

PM Narendra Modi visited Jordan on December 15-16, 2025, his first full-fledged visit to the country. Five MoUs were signed in the areas of renewable energy, water resource management, cultural exchange, digital and twinning between Petra and Ellora. This year is the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. India is Jordan's third largest trading partner. The two countries aim to enhance bilateral trade to US\$ 5 billion over next 5 years. Jordan is a leading supplier of phosphates and potash fertilizers for India. Around 17,500 Indian nationals currently live in Jordan, mostly working in textiles, construction, manufacturing, h etc.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

(21st NOVEMBER 2025 to 20th DECEMBER 2025)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS :

Name of the Book	Author
'The One: Cricket, My Life and More'	Autobiography Of Shikhar Dhawan

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS :

- Oxford University Press's Word of the Year for 2025 is "rage bait," defined as online content designed to provoke anger or outrage for increased engagement, chosen after a public vote and expert analysis highlighting its relevance to online discourse, social unrest, and digital well-being.
- India and Ethiopia strengthened bilateral ties as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Addis Ababa for the first time and oversaw the signing of three MoUs covering customs cooperation, establishment of a data centre at the Ethiopian Embassy, and UN peacekeeping operations. The agreements highlight growing India–Africa engagement, shared commitment to trade facilitation, digital infrastructure, and global peacekeeping, while the ceremonial welcome reflected deepening diplomatic and cultural ties.
- The United States has approved a major arms deal worth \$686 million to provide advanced technology upgrades and sustainment support for Pakistan's F-16 fighter fleet, while stressing that the move will not alter the regional military balance.
- India and Jordan strengthened their bilateral partnership during PM Narendra Modi's official visit to Amman in December 2025, coinciding with 75 years of diplomatic relations. The visit saw the signing of multiple MoUs covering renewable energy, water resource management, digital transformation, cultural exchange, and Petra–Ellora twinning.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed loans worth over \$2.2 billion to fund five major development projects. The initiatives include: Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation Programme (\$846M), Rooftop Solar Systems Development under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (\$650M), Assam State Tertiary Health Care Augmentation Project (\$398.8M), Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project Tranche 2 (\$240M), and Integrated Ecotourism and Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood Development in Meghalaya (\$77M).
- Microsoft has announced a record USD 17.5 billion investment in India for 2026–2029—its largest-ever Asia investment—to strengthen AI infrastructure, population-scale AI solutions and digital sovereignty.
- Lithuania has declared a state of emergency after cigarette-smuggling balloons from Belarus repeatedly violated its airspace, causing airport disruptions and raising concerns about hybrid attacks. The incursions, seen as intentional and destabilising, have forced closures of major airports and threatened civilian safety.
- U.S. and Australia signed a major **Critical Minerals Framework** in October 2025, a \$8.5 billion deal focusing on securing supply chains for essential minerals like rare earths, reducing reliance on China, and boosting defense cooperation, involving joint investments and coordinated development of mining and processing projects.
- TIME magazine has named Indian-origin Neal Mohan, CEO of YouTube, as the 2025 CEO of the Year for his calm leadership, creator-first vision, and AI-driven innovations that strengthened YouTube's global influence.
- A'ja Wilson has been named TIME's 2025 Athlete of the Year for delivering one of the most dominant seasons in basketball history and transforming women's sports through her leadership and cultural influence.
- Forbes released its 2025 World's Most Powerful Women list, topped by Ursula von der Leyen (EU Commission President), followed by Christine Lagarde (ECB President) and Japan's new Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi.
- India achieved a major maritime and diplomatic milestone by being re-elected to the IMO Council Category B with 154 out of 169 votes, the highest in its category.
- India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, reaffirming its global leadership in education, culture, science, and communication.
- A new United Nations report ranks Jakarta (Indonesia) as the world's largest city with 41.9 million people, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh) with 36.6 million, while Tokyo (Japan) slips to third place with 33.4 million residents.
- Armand Duplantis (Sweden) and Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone (USA) were named 2025 World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards, recognizing their record-breaking performances in pole vault and 400 metres respectively.

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- For the first time, India has officially joined the WorldSkills Asia Competition, sending a 23-member contingent to Chinese Taipei on November 24, 2025.
- UNESCO has officially recognized Italian cuisine as Intangible Cultural Heritage, making Italy the first country to receive global recognition for its entire national cuisine.
 - A Group of 20 leaders' summit in South Africa adopted a declaration addressing the climate crisis and other global challenges after it was drafted without US input in a move a White House official called "shameful." The declaration, using language to which Washington has been opposed, "can't be renegotiated," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson told reporters, reflecting strains between Pretoria and the Trump administration over the event.
 - Japan has underlined its commitment to deepen cooperation with India in critical and emerging technologies, including semiconductors and artificial intelligence, during a bilateral meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in South Africa.
 - The long-dormant Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia's Rift Valley erupted after nearly 10,000 years, sending a massive 14-km-high volcanic ash cloud drifting toward India and Pakistan, prompting urgent advisories from the DGCA and global aviation bodies.
 - India and Oman signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18 December 2025 in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, marking a major boost to trade, investment, services, and mobility ties.
 - India and Saudi Arabia have signed a bilateral visa waiver agreement in Riyadh, granting mutual exemption from short-stay visas for diplomatic, special, and official passport holders.
 - India and Argentina have signed the ICAR-INTA Work Plan 2025–27 to boost agricultural research cooperation, technology exchange, and capacity building, with a strong focus on sustainable farming, biotechnology, digital agriculture, germplasm exchange, and climate-resilient practices, strengthening science-led collaboration for food security and modern agriculture.
 - UNESCO has added several endangered traditional arts and crafts to its List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, including Boreendo (Pakistan), Mwazindika Dance (Kenya), and Dong Ho Folk Woodblock Printing (Vietnam).
 - India achieved a major diplomatic and environmental victory at UNEA-7 in Nairobi, with its resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires" adopted by broad support from UN Member States. The resolution emphasizes international cooperation, proactive prevention, capacity building, and an integrated approach linking climate action, biodiversity protection, and disaster risk reduction.
 - The United Arab Emirates has emerged as the world's strongest passport in 2025, topping the Passport Index by Arton Capital with a mobility score of 179, offering access to the most visa-free and visa-on-arrival destinations; Singapore and Spain follow closely, while India ranks 67th globally.
 - Luana Lopes Lara, 29, becomes the world's youngest self-made woman billionaire with a net worth of ~\$1.3B, thanks to her fintech company Kalshi, a prediction market platform that soared to an \$11B valuation in 2025 after a landmark CFTC court victory.
 - Riyadh Metro has been officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's longest fully driverless metro network, covering 176 km, operating across 6 lines and 85 stations, showcasing Saudi Arabia's growing leadership in advanced urban mobility.
 - India achieved a major maritime and diplomatic milestone by being re-elected to the IMO Council Category B with 154 out of 169 votes, the highest in its category.
 - India has been re-elected to the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, reaffirming its global leadership in education, culture, science, and communication.
 - President Putin is set to visit India, marking his first trip post-Ukraine conflict, to reinforce strategic ties under the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. The summit will focus on defence cooperation (S-400 system), energy partnerships, bilateral trade (target US\$100 billion by 2030), technology and space collaboration, and global issues like Ukraine, Indo-Pacific, BRICS, and UN reform. President Droupadi Murmu will host a banquet in his honor. Ahead of the visit, EAM S. Jaishankar met Putin and Lavrov, and India opened two new consulates in Russia, signaling strengthened diplomatic engagement.
 - Gavi and UNICEF announced a breakthrough pricing deal for the R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine, reducing the dose price to US\$ 2.99 to expand access, protect 7 million children, save US\$ 90 million, and enable 30 million more doses.
 - India, Australia, and Canada launched the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership, a trilateral initiative focused on critical and emerging technologies.
 - The United States and Jordan launched Operation Hawkeye Strike in Syria after an ISIS attack in Palmyra killed two US soldiers and injured others, carrying out overnight airstrikes on 70+ ISIS targets using precision-guided weapons.
 - German aerospace engineer Michaela Benthäus will become the first wheelchair-bound astronaut to fly to space on Blue Origin's NS-37 mission.
 - Malaysia plans to ban children under 16 from having social media accounts starting in 2026, part of its new Online Safety Act, requiring platforms to implement eKYC (electronic Know Your Customer) checks with official IDs to enforce the age limit, aiming to protect youth from online harms like cyberbullying and scams, mirroring global trends.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS :

- The Convention on Wetlands declared Siliserh Lake in Alwar, Rajasthan as Indias 96th Ramsar site and Kopra reservoir in Bilaspur Chhattishgarh has also been added to the list.
- President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan on December 16, 2025, on Vijay Diwas. The gallery showcases portraits of all 21 Param Vir Chakra awardees, honoring India's national heroes for their exceptional valour, courage, and self-sacrifice.
- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has announced major reforms in the National Pension System (NPS), allowing non-government subscribers to withdraw up to 80% of their pension corpus, compared to the earlier 60% limit, while only 20% must be invested in an annuity if the corpus exceeds ₹12 lakh.
- Ponduru Khadi of Andhra Pradesh receives Geographical Indication (GI) tag, recognising its fine handspun cotton fabric famed for durability and craftsmanship, historically praised by Mahatma Gandhi.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced India's first wildlife-safe highway on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh, featuring table-top red road markings, wildlife underpasses, and eco-friendly designs. The 11.96 km Hiran–Sindoor stretch passes through the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, areas with frequent animal crossings.
- Deepavali, India's iconic festival of lights, has been added to the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List 2025, recognising its cultural, spiritual, and social significance. The listing strengthens India's global cultural presence, highlights its living heritage, and supports preservation of traditions such as rangoli, diya-making, and folk rituals.
- India Post has opened Kerala's first Gen-Z Post Office Extension Counter at CMS College, Kottayam, offering a youth-centric creative, and sustainable postal experience. Designed "by the students, for the students," the space blends modern amenities, including a work café setup, charging ports, green corners, recreation zones, and a MyStamp-enabled MPCM counter, making postal services more engaging, accessible, and lifestyle-friendly for young users.
- PETA India has declared Kolkata as the Most Vegan-Friendly City of 2025, recognising the city's growing commitment to plant-based living. The award was presented to Mayor Firhad Hakim during World Vegan Month, celebrating Kolkata's wide availability of vegan food, fashion, and lifestyle choices.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) set a Guinness World Record by conducting the largest career advice programme session in a single day in Mumbai, with participation from over 7,400 students and others.
- Operation Sagar Bandhu is India's recent humanitarian and disaster relief mission to aid Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah hit the island in late November 2025, causing severe floods and landslides; India deployed naval ships (like INS Vikrant), Air Force assets, the Indian Army, and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams to deliver essential relief supplies, medical aid, and assist in rescue and infrastructure repair, embodying India's "Neighbourhood First" policy.
- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been renamed 'Seva Tirth', while Raj Bhavan and Raj Niwas across the country will now be known as Lok Bhavan and Lok Niwas, marking a symbolic shift from authority to service in governance.
- Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the Saras Ajeevika Food Festival 2025 in New Delhi, showcasing food that reflects the cultural vibrancy of 25 states, with the event's motto highlighting taste, self-reliance, and indigenous products.
- The Government of India has withdrawn the mandate requiring smartphone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app, following privacy and industry concerns. Launched in 2025 to combat mobile theft, SIM fraud, and unauthorized connections, the app remains voluntary, with over 1.5 crore downloads so far.
- Five products from Tamil Nadu — Woraivur cotton sari, Kavindapadi nattu sakkarai (jaggery powder), Namakkal makkal pathirangal (soapstone cookware), the traditional Thooyamallai rice variety and Ambasamudram choppu saman (wooden toys) — have secured the Geographical Indications (GI) tag, spotlighting the State's diverse.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and Health and National Security Cess Bill, 2025, replacing the GST compensation cess on tobacco, cigarettes, and pan masala.
- Sikkim's traditional Lepcha musical instruments, the three-stringed **Tungbuk** (a plucked string instrument) and the bamboo flute **Pumtong Pulit**, recently received Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has launched a new 24x7 toll-free short helpline 14490 to provide instant support to women facing violence, harassment, or distress across India. The helpline connects callers to legal aid, counselling, and law enforcement, ensuring quick intervention during emergencies.
- ISRO will launch the heaviest US commercial communication low-earth orbit satellite, BlueBird-6, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on December 15.

