

## ROY'S INSTITUTE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

(21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2025 to 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2025)

#### BOOKS AND AUTHORS :

Name of the Book	Author
The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny	Kiran Desai
“Antim Din”( The Sahitya Akademi has released the Hindi translation of Lithuanian author Jaroslavas Melnikas’s novel “The Last Day”, titled “Antim Din”. This marks the first-ever Lithuanian fiction translated into Hindi, promoting cultural exchange and bringing global literature closer to Indian readers.)	Dr. Poonam Tiwari

#### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS :

- Saudi Arabia has officially abolished the kafala system, a decades-old labour sponsorship framework widely criticised as modern-day slavery for its harsh control over foreign workers, many of whom are Indians. Under kafala, employers could confiscate passports, restrict job changes, and deny basic rights, trapping workers in exploitative conditions.
- New Zealand is set to debate a bill, introduced by National Party lawmaker Catherine Wedd, that would restrict social media access for children under 16 by requiring platforms to implement age verification measures before account creation.
- Delhi High Court judge Prathiba M. Singh has been appointed Chair of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Advisory Board of Judges for 2025–27.
- India and the United Kingdom (UK) launched the ‘Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme’, a fellowship designed to support young Indian scientists in theoretical physics and mathematics at the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences (LIMS), Royal Institution, London, the UK.
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN) released a report titled “Global Forest Resource Assessment (GFRA) 2025”. As per the report, India ranks 9th globally with 72.74 million hectares (Mha) of forest cover, representing 2% of the world’s total forests, up from 10th in the previous assessment.
- Kunchala Kaivalya Reddy, a 17-year-old from Andhra Pradesh, has been selected for a 4-year US astronaut training programme (2026-2029) with Titans Space Industries, aiming for a 2029 space mission to orbit the Earth.
- India was re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific (Group IV) for the term 2025–2027 during the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the International Convention against Doping in Sport (ICADS), held at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, France.
- The U.S. and Australia signed an \$8.5 billion critical minerals deal to reduce dependence on China and strengthen supply chains, focusing on lithium, nickel, and rare earths.
- India upgraded its Technical Mission in Kabul to a full Embassy, showing commitment to Afghanistan’s development. EAM Jaishankar pledged support in healthcare, terrorism cooperation, and development projects.
- Tuvalu became the 90th State Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gaining access to a global network to combat climate change, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss while strengthening conservation efforts in its vast marine-rich Exclusive Economic Zone.
- To counter rising crime, President Jose Jeri declared a 30- day emergency in Lima and Callao, allowing armed forces to assist police in restoring public order.
- Government of India (GOI) partnered with the Government of Nigeria to establish the first Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus in Nigeria, marking a significant step in bilateral collaboration in the field of education.
- Vivek Menon, an Indian wildlife conservationist, environmental commentator, author and photographer, elected as Chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) for the 2025–2029 term, became the first Asian to lead the SSC in its 75-year history.

- A bust of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, sculpted by Chinese artist Yuan Xikun, was unveiled at the Indian Embassy in Beijing during the Sangamam – A Confluence of Indian Philosophical Traditions symposium.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the successful test of the nuclear-powered ‘Burevestnik’ cruise missile, claiming it has unlimited range and can stay airborne for extended durations. During recent nuclear force drills, the missile reportedly flew for 15 hours, covering 14,000 km.
- PM Narendra Modi declares 2026 as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, highlighting growing collaboration in HADR, maritime security, and the blue economy
- The 20th East Asia Summit in Kuala Lumpur adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, reaffirming commitment to peace and stability in the region
- A landmark United Nations Convention against Cybercrime was signed by 72 nations in Hanoi, establishing the first universal legally binding framework to investigate and prosecute online offences including ransomware, financial fraud, child exploitation, and non-consensual sharing of intimate images.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Russia’s United Aircraft Corporation to produce the SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India, hailed by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh as a milestone for the country’s civil aviation sector.
- In a surprise move, Dictionary.com named “67” as its Word of the Year 2025, marking the first time a number has earned the title. Originating from Gen Z internet culture, memes, and viral slang, “67” — pronounced six-seven — conveys a vibe or emotion rather than meaning.
- Collins Dictionary named “vibe coding” as its Word of the Year 2025. This term refers to using artificial intelligence to turn natural language into computer code, allowing for software creation through conversational prompts rather than manual coding.
- Cambridge Dictionary has named its word of the year for 2025, alighting on “parasocial,” used to describe a connection that people feel with someone they don’t know – or even with an artificial intelligence.
- India and Nepal signed two power agreements through POWERGRID and NEA to build 400 kV cross-border transmission lines and form joint ventures in both countries. The deals aim to boost electricity trade, enhance grid resilience, support Nepal’s hydropower exports, and strengthen bilateral ties, laying the groundwork for a South Asian energy market and deeper regional connectivity.
- India and the United States have taken another major step in strengthening their defence ties. On October 31, 2025, both countries signed a 10-year framework agreement to boost cooperation in defence and security. The new pact is expected to shape the future of the India-U.S. strategic partnership and promote peace in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The AmazonFACE project in Brazil’s Amazon rainforest recreates future carbon dioxide levels to study how trees and ecosystems respond to climate change. This unique experiment helps scientists predict future impacts and guide global efforts to protect the planet’s natural environment. Its findings are expected to play a key role in discussions at the COP30 Climate Summit in Brazil.
- India has ignited a bold new phase in global solar leadership at the Eighth International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly, held on October 28, 2025, in New Delhi. Launching a set of global initiatives, India called on nations to embrace a just and inclusive energy transition led by innovation, circular economy practices, and equitable access.
- China has become the first country to successfully convert thorium-232 into uranium-233 in a Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (TMSR), marking a major breakthrough in advanced nuclear energy.
- The Maldives has become the first country to implement a generational smoking ban, prohibiting anyone born on or after 1 January 2007 from buying or using tobacco. Announced by President Mohamed Muizzu, the measure aims to promote a tobacco-free generation and applies to all tobacco products and e-cigarettes, including visitors.
- For the first time since the Taliban’s return to power in 2021, Afghanistan will appoint its first official diplomat to India, signalling a cautious revival of diplomatic engagement.
- India has dispatched 20 tonnes of humanitarian relief each to Jamaica and Cuba following the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa, reaffirming its commitment to Global South solidarity. The Indian Air Force carried the consignment from New Delhi on 4 November 2025, including Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cubes, medicines, food, shelter materials, power generators, and hygiene kits.
- India plans to import eight cheetahs from Botswana by December 2025 under Project Cheetah, aiming to reintroduce the species to its historical range at Kuno-Palpur National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- India and Israel have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 17th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation in Tel Aviv, marking a major step in strengthening their strategic defence partnership. The MoU outlines a long-term framework for co-development, co-production, technology exchange, and counter-terrorism collaboration.

- Kazakhstan announced its intention to join the Abraham Accords, a U.S.-brokered framework normalizing relations between Israel and Muslim-majority countries. This move expands the accords beyond the Arab world into Central Asia, enhancing diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation.
- Bangladesh became the 1st South Asian country as well as 56th country globally, to join the United Nations (UN) Water Convention which is officially known as the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, on June 20 2025.
- The 42-day US government shutdown ended on November 12, 2025, after President Trump signed a short-term funding bill passed by Congress. The bill was approved after the House of Representatives, with some Democrat support, voted to pass legislation that the Senate had already approved. The shutdown, which began on October 1, was the longest in US history, with federal agencies and services disrupted, although it took time to fully restore operations.
- During the Prime Minister's visit to Bhutan in November 2025, India and Bhutan inaugurated the 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, agreed to resume work on 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I, granted land in Varanasi for a Bhutanese Temple/Monastery, planned an Immigration Check Post at Hatisar, and extended an INR 4000 crore Line of Credit. Three MoUs were signed on Renewable Energy, Health & Medicine, and Mental Health collaboration with NIMHANS to strengthen bilateral cooperation.
- India and Sri Lanka jointly launched the Bharat–Sri Lanka Sanskrit Mahotsav in Colombo on 10 November 2025, celebrating their shared civilisational heritage and strengthening cultural-educational ties.
- On November 13, 2025, India and Nepal signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) to expand rail-based trade via the Jognbani–Biratnagar corridor, enhancing cargo transit, third-country trade, and regional connectivity. The agreement allows direct containerized and bulk cargo movement, links key Indian ports like Kolkata and Visakhapatnam, and strengthens Nepal's access to global markets.
- India plans to build the world's deepest underwater lab at a depth of 6,000 metres by 2047, marking a global first in deep-sea exploration.
- New natural gas field discovered in Badr-15 area with initial production capacity of 16 million cubic feet per day and estimated reserves of 15 billion cubic feet, enhancing domestic energy security.
- Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan is honoured with a 55-storey commercial tower named "Shahrukhz by Danube" on Sheikh Zayed Road, slated for completion by 2029. The building will offer premium office spaces (450–11,000 sq ft) across 1 million sq ft, featuring a life-size statue of SRK at the entrance. This marks a global first in celebrity-named towers, blending celebrity branding with real-estate development, targeting Indian and international investors while enhancing SRK's global brand value.
- India was unanimously re-elected to the Codex Executive Committee until 2027, strengthening its role in shaping global food standards, driving science-based policies, promoting regional data, and pushing for AI-enabled efficiency.
- India's historic deal to source 10% of its LPG imports from the US in 2026 marks a major push toward energy security, supplier diversification, and stronger India–US trade ties. With 2.2 MTPA to be supplied by firms like Chevron, Phillips 66, and TotalEnergies, offering alternative Mont Belvieu pricing despite challenges like higher freight costs and propane-rich composition.
- The United Nations strongly opposed the death penalty in absentia imposed on ex-Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by the International Crimes Tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity during the 2024 student protests.
- India's attempt to secure Basmati rice as a Geographical Indication (GI) under the WTO TRIPS framework faced a setback as New Zealand and Kenya rejected the plea, citing domestic law precedence. The case, filed by APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), argued that TRIPS' Article 22 mandates protection against misleading labelling of Basmati rice, grown in India's Indo-Gangetic plains.
- Saudi Arabia has been designated a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA) by the United States in November 2025, granting it privileged access to advanced defense cooperation, including the sale of F-35 fighter jets, nearly 300 US tanks, and expanded joint military manufacturing.
- In November 2025, India expanded its Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility for UAE nationals to nine airports, adding Cochin, Calicut, and Ahmedabad to the existing six.

