its ranking from 7th position in the previous edition to 12th position. The improvement reflects India's increased climate resilience, better disaster preparedness, and progress in renewable energy and adaptation initiatives.

Key Points:

- **Report Release:** The Global Climate Risk Index 2025 was published by Germanwatch, a German environmental think tank, evaluating 180 countries based on their vulnerability to climate-related losses during 2023.
- **India's Performance:** India moved up to the 12th position from 7th in 2024, showing reduced climate vulnerability compared to previous years due to stronger adaption and mitigation measures.
- **Factors Behind Improvement:** The improved ranking is attributed to better early warning systems, enhanced disaster management by NDMA, and expansion of renewable energy capacity under national missions.
- **Government Initiatives:** Programs such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement, and coastal ecosystem restoration contributed significantly to the improvement.
- **Global Context:** The report observed that developing nations like Pakistan, the Philippines, and Mozambique continue to remain among the most affected by extreme weather events globally.

Saalumarada Thimmakka: The Mother of 385 Banyan Trees Bids Farewell

In the News: Renowned environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka, affectionately known as the 'Mother of 385 Banyan Trees,' passed away at the age of 114 in Bengaluru. Her remarkable life was devoted to environmental conservation and tree planting, inspiring generations across India to nurture nature as family.

Key Points:

- **Legacy of Afforestation:** Thimmakka, a native of Hulikal village in Karnataka, along with her husband Chikkayya, planted and nurtured nearly 385 banyan trees along a 4-km stretch between Hulikal and Kudur over several decades.
- **Inspiration and Recognition:** Her dedication earned her national and international recognition, including the Padma Shri award in 2019. She symbolized selfless environmental stewardship and became a role model for sustainable living.
- **Background and Motivation:** Childless in her early years, Thimmakka began planting trees as an expression of love and purpose, treating each sapling as her child and tending to them through droughts and hardships.
- **National Mourning and Tributes:** Leaders, environmentalists, and citizens across India paid tribute to her contributions. Karnataka's Chief Minister and the Union Environment Ministry hailed her as a true guardian of the Earth.
- **Educational and Environmental Impact:** Her life's work continues to inspire planting drives and environmental education programs named after her, encouraging individuals to view afforestation as a lifelong duty.
- **Enduring Symbol:** Saalumarada Thimmakka's legacy stands as a testament to individual commitment in combating environmental degradation, reminding the nation that one person's dedication can shape an enduring green heritage.

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Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026

In the News: The Global Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2026 was released by Germanwatch, assessing the impacts of extreme weather events across countries during 2024. The report highlights growing climate vulnerabilities worldwide and calls for stronger adaptation and resilience measures, especially in developing nations.

Key Points:

- **Report Release:** The Global Climate Risk Index 2026, prepared by Germanwatch, evaluates countries based on the human and economic losses caused by extreme weather events such as floods, heatwaves, cyclones, and droughts during 2024.
- **Global Findings:** The report identifies small island developing states and South Asian countries as among the most affected. It emphasizes the increasing intensity of climate disasters linked to global warming and El Niño patterns.
- **India's Ranking:** India ranked among the high-risk nations in CRI 2026, impacted by severe heatwaves, floods, and cyclonic storms. The report underlined the need for improved climate adaptation policies and urban heat action plans.
- **Top Affected Nations:** Nations such as Mozambique, Pakistan, and the Philippines appeared among the top affected due to recurrent cyclones and heavy monsoon-related damages.
- **Purpose of CRI:** The index serves as a tool to highlight countries most vulnerable to weather-related losses, guiding global discussions on climate justice, adaptation financing, and disaster risk reduction.

SCIENCE AND TECH

Inside India's First Tribal-Focused Genome Project

In the News: India launched its first tribal-focused genome project, a pioneering scientific initiative aimed at decoding the genetic diversity of India's indigenous communities. The project seeks to enhance understanding of tribal population health, genetic traits, and disease patterns while ensuring ethical research and community participation.