- Jhulan Goswami received a Doctor of Literature (D.Litt) degree from Bankura University in West Bengal, India. The honorary degree was awarded to recognize her significant contributions to cricket.
- The Vice-President reviewed the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' key initiatives, praising the three-fold budget increase, expansion of EMRS schools, focus on higher education, and efforts to address sickle cell anaemia, while highlighting the need for better healthcare, education access, and effective implementation of schemes like PM-JANMAN, Dharti Aaba Abhiyan, and Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan for true tribal upliftment.
- On 18 December 2025, the Lok Sabha passed the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, replacing MGNREGA to reform rural employment. The Bill increases guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125, introduces a 60-day agricultural pause, implements state-wise budget caps with a new cost-sharing formula, and emphasizes technology-driven governance through biometric attendance, AI fraud detection, and GPS tracking.
- Parliament has passed the SHANTI Bill, 2025, with the Rajya Sabha clearing it on 18 December 2025. The Bill grants statutory status to AERB, strengthens nuclear safety and regulatory oversight, and recognizes Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Bharat Small Reactors as future-ready clean-energy technologies. It expands the definition of nuclear damage to include environmental harm, allows limited private participation, reinforces cybersecurity, and sets ambitious nuclear capacity targets of 100 GW by 2047.
- India is set to establish its first Forest University in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, marking a major step in forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental sciences.
- Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) near Bengaluru has imported eight black-capped capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus apella*) from South Africa under a formal animal exchange programme. The move aims to enhance genetic diversity, scientific zoo management, and ex-situ conservation.
- Jharkhand has approved the Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2025, with Governor Santosh Gangwar giving assent. The law provides a formal welfare and social security framework for gig and platform-based workers across delivery, transport, and on-demand services. A Gig Workers' Welfare Board will oversee registration, identity issuance, and welfare schemes, while the Act mandates minimum wages, medical insurance, and social security benefits. Aggregators violating the law may face fines up to ₹10 lakh, making Jharkhand an early mover in gig economy regulation.
- Deepinder Goyal of Eternal (formerly Zomato) topped the Hurun India Top 200 Self-Made Entrepreneurs 2025, overtaking Radhakishan Damani of DMart, as Eternal's valuation jumped 27% to ₹3.2 lakh crore, reflecting strong startup wealth creation, rising entry thresholds, and India's growing tech-led entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Sai Jadhav (23) has created history by becoming the first woman officer to pass out from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, ending a 93-year male-only tradition.
- Bharat Taxi, a driver-owned ride-hailing platform operated by Sahkar Taxi Cooperative Limited, is set for a full rollout in January 2026.
- The Indian Army achieved a major logistics milestone by inducting tanks and artillery guns into the Kashmir Valley via a special military train, demonstrating enhanced rail-based mobility, rapid deployment capability, and improved operational readiness in a strategically sensitive region.
- India has become the world's largest market for AI apps in terms of daily and monthly active users, according to a Bank of America (BofA) report, driven by high smartphone penetration, affordable data, and a young tech-savvy population.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$240 million loan—the second tranche of the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project—to support the expansion of Chennai's metro network.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella launched MahaCrimeOS AI, an AI-powered crime investigation platform, for the Maharashtra Police, extending next-generation tools to all 1,100 police stations across the state.
- Madhya Pradesh will develop Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve at Nauradehi as its third cheetah habitat before the next monsoon, following Kuno National Park (28 cheetahs) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary (2 cheetahs), strengthening India's cheetah reintroduction programme. As part of the next phase, eight cheetahs from Botswana are expected in January 2026.
- AIIMS Delhi has made medical history by conducting India's first dedicated clinical trial (GRASSROOT trial) of an indigenous brain stent, the Supernova stent, developed by Gravity Medical Technology, demonstrating excellent safety and efficacy in treating severe stroke patients.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Census of India 2027, allocating ₹11,718 crore for what will be India's first digital census, conducted in two phases using a mobile app, a central monitoring portal (CMMS), and innovations like the HLB Creator Web Map Application.
- The Union Cabinet has approved CoalSETU, a new policy creating a dedicated auction-based window under the NRS Linkage Policy to make domestic coal available for any industrial use and up to 50% export, removing earlier end-use restrictions and promoting greater transparency, flexibility, and efficient coal utilisation.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Insurance Amendment Bill, 2025, proposing to raise the FDI limit in insurance from 74% to 100%, a major reform aimed at attracting foreign capital, improving competition, and strengthening service quality in India's insurance sector.
- The Department of Posts and BSE have signed a three-year MoU (2025–2028) to distribute mutual funds through India Post's extensive network, aiming to enhance financial inclusion and investor access in rural and semi-urban areas.
- Gujarat Police's Cyber Centre of Excellence has launched '**Operation Mule Hunt**', a coordinated statewide crackdown targeting mule bank accounts used by cybercriminals, with Deputy CM Harsh Sanghavi directing police units to intensify verification and trace networks up to the masterminds.
- Rajasthan has become the first state in India to achieve 100% digitisation of its electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), thanks to coordinated efforts by BLOs, supervisors, district election officers, and other staff.
- The Maharashtra Government launched the Mahadeva Football Initiative (Project Mahadeva) to provide world-class training facilities for 60 young football players from rural and remote areas.
- Patanjali Group signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Russia, with an aim to promote health, wellness, yoga, Ayurveda, and cultural cooperation between India and Russia.
- Genesys International Corporation Ltd launched India's first 3D(Dimension) subsurface mapping technology and secured a Rs.17.38 crore contract from Bureau Veritas to deploy it across six Adani Group airports (Mumbai, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati, Ahmedabad).
- Ghaziabad emerged as India's most polluted city in November 2025, recording PM2.5 levels of 224 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, according to a CREA study, highlighting severe winter smog across the NCR despite lower farm fires.
- India's new DHRUVA framework aims to digitise and standardise physical addresses by assigning Digital Address Identifiers (DAIs), enabling secure, verified, and interoperable address use across services.
- Deloitte India is launching Tax Pragya, an AI-powered tax research platform, on December 9, 2025, to deliver rapid, insight-driven analysis of tax judgments and legal developments.
- Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off the steel-cutting ceremony for India's first all-electric green tug — marking the beginning of the country's move toward green maritime operations. The tug — being built for Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP) — will feature a 60-ton bollard pull, electric propulsion, zero carbon emissions, and silent operations.
- The government has introduced a paperless, contactless passport verification system via DigiLocker, allowing citizens to securely access and share their Passport Verification Records (PVRs) digitally. This integration ensures tamper-proof verification, easy sharing with authorities, reduced physical paperwork, faster processing, and stronger support for Digital India by bringing PVRs into the ecosystem of official digital documents.
- Victoria University (VU) is set to open its first international campus in Gurugram, India, by mid-2026, becoming one of the first foreign universities licensed under India's NEP 2020 reforms.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin's 2025 state visit to India revived high-level ties after four years, with a grand welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan followed by the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a 77-feet-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram at the historic Shree Samsthan Gokarn Partagali Jeevottam Math in Goa during the Math's 550th anniversary celebrations.
- The Arunachal Dao, a hand-forged tribal blade, has received the GI tag, recognising it as a unique craft rooted in Arunachal Pradesh's cultural heritage.
- The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed three loan agreements worth over \$800 million for projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat, led by the Department of Economic Affairs.
- Centre to invest Rs 4,500 crore in Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, to modernise it into one of the world's most advanced small-node semiconductor centres, boosting wafer production nearly 100 times and supporting students, researchers, and startups.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a bust of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on Constitution Day, calling it a fitting tribute to Ambedkar's pivotal role in drafting the Indian Constitution.
- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has mandated continuous SIM-linking for all messaging apps, including WhatsApp, Telegram, and Arattai, under the Telecommunication Cybersecurity Amendment Rules, 2025.
- In November 2025, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), a premier Research and Development (R&D) centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee), Uttarakhand to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the IIT Roorkee campus, Uttarakhand, for advanced communication technologies.