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS :

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy 3D laser-based Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) across 23 states, covering 20,933 km of national highways to collect and analyze road inventory and pavement condition data. This AI-driven system will automatically detect road defects like cracks, potholes, and patches, with data uploaded to NHAI's AI-based Data Lake for expert analysis, enhancing highway monitoring and maintenance.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is on a three-day UAE visit to boost foreign investments in green energy, digital infrastructure, and urban development and secured a ₹100 crore donation for a public library.

- Kerala became India's first state to officially declare "free of extreme poverty" on November 1, 2025, announced by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Ladakh civil society groups, Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), resumed talks with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) after recent violence, where the government has offered the possibility of applying Article 371, which provides special provisions to specific states for safeguarding local laws, culture, and administration.
- India's 94th Ramsar site is Gogabael Lake, located in the Katihar district of Bihar.
- Coal India Limited (CIL) and IIT Madras have signed an MoU to establish the Centre for Sustainable Energy, focusing on R&D in low-carbon technologies, repurposing coal mines, and supporting India's clean energy transition.
- Neeraj Chopra, India's two-time Olympic medallist javelin thrower, has been conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army during a ceremony in New Delhi, attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi.
- Shafali Verma is the brand ambassador for the Haryana State Women's Commission. This appointment recognizes her stellar performance in the 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and her role in inspiring young women in sports and empowering women across the state.
- In October 2025, the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) Ajay Kumar Sood released three publications under the Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India 2030 initiative led by the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) India, World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Kerala Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Government (CG) for the Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme, a national initiative aimed at improving the quality of education in government schools. It plans to secure an estimated Rs. 1,446 crore (cr) for the modernisation of government schools in the State.
- Uttar Pradesh set two Guinness World Records at Deepotsav 2025 by lighting 26,17,215 oil lamps along the Saryu River and assembling 2,128 priests and devotees for a simultaneous Maa Saryu Aarti, featuring laser shows, Ram Leela performances, and drone displays.
- On October 24, 2025, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has announced the launch of a new toll-free helpline number '1515', effective from November 1, 2025. This new number will replace the existing helpline, 14408, for beneficiaries of the POSHAN Abhiyaan (erstwhile National Nutrition Mission, NNM) and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- World Bank(WB) approved USD 280 million (approximately Rs.2,424 crores) loan to Kerala under the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme (KHSIP), with an aim to enhance the healthcare system of Kerala. The initiative focuses on improving the quality of life and life expectancy for approximately 11 million elderly and vulnerable individuals in Kerala.
- The passenger vessel Sindhu completed its maiden voyage to Barren Island, India's only active volcano, carrying 500 passengers, including 125 students, marking a milestone in Andaman maritime tourism. Flagged off by Chief Secretary Dr. Chandra Bhushan Kumar, the ship offered passengers a close view of the volcano's red glow and sunrise, with praise for its facilities, staff, and food.
- The Ministry of Coal launched "Koyna Shakti" – Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard (SCAD) on 29th October 2025 in New Delhi, marking a major step toward digital transformation and data-driven governance in the coal sector.
- The UP government announced the creation of Kalyan Singh Nagar, its 76th district, in honour of former CM Kalyan Singh.
- The Indian Army will procure its first indigenously designed and manufactured Software Defined Radios (SDRs), developed by DRDO and produced by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- In a historic first for India, President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian head of state to fly in the Rafale fighter jet on October 29, 2025, from Ambala Air Force Station, marking her second sortie after flying in a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI in 2023.
- India exported GI-tagged limes—Indi Lime from Karnataka and Puliyankudi Lime from Tamil Nadu—to the UK for the first time, facilitated by APEDA, marking a major boost for farmers and agri trade.
- As of 30 October 2025, all top 40 most polluted cities globally are in India, with Delhi ranking 13th despite an AQI over 400.
- On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the government of India took symbolic and substantive steps to honour his legacy. On 30 October 2025 in Gujarat, Narendra Modi (Prime Minister of India) launched a special commemorative coin and postage stamp, along with development projects worth over ₹1,219 crore.
- India's space journey soared to new heights as the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03, aboard the powerful LVM3-M5 rocket, also known as 'Bahubali'. The launch, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota marked another major milestone in India's quest for self-reliance and leadership in space technology.

- In October 2025, Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Private Limited (TTDI), a Toshiba Group company, delivered India's first indigenously manufactured 220 kilovolts (kV) Mobile Gas-Insulated Switchgear (m-GIS) System to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), under the Ministry of Power(MoP).
- Pravaig Dynamics Private Limited unveiled the VEER, an Electric Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle (E-TATV) developed for special operations, reconnaissance, and forward-patrol missions. It is India's first defence-Electric Vehicle(EV), and is hailed as one of the world's first operational electric tactical vehicles designed specifically for military use.
- Union Minister of State (MoS) George Kurian, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) launched the 5th Marine Fisheries Census (MFC 2025) Household Enumeration along with two digital mobile applications(apps) 'Village-Jetty Appraisal Navigator (VyAS)-BHARAT' and 'VyAS-SUTRA' at the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)in Kochi, Kerala.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) launched the "Aadhaar Vision 2032" a comprehensive strategic and technological roadmap aiming to future-proof India's Aadhaar digital identity system for the next decade in October 2025.
- On October 31, 2025, on the occasion of World Cities Day(WCD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh, UP), the city of nawabs, as a 'Creative City of Gastronomy' under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- India launched the Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025, its first fully digital marine census, using the VYAS app suite and drone technology to collect real-time, geo-tagged data across 13 coastal states and UTs. Unveiled by Union Minister George Kurian in Kochi under the slogan "Smart Census, Smarter Fisheries," the 45-day census (3 Nov–18 Dec 2025) covers 1.2 million fisher households and over 5,000 villages.
- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an MoU with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to offer doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) services for pensioners under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 (EPS'95).
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first export of 12 metric tonnes of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) from Chhattisgarh to Costa Rica, marking a major milestone in India's agri-export and nutrition mission.
- The Government of Telangana has announced the creation of the Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub (TAIH) in Hyderabad, led by IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, to make the state a global AI leader and rank among the top 20 AI hubs by 2035.
- The CBSE hosted its first International Sahodaya Conference in Dubai, bringing together over 1,000 school leaders and educators from CBSE-affiliated schools worldwide.
- Maharashtra becomes the first Indian state to partner with Starlink to provide satellite-based internet in remote and underserved regions like Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim, and Dharashiv.
- India has unveiled its AI Governance Guidelines under the IndiaAI Mission, introducing a "light-touch" regulatory framework to balance innovation and accountability. Released by MeitY on 5 November 2025, the framework is built around seven guiding "Sutras"—Trust, People-First, Innovation, Fairness, Accountability, Explainability, and Safety. It features a three-tier action plan to boost compute access, indigenous AI models, and Digital Public Infrastructure integration.
- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has announced staggered office hours from Nov 15, 2025, to Feb 15, 2026 for government and MCD offices to reduce vehicular congestion and combat winter air pollution, especially high PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels caused by stubble burning, low wind speeds, and temperature inversion.
- Karnataka has become India's first state to grant 12 days of paid menstrual leave annually for women employees across government and private sectors, providing one day per month to support health, dignity, and productivity.
- November 7, 2025, marks the 150th anniversary of India's National Song, Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and set to music by Rabindranath Tagore. First published in Bangadarshan (1875) and featured in Anandamath (1882), the song became a symbol of patriotism, unity, and resistance during India's freedom struggle, inspiring both national and international revolutionaries.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 150th anniversary of India's national song, Vande Mataram, at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi, marking the start of a year-long celebration. The event featured a commemorative stamp and coin, the launch of a digital portal for citizens to upload renditions, a mass singing nationwide, and a cultural programme including concerts and exhibitions.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first Digital Museum of Tribal Freedom Fighters at Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar—the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum.