Key Points:

- **Project Launch:** The first tribal-focused genome project was launched under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to map the genetic diversity of India's Scheduled Tribes.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to study tribe-specific genetic variations, identify rare hereditary diseases, and improve public health and precision medicine outcomes for indigenous populations.
- **Coverage:** The project will initially cover 50 tribal groups across regions such as the Northeast, Central India, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, representing India's vast ethno-genetic spectrum.
- **Research Partners:** Leading institutes including the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), and AIIMS are key collaborators.
- **Ethical Framework:** The project follows a strict consent-based and culturally sensitive model, ensuring that tribal data remains secure, anonymized, and used only for health research.
- **Global Impact:** The project positions India among global leaders in inclusive genomic research, complementing efforts like the Human Genome Diversity Project and All of Us (USA) initiative.

Repatriation of India's Gold: RBI's New Strategy

In the News: Between 2023 and 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repatriated dozens of tonnes of gold from its overseas vaults to domestic storage facilities, as part of a new strategic approach to strengthen India's foreign exchange reserves and mitigate geopolitical and logistical risks. This marks one of the largest gold relocations in decades, reflecting India's evolving reserve management policy.

Key Points:

- **Strategic Move:** The RBI initiated the repatriation of physical gold held in foreign custodians, including the Bank of England, to secure reserves within India's own vaults.
- **Objective:** The strategy aims to reduce dependence on foreign storage, enhance sovereign control over gold assets, and diversify reserve management amid rising global uncertainties.
- **Scale of Repatriation:** Over 100 tonnes of gold were brought back between 2023–2025, marking the largest transfer since the 1991 economic crisis period when India had pledged gold to raise foreign capital.
- **Storage Facilities:** The gold is now stored in RBI's high-security vaults in Nagpur and Mumbai, equipped with advanced surveillance and climate-control systems.

- **Economic Context:** The move aligns with India's efforts to strengthen its forex reserves, which exceed $650 billion, and hedge against fluctuations in global currencies.
- **Global Practice:** Similar repatriations have been undertaken by countries like Germany, the Netherlands, and Turkey, as part of post-pandemic efforts to ensure strategic control over monetary assets.

Godrej Delivers Human-Rated Vikas Engine for ISRO's this Mission
In the News: Godrej Aerospace successfully delivered a flight-ready, human-rated Vikas Engine to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for use in the Gaganyaan Mission. This marks a significant step toward India's first crewed space mission, as the human-rated engine ensures enhanced reliability and safety for astronauts.
Key Points:
- **Engine Delivery:** Godrej Aerospace handed over the human-rated Vikas Engine to ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru. The engine forms a crucial component of the launch vehicle that will carry the Gaganyaan crew module.
- **Vikas Engine Overview:** The Vikas Engine is a liquid-propellant rocket engine used across various ISRO launch vehicles, including the PSLV, GSLV, and GSLV Mk III (LVM3). It uses UH25 and nitrogen tetroxide as propellants.
- **Human-Rating Significance:** A human-rated engine is designed to meet stricter safety, reliability, and redundancy standards to protect astronauts during flight. The delivered engine underwent extensive testing and quality validation under ISRO's supervision.
- **Role in Gaganyaan:** The engine will power the L110 liquid stage of the LVM3 rocket, which will lift the Gaganyaan crew module into space. The human-rated version minimizes failure risk and ensures stable performance under extreme conditions.
- **Industry Partnership:** Godrej Aerospace has been a long-term industrial partner of ISRO, contributing to propulsion systems and engines since the 1980s. This collaboration underscores India's growing private sector role in space technology.
- **Project Timeline:** With engine delivery completed, ISRO is moving closer to conducting the first uncrewed Gaganyaan test missions in 2025, paving the way for a crewed flight soon after successful trials.