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- Samsung and the United Nations Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) launched 'DigiArivu' in Tamil Nadu to transform digital and STEM education in government schools, upgrading infrastructure, training teachers, and providing digital tools and libraries for over 3,000 students in Kancheepuram and Ranipet districts, fostering future-ready skills. The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide with hands-on STEM modules, career guidance, and sports support, embodying inclusive learning for India's digital economy.
- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has maintained its lead as India's state with the most Geographical Indication (GI) tagged products, recently adding Mathura Zari Poshak (traditional Krishna attire with gold/silver thread work) and Meerut Bugle (iconic military instrument) to its list, bringing its total to around 79, a significant number that surpasses other states like Tamil Nadu and solidifies its rich cultural and artisanal heritage. These additions, supported by NABARD, highlight UP's unique craftsmanship, from religious textiles to military brassware.
- Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, inaugurated the pellet plant and laid the foundation stone of the K2 Bio Ethanol plant in the district of Rewari in Haryana. The pellet plant will produce 240 tonnes of pellets per day from stubble and help in a clean environment.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi ceremonially hoisted the saffron flag — the Dharma Dhwaj — atop the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on November 25, 2025 marking the completion of the temple's construction. "Today, the city of Ayodhya is witnessing another turning point in India's cultural consciousness."
- On November 28, 2025, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) achieved a Guinness World Record by conducting the largest career guidance session in a single day.
- The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 criminalises polygamy (except in Sixth Schedule tribal areas), making a second marriage without legal dissolution of the first punishable by up to 7 years' imprisonment, and concealment of prior marriage punishable by up to 10 years. Repeat offenders face double penalties.
- At the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2025) in New Delhi, India's rich tribal heritage was showcased under the theme 'Ek Bharat: Shreshtha Bharat', featuring 705 tribal communities.
- On 26 November 2025, the 11-day, 180 km National Padyatra honoring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary began from Anand, Gujarat, organized by Mera Yuva Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has set up a four-member committee led by BP Sharma to review and modernize its employee structure, improve operational efficiency, streamline service delivery, and align roles with digital transformation initiatives.
- The panel aims to address inefficiencies, propose staff reassessments, and enhance member support for 27+ crore subscribers, with the final report due by 31 March 2026.
- On 26 November 2025, the World Bank approved USD 776 million for two major projects: the Punjab Outcomes-Acceleration in School Education (POISE) with \$286M to enhance education quality using technology, benefiting 13 lakh primary and 22 lakh secondary students, plus 59 lakh early childhood learners.
- On 25 November 2025, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) sanctioned \$400 million under the Maharashtra Roads Connectivity for Inclusive Growth Program to upgrade 2,577 km of rural roads and 350 km of state highways across 34 districts, focusing on Marathwada and Vidarbha.
- On 26 November 2025, MapMyIndia Mappls partnered with Zoho to integrate indigenous geospatial tools into Zoho CRM, creating India's first CRM-location intelligence integration. Features like Address Capture, Nearby Lead Finder, Sales Route Optimisation, and Location Visualisation will help businesses enhance sales efficiency, customer mapping, and field operations.
- The fifth edition of IIGF, India's premier multi-stakeholder internet policy forum, will be held on 27–28 November 2025 in New Delhi under the theme "Advancing Internet Governance for an Inclusive and Sustainable Viksit Bharat".
- Andhra Pradesh launched the farmer-focused initiative 'Rythanna Meekosam' on November 24, 2025, aiming to enhance water security, demand-based cultivation, agri-tech adoption, food processing, and provide comprehensive government support under its Five-Point Formula.
- The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 aims to reform India's power sector by promoting cost-reflective tariffs, reducing cross-subsidy, and enabling competition in distribution through shared network use. It strengthens regulatory accountability, protects subsidised tariffs for farmers and low-income households, and supports direct power access for industries to boost competitiveness.
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 proposes bringing Chandigarh under Article 240, placing it under Presidential regulations like other Union Territories without legislatures. This would shift governance from the Governor of Punjab to a centrally appointed Administrator or Lieutenant Governor, aligning Chandigarh's administration with UTs such as Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

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- The Ministry of Education, in partnership with multiple ministries and institutions, will host the fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 4.0) from December 2–10, 2025, celebrating the cultural, spiritual, and linguistic ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative. Themed “Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam”, the event features over 1,400 delegates across seven categories engaging in seminars, heritage walks, and cultural exchanges, along with initiatives like the Sage Agasthya Vehicle Expedition, Tamil teaching in Varanasi schools, and a Tamil learning tour for UP students.
- The Indian Army's Op Drishti—a pioneering advanced eye-surgery camp held at Command Hospital, Udhampur—screened over 2,000 people and conducted 400+ surgeries for cataracts, glaucoma, and retinal disorders, delivering critical healthcare to remote J&K.
- Jammu & Kashmir will hold its first-ever limestone block auction on 24 November 2025 at the Convention Centre, Jammu, marking a major step in transparent mineral allocation and mining sector reforms. The auction aims to attract private investment, boost industrial and construction activity, generate local employment, and enhance Ease of Doing Business in the UT.
- IIM Ranchi has achieved AMBA accreditation and received 4 Palms of Excellence in the Eduniversal Best Business Schools Ranking 2025, placing it among the top 2% of global business schools. These recognitions highlight the institute's curriculum innovation, academic quality, global reputation, and international influence, reinforcing its status as a leader in India's management education.
- In November 2025, the Ministry of Steel (MoS) launched ‘SARAL SIMS’, a new registration process under the Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS). As per MoS, all norms related to new SARAL SIMS and restructured regular SIMS process came into effect from **November 21, 2025**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative postal stamp on Ashwagandha at the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine in New Delhi.
- Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated its first Gen Z Post Office at the AIIMS Vijaypur campus on 17 December 2025, making it the first AIIMS in India to host a youth- and technology-oriented postal facility.
- The Haryana State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to commemorate the 350th martyrdom year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, honoring his supreme sacrifice, religious freedom, and human dignity, during the winter session in Chandigarh.
- ISRO has launched the RESPOND Basket 2025, inviting mission-oriented research proposals from Indian universities and academic institutions. The initiative aims to align academic research with ISRO's current and future space missions, guiding researchers to focus on application-driven projects that address real mission challenges.
- Project Cheetah is expanding in Madhya Pradesh, with **Kuno National Park and Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** already established, and now **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** (part of **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**) is being developed as the third major site for cheetah reintroduction in India. The project aims to create a metapopulation across these central Indian locations for genetic diversity and species survival.
- Darjeeling Mandarin Orange received GI status on 24 November 2025.

APPOINTMENTS :

NATIONAL

Name	Designation
Justice Vikram Nath	Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)
Vivek Chaturvedi	Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
Harmarpreet Kaur	First-Ever Female Brand Ambassador of PNB
Manali Kshirsagar	Nagpur University's first female vice-chancellor in its 100-year history
Jeyandran Venugopal	President & CEO of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd
Dr Renuka Iyer	Chief Medical Officer of NCCN
Ajai Kumar Shukla	MD & CEO of PNB Housing
Sangeeta Barooah	First Woman President of the Press Club of India
Raj Kumar Goyal	Chief Information Commissioner of India
Suresh Goyal	Director General of The National Council of Applied Economic Research
B. Sairam	Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India

INTERNATIONAL

Name	Designation
Paschal Donohoe	MD and CKO of the World Bank Group
Milan Nedeljković	CEO of BMW
Henrique Braun	CEO of The Coca-Cola Company

OBITUARY NEWS :

- Legendary Bollywood actor Dharmendra who got Padma Bhushan in 2012, fondly known as the ‘He-Man’ of Indian cinema, passed away at 89 at his Mumbai residence on November 24, 2025. This article covers his final moments, reactions from the film industry, his vast cinematic legacy, and his contributions spanning over six decades.
- The world of Indian classical dance mourns the loss of a legend — Kumari Kamala, also known as Kamala Lakshminarayanan or Baby Kamala, passed away in California at the age of 91. A child prodigy who went on to become one of the finest exponents of Bharatanatyam, Kamala’s death marks the end of an era deeply tied to the transformation of Sadir into Bharatanatyam — India’s most renowned classical dance form. Kumari Kamala’s contributions were widely recognised through numerous awards.
- ❖ Padma Bhushan (1970) – One of India’s highest civilian honours, conferred for her excellence in the performing arts.
- ❖ Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1968) – India’s premier recognition in the field of music, dance, and drama.
- ❖ US National Heritage Fellowship – Awarded in recognition of her work in promoting Bharatanatyam internationally, especially in the United States.
- Former England cricketer Robin Smith, widely regarded as one of the bravest and most stylish batters of the late 1980s and 1990s, has died at his home in South Perth, Australia, at the age of 62. Smith was renowned for his fearless batting against some of history’s fastest bowlers and leaves behind a remarkable legacy in international cricket.
- Simone Tata, the visionary leader behind Lakmé and founder of Trent and Westside, has passed away at 95. Her pioneering contributions transformed India’s beauty and retail sectors, leaving a legacy of innovation and industry leadership.
- Veteran Bengali actor Kalyan Chatterjee, known for his naturalistic acting style and a prolific career spanning more than five decades, passed away on December 8, 2025, at the age of 81. He was undergoing treatment for typhoid and age-related complications, marking the end of an era for Bengali cinema.
- Sophie Kinsella, the beloved author of the Shopaholic series, has passed away at 55. Her life, bestselling novels, and the joy and inspiration she brought to readers worldwide leave a lasting legacy in modern fiction.
- Senior Congress leader and former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil passed away on 12 December 2025 at his hometown Latur, Maharashtra. He was 90 years old. Patil breathed his last at his residence ‘Devghar’ after a brief illness, according to family sources.
- India lost one of its greatest artists with the passing away of Ram Vanji Sutar the legendary sculptor behind the Statue of Unity, the world’s tallest statue. He passed away on December 17, 2025, at his residence in Noida, at the age of 100 after a long battle with age-related ailments. His death marks the end of an era in Indian art and sculpture.
- Pulitzer Prize winning war correspondent Peter Arnett, famed for frontline reporting from Vietnam to Iraq and iconic live broadcasts from Baghdad during the 1991 Gulf War, has died at 91, leaving behind a defining legacy in war journalism.

AWARDS & HONOURS :**NATIONAL**

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced the winners of the National Gopal Ratna Awards (NGRA) 2025. Arvind Yashwant Patil from Kolhapur, Maharashtra received the Best Dairy Farmer Award. The awards will be presented by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Minister of Panchayati Raj. The awards will be presented on November 26, 2025, during National Milk Day celebrations. The National Gopal Ratna Awards were launched in December 2014.
- The Indian School of Business (ISB) honoured Wipro Founder Chairman Azim Premji with the ISB Research Catalyst Award for his contribution to strengthening India’s research and knowledge ecosystem. The recognition was presented at the third Insights Forum in Mohali, attended by leaders from academia, industry, and government. The event highlighted Premji’s efforts in promoting evidence-based inquiry, supporting research institutions, and fostering data-driven problem-solving. It also emphasised ISB’s focus on applied research and research–industry collaborations to address national challenges.