- Union Power Minister Manohar Lal released a Commemorative Coin in New Delhi to mark the Golden Jubilee of NHPC, celebrating its 50 years of innovation, resilience, and national service. He also launched a comic book, "Chhota Bheem aur Bada Bandh," to spread awareness about hydropower's importance. The Power Ministry highlighted NHPC's expansion into solar, wind, and green hydrogen, solidifying its identity as a 100% Green Energy Company.
- Khangchendzonga National Park, India's first mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site, has earned a rare "Good" IUCN rating, standing out among Indian heritage sites.
- In November 2025, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) partnered with Google India to provide near real-time, authoritative highway information through Google Maps via the API Setu (Application Programming Interface) platform. This collaboration allows users to access real-time information about public roads, roadside amenities, and travel disruptions across the national highway network.
- Tamil Nadu (TN) government announced the launch of India's inaugural "Women's Wellness on Wheels" (WWW) initiative, aiming to enhance women's health through mobile medical units.
- Gujarat has become the 1st state in India to launch a large-scale tribal-focused genome sequencing project led by the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre (GBRC).
- Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA), signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement for Haj 2026 with Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah, Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Punjab has become the first state in India to fully implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme, providing broadband connectivity to nearly all villages, including 43 shadow areas, with only one village remaining.
- Singer Palak Muchhal has earned a Guinness World Record for enabling over 3,800 heart surgeries for underprivileged children through her Palash Charitable Foundation.
- The Central Government launched ₹1,500 crore modernization projects at New Mangalore Port in Karnataka during its Golden Jubilee to enhance capacity, digital infrastructure, and cargo handling under the Viksit Bharat vision.
- India has achieved a historic 21% decline in TB incidence (from 237 to 187 per lakh) since 2015, nearly double the global rate, according to the WHO Global TB Report 2025.
- Odisha's Puri and Sunapur beaches have once again earned the prestigious Blue Flag certification for 2025–26, reaffirming their global status as eco-friendly destinations. Sunapur has achieved this recognition for the third consecutive year, while Puri has been certified for the seventh time.
- The Government of India has granted GI tags to two traditional Lepcha musical instruments — the Tungbuk (string instrument) and Pumtong Pulit (bamboo flute) — strengthening the cultural identity and livelihoods of Sikkim's Lepcha community.
- The Supreme Court has ordered Jharkhand to declare the Saranda Forest—Asia's largest Sal forest—as a wildlife sanctuary, aiming to protect its endangered species, rich Adivasi heritage, and fragile ecosystem from threats such as mining, habitat loss, and encroachment, marking a major step toward stronger biodiversity conservation in the region.
- Ambaji Marble from Gujarat has received a GI tag, recognizing its milky white colour, durability, and historical significance.
- The Government of India notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025 on 14 November 2025, completing the implementation of the DPDP Act, 2023, establishing a citizen-centric legal framework for privacy protection and responsible digital data use.
- National Award-winning actor Keerthy Suresh has been appointed as UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate, where she will champion child rights, mental health, and emotional well-being, using her nationwide influence to raise awareness and support vulnerable children.
- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) and DRDO signed an MoU on 17 November 2025 in New Delhi to collaborate on smart defence technologies, advanced chip design, encryption, and logistics research, aiming to boost national security innovation and Aatmanirbhar defence capabilities.
- The United Kingdom has been named Country Partner for the Hornbill Festival 2025 in Nagaland (1–10 December, Kisama, Kohima), marking a major step in Indo-UK cultural collaboration.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new Aadhaar mobile app, available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store under early access from November 2025. The app allows residents to carry and verify Aadhaar digitally, featuring masked Aadhaar numbers, biometric locking, QR code-based verification, and support for up to five Aadhaar profiles per device linked to the same mobile number.

- The Government of India has launched 'YUVA AI for ALL', a free 4.5-hour online course under the IndiaAI Mission to teach basic and ethical AI skills to 1 crore citizens. The course uses Indian examples, real-life case studies, and is available on FutureSkills Prime, iGOT Karmayogi, and other platforms. It covers AI fundamentals, applications in jobs and education, ethical usage, and future opportunities, offering self-paced learning and a Government certificate.
- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has launched ColoNoX, India's first nitric-oxide wound dressing for diabetic foot ulcers (DFU), developed with BARC and Cogenesis Pvt. Ltd. clinically validated and DCGI-approved to promote faster healing, reduce infection, and improve blood flow simultaneously.
- India Post launched its first Gen Z-themed campus post office at IIT Delhi, featuring smart services, digital-first engagement, student-designed interiors, QR-based parcel booking, and a student franchise model to promote entrepreneurship. This initiative, part of a national plan to revamp 46 campus post offices by Dec 2025, aims to make postal services youth-centric, tech-enabled, and relevant to Gen Z, supporting Digital India, Skill India, and sustainable operations.
- The CAG of India has announced a new Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit in Hyderabad (Nov 19, 2025), aimed at modernising India's audit ecosystem by adopting global best practices, strengthening research and professional development, and standardising high-quality audit methodologies.
- Tesla will open its first Tesla Centre in India on November 26, 2025, in Gurugram, marking a major step after launching the Model Y and setting up experience centres in Mumbai and Delhi.
- On 20 November 2025, the Supreme Court of India ruled that neither the President nor state Governors can be bound by fixed timelines for granting assent to legislation under Articles 200 and 201. The five-judge Constitution Bench emphasized that while action must be taken within a reasonable time, rigid deadlines would amount to judicial amendment of the Constitution.
- The Government of India has abolished sign-on, sign-off, and Shore Leave Pass (SLP) requirements for Indian-flagged coastal vessels, easing long-standing immigration-like procedures for seafarers. Announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the reform applies to coastal ships, dredgers, barges, and research vessels, shifting crew-record oversight to port authorities while the Bureau of Immigration conducts surprise checks.
- The Government of India has officially implemented the Four Labour Codes—the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code, and OSH & Working Conditions Code—from 21 November 2025, replacing 29 old labour laws. The reform aims to provide better wages, expanded social security, mandatory appointment letters, timely wage payment, women's safety and night-shift access, nationwide ESIC coverage, and annual health checkups for workers. These Codes simplify compliance through single registration, single license, and single return, while ensuring protections for gig workers, platform workers, MSME employees, contract workers, women, youth, and migrant workers.
- Nagaland has named Switzerland and Ireland as country partners for Hornbill Festival 2025 (1–10 Dec, Kisama Heritage Village), joining the UK to enhance the festival's global appeal; the partnerships, confirmed after meetings between CM Neiphiu Rio and the respective ambassadors, aim to promote cultural diplomacy, tourism, creative collaboration, and economic growth, showcasing Naga heritage and multi-ethnic performances on an international platform.
- Punjab has launched the first-ever dedicated courtroom under a State Scheduled Castes Commission to handle SC-related cases, inaugurated by Chairperson Jasvir Singh Garhi in November 2025.
- Dr L Murugan inaugurated the WAVES Film Bazaar 2025 at IFFI Goa on 20 November 2025, strengthening India's position in the global film market.

## APPOINTMENTS :

### NATIONAL

Name	Designation
Neeraj Chopra	Lieutenant Colonel in Territorial Army
Justice Surya Kant	53rd Chief Justice of India
Vice Admiral B Sivakumar	40th Chief of Materiel in the Indian Navy
Vishvajit Sahay	Controller General of Defence Accounts
Sanjay Garg	Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
Rahul Dravid	Brand Ambassador for Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL)
Rakshit Hargave	CEO and Executive Director of Britannia Industries
Keerthy Suresh	UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate

**INTERNATIONAL**

Name	Designation
Dame Sarah Mullally	First Woman to Lead the Church of England

**OBITUARY NEWS :**

- The curtains have fallen on one of Hindi cinema's most enduring performers. Govardhan Asrani, fondly remembered for his iconic comic roles, passed away at the age of 84 on October 20, 2025, after a prolonged illness. With a filmography spanning over 350 films, Asrani's career was a testament to both longevity and adaptability in Indian cinema.
- Piyush Pandey, Padma Shri awardee and the man who transformed Indian advertising through relatable storytelling, passes away at 70, leaving a legacy that shaped generations. Piyush Pandey was often called the "Father of Indian Advertising." He joined Ogilvy India in 1982 at the age of 27, after trying his hand at cricket, tea tasting, and construction. Over more than four decades, he transformed Ogilvy into one of the most awarded advertising agencies in the world.
- Veteran Bollywood actor Satish Shah, best known for his iconic role as Indravadan Sarabhai in the hit sitcom Sarabhai vs Sarabhai, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 74.
- Former Indian hockey goalkeeper Manuel Frederick, India's first Olympic medallist from Kerala, passed away at the age of 78. A key member of the bronze medal-winning Indian team at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Frederick was celebrated for his fearless saves and his immense contribution to Indian hockey.
- Sulakshana Pandit, a celebrated name in Indian cinema known for her dual contributions as a playback singer and actress, passed away on 6 November 2025 in Mumbai at the age of 71. Her death marks the end of a remarkable era in Bollywood, particularly the vibrant 1970s and 80s, when her voice and screen presence were deeply cherished by audiences.
- James D. Watson, the pioneering molecular biologist whose work revolutionized genetics and reshaped modern science, has died at the age of 97 in East Northport, New York. Best known for his co-discovery of the double helix structure of DNA alongside Francis H.C. Crick, Watson was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962. His passing marks the loss of a monumental figure whose contributions, controversies, and complex legacy continue to influence scientific discourse worldwide.