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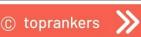**Key Points:**
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ECONOMY

IN-SPACe, SIDBI Launch ₹1,000-Crore Venture Capital Fund
In the News: Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd (SVCL), a subsidiary of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), signed a contribution agreement in Ahmedabad to operationalise a dedicated ₹1,000 crore venture capital fund aimed at boosting India's private space-technology ecosystem.
Key Points:

- **Fund Approval & Structure:** The Union Cabinet approved the fund in October 2024, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) granted approval on 31 October 2025. SVCL was appointed as fund manager in March 2025.
- **Purpose:** The fund will invest in early and growth-stage startups working in launch technologies, satellite systems, in-space services, earth-observation, communication platforms and downstream applications.
- **Strategic Significance:** The initiative aligns with India's objective of building a self-reliant, globally competitive space industry, and marks a major step in enabling private sector participation in space.
- **Implementation Location:** The contribution agreement was signed in Ahmedabad, signalling Gujarat's growing role in India's space ecosystem.

SPORTS

Anish Bhanwala Wins Silver at ISSF World Championships 2025

In the News: Indian shooter Anish Bhanwala won the silver medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the ISSF World Championships 2025 held in Cairo, Egypt. His performance marked a major milestone for Indian shooting on the global stage.

Key Points:
- **Event Achievement:** Anish Bhanwala clinched the silver medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol category after a closely contested final with Germany's Christian Reitz.
- **Venue and Occasion:** The ISSF World Championships 2025 were held in Cairo, Egypt, attracting top shooters from around the world.
- **India's Performance:** This was India's fourth medal at the 2025 edition of the championships, further highlighting the nation's growing prowess in competitive shooting.
- **Athlete Background:** Anish Bhanwala, a Commonwealth Games medallist, has been one of India's most consistent pistol shooters, known for his composure and precision
- **Significance:** The silver adds to India's medal tally and strengthens its preparations ahead of the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.
- **Past Record:** Bhanwala had previously won gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and multiple medals in ISSF World Cups, making this silver a continuation of his remarkable career trajectory.

Belgium and Netherlands to Jointly Host 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup

In the News: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup. This will be the first time two nations co-host the prestigious event, reflecting strong hockey traditions and infrastructure in both countries.

Key Points:
- **Tournament Hosts:** Belgium and the Netherlands were selected by FIH after a competitive bidding process, owing to their advanced sporting facilities, hockey culture, and experience in hosting major international tournaments.
- **Venues:** Matches are expected to be played in leading hockey venues such as Antwerp (Belgium) and Amstelveen (Netherlands), both known for hosting earlier FIH events.
- **Event Schedule:**
- **Historical Context:** The Netherlands will host the World Cup for the fifth time, while Belgium, the 2018 men's World Cup champions, will host it for the first time.
- **Significance:** The joint hosting model aims to promote regional cooperation, sustainability, and audience reach within European hockey. It also aligns with FIH's goal of expanding the sport's global footprint through innovative hosting formats.
- **India's Participation:** As a leading hockey nation and former World Cup host, India is expected to be among the strong contenders, with preparations underway for both the men's and women's teams.

AWARDS

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 Announced, Check The Complete List of Winners

In the News: The Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025, honoring 24 authors for their outstanding contributions to children's literature across Indian languages. The awards recognize books published between 2019

and 2023 and will be formally presented on Children's Day at Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi, reflecting the Akademi's commitment to uplifting creative storytelling and language diversity for young readers.

Key Points:

- **Award Details and Ceremony:** Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 is conferred for excellence in children's literature in 24 Indian languages, encompassing poetry, stories, novels, plays, and articles. Each winner receives an engraved copper plaque and a monetary award of ₹50,000. The decision was made by the Executive Board led by Sri Madhav Kaushik, ensuring a rigorous selection process covering creativity, educational value, and cultural impact.