- Velamala Simmanna has been chosen for the 2025 Lok Nayak Foundation literary award. He is a distinguished Telugu writer who has published more than 100 books. The honour carries a cash prize of ₹2 lakh. The award ceremony will be held on January 18, 2026, marking the death anniversaries of N. T. Rama Rao and Harivansh Rai Bachchan. The awards recognise individuals promoting Telugu language and literature. Four persons received the foundation's Lifetime Achievement Awards: Nori Dattatreddy, Thottakura Prasad, Vemulapalli Raghavendra Choudhary, and Aarien Uday Areti.
- The 'Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' award was won by the Archery Premier League (APL) at the India Sports Awards 2025. The recognition was presented during FICCI TURF 2025, the 15th Global Sports Summit held at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi. The award marked a major milestone in APL's debut year, highlighting its innovative approach to competitive archery. APL was appreciated for showcasing fast-paced archery with enhanced professionalism and strong audience engagement. Organised by the Archery Association of India, the league is recognised as the world's first professional archery league.
- The National Handicraft Awards were established in 1965 to honour exceptional artisans for artistic excellence and contribution to India's cultural heritage. The Shilp Guru Award, introduced in 2002, is the highest national recognition in the handicrafts sector. The awards are organised by the Ministry of Textiles (MoT), not the Ministry of Culture. For 2023 and 2024, a total of 48 awards (12 Shilp Guru and 36 National Awards) were conferred by President Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi. The handicrafts sector employs over 32 lakh people, with 68% women participation, and aims for ₹1 lakh crore exports by 2031–32.

INTERNATIONAL

- Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch became the winner of the Miss Universe 2025 crown in Thailand. Contestants from Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Thailand and Venezuela reached the final round of Miss Universe 2025. Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark crowned Fatima Bosch of Mexico as her successor. Miss Venezuela secured the second runner-up spot. Miss Philippines finished in third place, and Miss Côte d'Ivoire finished in fourth place. India's Manika Vishwakarma exited the competition after failing to reach the Top 12 list.
- Former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development by Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. The award honors Bachelet's lifelong work for human rights, gender equality, and global justice. Sonia Gandhi praised her contributions to public life, rising

From a courageous life marked by suffering, persecution, and exile. She was Latin America's first female Defence Minister, President of Chile, and the first Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). In her acceptance speech, Bachelet praised Indira Gandhi's legacy and called for global harmony and stronger multilateral cooperation.

- The 53rd International Emmy Awards were held in New York City, USA on 24th November 2025. The event was hosted by Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos. The Best Actor award was given to Spain's Oriol Pla for 'I, Addict'. The awards were organised by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS) to honour television works produced outside the United States. The Founders Emmy Award was presented to Dana Walden, Co-Chair, Disney Entertainment. Diljit Dosanjh was nominated for Best Actor for 'Amar Singh Chamkila', but did not win in any category.
- Sweden's Armand Duplantis and America's Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone were named the World Athletes of the Year at the 2025 World Athletics Awards ceremony. Duplantis was recognised for breaking the men's pole vault world record four times in 2025 and remaining undefeated across 16 competitions. He became the first male pole vaulter in modern athletics history to stay unbeaten in a single event for two consecutive years. McLaughlin-Levrone was honoured for winning the women's 400m world title in Tokyo with a record-breaking time of 47.78 seconds. She became the first athlete ever to win world titles in both the 400m flat and 400m hurdles events.
- US President Donald Trump received the inaugural FIFA Peace Prize at the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington. FIFA President Gianni Infantino presented the award. The prize was created to recognise extraordinary contributions to global peace. Trump called the honour one of the greatest of his life and claimed he helped resolve several international conflicts. He said he played a role in the India–Pakistan ceasefire earlier this year, which India denied. Infantino praised Trump's efforts to promote peace and presented him with a medal and certificate. The 2026 World Cup will be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

- Anant Ambani has received the Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare. He is the youngest and the first Asian to be honoured with this award from the Global Humane Society. The award ceremony was held in Washington DC and highlights his dedication to animal protection. The award celebrates his role in establishing Vantara, an initiative for wildlife rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and species conservation. The Global Humanitarian Award is given only to individuals with global impact on animals and people.
- The 2025 ICTP Prize was awarded to Titas Chanda of IIT-Madras and Sthitadhi Roy of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bengaluru. The award recognises their contributions to the theory of quantum many-body systems at the interface of condensed matter and quantum information science. The ICTP Prize is given annually to young scientists from developing countries and was instituted in 1982. The 2025 prize was dedicated to the memory of Italian physicist Giancarlo Ghirardi for his work on the foundations of quantum mechanics.
- Team MRF Tyres has been given the 2025 FIA European Rally Championship team title. The team was officially awarded the title at the FIA AwardsGala. The ceremony marked the end of the 2025 European Rally Championship season. Arun Mammen, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd., represented the team and collected the trophy. Team MRF Tyres remained a consistent performer throughout the season, competing successfully across various rally terrains. MRF Tyres secured the European Rally Team Championship for the third time, having earlier won the title in 2022 and 2023.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Ethiopia's highest award titled 'The Great Honour Nishan of Ethiopia' on December 16, 2025. The award was presented by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali at the Addis International Convention Centre. It recognised Modi's contribution towards strengthening the India-Ethiopia partnership and his visionary global leadership. He became the first global head of state to receive this honour.
- The Indian movie 'Homebound' has been shortlisted for the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards. Homebound, directed by Neeraj Ghaywan, is among 15 films that have qualified for the final nominations in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars 2026. The International Feature Film shortlist represents cinema from different countries across the world. The shortlist determines eligibility for the final Oscar nominations. The official list of final nominations in the shortlisted categories will be announced on January 22, 2026. The 98th Academy Awards ceremony will be held on March 15, 2026.

SPORTS NEWS :

- Indian boxers won a total of 20 medals at the World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, including 9 gold, 6 silver, and 5 bronze medals. It was the first time India achieved victories in all weight categories in any global championship of this sport. The competition was organized from 13 to 20 November 2025 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex in Greater Noida. It featured approximately 130 boxers from 18 countries, covering various weight categories for both men and women. For the first time, an AI-assisted scoring review system was introduced in the tournament. India set a record by winning 7 gold medals in a single day, achieving a "Daily Gold Sweep."
- The Indian women's blind cricket team won the first Women's T20 World Cup Cricket for the Blind 2025 held in Sri Lanka. India defeated Nepal by 7 wickets to claim the title. Each player received Rs 1 lakh as prize money announced by the Chintes Group. Mehreen was named Player of the Tournament. The event was organised under the World Blind Cricket Council (WBCC). Player categories included B1 (completely blind), B2 (partially blind), and B3 (partially sighted).
- India defeated Chinese Taipei 35–28 in the final of the Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025 held in Dhaka. The victory marked India's second consecutive World Cup title, following the 2012 edition in Patna. The tournament was the second edition of the Women's World Cup, not the first. India won all four group-stage matches and defeated Iran 33–21 in the semifinal. Chinese Taipei reached the final unbeaten, defeating Bangladesh 25–18 in the semifinal. A total of eleven countries participated in the tournament, showing kabaddi's global reach.
- India concluded its Deaflympics shooting campaign in Tokyo with a record total of 16 medals. India won 16 out of 39 medals during 10 days of competition. The tally included 7 gold, 6 silver, and 3 bronze medals. Mahit Sandhu was the top performer with 4 medals (2 gold, 2 silver). Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Prashant Dhumal each won 2 gold and 1 silver medal. Dhanush Srikanth secured 2 gold medals in 10m air rifle individual and mixed team events. Mohammed Murtaza Vania won 1 silver and 1 bronze medal. Komal Milind Waghmare earned 2 bronze medals. Anuya Prasad won gold in women's 10m air pistol. Shourya Saini got silver in 50m rifle 3 positions. Kushagra Singh Rajawat earned bronze in 50m rifle prone.

- The FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup will be held in Tamil Nadu from November 28 to December 10. Japan, Chile, Spain, and Austria arrived in India on 24 and 25 November to participate in the tournament. Japan arrived in Chennai and will compete in Pool C with Argentina, China, and New Zealand. Chile landed in Chennai, placed in Pool B with India, Oman, and Switzerland, and will begin their campaign on 28 November against the host team. Spain, bronze medallists in 2005 and 2023, are grouped with Belgium, Egypt, and Namibia and will play against Egypt on November 28. Austria, making their second Junior World Cup appearance after debuting in 2016, has been placed in Pool E with England, Malaysia, and the Netherlands.
- The hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games were awarded to Ahmedabad. The decision was confirmed at the General Assembly in Glasgow. Delegates from 74 Commonwealth nations approved the Proposal, marking India's second hosting after New Delhi 2010. The selection supports India's ambition to bid for the 2036 Olympic Games. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya termed it a milestone toward making India a sporting powerhouse by 2047. The city's vision builds on Glasgow 2026 and highlights India's cultural and sporting strengths.
- Jawokhir Sindarov, aged 19 from Uzbekistan, won the Chess World Cup 2025 title by defeating Wei Yi of China in a tiebreak finale held in Goa on November 26. He became the youngest player to win the Chess World Cup. Sindarov entered the event as the 16th seed. He is the third teenage player to win major chess events in the past year. In 2024, D. Gukesh won the World Championship, and Divya Deshmukh won the Women's Chess World Cup title.
- Rohit Sharma has been appointed as the tournament ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. He captained India to victory in the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup. He has scored 4,231 T20I runs at an average of 32.01 and a strike-rate of 140.89. He was part of India's successful campaigns in 2007 and 2024. In 2007, he scored 88* runs including key innings in Super Eights and the final. In 2024, he was India's highest run-scorer with 257 runs at a strike-rate of 156.70.
- India achieved 8th place in its first appearance at the World Skills Asia Competition 2025. It competed with 29 participating nations and earned one silver medal, two bronze medals, and three Medallions for Excellence. The wins covered both traditional and technology-oriented Skill areas. Minister Jayant Chaudhary commended the achievement. He stated that each award reflects the effort of competitors and trainers. He added that it shows the growing capability of India's skills ecosystem. Over 500 participants took part in the event across 44 distinct skill categories.
- India B (Manipur) defeated Colombia by 8–5 to win the 15th Manipur Polo International Tournament 2025. The tournament was held as part of the Sangai Festival 2025. The final took place at the historic Mapal Kangjeibung, one of the world's oldest polo grounds. Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla led the closing ceremony, released the event souvenir, and presented awards. The event featured international teams, enhancing Manipur's global sporting stature and celebrating its equestrian tradition.
- Virat Kohli made a record-breaking 52nd ODI century in Ranchi, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar for the most centuries in a single format. He scored 135 runs off 120 balls at a strike rate of 112.50 in the ODI series opener against South Africa on 30 November. Kohli also recorded his sixth ODI century against South Africa, overtaking Tendulkar and David Warner for the most ODI centuries against that team. He achieved his 59th fifty-plus score in ODIs at home, surpassing Sachin's record. In the same match, Rohit Sharma broke Shahid Afridi's world record for the most sixes in ODI history by hitting three sixes and reaching a total of 352 sixes in his 277th match.
- The Indian men's hockey team was declared runner-up at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup after a 0–1 loss to Belgium in the final in Ipoh, Malaysia. Belgium secured their maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title, with Thibault Stockbroekx scoring the only goal of the match. A second-string Indian team was fielded, as skipper Harmanpreet Singh and several senior players were not part of the squad. This was India's second consecutive runners-up finish, with their last appearance in 2019 also ending in a final defeat.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed Harmanpreet Kaur as its first woman brand ambassador to launch new products and strengthen innovation-driven customer outreach. The announcement was made during a ceremony themed "Banking on Champions" at PNB's corporate office in New Delhi. Kaur received a framed PNB jersey with her name and number, symbolizing her association with the bank's identity.
- Arjun Erigaisi secured the Jerusalem Masters 2025 title by defeating Viswanathan Anand in the final. Arjun reached the final by defeating Russian Grandmaster Peter Svidler in the semifinal. Viswanathan Anand reached the title match by winning over Ian Nepomniachtchi. Erigaisi received a prize money of 55,000 US dollars for his victory. In the third-place playoff, Peter Svidler claimed third place by defeating Ian Nepomniachtchi.
- Rohit Sharma became the fourth Indian to cross 20,000 international runs. The milestone was achieved on 6 December during the third ODI against South Africa. The record was reached across all three formats—Tests, ODIs, and T20Is. He has been a consistent opener for India for over a decade. His performances have contributed significantly to India's success in white-ball cricket. Earlier in the series, he surpassed the record for most ODI sixes.