**AWARDS & HONOURS :****NATIONAL**

- Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, was awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2024 on November 20, 2025, in New Delhi.
- On 25 October, the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) was announced by the Central Government to recognise exceptional contributions in science and technology. The awards, described as Padma-style honours for scientific achievements, include 24 individual awards and one team award this year. Eminent physicist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, who passed away in May 2025, was announced to be honoured with the Vigyan Shri Award.
- Ratna Award for lifetime contribution. Eight scientists were honoured with the Vigyan Shri Awards for their distinguished work in various scientific domains.
- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will receive the 'Outstanding Prestressed Concrete Structure in the Country Award' from the Indian Concrete Institute (ICI), Chennai. The award is for the Majlis Park corridor, part of Phase-IV of the Delhi Metro. Once completed, this corridor will become Delhi's first circular ring metro line. The award will be presented at the ACECON conference in Hyderabad in December 2025.
- 1,466 personnel of States, Union Territories, CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) and CPOs (Central Police Organisations) have been awarded the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak 2025 for meritorious service. The award was initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on February 1, 2024 to honour outstanding work in operations, investigations, intelligence, and forensic science. It is conferred on members of police forces, security organisations, intelligence branches, CAPFs, CPOs and Forensic Science Units at Central, State and Union Territory levels. The awards are announced on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st October every year. The medal recognises excellence in four areas: Special Operation, Investigations, Intelligence, and Forensic Science.
- The Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika National Award was presented during the birth centenary year of Bhupen Hazarika. The awards were presented by Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to six eminent personalities from the North East. The award was instituted in 2012 by the Pune-based organisation Sarhad to recognise individuals from the Northeast. Each award carries a cash prize of Rs 51,000, a citation, and a memento. The awardees were Laishram Mema Devi (Manipur), L.R. Silo (Mizoram), Yeshe Dorje Thongchi (Arunachal Pradesh), Prof. David R. Simlih (Meghalaya), Dr. Suryakant Hazarika and Rajni Basumatary (Assam).

- The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel RRU National K9 Bravery Award-2025 was awarded to BSF's tracker dog Babita. Babita was honoured for her exemplary service and bravery. The award was presented during a national ceremony held in Hyderabad. Babita received a medal and a commendation certificate and is stationed in the Amritsar Sector of Punjab. In September 2025, she played a major role in an anti-Smuggling operation leading to the capture of three smugglers.
- Punjab Police Inspector Lakhwinder Singh won a gold medal in the Individual Sword category at the Masters International Tent Pegging Championship. The event was held at Ghaziabad from 10–12 November 2025. Inspector Lakhwinder Singh secured a perfect score of 36 out of 36. The Punjab Police team also won a silver medal in the team competition.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti announced awards for outstanding performers under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0 (JSJB) initiative, part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign. The awards for the year 2025 will be presented by the President of India along with the 6th National Water Awards 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 18 November 2025. A total of 100 awards have been announced, including 3 top performing states, 67 districts, 6 municipal corporations, 1 Urban Local Body (ULB), 2 supporting ministries departments, 2 industries, 3 NGOs, 2 philanthropists, and 14 nodal officers.

#### INTERNATIONAL

- Leonardo DiCaprio will receive the Desert Palm Achievement Award (Actor) at the 2026 Palm Springs International Film Festival on January 3, 2026, for his performance in Paul Thomas Anderson's film One Battle After Another.
- On October 18, 2025, Indian archer Jyothi Surekha Venkam became the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the Archery World Cup Final 2025 in Nanjing, China, by winning a bronze medal. The 29-year-old Asian Games champion defeated world No. 2 Ella Gibson of Great Britain, shooting 15 perfect arrows to secure a 150-145 victory. Jyothi began the quarterfinals with a 143-140 win over Alexis Ruiz of the U.S., showing strong performance in the eight- archer season finale.
- Andrzej Poczobut of Belarus and Mzia Amaglobeli of Georgia have won the 2025 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. The Sakharov Prize, established in 1988, is the European Union's highest human rights award, named after Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov. Mzia Amaglobeli, a prominent journalist and founder of two independent media outlets in Georgia, was sentenced to two years in prison for allegedly slapping a police chief during an anti-government protest.
- Sunil Amrith, an Indian-origin historian and professor of history at Yale University (US), has been awarded the prestigious British Academy Book Prize for his book 'The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years'. The award recognises the world's best non-fiction works and carries a prize of £25,000 (approximately ₹26 lakh). The announcement was made at a ceremony in London, where the judges described the book as essential and insightful for understanding today's climate crisis.
- Sri Lankan author Vajra Chandrasekera's second novel Rakesfall won the 2025 Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction. The \$25,000 (approximately ₹22 lakh) prize recognizes writers who "envision a real basis of hope." The novel tells the story of Annelid and Leverett, who meet as children during the Sri Lankan Civil War.
- Lionel Messi won the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) Golden Boot for Inter Miami CF with 19 goals and 19 assists. It was his second full season for Inter Miami and he became the club's first Golden Boot winner. He overtook Dennis Buanga and Sam Surridge to win the title. Messi is the first Argentine to win the MLS Golden Boot since 2021. He came close to breaking the MLS record for combined goals and assists in a single season. Messi broke the record of 49 goals set by Carlos Vela in 2019 by a slight margin, scoring 45 goals (29 goals and 16 assists) in just 28 matches.
- In October 2025, Sanjeev Kapoor was honored as one of the 'Top Agri-Food Pioneers (TAPs)' by the World Food Prize Foundation (WFPF). The recognition was part of the Norman E. Borlaug International Dialogue held from October 21-23, 2025. The TAPs initiative was launched in 2024 to highlight individuals making significant contributions to food system transformation. In the 2025 edition, 39 innovators from 27 countries were honored.
- The Boston Global Forum and the AI World Society awarded the 2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award to spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. The award recognises his contributions to global peacekeeping, reconciliation, and humanitarian leadership. It marks the 10th anniversary of the World Peace and Security Leader Award (2015–2025). The Art of Living Foundation, founded in 1981, has inspired millions to live stress-free and compassionate lives.

- David Szalay, a Canadian-Hungarian-British writer, has won the 2025 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel “Flesh” at a ceremony in London. The novel depicts an ordinary man’s life over several decades, emphasizing what is left unsaid. On 10 November, Szalay was announced as the winner of the £50,000 award. A total of 153 novels were submitted for the prize. The judging panel included Roddy Doyle and Sarah Jessica Parker. Szalay was earlier shortlisted for the 2016 Booker Prize for his book “All That Man Is”.
- The Earthshot Prize 2025 Awards took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was the first time the Prize was held in Latin America, marking a historic milestone for Brazil’s global climate prominence. The Awards Night was held on 5 November at the Museum of Tomorrow. Each of the five Winners received £1 million to advance or replicate their work.

## **SPORTS NEWS :**

- Shai Hope became the first batter in ODI history to score hundreds against all 11 other Full Member nations with his 109 vs New Zealand at Napier on November 19, 2025, reaching 19 ODI centuries in 142 innings (second-fastest West Indian to 6000 runs).
- The 5th edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) will take place in Rajasthan from November 24. The event will span 12 days and be held across seven cities. Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kota, and Bharatpur have been chosen as the host cities. Over 5,000 student-athletes from universities across India are expected to participate. This national-level competition will feature events in 23 sports disciplines.
- India has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2025 World Boxing Cup Finals for the first time. The tournament will take place at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex. The event will feature the world’s top male and female boxers across ten weight categories. India is ranked among the top five globally in this tournament and has won 17 medals in 2025, including four gold, six silver, and seven bronze. Ajay Singh, President of the Boxing Federation of India, stated that hosting the finals reflects India’s progress in both performance and organisation.
- India qualified for the AFC U-17 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 for the first time by defeating Uzbekistan 2-1 in Bishkek. India won both their matches in Group G and finished at the top of the group. The AFC U-17 Women’s Asian Cup 2026 will be held in China. This marks India’s first qualification through the competitive route.
- Abhishek Sharma and Smriti Mandhana were named ICC Men’s and Women’s Players of the Month for September 2025 due to their exceptional performances in international cricket. Abhishek Sharma scored 314 runs in seven matches during the Asia Cup T20I, with an average of 44.85 and a strike rate of 200. He was named Player of the Tournament and reached 931 points in the ICC Men’s T20I Batting Rankings, the highest ever recorded at the end of the Super Fours. Sharma outperformed Kuldeep Yadav and Brian Bennett to win the Men’s Player of the Month award.
- Zoravar Singh Sandhu earned a landmark bronze medal in the men’s trap event at the 2025 ISSF World Championship Shotgun. The championship was held in Athens, Greece, where Zoravar secured third place in the final. Croatia’s Josip Glasnovic won the gold medal, while Spain’s Andres Garcia claimed the silver. Zoravar finished behind them, hitting 31 out of 50 targets to take the bronze. Kalikesh Singh Deo, President of the National Rifle Association of India, credited coach Peter Wilson and the support staff for their contributions.
- Vishvajit More secured a bronze medal in the 55 kg Greco-Roman category at the Under-23 Wrestling World Championships. The event was held in Novi Sad, Serbia. He defeated Kazakhstan’s Yerassyl Mamyrbekov with a narrow 5-4 victory. This was India’s first medal at the 2025 Under-23 Wrestling World Championships.
- India claimed two bronze medals at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain. Veer Bhadu made history by becoming the first Indian to win a bronze medal in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). He secured his medal in the men’s 80kg MMA category by defeating Thailand’s Dechachot Barisri through a unanimous decision. Palash Mandal earned a bronze medal in the boys’ 5000-meter race walk.
- The 4th South Asian Senior Athletics Championship was held at the Birsa Munda Stadium in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. The championship took place from October 24 to 26. The Indian contingent topped the medal tally with 20 gold medals and a total of 58 medals.
- Sri Lanka secured second place with 40 medals, including 16 gold. Nepal finished third with 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. Bangladesh (3 bronze) and Maldives (1 bronze) ranked fourth and fifth respectively, while Bhutan did not win any medals.
- On 26 October 2025, India secured two gold medals at the Badminton Asia Under-17 and Under-15 Championships 2025 held in Chengdu, China. The victories came in the girls’ singles events, won by Shaina Manimuthu and Diksha Sudhakar in their respective age categories. In the Under-15 final, Shaina defeated Japan’s Chiharu Tomita with scores of 21-14, 22-20. In the Under-17 category, Diksha triumphed over compatriot Lakshya Rajesh by 21-16, 21-9. With her win, Diksha became the first Indian singles player to clinch the Under-17 title at the Junior Asian Championships.

