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MONTHLY — Current Affairs

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NATIONAL NEWS

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches NIELIT Digital University Platform

- **Launch Date:** The NIELIT Digital University platform was launched on October 2, 2025.
- **Objective:** The platform aims to democratize access to high-quality digital education, offering industry-focused programs in emerging technologies like AI, cybersecurity, data science, and semiconductors.
- **New Centers:** The launch event included the virtual inauguration of 5 new NIELIT centers in Muzaffarpur, Balasore, Tirupati, Daman, and Lunglei.
- **Industry Collaboration:** The event featured partnerships with leading industry partners to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and included a panel discussion on the role of AI in digitizing education.
- **Reach and Impact:** With 56 NIELIT centers, 750+ accredited institutes, and 9,000+ facilitation centers, the platform is poised to skill and certify millions of students in emerging technologies.

India has been re-elected to Part II of the ICAO Council

- **Re-election Term:** India has been re-elected to the ICAO Council for a three-year term, from 2025 to 2028, during the 42nd ICAO Assembly Session held in Montreal, Canada.
- **Part II Representation:** India is part of Part II of the Council, which comprises states that make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation.
- **Founding Member and Continuous Presence:** India has been a founding member of ICAO since 1944 and has maintained an uninterrupted presence on the Council for 81 years, showcasing its commitment to global aviation standards.
- **Commitments for 2025-2028:** India's re-election reflects its commitment to strengthening aviation safety, security, and sustainability, as well as promoting equitable global connectivity and advancing innovation in line with ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative.

R Venkataramani re-appointed as Attorney General of India

- **Re-appointment Date:** R Venkataramani was re-appointed as the Attorney General of India on September 26, 2025, for a two-year term.
- **Term Duration:** His re-appointment is effective from October 1, 2025, and will last for two years.

- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Attorney General, he will represent the government in litigations, advise on complex legal issues, and provide guidance to both the Centre and State governments on matters of law.
- **Background:** Mr. Venkataramani, 75, succeeded veteran jurist K.K. Venugopal after completing his predecessor's term when he first assumed office on October 1, 2022.
- **Authority:** The Attorney General is a constitutional position appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Union government, and holds the right to appear in any court across the country.

IAS Officer Rajeev Verma to Become Delhi Chief Secretary

- **Appointment:** Rajeev Verma, a 1992-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Delhi, effective October 1, 2025, replacing incumbent Dharmendra.
- **Background:** Verma hails from Uttar Pradesh, born in 1966, and holds a graduate degree in Computer Science from the University of Roorkee and an MTech degree from IIT.
- **Experience:** Verma has extensive experience in key positions, including Deputy Commissioner in Delhi, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Chairman and MD of Delhi Transport Corporation, and Chief Secretary of Chandigarh and Puducherry.
- **Transfer:** Verma is being transferred from Chandigarh, where he served as Chief Secretary, to take up the new role in Delhi, highlighting his versatility and expertise in governance.

Foot notes:

About Delhi-

- **Chief Minister:** Rekha Gupta
- **Lieutenant Governor:** Vinai Kumar Saxena

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India's first officially child marriage free district is Balod

- **Zero Child Marriages for Two Years:** The designation was granted after no cases of child marriage were reported in the district for two consecutive years. This status was confirmed following a rigorous verification process.
- **Complete Certification Coverage:** The entire district, including all 436 Gram Panchayats and 9 urban bodies, received formal certificates from the state government, certifying them as child marriage-free.
- **Part of a National Campaign:** Balod's success is a major milestone under the national initiative, 'Child Marriage-Free India' (also known as Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat), which was launched by the Prime Minister in August 2024.
- **Collective Grassroots Effort:** The achievement is credited to the coordinated efforts of the district administration, local representatives, Anganwadi workers, and the community. UNICEF also provided technical support, awareness programs, and monitoring mechanisms.

Uttarakhand Becomes First State to Abolish Madrasa Board

- **Abolition of Madrasa Board:** The Uttarakhand government has abolished the Madrasa Education Board Act, 2016, and the Non-Government Arabic and Persian Madrasa Recognition Rules, 2019, effective July 1, 2026. This move aims to bring minority education into the national mainstream.
- **New Education Authority:** A new authority, the Uttarakhand Minority Education Authority, will regulate, modernize, and maintain quality checks on institutions operated by minority communities. This authority will ensure that education in these institutions aligns with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) and National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- **Uniform Education System:** The decision aims to introduce a uniform education system, where students from all backgrounds, including those in madrasas, will follow a standardized curriculum and evaluation framework. This will enable students to access higher education and professional courses on par with other students.
- **Inclusion of Other Minority Communities:** The new bill extends recognition to educational institutions belonging to other minority communities, including Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian, and Parsi communities, in addition to Muslims.