- Simranpreet Kaur Brar won the gold medal in women's 25m pistol at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 held in Doha, Qatar. She scored 41 hits out of 50 shots, equalling the Junior World Record of Paris Olympics Champion Yang Ji-In of South Korea. In men's 50m rifle 3-positions, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won the silver medal with a total score of 413.3. Jiri Privratsky of Czechia won gold with 414.2 under the ISSF's new 40-shot format. Liu Yukun of China secured the bronze medal. India stood second on the medal tally with five medals — two gold, two silver, and one bronze.
- Lando Norris won his first Formula One World Championship in 2025. He finished third in the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, securing the points needed for the title. The result gave McLaren its first Drivers' Championship in Over ten years. Max Verstappen won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix for his Eighth win of the year. Oscar Piastri finished second, supporting McLaren's title push. Charles Leclerc and George Russell finished behind, unable to challenge Norris' lead.
- India is hosting the Squash World Cup for the third consecutive time in Chennai. The event is held at the SDAT Stadium from 9 December to 14 December. Twelve nations are participating, including host India and Defending champions Egypt. Each team comprises two men and two women players. Matches follow the 2023 Games format of seven points with a sudden death tiebreak at 6–6. Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar represent India in the men's category.
- In badminton, Sanskar Saraswat won the Men's Singles title at the 2025 Guwahati Masters. He defeated Mithun Manjunath with scores of 21-11, 17-21, 21-13 in the final. It was the first Super 100 title of Sanskar Saraswat. In Men's Doubles, Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and K. Sai Pratheek lost to Malaysia's Aaron Tai and Kang Khai Xing by 21-13, 21-18. The 2025 Guwahati Masters was held at the Sarju Sarai Indoor Sports Complex, Guwahati, Assam from 2 to 7 December 2025.
- Sarvagya Singh Kushwaha of Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, became the youngest player to earn a FIDE chess rating at three years, seven months, and twenty days. He debuted with a rating of 1572, surpassing the 1400 threshold after scoring against rated players. He broke the previous youngest-rating record set in November 2024 by Anish Sarkar. Sarvagya has defeated three international chess players and is currently studying in nursery.
- A'ja Wilson was named TIME's Athlete of the Year 2025 for setting historic milestones in women's basketball. She became the first athlete in either the WNBA or NBA to win a championship, Finals MVP, League MVP, and Defensive Player of the Year in one season. She also won the scoring title and became the fastest player in the history of the North American Women's Elite League to reach 5,000 career points. She joined Bill Russell, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and LeBron James as one of only four players to win four MVP titles before turning 30. Her season included leading the Las Vegas Aces through a turnaround that ended in a 16-game winning streak and a 4-0 Finals sweep. She captured her third WNBA championship title with this victory.
- Germany defeated Spain in the final of the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup at SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai in December 2025. The match ended 1-1 in regulation time, and Germany won 3-2 in the shootout. It was Germany's eighth title in the tournament. India beat Argentina 4-2 to claim the bronze medal.
- Squash is played in a four-walled court using a hollow rubber ball. India won its maiden SDAT Squash World Cup title in Chennai on December 14, 2025. India defeated top-seed Hong Kong 3-0 in the final match. Joshna Chinappa defeated Ka Yi Lee in her match, not lost.
- The FEI Asian Equestrian Championship 2025 was held from 24 November to 7 December 2025 at the Thai Polo and Equestrian Club, Pattaya, Thailand. It was organized by the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (Fédération Equestre Internationale – FEI). Thailand topped the medal table with 7 medals (3 gold, 0 silver, 4 bronze). Hong Kong secured 7 medals (0 gold, 2 silver, 5 bronze), and India won 5 medals (1 gold, 4 silver, 0 bronze). The championship is a continental event held once every two years, with the 2025 edition being the second after 2019.
- The 68th National Shooting Championship was held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi. Manu Bhaker won the gold medal in the senior women's 25m sports pistol event and scored 36 points in the final. Simranpreet Kaur Brar won the gold medal in the junior women's 25m sports pistol event by scoring 39 points. Divya T.S. of Karnataka secured the silver medal, while Anjali Choudhary won bronze in the senior category. Manu Bhaker is a double Olympic medallist, and Simranpreet Kaur Brar is an ISSF World Cup Final 2025 gold medallist.
- India secured a total of 56 medals at the Dubai 2025 Asian Youth Para Games. The medals included 19 gold in the event concluded on 13 December. The Games were held under the patronage of Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Around 1,500 athletes from 35 countries participated in the competition. A total of 25 records were made, including 9 world records and 16 Asian records. Uzbekistan topped the medals tally with 197 medals including 99 gold. Iran ranked second with 216 medals and 62 gold. The Dubai Games introduced AI-powered robots into official operations for the first time.

THEME OF IMPORTANT DAYS :

Important Days	Theme for 2025
World Television Day (21st November)	TV is Changing. Its Power Remains
World AIDS Day(1st December)	Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response.
International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)(3rd December)	Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress
Navy Day (4th December)	Combat Ready, Cohesive, Credible, and Aatmanirbhar Force.
World Soil Day (5th December)	Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities
International Volunteer Day (5th December)	Every contribution matters
International Civil Aviation Day (7th December)	Safe Skies and a Sustainable Future for All.
International Anti-Corruption Day (9th December)	Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity.
World Human Rights Day (10th December)	Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials.
International Mountain Day (11th December)	Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond
Universal Health Coverage Day (12th December)	Unaffordable health costs?
International Migrants Day (18th December)	My Great Story: Cultures and Development

SUMMITS, CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS :

Events	Locations
7th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly 2025	Nairobi, Kenya
HARTH Summit 2025	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
20th session of the Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)	Red Fort ,New Delhi
India's Northeast, the Regional Artificial Intelligence Impact Conference 2025	State Convention Centre in Shillong, Meghalaya
44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
20th G20 Leaders' Summit 2025	
The theme of this year's G20 has been 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability'	Johannesburg, South Africa
Sixth International Agronomy Congress (IAC 2025)	New Delhi
56th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	Panaji,Goa
WorldSkills Asia Competition 2025	Chinese Taipei
Chanakya Defence Dialogue (CDD) 2025	New Delhi
23rd India–Russia Annual Summit 2025	New Delhi
11th India International Science Festival (IISF 2025)	
The theme of IISF 2025 is "Vigyan Se Samruddhi: for Atma Nirbhar Bharat", aiming to celebrate science-led growth and strengthen self-reliance in India.	Panchkula,Haryana
2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025	Bharat Mandapam , New Delhi
Regional AI Impact Conference	Odisha

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION :

- India and the Netherlands have strengthened their economic partnership by establishing a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC).
- India has once again secured a seat on the UNESCO Executive Board for the 2025–2029 term, marking a reaffirmation of its growing global leadership in promoting education, culture, science, and communication through multilateral cooperation.
- The Lok Sabha on December 16, 2025 passed a resolution to refer a bill ('Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill') to set up a 13-member body for regulating higher education institutions to a joint committee of Parliament.
- The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today has approved for the Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient & Transparent Utilisation (CoalSETU) by creation of new window named "CoalSETU window" in the NRS Linkage Policy to utilise coal for any industrial use and export. The new policy adds to the series of coal sector reforms being undertaken by the Government.