- Priteesmita Bhoi created a new Youth World Record at the Asian Youth Games in Bahrain. She competed in the girls' 44 kg weight category. Bhoi achieved a Clean and Jerk lift of 92 kg, setting a world record in her division. Her combined total lift reached 158 kg across all attempts. This outstanding performance earned her the gold medal for India.
- The Asian Youth Games are held every four years, and the 2025 edition is the third, taking place in Bahrain from 22 to 31 October 2025.
- The 69th National School Games 2025 were inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu in Itanagar. The event was organized for under-17 boys and girls in boxing. It was inaugurated at the Khelo India Indoor Stadium, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh hosted the National School Games for the first time. This event marked a milestone in the 71-year history of the School Games Federation of India.
- Sujeet Kalkal won the gold medal at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships. This is his first-ever world title; he previously won one U-20 Asian Championship gold and two U-23 Asian titles. He competed in the men's freestyle 65 kg category. Kalkal defeated Uzbekistan's Umidjon Jalolov with a 10-0 victory. The Indian women's wrestling team won 5 bronze medals and 2 silver medals at the same event. The Indian women's team also secured the team championship title. In the Men's U-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship 2025, Sujeet's medal was the only one for India. The 2025 U-23 World Wrestling Championship was held in Novi Sad, Serbia.
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- Namitbir Singh Walia has recently become an International Master (IM) in chess. He is from Jalandhar, Punjab. He secured fourth position at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France. He began playing chess at the age of six and started coaching in 2012. He trained under Kanwarjit Singh until 2020. – He won the Senior State FIDE Rating Open Chess Championship this year.
- The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 was inaugurated at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Taleigao, Goa. The event has returned to India after 23 years. The championship is being held from October 31 to November 27 with 206 players from 82 nations. The total prize money is two million US dollars. Notable participants include Gukesh D, Praggnanandhaa R, Wesley So, and Anish Giri.
- Rohan Bopanna, Indian tennis player, announced his retirement from professional tennis. He is a former World No. 1 in doubles and has won 26 ATP doubles titles. His 2024 Australian Open victory with Matthew Ebden made him the oldest player to top the doubles rankings at 43. He began his career in 2003 and achieved 539 tour-level victories. His career highlights include two US Open finals and being runner-up twice at the ATP Finals. He also won a mixed doubles Grand Slam at Roland Garros 2017. His final professional match was played at the 2025 Rolex Paris Masters with partner Alexander Bublik.
- Rahul VS has become India's 91st Grandmaster. He secured the title after winning the 6th ASEAN Individual Chess Championship. In November 2021, Rahul earned the International Master (IM) title and crossed a live rating of 2400. Illamparthi AR became India's 90th Grandmaster after achieving his final norm at the Bijeljina Open 2025 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. S Rohith Krishna became India's 89th Grandmaster in August after scoring six points out of nine at the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan and crossing the 2500 Elo rating mark.
- On 9 November, Anish Bhanwala won the silver medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event at the ISSF World Championships in Cairo, Egypt. He became the first Indian individual pistol shooter to win a World Championships medal in an Olympic event. He scored 28 out of 40 in the final, finishing behind Clement Bessaguet of France who won gold with 31 points. Maksym Horodynets of Ukraine won the bronze medal with 25 points. The medal raised India's tally at the Cairo championships to five medals (one gold, two silver, two bronze). Anish Bhanwala, aged 23, hails from Sonipat, Haryana.
- India achieved a 10–9 victory over world No. 1 Argentina in the 2025 Kogni Vera International Polo Cup final. The match was held at the Jaipur Polo Ground. The Indian team was led by Sawai Padmanabh Singh and Captain Simran Singh Shergill. Team India comprised Simran Shergill, Shamsheer Ali, Padmanabh Singh, and Siddhant Sharma. The victory marked a historic milestone for Indian polo and celebrated the nation's rich polo heritage.
- Sheetal Devi, an 18-year-old para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir, became the first Indian para-athlete selected for the able-bodied national archery team. She earned her place at the Asia Cup 2025 in Jeddah by finishing third in national trials with a score of 703 against over 60 able-bodied archers. Born with phocomelia, she shoots using her legs and shoulders. She has won medals at the 2024 Paralympics, 2025 World Para Archery Championships, and 2023 Asian Para Games. Her achievement marks a milestone for inclusivity and merit-based sports in India.

- Arshi Gupta, a 9-year-old from Delhi Public School, Faridabad, won the 2025 FMSCI National Karting Championship in the Micro Max category. She became India's first female national karting champion after winning at Bengaluru's Meco Kartopia circuit. The competition included boys and girls aged 8 to 12 years and marked the first such win in the 21-year history of the Indian Rotax series.
- The World Boxing Cup Finals 2025 will be held in Greater Noida from 16 November to 20 November. The finals will take place at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex. The event will conclude the 2025 World Boxing Cup Series. It follows three World Cup Stages held in Brazil, Poland, and Kazakhstan. A total of 130 boxers from 18 nations will compete. The event will feature the 8 best boxers of the year in each of the 20 categories.
- The ICC launched a new eight-team global tournament titled the ICC Women's Emerging Nations Trophy. The inaugural edition will be held in Bangkok, Thailand. It is part of a new three-tier development system to promote and expand women's cricket worldwide. The participating teams are Thailand, Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, United Arab Emirates, Scotland, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda. The opening matches will feature Thailand vs Netherlands and Papua New Guinea vs United Arab Emirates.
- Ravindra Jadeja, Indian cricket team's veteran all-rounder, achieved the milestone of 4000 runs and 300 wickets in Test cricket during the first Test match against South Africa in Kolkata. He became the second Indian after Kapil Dev to reach this milestone and the fourth cricketer in world cricket to do so. The elite list includes Kapil Dev (5248 runs, 434 wickets), Ian Botham (5200 runs, 383 wickets), and Daniel Vettori (4531 runs, 362 wickets). Jadeja reached 4000 Test runs in his 88th Test match during the Kolkata innings where India scored 189 and South Africa were all out for 159.
- Gurpreet Singh won the silver medal in the men's 25m pistol event at the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025 in Cairo. He finished second after losing to Pavlo Korostylov of Ukraine in the inner 10s. It was his second individual World Championship medal, after a silver in the 25m standard pistol event in Changwon (2018). India ranked third overall with 13 medals (3 gold, 6 silver, 4 bronze).

## THEME OF IMPORTANT DAYS :

Important Days	Theme for 2025
United Nations Day (24th October)	The United Nations at 80: Building our future together
World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27th October)	A Window to the World
World Thrift Day (31st October) (In India, the day is celebrated on 30th October)	Conquer your Tomorrow
World Tsunami Awareness Day (5th November)	Be Tsunami Ready: Invest in Tsunami Preparedness
World Science Day for Peace and Development (10th November)	Trust, transformation, and tomorrow: The science we need for 2050
World Diabetes Day (14th November)	Diabetes across life stages
World Toilet Day (19th November)	Sanitation in a changing world
World Children's Day (20th November)	my day, my rights

## SUMMITS, CONFERENCES AND FESTIVALS :

Events	Locations
30th edition of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit 2025	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
COP30 stands for the 30th meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Belem, Brazil
"International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2025"	New Delhi
First "International & 31st Annual Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes"	Dubai, United Arab Emirates
22nd Association of Southeast Asian Nations-India Summit, 2025	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
47th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits for 2025 (The theme is 'Inclusivity and Sustainability')	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dubai Air Show 2025	Al Maktoum Airbase, UAE

Events	Locations
Kalachakra “Wheel of Time” Ceremony	Bhutan
Second India-ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7th meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) National Security Advisers for 2025	New Delhi
The inaugural Earth Summit 2025 – 26	Hyderabad, Telengana
The Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025	Bharat Mandapam , New Delhi
Ningol Chakouba festival	Manipur

## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION :

- Punjab has launched the first-ever dedicated courtroom under a State Scheduled Castes Commission to handle SC-related cases, inaugurated by Chairperson Jasvir Singh Garhi in November 2025.