- **Complete List of Winners by Language:** Assamese: Mainaahantar Padya (Poetry), Surendra Mohan Das , Bengali: Ekhono Gaye Kanta Daye (Stories), Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay , Bodo: Khanthi Bwswn Arw Akhu Danai (Stories), Binay Kumar Brahma , Dogri: Nanhi Tor (Poetry), P.L. Parihar 'Shauq', English: Dakshin: South Indian Myths and Fables Retold (Stories), Nitin Kushalappa MP, Gujarati: Tinchak (Poetry), Kirtida Brahmbhatt , Hindi: Ek Batey Barah (Non-fiction & Memoir), Susheel Shukla , Kannada: Notebook (Short Stories), K. Shivalingappa Handihal , Kashmiri: Shure Te Tchure Gyush (Short Stories), Izhar Mubashir, Konkani: Belabaicho Shanker Ani Heir Kanyo (Stories), Nayana Adarkar, Maithili: Chukka (Short Stories), Munni Kamat, Malayalam: Penguinukalude Vankaravil (Novel), Sreejith Moothedath, Manipuri: Angangshing-Gee Shannabungshida (Play), Shanto Mangang

  Marathi: Abhaimaya (Poetry), Suresh Govindrao Sawant, Nepali: Shanti Van (Novel), Sangmu Lepcha, Sanskrit: Balvisvam (Poetry), Preeti Pujara, Santali: Sona Miru-ag Sandesh (Poetry), Haralal Murmu, Sindhi: Asmani Pari (Poetry), Heena Agnani 'Heer,'Urdu: Qaumi Sitare (Articles), Ghazanfar Iqbal.

- **Genre and Regional Diversity:** This year's awardees represent a rich variety of genres—poetry, stories, plays, and novels—across diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The selections highlight the importance of nurturing children's literature in regional languages and preserving India's multicultural literary heritage.

- **Significance and Impact:** The Bal Sahitya Puraskar promotes age-appropriate, educational, and culturally relevant literature for young Indian readers. The awards support language preservation and inspire new generations of writers to contribute to children's literature, directly impacting literacy, creativity, and cultural understanding nationwide.

Padma Awards 2026: From Bindra to Paes, Here Are India's Sporting Icons in Focus

In the News: The list of Padma Awards 2026 was announced, recognizing exceptional achievements across fields, including notable athletes and sporting icons. Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra, tennis champion Leander Paes, and Olympic javelin star Neeraj Chopra headline this year's roll of honour, reflecting national appreciation for sports excellence and global impact.

Key Points:

- **Awards Overview:** The Padma Awards 2026 encompass Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri, jointly celebrating outstanding contributions in sports, arts, literature, medicine, and public service. Among hundreds of honorees, 23 are women, and several athletes are recognized specifically for inspiring youth and elevating India's global sporting reputation.

- **Abhinav Bindra (Shooting):** India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Bindra receives the Padma Vibhushan for elevating Indian shooting on the world stage and promoting sports science and youth mentorship post-retirement.

- **Leander Paes (Tennis):** Padma Vibhushan: for an illustrious career featuring 18 Grand Slam titles and forging India's legacy in tennis as a champion and coach.

- **Neeraj Chopra (Athletics):** Olympic javelin gold medalist, awarded Padma Bhushan for his global victories and role in inspiring new generations of athletes.

- **Mary Kom (Boxing):** Recognized for achievements in women's boxing and advocacy for sports development, awarded Padma Bhushan.

- **P.R. Sreejesh (Hockey):** Padma Shri recipient, honored for his pivotal role in India's Olympic bronze-winning hockey team and promoting grassroots hockey.

- **Broader Sporting Recognition:** The awards also highlight contributors from wrestling, badminton, kabaddi, and other disciplines, reflecting diversity and the expansion of India's medal-winning sports ecosystem. Many awardees actively mentor aspiring athletes and advocate for advanced training facilities and international cooperation in sports.