APPS, PORTALS, SCHEMES :

- Assam has introduced the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, aiming to criminalise polygamy and strengthen women's rights by imposing strict penalties, including up to 7 years' imprisonment, 10 years for concealed marriages, and double punishment for repeat offences.
- Andhra Pradesh launched the farmer-focused initiative 'Rythanna Meekosam' on November 24, 2025, aiming to enhance water security, demand-based cultivation, agri-tech adoption, food processing, and provide comprehensive government support under its Five-Point Formula.
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has mandated continuous SIM-linking for all messaging apps, including WhatsApp, Telegram, and Arattai, under the Telecommunication Cybersecurity Amendment Rules.
- The Government of India has withdrawn the mandate requiring smartphone makers to pre-install the Sanchar Saathi app, following privacy and industry concerns.
- Bharat Taxi, a driver-owned cooperative ride-hailing platform, has launched pilot operations in Delhi and Gujarat under the Sahakar Se Samriddhi initiative.
- The Haryana government has revised the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana (DDLLY), shifting financial assistance from ₹2,100 monthly to ₹6,300 quarterly, starting December 2025.
- NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub, in collaboration with IBM, unveils a quantum technology roadmap targeting global leadership by 2047.
- Amit Shah inaugurated Banas Dairy's Bio-CNG and Fertilizer Plant in Gujarat, calling it a major milestone in White Revolution 2.0.
- Rajasthan has become the first Indian state to achieve 100% digitisation of voter rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme, significantly improving accuracy, transparency, and efficiency in electoral processes.
- Maharashtra launched Project Mahadeva, a comprehensive grassroots football programme for under-13 boys and girls, aiming to nurture talent through long-term scholarships and structured training.
- Maharashtra set a Guinness World Record by installing 45,911 off-grid solar agricultural pumps in 30 days, showcasing its leadership in renewable energy, solar irrigation, and sustainable agriculture.
- Union Cabinet has approved a major update to MGNREGS, renaming it as Poojya Bapu Grameen Rozgar Yojana and increasing guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125 days under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. Along with that the number of guaranteed workdays will be increased from 100 to 125 days. This move aims to strengthen rural livelihoods and improve income stability for millions of households that depend on the programme.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella launched MahaCrimeOS AI, an AI-powered crime investigation platform, for the Maharashtra Police, extending next-generation tools to all 1,100 police stations across the state.
- AIIMS Delhi has made medical history by conducting India's first dedicated clinical trial (GRASSROOT trial) of an indigenous brain stent, the Supernova stent, developed by Gravity Medical Technology, demonstrating excellent safety and efficacy in treating severe stroke patients.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced India's first wildlife-safe highway on NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh, featuring table-top red road markings, wildlife underpasses, and eco-friendly designs.
- India and Argentina have signed the ICAR–INTA Work Plan 2025–27 to boost agricultural research cooperation, technology exchange, and capacity building, with a strong focus on sustainable farming, biotechnology, digital agriculture, germplasm exchange, and climate-resilient practices, strengthening science-led collaboration for food security and modern agriculture.

- Jharkhand has approved the Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2025, with Governor Santosh Gangwar giving assent. The law provides a formal welfare and social security framework for gig and platform-based workers across delivery, transport, and on-demand services.
- In a significant step toward gender equality and inclusive economic development, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and UN Women signed a Memorandum of Understanding under the Womaniya Initiative. The move supports Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on Gender Equality and strengthens women's participation in public procurement.
- India achieved a major diplomatic and environmental victory at UNEA-7 in Nairobi, with its resolution on "Strengthening the Global Management of Wildfires" adopted by broad support from UN Member States.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY :

- India has taken a significant step in strengthening its deep tech innovation ecosystem with IIT Bombay unveiling the country's first academia-linked deep tech venture capital fund. The Rs 250-crore initiative aims to accelerate the transition of high-end research into scalable commercial ventures.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has announced a \$17.5 billion investment to strengthen India's Artificial Intelligence capabilities following a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The commitment marks Microsoft's largest-ever investment in Asia and signals a major boost to India's ambition of becoming a global AI powerhouse.
- The US Food and Drug Administration has approved AIM-NASH, the world's first AI-based tool designed to support liver disease drug trials. The technology aims to make biopsy interpretation for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) faster, more consistent and more reliable for clinical research.
- India has begun a major push to build its own sovereign artificial intelligence ecosystem with the launch of BharatGen Technology Foundation at IIT Bombay. The initiative aims to develop a Large Language Model tailored to India's multilingual and multicultural environment, reflecting regional accents, scripts, and communication patterns.
- The government has implemented an AI-enabled pilot to improve local monsoon onset forecasting for farmers ahead of the Kharif 2025 season. The initiative, conducted with the Development Innovation Lab-India, demonstrates how advanced modelling can support agricultural planning at scale. The pilot used an open-source blended model combining Google's NeuralGCM, ECMWF's Artificial Intelligence Forecasting System and 125 years of IMD rainfall data.

AGREEMENT/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) :

- US approved \$93 million (~₹775 crore) military sales to India, including FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missiles and M982A1 Excalibur precision-guided artillery
- India expanded its Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility for UAE nationals to nine airports, adding Cochin, Calicut, and Ahmedabad to the existing six.
- India, Australia, and Canada launched the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership, a trilateral initiative focused on critical and emerging technologies.
- Gavi and UNICEF announced a breakthrough pricing deal for the R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine, reducing the dose price to US\$ 2.99 to expand access, protect 7 million children, save US\$ 90 million, and enable 30 million more doses.
- World Bank approved USD 776 million for two major projects: the Punjab Outcomes-Acceleration in School Education (POISE) with \$286M to enhance education quality using technology, benefiting 13 lakh primary and 22 lakh secondary students, plus 59 lakh early childhood learners.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) sanctioned \$400 million under the Maharashtra Roads Connectivity for Inclusive Growth Program to upgrade 2,577 km of rural roads and 350 km of state highways across 34 districts, focusing on Marathwada and Vidarbha.
- Jakarta has overtaken Tokyo as the world's most populous city, reaching 42 million people, as per the UN World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 report, which uses a new standardised methodology to map functional urban areas.
- Asian Paints has signed a 3-year partnership with the BCCI as Team India's official colour partner, covering 110 matches across men's, women's, and domestic cricket.
- India formalised a ₹7,900 crore agreement with the United States under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme to ensure the long-term sustainment of its MH-60R Seahawk helicopter fleet.
- India signed \$800+ million in ADB agreements to boost clean energy, urban transport, skill development, and ecological restoration across four states.

- Funds will support solar-powered irrigation in Maharashtra, the Indore Metro in Madhya Pradesh, a skill-upgradation program in Gujarat, and wetland–fisheries revival in Assam, reinforcing India’s push for sustainable growth, renewables, and inclusive development.
- Tata Electronics and Intel have signed a landmark MoU to advance semiconductor manufacturing and packaging in India, focusing on chip fabrication in Dholera, Gujarat, and advanced packaging in Guwahati, Assam, as part of the India Semiconductor Mission.
- Adani Group has announced a ₹2,500 crore investment to build a 48-MW AI-powered green data centre in Telangana, aimed at strengthening India’s digital infrastructure and meeting rising demand for cloud, AI, and high-performance computing (HPC) services.
- Microsoft has announced a record US\$17.5 billion investment in India for 2026–2029—its largest-ever Asia investment—to strengthen AI infrastructure, population-scale AI solutions, and digital sovereignty
- Department of Posts and BSE have signed a three-year MoU (2025–2028) to distribute mutual funds through India Post’s extensive network, aiming to enhance financial inclusion and investor access in rural and semi-urban areas
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$240 million loan—the second tranche of the Chennai Metro Rail Investment Project—to support the expansion of Chennai’s metro network
- United Arab Emirates has emerged as the world’s strongest passport in 2025, topping the Passport Index by Arton Capital with a mobility score of 179, offering access to the most visa-free and visa-on-arrival destinations; Singapore and Spain follow closely, while India ranks 67th globally, indicating comparatively limited travel freedom, even as countries like the UK, US, and Canada see a decline in passport strength.
- India and Jordan strengthened their bilateral partnership during PM Narendra Modi’s official visit to Amman in December 2025, coinciding with 75 years of diplomatic relations.
- The visit saw the signing of multiple MoUs covering renewable energy, water resource management, digital transformation, cultural exchange, and Petra–Ellora twinning.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed loans worth over \$2.2 billion on 15 December 2025 to fund five major development projects.
- India and Brazil have signed a tripartite MoU between the Indian Navy, Brazilian Navy, and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) to share information on the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines and other naval platforms.
- India and Ethiopia strengthened bilateral ties as Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Addis Ababa for the first time and oversaw the signing of three MoUs covering customs cooperation, establishment of a data centre at the Ethiopian Embassy, and UN peacekeeping operations.
- India and Saudi Arabia have signed a bilateral visa waiver agreement in Riyadh, granting mutual exemption from short-stay visas for diplomatic, special, and official passport holders
- India and Oman signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18 December 2025 in the presence of PM Narendra Modi and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, marking a major boost to trade, investment, services, and mobility ties.
- India and the Netherlands have strengthened their economic partnership by establishing a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) through a signed MoU.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved 16 new sovereign projects for India, focusing on human capital, renewable energy, urban development, and essential services. Around 32% of projects target Human & Social Development, 26% focus on Energy, mainly renewables, and over 18% on Urban Development.
- India and Liberia have taken a significant step toward strengthening global health collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in the field of pharmacopoeia. The agreement focuses on developing shared medicine quality standards, improving regulatory alignment, and expanding access to safe, effective and affordable medicines. The MoU was signed in Monrovia by India’s Ambassador Manoj Bihari Verma and Liberia’s Health Minister Dr. Louise M. Kpoto, marking an important milestone in India–Liberia bilateral health relations.
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India’s specialised university for the transport and logistics sector, has entered into a new partnership with Amazon, one of the largest e-commerce companies in the world. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen learning, research, and innovation in the logistics and warehousing fields.

- In a strategic move to modernize its operations and secure its digital infrastructure, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), India's largest iron ore producer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. This partnership marks a significant step in strengthening cybersecurity measures and advancing the use of digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) across NMDC's operations.
- India–Russia relations continue to evolve in a changing global order. President Vladimir Putin's 2025 India visit, Russia has approved the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Support (RELOS) agreement, marking a major milestone in bilateral defence cooperation. The agreement comes at a time when India seeks strategic flexibility from the Indo-Pacific to Eurasia, while Russia aims to deepen Asian partnerships amid shifting geopolitical realities. (Leaders set a target to raise bilateral trade to 100 billion US dollars by 2030 from 68.7 billion dollars in 2024–25. Fast-tracked negotiations began for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union to ease trade in goods and services)

IMPORTANT INDEXES AND REPORTS :

- The Asia Power Index (API) 2025 is an annual assessment published by the Australia-based Lowy Institute, a leading international policy think tank. It measures how effectively nations in the Indo-Pacific region can influence their external environment through economic strength, military capability, diplomacy, cultural influence, resilience, and future resources.
In the 2025 edition of the Asia Power Index, India secured the 3rd position overall with a comprehensive power score of 40.0 out of 100, placing it behind only the United States and China.
- The Top 10 Air Defence Systems in the World highlight how modern militaries are adapting to rapidly evolving aerial threats.
 - ❖ S-500 Prometheus (Developed by Russia)
 - ❖ S-400 Triumph ((Developed by Russia))
 - ❖ Barak-8 (Jointly developed by India and Israel)
- Multinational corporations continue to dominate the global economy, and the 2025 Hurun Global 1000 Report clearly reflects this trend. Released recently, the report ranks the 1,000 most valuable companies worldwide, expanding from the earlier list of 500 companies.
- Nvidia has overtaken both Microsoft and Apple to become the world's most valuable company in 2025, driven by the unprecedented boom in artificial intelligence (AI) technologies. No Indian company features in the global top 10.
- According to the Centre for Global Development's Commitment to Development Index (CDI) 2025, India ranks 36th overall among the countries evaluated. This ranking is a result of a mixed performance across the eight policy components, with a single standout strength but several areas of significant concern.
- Among the 145 centrally protected ticketed monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Taj Mahal in Agra emerged as the most visited monument ((Domestic Tourists) in FY 2024–25)—a title it continues to retain year after year.
- India has emerged as the third most competitive country in AI globally, according to Stanford University's Global AI Vibrancy Tool report, moving up from seventh in 2023.