## APPS, PORTALS, SCHEMES :

- Punjab has emerged as the first state in India to successfully implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across its entire territory. The scheme aims to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats, households, and institutions while supporting e-governance and e-health services across rural areas.
- In a landmark move to boost social security inclusion, the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has launched the Employees’ Enrolment Scheme – 2025. The initiative was announced by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on 1 November 2025, during EPFO’s 73rd Foundation Day celebrations in New Delhi.
- In a major push to boost India’s export ecosystem, the Union Cabinet has approved the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE), through which eligible exporters—including MSMEs and non MSMEs—will receive additional credit facilities of up to ₹20,000 crore with 100% credit guarantee cover via the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC).
- In a major boost to India’s innovation ecosystem, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 November 2025 launched the ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme during the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched two new insurance plans—Jan Suraksha Plan (880) and Bima Lakshmi Plan (881). These are the first policies introduced by LIC under the new GST regime, While Jan Suraksha caters to the lower-income segment, Bima Lakshmi is an exclusive offering for women, providing a blend of protection, savings, and health benefits.
- Labour and Employment Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the Vishwas Scheme aimed at curbing protracted litigations under the Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF) & Miscellaneous Provisions Act.
- In a forward looking move, the Chief Minister of Assam recently launched the ‘CM Flight programme’ aimed at empowering the youth of Assam to pursue global careers. The initiative underscores the state government’s resolve to equip young people with skills, exposure, and opportunities that bridge local talent and international job markets.
- The World Bank has approved a \$280 million loan for the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme to enhance healthcare access and resilience for 11 million elderly and vulnerable people. The initiative aims to support over 90% of patients with hypertension and diabetes via electronic tracking, introduce home-based care, and expand digital health services with integrated data platforms and cybersecurity. The IBRD loan has a 25-year maturity with a five-year grace period.
- The Ministry of Coal will launch “Koyna Shakti” – Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard (SCAD) on 29th October 2025 in New Delhi, marking a major step toward digital transformation and data-driven governance in the coal sector. The platform will offer real-time monitoring, data integration, and analytics across coal production, transport, and supply, promoting transparency, efficiency, and coordination among stakeholders such as coal producers, ministries, ports, and power companies.
- The Assam government has approved the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill 2025, criminalising marrying another person while a first marriage subsists, with offenders facing up to 7 years imprisonment. The Bill also proposes a compensation fund for affected women and aims to strengthen women’s rights and legal uniformity in marriage practices. Exemptions include Scheduled Tribes, Sixth Schedule areas, and certain minority marriages before 2005.

- Maharashtra's Agriculture Department unveiled a new logo and slogan, "Sashwat Sheti, Samruddha Shetkari" ("Sustainable Farming, Prosperous Farmer"), after 38 years, reflecting a shift toward technology-driven, sustainable agriculture and farmer empowerment.
- The Central Government launched ₹1,500 crore modernization projects at New Mangalore Port in Karnataka during its Golden Jubilee to enhance capacity, digital infrastructure, and cargo handling under the Viksit Bharat vision.
- The Delhi government has implemented a ban on the entry of all non-Delhi-registered commercial goods vehicles below BS-IV emission standards from November 1, 2025.
- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri George Kurian, launched the household enumeration phase of the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), Kochi.
- NexCAR19 is a CAR T-cell therapy targeting B-cell leukemia and lymphoma, developed by ImmunoACT (an IIT Bombay incubated startup) in collaboration with Tata Memorial Hospital.
- The Government of Telangana has announced the creation of the Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub (TAIH) in Hyderabad, led by IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, to make the state a global AI leader and rank among the top 20 AI hubs by 2035.
- Flipkart, India's leading e-commerce company, has partnered with fintech firm Pine Labs to introduce the Flipkart Bharat Yatra Card — a new digital prepaid card that makes paying for public transport faster and easier.
- Maldives has become the first country to implement a generational smoking ban, prohibiting anyone born on or after 1 January 2007 from buying or using tobacco.
- India Post launched its first Gen Z-themed campus post office at IIT Delhi, featuring smart services, digital-first engagement, student-designed interiors, QR-based parcel booking, and a student franchise model to promote entrepreneurship.
- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will deploy 3D laser-based Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) across 23 states, covering 20,933 km of national highways to collect and analyze road inventory and pavement condition data.
- New Zealand is set to debate a bill, introduced by National Party lawmaker Catherine Wedd, that would restrict social media access for children under 16 by requiring platforms to implement age verification measures before account creation.
- Starting December 2025, Uttarakhand will implement a green tax on all vehicles from outside the state to protect the Himalayan ecosystem and reduce pollution in destinations like Dehradun, Mussoorie, Nainital, and Rishikesh.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY :**

- IBM and Google Announce Milestone in Quantum Error Correction, But Practical Use Remains Elusive. They will likely showcase quantum processors with significantly more logical qubits (error-corrected), a critical step toward fault-tolerant quantum computing.
- TSMC and Intel Begin High-Volume Production of 2nm Chips, Focusing on AI-Specific Architectures. The first wave of 2-nanometer (nm) semiconductor fabrication processes is entering mass production. The focus is not just on making chips smaller and faster, but on designing them specifically for the massive parallel processing requirements of next-generation AI models.
- CISOs Report a 'Battle of Algorithms' as AI-Driven Threat Hunting Becomes Standard. Security Operations Centers (SOCs) are now reliant on AI systems that can predict attack vectors, autonomously patch vulnerabilities, and contain breaches in milliseconds without human input.
- Apple's 'Vision Pro 3' and Meta's 'Quest 4' Focus on Seamless AI Integration for Professional Work. The narrative around AR/VR headsets has solidified around productivity. Imagine an AI that can visually guide you through repairing a complex machine, translate a foreign language document you're looking at in real-time, or create 3D models through voice and gesture commands.
- Axonius expanded its cybersecurity asset intelligence platform with "Axonius for Healthcare" and "Axonius AI," adding automated recommendations and deeper visibility across cloud instances and non-human identities, reflecting the growing focus on asset management for security.
- Google opens its largest AI infrastructure hardware centre outside the US in Taiwan, reinforcing Taiwan's role in the global tech supply chain amid China tensions. This is Google's largest such facility outside the US and a direct investment in Taiwan's growing role as a global hub for AI innovation and secure technology development.

- Google unveils Gemini 3, its most advanced AI model with state-of-the-art reasoning, multimodal intelligence, and agentic capabilities across products. On November 18, 2025, Google officially launched Gemini 3, its most intelligent and powerful AI model to date.
- India's first Quantum Diamond Microscope, launched at ESTIC 2025, promises breakthroughs in neuroscience, semiconductor analysis, and quantum technology. At the forefront of scientific innovation, India has achieved a significant milestone with the launch of its first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM), developed by the P-Quest Group at IIT Bombay.

## **AGREEMENT/MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) :**

- India and Israel have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 17th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation in Tel Aviv, marking a major step in strengthening their strategic defence partnership.
- Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to formalise a partnership with Elon Musk's Starlink for satellite broadband, aiming to bridge last-mile gaps across remote and underserved regions. A Letter of Intent (LoI) signed with Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited will anchor deployments across government services and priority districts under the state's Digital Maharashtra mission.
- India and the United States have signed a landmark 10-year Defence Framework Agreement in Kuala Lumpur, marking a major step forward in deepening strategic and military cooperation between the two nations. The accord underscores their shared commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.
- At the India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 in Mumbai, the Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) stole the spotlight by signing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹39,216 crore. These investments are a strong endorsement of Andhra Pradesh's growing strategic importance in India's blue economy and maritime development.
- India and Nepal took a major step forward in energy cooperation by signing two critical power agreements. These deals, signed between India's POWERGRID Corporation and the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), aim to build two new high-voltage transmission lines and create joint ventures in both countries for implementation.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) for the production of SJ 100 civil commuter aircraft in India.
- Coal India Limited (CIL) and IIT Madras have signed an MoU to establish a Centre for Sustainable Energy to accelerate India's clean energy transition.
- Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zomato to generate up to 2.5 lakh job opportunities annually through the National Career Service (NCS) portal.
- Bharti Airtel, India's second-largest telecom operator, has partnered with IBM to deliver advanced cloud services through its newly launched cloud platform. This alliance reflects the growing demand for scalable, secure, and localized cloud solutions driven by the AI boom and evolving data sovereignty regulations in India.
- During the 15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue in Hanoi in November 2025, India and Vietnam signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to establish a framework for mutual support in submarine search and rescue operations.

## **IMPORTANT INDEXES AND REPORTS :**

- According to the latest Hurun Research Institute report, Mumbai (Mumbai, India's financial and commercial capital, has climbed to 3rd place globally, hosting 92 billionaires) and New Delhi (New Delhi, India's political and business capital, has entered the top ten billionaire cities for the first time, ranking 9th with 57 billionaires) have joined the ranks of the world's top 10 billionaire cities, signalling India's increasing influence in wealth creation and entrepreneurship. The report confirms that New York City remains the world's billionaire capital with 119 billionaires.
- The Swachh Survekshan 2025 report, released under the Swachh Bharat Mission, has once again exposed the deep divide in India's urban cleanliness efforts. This year, Madurai has topped the list as the dirtiest city in India 2025, followed closely by Ludhiana, Chennai, Ranchi, and Bengaluru.
- In October 2025, NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Apple emerged as the only companies to enter the \$4 trillion market capitalisation club, reaffirming the dominance of the U.S. tech sector.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) continues to be India's most valuable company for market capitalization. Ranking 69th globally as of October 2025.