Name of the Index	India's Rank	Top Country
The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Index 2025/26 has painted a sobering picture of women's wellbeing across the globe. While some nations continue to excel, a majority are witnessing stagnation or reversal of gains achieved over three decades. For government exam aspirants and concerned readers, this latest index offers critical insight into global gender realities.	131st	Denmark 181. Afghanistan (Last Ranked Country)

~~DEFENCE NEWS AND EXERCISES :~~

- The India-UK Joint Military Exercise ‘AJEYA WARRIOR-25’ commenced in Rajasthan. The eighth edition of the exercise began at the Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, under a United Nations mandate. The 14-day bilateral training program is scheduled from 17 to 30 November 2025 as part of long-standing military cooperation. Equal representation from the Indian Army and the British Army was ensured with a total of 240 participating personnel. The Sikh Regiment troops have been designated as the Indian Army’s representatives for the exercise. The exercise aims to strengthen tactical proficiency and improve joint operational responses between both forces. AJEYA WARRIOR, held biennially since 2011, has evolved into a flagship defence engagement for both nations.
- The 19th edition of the annual bilateral military Exercise Suryakiran is scheduled to be held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, from November 25 to December 8. The joint exercise is organised annually between the Indian army and the Nepali Army. Its conduct alternates between the two nations as part of long-standing defence cooperation. Preparatory procedures and deployment plans have been finalised by both armies. The exercise aims to deepen operational synergy in counter-terrorism and jungle warfare in mountainous terrain.
- India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti-2025 has begun at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. This is the fifth edition of the exercise, conducted from 5 to 18 December 2025. DOGRA Regiment represents the Indian contingent, and the 25th Battalion Royal Malaysian Army represents Malaysia. The exercise aims to practice sub-conventional operations under UN Chapter VII mandate. It includes joint responses during counter-terrorist operations and casualty evacuation simulations. The objective is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies.
- The 14th edition of the India-Maldives bilateral exercise EKUVERIN began on 2 December in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. It is conducted between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability in counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism operations. Training focuses on semi-urban, jungle, and coastal terrains. Integration of niche military technologies is a key component of the exercise. Both nations share operational best practices to promote regional security. The term “Ekuverin” means “Friends”, symbolizing friendly ties between India and the Maldives.
- The second edition of the India-UAE joint military exercise ‘Desert Cyclone’ will be held from 18 to 30 December, 2025 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The Indian contingent comprises 45 personnel mainly from a battalion of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment. The UAE Land Forces contingent will also be of similar strength, represented by the 53 Mechanized Infantry battalion. The objective is to enhance interoperability between the Indian Army and the UAE Land Forces through joint training in an urban environment and to promote defence cooperation. The first joint military exercise ‘Desert Cyclone’ between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was conducted from 2 to 15 January, 2024 at Mahajan in Rajasthan.
- The United States formally declared Saudi Arabia a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA), marking a historic upgrade in bilateral relations. A total of 20 countries, including Pakistan, Kenya, Tunisia and Brazil, have MNNA status. The status brings Riyadh on par with Israel in terms of military and economic privileges. In 2016, the United States recognized India as a “major defense partner” but not as a non-NATO ally. Both countries finalized a strategic cooperation deal covering defense, artificial intelligence (AI), civil nuclear energy, and essential minerals.
- The Indian Navy’s Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation Seminar Swavlamban 2025 will begin in New Delhi. The seminar is scheduled from 25 to 26 November 2025 at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi. It will be the 4th edition of the Indian Navy’s Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation Seminar. The Curtain Raiser Press Conference was held on 20 November 2025 under the chairmanship of VAdm Sanjay Vatsayan, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff. The theme for Swavlamban 2025 is “Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation.” The event will include the launch of the ‘Innovathon’ and release of the Compendium of Technology Challenges and Problem Statements.
- India recorded its highest-ever defence production of ₹1.54 lakh crore during 2024–25. Defence exports were ₹23,622 crore in 2024–25. Defence exports were less than ₹1,000 crore in 2014. The rise in defence production is due to continued government support over the past decade. The defence budget increased to ₹6.81 lakh crore in 2025–26 from ₹2.53 lakh crore in 2013–14. The expansion reflects the government’s commitment to strengthening military infrastructure. The government aims to achieve ₹3 lakh crore in defence manufacturing. The government also targets ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029.
- On 24 November, the first Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft named “Mahe” was commissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The ceremony was presided over by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi. The event was hosted by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command. Mahe has over 80% indigenous content, showcasing India’s progress in ship design and maritime self-reliance. It is a sleek and swift combatant capable of operating as a Silent Hunter in coastal waters. The craft strengthens India’s maritime security along the western Seaboard.

- INS Vikrant arrived at Colombo Port for the International Fleet Review 2025. The visit took place on 26 November following an invitation from the Sri Lanka Navy. The event was hosted as part of the 75th Anniversary of the Sri Lanka Navy. The harbour witnessed participation of children, locals, and members of the Indian diaspora welcoming the warship.
- On 28 November, a ₹7,995-crore agreement was signed between India and the United States for the sustainment of the Navy's MH-60R helicopter fleet. The deal is a follow-on support package for the Indian navy's 24 Seahawk helicopters for five years. Letters of Offer and Acceptance were signed under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme. The contract followed the imposition of a 50% tariff on Indian goods by U.S. President Donald Trump in late August. Facilities for intermediate-level repairs and periodic maintenance will be established within India. The MH-60R, built by Lockheed Martin, is an all-weather helicopter capable of multiple missions using advanced Avionics and sensors.
- India has been ranked third in the Asia Power Index 2025. The U.S. and China secured the first and second ranks respectively. The Index was released by the Lowy Institute, an Australia-based think tank. In 2024, India was among the 'Middle Powers' with a score of 38.1, while in 2025 it scored 40 out of 100. Japan and Russia ranked fourth and fifth with scores of 38.8 and 32.1 respectively. The Index assesses how effectively Asian nations influence their external environment. It highlights India's steady rise in power and its expected crossing of the major power threshold in 2025. The seventh edition of the Index evaluates 27 countries and territories across Asia.
- President Droupadi Murmu addressed the inaugural session of the third edition of Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 (CDD-2025) in New Delhi on 27 November 2025. The two-day event brings together national and international experts to deliberate on defence reforms, technological transformation, civil-military integration, and India's emerging security priorities for a developed India by 2047. CDD-2025 has been organised under the theme "Reform to Transform: Sashakt, Surakshit and Viksit Bharat". Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi presented a three-stage transformation strategy to modernise the Indian Army by 2047. As part of CDD-2025, the Indian Army organised the Young leaders Forum on 31 October 2025 to enhance strategic awareness among youth.
- On 29 November, the production version of the indigenous Hansa-3 NG trainer aircraft was launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh at CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru. The Minister reviewed the development progress of the 19-seater SARAS Mk-2 aircraft during his visit. New aerospace facilities were inaugurated at CSIR-NAL to boost India's civil and defence aviation ecosystem. The Hansa-3 NG is India's first all-composite two-seat trainer designed to meet the rising demand for pilot training. India is projected to need nearly 30,000 pilots over the next two decades. A ₹150-crore manufacturing facility is being set up in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, by industry partner Pioneer Clean Amps with a capacity to produce up to 100 aircraft annually.
- INS Mahe was commissioned into the Indian Navy on November 24, 2025 in Mumbai. It is India's first Mahe class Anti-Submarine Warfare shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC). The vessel is designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi. It is the first of the 8 ships of its class. The ship is named after Mahé, a historic coastal town on the malabar Coast. The Cheetah is the mascot of the ship, symbolising speed, stealth, and lethal focus. INS Mahe comprises more than 80% indigenous equipment and technology.
- The United States approved the first Government-to-Government (Foreign Military Sales – FMS) sale of the Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) to India. Under this deal, India will procure 100 FGM-148 Javelin rounds and 25 Command Launch Units (CLUs). The total value of the Javelin deal is US\$ 45.7 million, not US\$ 92.8 million.
- Navy Day is celebrated on 4 December every year to recognise the achievements and role of the Indian Navy. On this day in 1971, the Indian Navy sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar, during Operation Trident. India celebrated Navy Day 2025 with an Operational demonstration at Shangumugham Beach in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The event showcased the Navy's operational platforms and its resolve as the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region. The Indian Navy originated on 1 May 1830 under the East India Company and was renamed Her Majesty's Indian Navy in 1858. Its motto is the Vedic invocation of Lord Varuna — "Sham no Varunah," meaning "O Varuna, may you bless us."
- The 22nd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation ministerial meeting was held in New Delhi. It was jointly co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov. The two leaders reviewed bilateral defence relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. During his visit, Andrei Belousov visited the National War Memorial and placed a wreath to honour Indian soldiers. The two leaders also met in June 2025 in Qingdao, China, where Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to timely S-400 deliveries. The S-400 system is officially designated as 'Sudarshan Chakra', named after the mythological weapon of Lord Vishnu.
- On 2 December 2025, DRDO conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at a controlled velocity. The test was carried out at the Rail Track Rocket Sledge facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh. It was jointly undertaken with the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh praised DRDO, IAF, ADA, HAL, and industry partners for

- achieving a major step toward indigenous self-reliance. The dynamic ejection test evaluated ejection seats and canopy-severance systems, being more complex than static tests like Net tests or Zero-Zero tests.
- INS Aridaman is India's third indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). It belongs to the ~~Arihant~~-class and has been developed under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project. ~~The submarine is built with more than 90% indigenous technology, including its nuclear reactor. It has been developed by the Shipbuilding Centre, Visakhapatnam and enhances India's second-strike capability under the 'No-First-Use' policy. With Arihant and Arighat, it enables continuous strategic surveillance at sea.~~
 - The inaugural first Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Defence Cooperation between India and Brunei was held on 9 December in New Delhi. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral defence ties between the two countries. Discussions included enhancing military-to-military exchanges, expanding joint training initiatives, deepening maritime security collaboration, and cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). Both sides explored opportunities in defence industry partnerships, capacity building, and technology cooperation. The meeting was co-chaired by Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, and Poh Kui Choon, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence of Brunei.
 - The Indian Navy will commission its second MH-60R helicopter squadron, INAS 335 (Ospreys), on December 17 at INS Hansa, Goa. The commissioning will be attended by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. The MH-60R is a multi-role platform equipped with advanced weapons, sensors, and avionics. The first squadron of MH-60R helicopters was commissioned on March 6 at Kochi.
 - The 10th edition of the Vizag Navy Marathon 2025 was held on 14 December 2025 in Visakhapatnam. Over 17,000 runners from 17 countries participated, with prize money exceeding ₹10 Lakhs. The Full Marathon (42 Km) was flagged off by Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. The Half Marathon and Sankalp Run were flagged off by Mrs Priya Bhalla, President, NWWA (Eastern Region).
 - The Indian Navy commissioned DSC A20, the first of five Diving Support Craft (DSC), on 16 December 2025. The commissioning ceremony was held at Naval Base, Kochi. The vessel was built indigenously by M/s Titagarh Rail System Limited, Kolkata. The event was presided over by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command. The ship's hydrodynamic analysis and model testing were undertaken at Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam. DSC A20 is a catamaran-hull ship with a displacement of approximately 390 tons and fitted with state-of-the-art diving equipment.
 - The Indian Navy commissioned its second MH-60R helicopter squadron on 17 December 2025. The squadron is designated as INAS 335 and is called the Ospreys. The commissioning ceremony was held at INS Hansa in Goa. The event marked a key milestone in the Navy's modernisation efforts. The MH-60R helicopter features advanced weapons systems with modern sensors and avionics. These systems enable the helicopters to tackle conventional and asymmetric threats. The aircraft have been fully integrated into fleet operations.

ECONOMY AND BANKING AWARENESS :

- A recent International Monetary Fund assessment has recognised India's Unified Payments Interface as the **world's largest retail fast-payment system** by transaction volume. ACI Worldwide's 2024 analysis estimated that UPI accounts for nearly 49% of total global real-time payment transactions.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed \$4.26 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2025.
- The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX) has received **in-principle approval** from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch a Mutual Fund (MF) transaction platform.
- The Reserve Bank of India has undertaken a **major liquidity infusion**, purchasing government securities worth ₹50,000 crore through an Open Market Operation on 11 December. RBI announced **OMO purchases** totaling ₹1 lakh crore, to be executed in two tranches—on 11 December and 18 December 2025.
- The Reserve Bank of India has reaffirmed State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks**. The D-SIB framework, introduced in 2014.
- The Lok Sabha has passed the **Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha** (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill raising the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap from 74 per cent to 100 per cent. The Bill amends three core laws governing the sector: the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- The government has introduced a new **Credit Assessment Model (CAM)** to streamline loan appraisal for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. CAM uses digitally verifiable data from various ecosystem sources to automate MSME loan assessment.
- The **PM SVANidhi** scheme for street vendors, launched in 2020, has been extended to 31 March 2030. Implemented jointly by MoHUA and the Department of Financial Services, the scheme now offers enhanced loan amounts of ₹15,000, ₹25,000 and ₹50,000 across three tranches.

- The Reserve Bank of India has released a comprehensive roadmap designed to **strengthen financial inclusion** from 2025 to 2030. Focus on five objectives known as “**Panch-Jyoti**” supported by 47 targeted action points. These include measures to improve financial resilience, promote equitable access to responsible and affordable financial services, and adopt gender-sensitive approaches that encourage women-led financial inclusion.
- PayU** has received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to function as a **payment aggregator** across online, offline and cross-border channels. The permission granted under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007 allows PayU to handle payment acceptance, settlement and processing for merchants across multiple platforms.
- A new research paper by Arvind Panagariya, Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission, finds that India has “virtually eliminated” **extreme poverty** between 2011–12 and 2023–24. Poverty fell from 21.9% to 2.3% between 2011–12 and 2023–24. Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Goa, Delhi, Chandigarh, and Daman & Diu recorded poverty levels close to zero.
- Announced on 18 December 2025, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed zero-coupon bonds to be issued in smaller denominations of INR 10,000. A **zero-coupon bond** is a debt security that does not pay periodic interest (coupons). Instead, it is issued at a significant discount to its face value and pays the investor the full face value as a single lump sum when it reaches maturity.
- The President of India has given assent to the **Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB—G RAM G) Bill, 2025**.

The Act enhances the statutory **wage employment guarantee to 125 days** per financial year for **rural households whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work (Section 5(1))**.

To facilitate adequate availability of agricultural labour during peak sowing and harvesting seasons, the Act empowers States to notify an **aggregated pause period of sixty days in a financial year (Section 6)**.

The Act mandates payment of **wages on a weekly basis** or, in any case, within fifteen days of completion of work (Section 5(3)).

Wage employment under the Act is explicitly aligned with the **creation of durable public assets** across four priority thematic domains (Section 4(2) read with Schedule I):

Water security and water-related works

Core rural infrastructure

Livelihood-related infrastructure

Works to mitigate extreme weather events

The Act is implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The **cost-sharing pattern** is 60:40 between the Centre and States, 90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan States, and 100% central funding for Union Territories without legislatures.

The Act **does not dilute** the right to demand employment.

When employment is not provided within the stipulated period, unemployment allowance becomes payable after fifteen days.

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched **PaRRVA (Past Risk and Return Verification Agency)** — a new verification mechanism aimed at authenticating the past performance claims made by SEBI-registered market intermediaries.
- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) collaborated with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) organised a “Niveshak Shivir” in Jaipur. It was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ‘Your Money, Your Right’ movement.**

It was launched by the central government in 2025.

It is an initiative aimed at enabling people to reclaim their unclaimed deposits, insurance proceeds, dividends, and other financial assets.

To facilitate this, the government has created dedicated portals as follows:

Reserve Bank of India (RBI): **UDGAM Portal** for unclaimed bank deposits & balances.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI): **Bima Bharosa Portal** for unclaimed insurance policy proceeds.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI): **MITRA Portal** for unclaimed amounts in mutual funds.

Ministry of Corporate Affairs: IEPFA Portal for unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares.

- Fino Payments Bank has become **the first payments bank to receive the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) in-principle approval to convert into a Small Finance Bank (SFB)**. This move, announced on 5 December 2025.

- **Samagra Shiksha** Announced in the 2018–19 Union Budget, it is a unified programme covering pre-school to Class 12. It merges the earlier Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE) into a single integrated framework for holistic school education.
The Union government has clarified that States will receive pending Samagra Shiksha funds only after meeting all scheme conditions, including utilisation certificates, audit reports, progress details, State share contributions, and compliance with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- RBI and ADB estimate **India's FY26 economic growth** prospects at 7.3% and 7.2%, respectively.
CareEdge Ratings has raised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.5% from 6.9%.
Fitch has revised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.4%.
Crisil has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 7%.
IMF has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.4%.
The World Bank has raised India's growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the financial year 2026.
OECD has maintained its FY26 GDP growth forecast for India at 6.7%.
S&P Forecasts 6.5% GDP Growth for India in FY2025-26.
Moody's Predicts India's Growth at 7% in 2025, Easing to 6.4% in 2026.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** rose by \$1.68 billion to \$688.94 billion during the week ended December 12, 2025.
- The Government of India has approved the Textiles Focused Research, Assessment, Monitoring, Planning and Start-up (**Tex-RAMPS**) Scheme.
It will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Ministry of Textiles.
Integrated Textiles Statistical System (ITSS) is a real-time, integrated data and analytics platform to support structured monitoring and strategic decision-making.
- India will carry out its **8th Economic Census** (EC) in 2027, following the two-phase Population Census (2026–27).
The first EC was held in 1971.
EC is conducted nationwide by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), National Statistics Office in collaboration with the Directorates of Economics and Statistics (DES) of all States and Union Territories.
It is conducted under the legal framework of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) '**GST & Customs Pavilion**' has bagged the Gold Prize in the 'Public Outreach and Communication' category at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 in New Delhi recently.
The CBIC is headed by a Chairman and has 6 members in addition to the Chairman.
- The Andhra Pradesh government launched a large-scale initiative titled '**Rythanna Meekosam**', a farmer-centric programme designed to provide long-term support under a **Five-Point Formula**.
The core of Rythanna Meekosam is a **Five-Point Formula** that focuses on -
Water Security; Demand-Based Cultivation; Agri-Tech Adoption; Food Processing Expansion; Comprehensive Government Backing.
- The Ministry of Finance recently notified the **Capital Gains** Accounts (Second Amendment) Scheme, 2025, introducing changes to the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), 1988. Under Section 54 of the Income Tax Act, income from capital gains must be reinvested within 3 years to avoid tax liability.
Short-term capital gains are not eligible for the CGAS.
- Commercial banks are actively issuing **Tier II bonds** to bolster their capital adequacy ratios (CAR) as required under **Basel III norms**, with total issuances expected to reach Rs 25,000 crore in FY 2025–26.
Tier II bonds are subordinated debt instruments banks issue to boost capital, meeting Basel III norms and strengthening their financial base, offering investors higher returns than FDs but with higher risk.
They are typically long-term instruments with an original maturity of at least five years or more.
CAR indicates a bank's financial strength, with a higher ratio providing a stronger buffer against distress.
CAR = $(\text{Eligible Capital} \div \text{Risk-Weighted Assets}) \times 100\%$.
- Between 1 April and 17 December 2025, India's net **direct tax** collections stood at ₹17,04,725 crore (rose by 8%), compared to ₹15,78,433 crore during the same period last year.
- India's **retail inflation**, measured by the **Consumer Price Index** (CPI), increased modestly to 0.71% in November from 0.25% in October.
- India updated the **base year** used for calculating national accounts - announced during the Winter Session of Parliament, the new base year of 2022–23 will replace the existing 2011–12 series and become effective from February 26–27, 2026.
- India's Index of **Industrial Production** (IIP) recorded a modest 0.4% growth in October 2025.
- India's fiscal deficit for April–October 2025 stood at ₹8.25 lakh crore, accounting for 52.6% of the full-year target for FY26. The government has laid down a tighter target of 4.4% fiscal deficit for FY 2025–26.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has launched a new taxpayer outreach campaign named '**NUUDGE**' —short for **Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable** — to encourage voluntary compliance in income tax reporting.