Name of the Index	India's Rank	Top Country
The Sustainable Trade Index (STI) 2025, jointly developed by the Hinrich Foundation and the IMD World Competitiveness Center, highlights how nations are managing the delicate balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental responsibility. This year's results mark a new era in global trade, one that rewards sustainability and long-term resilience over short-term profit.	23rd	United Kingdom

## DEFENCE NEWS AND EXERCISES :

- The US approved \$93 million (₹775 crore) military sales to India, including FGM-148 Javelin anti-tank missiles and M982A1 Excalibur precision-guided artillery. Enhancing India's precision strike, mobile anti-armour capability, and Indo-US defence cooperation, while supporting military modernisation and regional strategic deterrence in the Indo-Pacific.
- A milestone with the inauguration of the Mudh-Nyoma Air Force Station in Ladakh on November 12, 2025, by Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, who landed a C-130J Super Hercules at the new 2.7-km runway.
- Zen Technologies Limited secured two contracts worth around Rs 289 crore from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to upgrade and modernize anti-drone systems, with execution scheduled within one year.
- Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) entered into a strategic partnership with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI), the United States of America (USA)-based global leader in Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), to manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in India for the Indian armed forces.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a \$1 billion deal with General Electric (GE) for 113 F404-GE-IN20 engines to power 97 LCA Tejas Mk 1A fighter jets, strengthening India's indigenous defence manufacturing and self-reliance
- INS Sahyadri arrived at Busan Naval Harbour to take part in the first-ever bilateral naval exercise between India and South Korea. The visit is part of the ship's ongoing deployment across the South China Sea and Indo-Pacific region. The Republic of Korea Navy extended a cordial reception to INS Sahyadri. INS Sahyadri is a stealth frigate of the Shivalik class. It was built in India and commissioned in 2012.
- The 11th edition of 'Mitra Shakti 2025' began at the Foreign Training Node in Belagavi, Karnataka. Mitra Shakti 2025 is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka held from November 10 to 23. It focuses on enhancing coordination and mutual trust between the two armies. India deployed 170 soldiers from the Rajput Regiment, and Sri Lanka contributed 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in the multinational air exercise 'Exercise Ocean Sky 2025' being conducted at Gando Airbase, Spain. The exercise is being hosted by the Spanish Air Force. This is the first time that a non-NATO country is participating in this exercise.
- The joint military training exercise 'Ajeya Warrior 25' between the armies of India and Britain commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Mahajan Field Firing Range, Bikaner district, Rajasthan. It is the eighth edition of the exercise, held from 17 to 30 November 2025. A total of 240 soldiers from both countries are participating, with equal representation; the Sikh Regiment represents the Indian Army. Conducted under a United Nations mandate, the exercise focuses on Urban Counter Terrorism Operations. The aim is to exchange best military practices, enhance tactical skills, and develop joint response capabilities. Conducted biennially since 2011, 'Ajeya Warrior' is a key pillar of India UK military cooperation.
- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has reached France to participate in Garuda-2025. IAF personnel have arrived at Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France for this bilateral air exercise. The exercise will be held from November 16 to 27. India and France continue to strengthen their long-standing strategic defence partnership. As part of the exercise, India's Su-30 MKI fighters will train with Rafale aircraft of the French Air and Space Force.
- The Indian Naval Ship INS Sahyadri is currently at Guam in the North Pacific. It is participating in the multinational maritime Exercise Malabar-2025. INS Sahyadri is a stealth-guided missile frigate built indigenously in India, showcasing India's advanced naval design and engineering capabilities. The Harbour Phase of Malabar-2025 includes planning sessions, communication coordination, and friendly sports events.
- India commenced its annual tri-service exercise Trishul 2025 on 30 October 2025 along the Western Frontier, especially near the Sir Creek area. The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are jointly participating in the exercise. The exercise follows a stern warning by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Pakistan against military activities in the disputed region. Trishul 2025 is a regular annual exercise with expanded scope, area of operation, and strategic importance.

- On 17 October, the first Tejas LCA Mk1A fighter jet was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's new production line in Nashik. The minister also inaugurated the second production line for the HTT-40 trainer aircraft at the same facility. The event marked a significant achievement for the Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives in defence manufacturing. He highlighted that before 2014, nearly 65–70% of defence equipment was imported, whereas now around 65% is manufactured domestically.
- India offered to supply its indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile system to Brazil. The proposal was made during a meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Brazilian Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Defence Minister Jose Mucio Monteiro Filho in New Delhi. The meeting focused on strengthening defence cooperation, including joint research, co-production, and technology transfer. The Akash missile, developed by DRDO, can neutralise various aerial threats such as fighter jets, drones, and cruise missiles.
- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved defence projects worth about ₹79,000 crore to strengthen India's Armed Forces. The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Indian Army will receive the Nag Missile System (Tracked) Mk-II and Ground-Based Mobile ELINT Systems. High Mobility Vehicles equipped with Material Handling Cranes have also been approved.
- On 24 October, two advanced Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), ICGS Ajeet and ICGS Aparajit, were launched by the Indian Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard Limited. They were launched as the seventh and eighth ships in a series of eight FPVs built by GSL for the Indian Coast Guard. These 52-metre-long vessels have a displacement of 320 tonnes and are equipped with Controllable Pitch Propellers (CPP), the first of their kind in this class of vessels in India. The vessels were built indigenously as part of India's effort to strengthen maritime security. They are designed for missions such as fisheries protection, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, and search and rescue.
- On 23 October, the Indian Navy received 'Mahe', the first of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWCs) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi. The vessel has been inducted to enhance India's coastal defence capabilities and strengthen maritime security. 'Mahe' has been indigenously designed and constructed under India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Named after the historic port city of Mahe in Puducherry, the ship pays tribute to India's maritime heritage.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the successful test of the nuclear-powered 'Burevestnik' cruise missile with unlimited range. The missile will now move forward toward deployment. In a televised meeting with the Chief of Defense Staff And other military commanders, Putin stated that during recent nuclear force exercises, the 'Burevestnik' cruise missile remained airborne for 15 hours and covered 14,000 kilometers. It is the world's first missile powered by nuclear energy.
- The indigenously developed survey vessel INS Ikshak will be formally commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Base in Kochi on 6 December 2025. The commissioning ceremony will be led by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi. The commissioning of INS Ikshak underscores the Navy's focus on technological advancement, self-reliance, and enhancing maritime capabilities. The vessel was constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Limited in Kolkata.
- Droupadi Murmu became the first woman President of India to fly in a Rafale fighter aircraft. She undertook the sortie from Air Force Station, Ambala in Haryana on 29 October 2025. With this flight, she became the first President to fly in India's most modern fighter aircraft. Earlier, in April 2023, she had flown in a Sukhoi-30 MKI from Tezpur Air Force Station in Assam. The Rafale was flown by Group Captain Amit Gehani, Commanding Officer of the 17 Squadron. The aircraft flew at an altitude of 15,000 feet and a speed of 700 km/h.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) of Russia. The MoU is for the production of the SJ-100 commuter aircraft. The agreement was signed in Moscow on October 27, 2025. The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body aircraft, with over 200 units produced and operated by more than 16 commercial airlines. HAL will manufacture and supply the aircraft to domestic customers, enhancing regional air connectivity under the UDAN scheme. This marks the first instance of full-fledged passenger aircraft production in India.
- Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered and nuclear-capable underwater drone, Poseidon. The test was announced by President Vladimir Putin. Poseidon operated on nuclear power for the first time during this test. Russia claims the drone is interception-proof and surpasses current technologies in speed and operational depth. The drone's compact nuclear reactor is about 100 times smaller than those used in submarines. Its warhead is significantly more powerful than the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile. The announcement came shortly after a similar success with the Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited (SDHI) signed an exclusive teaming agreement to jointly design and construct Landing Platform Docks (LPDs) for the Indian Navy. The agreement was signed during the India Maritime Week 2025 held in Mumbai on 28 October 2025. A week earlier, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had approved the project. Landing Platform Docks (LPDs) are large amphibious

warships capable of carrying troops, vehicles, equipment, and aviation resources simultaneously.

- Three major international maritime events will be hosted by India in February 2026 at Visakhapatnam. These events include International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026, Exercise MILAN 2026, and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs. It will be the first time that India conducts all three major international maritime events simultaneously.
- On 9 November, the Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force organised the first-ever full-scale air show in Guwahati. The event marked the 93rd anniversary of the Indian Air Force. Over 75 aircraft and helicopters participated in more than 25 aerial formations. The show was held at Lachit Ghat above the Brahmaputra River. The theme was “Infallible, Impervious and Precise”, highlighting capability and precision.
- The 15th India–Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue was held on 10 November in Hanoi. It was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnamese Deputy Minister Hoang Xuan Chien. Both sides reviewed cooperation in hydrography, training, UN peacekeeping, ship visits, and artificial intelligence. They agreed to expand collaboration in cyber security, military medicine, expert exchanges, and real-time information sharing. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed for cooperation in submarine search and rescue operations. The Dialogue is a key mechanism under the India–Vietnam Joint Vision Statement 2030. The 16th Defence Policy Dialogue will be held in India in 2026.
- The 4th edition of the region-based UN peacekeeping field exercise is represented by VINBAX 2025. The 6th edition of the India–Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX was inaugurated on 11 November in Hanoi under Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Senior Lieutenant General Phung Si Tan. The exercise aims to strengthen interoperability and share best practices in UN peacekeeping operations. It is being held from 11 to 27 November at the National Military Training Centre 4. The VINBAX series began in 2018 as a tabletop simulation in India and has evolved into a full-scale field exercise.
- INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) of the Indian Navy, arrived at Port Bera, Mozambique as part of her deployment in the Indian Ocean Region. Personnel from both navies will conduct joint training and professional interactions to enhance cooperation and interoperability. Training includes VBSS exercises (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure), crisis management, firefighting drills, and discussions on navigational aspects and EEZ surveillance. The ship will host community outreach activities, including visitor interactions and a medical camp to promote friendship and goodwill.
- The Indian Navy’s first of the Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), named ‘Mahe’, is to be commissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The vessel has been built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, as the first in a series of eight ASW-SWCs. The commissioning marks a major step in enhancing indigenous shipbuilding capability under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The ship carries over 80% indigenous content, reflecting India’s progress in warship design, construction, and systems integration. It is named after the coastal town of Mahe on the Malabar Coast, and its crest features an ‘Urumi’, the flexible sword of Kalaripayattu, symbolising agility, precision, and lethal grace.

## **ECONOMY AND BANKING AWARENESS :**

- India’s unemployment rate remains steady at 5.2 % in October 2025. Rural unemployment slipped to 4.4 %, while urban jobless rate climbed to 7.0 %, data from Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) shows. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** reached 55.4% in October, a six month high. The **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** climbed to 52.5%, continuing a rising trend since June. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the percentage of the working-age population (ages 15 and above) that is either employed or actively seeking employment. The worker population ratio (WPR) is the percentage of employed persons in a population.
- India’s economy is projected to have slowed to 7% growth in Q2 FY26, from 7.8% in Q1, by ICRA Ratings. India projected to lead G-20 in economic growth with 7% GDP rise in 2025 by Moody’s. India’s GDP is projected to grow approximately 7.2% in Q2 FY26 as per Ind-Ra. The IMF’s latest World Economic Outlook predicts India’s GDP will grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, outpacing China and maintaining its position as the fastest-growing major economy. India’s GDP is projected to grow 6.7–6.9% in FY26 as per Deloitte (India Economic Outlook report). India is poised to overtake Japan and Germany to become the “world’s third-largest economy by 2028”, supported by steady GDP growth of “6.5% annually”, according to a new report by “UBS Global Research”.
- Franklin Templeton report titled “**Beyond Necessities: India’s Affluence-Driven Growth**” projected India’s per capita income to cross \$5,000 by 2031.
- India’s industrial sector continued to display resilience in September 2025, with the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registering a 4.0% year-on-year growth, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The IIP stood at 152.8 (Base Year 2011-12 = 100) in September 2025.

MoSPI is working toward a revised series, likely with base year 2022-23.

The IIP measures short-term changes in the volume of output of the industrial sector—namely the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors. MoSPI publishes it monthly.

- India's wholesale inflation slips to -1.21% in October 2025 due to falling food, fuel, and metal prices, marking continued deflation in WPI trends (-0.13% in September) as per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- In the week ending November 7, 2025, the foreign exchange reserve of India was \$687.73 billion. As of September 2025, India's gold reserves stood at approximately 880.8 metric tonnes.
- According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest **Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA) Census 2024–25**, the United States and Singapore together contributed more than one-third of India's total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the financial year 2024–25.

In terms of total FDI amounting to ₹68,75,931 crore during 2024–25:

U.S. accounted for 20%

Singapore: 14.3%

Mauritius: 13.3%

The manufacturing sector received the highest share of FDI, the services sector ranked second.

- India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to \$32.15 billion in September 2025, marking an 11-month high, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has announced the creation of a Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit in Hyderabad.
- PayU has received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India to function as a payment aggregator across online, offline and cross-border channels.

A **payment aggregator** is a third-party service that enables businesses to accept various online payment methods, such as cards, UPI, and net banking, from customers through a single platform.

- The central government has introduced a significant change to pension documentation norms by making it mandatory for employees and pensioners to include the names of all daughters in official family records. Rule 50(15) requires every government servant to furnish complete family details upon joining service and update them regularly. The list must include the spouse, all children, parents, and disabled siblings, regardless of immediate pension eligibility.
- The National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) has launched a new unified digital platform designed to streamline registration and compliance for foreign investors in India's capital markets. The system integrates both Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) and Foreign Venture Capital Investor (FVCI) processes into a single, simplified interface, enhancing ease of doing business for overseas investors.
- State Bank of India, the country's largest public sector lender, has joined the elite USD 100 billion market-cap club. The bank now stands behind Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, and ICICI Bank in market valuation.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has partnered with "Razorpay Curlec" to enable "UPI transactions in Malaysia".
- A massive nationwide exercise to document the socio-economic and occupational status of India's marine fishing community will be launched on 31 October 2025. The **5th Marine Fisheries Census 2025** is conducted by CMFRI under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- **NITI Aayog's reports, "India's Services Sector:** Insights from Employment Trends and State-Level Dynamics" and "India's Services Sector: Insights from GVA Trends and State-Level Dynamics," highlight that the services employment share rose from 26.9% in 2011–12 to 29.7% in 2023–24.

The sector added 40 million jobs in six years, reaching 188 million workers.

Gross employment elasticity increased from 0.35 pre-Covid to 0.63 post-Covid.

- Department of Consumer Affairs has issued a strong advisory warning shoppers against 'Drip Pricing'. **'Drip Pricing'** is a deceptive marketing practice where companies advertise a low initial price to attract customers but gradually add hidden fees during the checkout process.
- The Banking Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025, notified on 15 April 2025, introduces 19 amendments across five core legislations:

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934; Banking Regulation Act, 1949; State Bank of India Act, 1955; and Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980.

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has proposed a "**dual valuation framework**" for government securities (G-Secs) held in National Pension System (NPS) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) schemes. The dual valuation mechanism would allow government securities to be valued on both "mark-to-market" (MTM) and "accrual" bases.

"**Mark to market**" (MTM) is a method of valuing an asset or security at its current fair market value rather than its original purchase price.

"**Accrual accounting**" is a method for valuing a company's financial performance by recognizing revenues when earned and expenses when incurred, regardless of when cash is exchanged.

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled "**UPI Help**", an AI-powered assistant designed to enhance user experience on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform.
- On Kerala Piravi Day (01 November), Chief Minister declared Kerala free from extreme poverty, marking India's first state-level success in achieving this milestone through a four-year Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP). According to the World Bank (2025 revision), individuals living on less than \$3 per day (2021 PPP) are considered to be in extreme poverty.

- Recent RBI data (2024–25) reveal that Indian households are accumulating debt faster than assets, with annual liabilities rising 102% since 2019–20, outpacing the 48% growth in financial assets.

Financial asset formation declined from 12% to 10.8% of GDP, while liabilities rose from 3.9% to 4.7%.

- The State Bank of India announced its first gold trade as a Special Category Client (SCC) on the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- The Reserve Bank of India has returned Jana Small Finance Bank's application to convert into a universal bank, saying it did not meet all the required criteria.
- Japan has officially launched the world's first yen-pegged stablecoin, named JPYC, on October 27, 2025. JPYC is a blockchain-based stablecoin, meaning it is a digital token designed to maintain a 1:1 value with the Japanese yen.

**Stablecoins** are a type of cryptocurrency whose value is pegged to another asset, such as a fiat currency or gold, to maintain a stable price.

- The Reserve Bank of India has officially launched **HaRBInger 2025 – Innovation for Transformation**, its fourth global hackathon, aiming to promote the development of secure, inclusive, and identity-driven banking solutions. The central theme for HaRBInger 2025 is: "**Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity**".
- The Reserve Bank of India The World Trade Organization (WTO) recently praised India's liberalised Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme for significantly increasing the participation of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in international trade. has withdrawn a 2016 circular that limited how much the banking system could collectively lend to a single large corporate borrower. AEO is a programme under the aegis of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate Global Trade.

AEO helps to build a closer partnership between the customs department and the trade industry.

Launched by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) as a pilot in 2011 and revised in 2016, the AEO programme merges India's earlier accredited client programme.

An entity with an AEO status can be considered a reliable trading partner and a secure trader.

- Economists from the Reserve Bank of India's Department of Economic and Policy Research published a paper in which they 'updated' the Rangarajan Poverty Line for 20 major states of India, using data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23.

In 2022-23, rural poverty was lowest in Himachal Pradesh (0.4%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (25.1%). Urban poverty was lowest in Tamil Nadu (1.9%) and highest in Chhattisgarh (13.3%).

In January 2025, the State Bank of India Research had estimated using 2023-24 HCES data that poverty would be 4.86 percent in rural areas and 4.09 percent in urban areas.

These estimates were based on an inflation-adjusted 2023-24 poverty line of ₹1,632 (₹54 per day) for rural areas and ₹1,944 (₹65 per day) for urban areas.

- The **Sixteenth Finance Commission (XVIFC)** was constituted by the Hon'ble President of India in pursuance of clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution. The XVIFC, headed by Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya, submitted its Report on 17th November to the Hon'ble President of India.

As per the terms of reference (ToR), the XVIFC was mandated to give its report covering a period of five years commencing on the 1st day of April, 2026 making recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States (vertical devolution) as well as the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds (horizontal devolution), grants-in-aid to States, review arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, etc.