India's smartphone exports hit record \$13.4 billion

- **Record Export Value:** India achieved a record-breaking \$13.4 billion in smartphone exports in the first half of FY26 (April-September 2025), marking a significant milestone in the country's emergence as a global smartphone manufacturing hub.
- **Apple's Dominant Role:** Apple drove this growth, accounting for over 75% of shipments, with \$10 billion worth of iPhone production under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. This highlights Apple's increasing reliance on India as a key production center.
- **Strong US Demand:** The US was a major market for these exports, accounting for over half of India's smartphone exports in recent months. This underscores the importance of the US-India trade relationship.
- **Growth Drivers:** The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme played a crucial role in boosting local production and exports. Other brands like Motorola also contributed, with their exports growing sevenfold.

Sherry Singh Wins India's First Mrs Universe Crown

- **Historic Win:** Sherry Singh made history on October 8, 2025, by becoming the first Indian to win the Mrs. Universe crown at the 48th edition of the pageant in Manila, Philippines.
- **Background:** Sherry is from New Delhi and has a background in business. She won the Mrs. India title through UMB Pageants before representing India at the Mrs. Universe pageant.
- **Advocacy:** Sherry is not just a beauty queen; she's also an advocate for women's empowerment and mental health awareness. She used her platform to speak about important issues and inspire others.
- **Controversies:** Before her win, Sherry faced some controversy surrounding her participation in Mrs. Bharat Universe 2024 and discussions about financial contributions related to her pageant entry. However, she didn't let that stop her from achieving her goal.
- **Legacy:** Sherry's win is a moment of national pride for India, and she has opened doors for future generations of women. She's proven that with hard work, determination, and heart, anyone can achieve their dreams and make history.

The National Red List Roadmap & Vision 2025-2030 launched

- **Launch and Objective:** The National Red List Roadmap was launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi to create a nationally coordinated framework for assessing, documenting, and protecting India's vast array of species. The roadmap aims to establish a science-based red-listing and threat evaluation system.
- **Scope and Coverage:** The initiative will assess approximately 11,000 species, including 7,000 species of flora and 4,000 species of fauna, across India's diverse ecosystems.

- **Alignment with Global Frameworks:** The initiative aligns with international frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This alignment ensures that India's conservation practices are globally recognized and effective.
- **Importance for India's Biodiversity:** India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, hosting nearly 8% of global flora and 7.5% of fauna, with four biodiversity hotspots.

India rolled out AI-powered UPI payments within ChatGPT

- **Pilot Project Launch:** India has launched a pilot project enabling AI-powered UPI payments within ChatGPT, allowing users to make transactions directly from the platform.
- **Partnership:** The project is a collaboration between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Razorpay, and OpenAI, with banking partners Axis Bank and Airtel Payments Bank.
- **Key Features:** The AI-powered payment system uses natural language processing to interpret user commands, validates transactions, and ensures secure payments through UPI.
- **Security Measures:** The system employs end-to-end encryption, on-device biometric authentication, and multi-factor authentication to ensure secure transactions.
- **Potential Impact:** This development could revolutionize digital payments in India, making transactions more convenient and seamless, while also paving the way for wider adoption of AI-powered payment systems.

Bharath Thammineni Becomes First Indian to Climb 9 Peaks Above 8,000m

- **Historic Indian Record:** Bharath Thammineni becomes the first Indian mountaineer to successfully summit nine of the world's 14 peaks that are above 8,000 meters (known as the eight-thousanders).
- **Completes the 'Accessible Nine':** The achievement is often framed as conquering all the nine accessible peaks for Indian climbers. The remaining five 8,000m peaks (K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I & II, and Broad Peak) are located in Pakistan-administered territories and are currently out of bounds due to geopolitical restrictions.
- **Final Summit:** Cho Oyu: The historic feat was completed with the successful ascent of Mount Cho Oyu (8,201m), the world's sixth-highest mountain, on October 14, 2025.
- **List of Major Summits:** His nine 8,000m summits include the iconic peaks of Mount Everest (8,848m), Kangchenjunga (8,586m), Lhotse (8,516m).

Hindustan Shipyard Granted Mini Ratna Status

- **Financial Turnaround:** The status was granted after HSL achieved a sustained period of profitability, reportedly posting net profit consistently for nine out of ten years (FY 2015-16 to FY 2024-25), except for the COVID-19 impacted year (FY 2020-21).
- **Enhanced Financial Autonomy:** Achieving Mini Ratna (Category-I) status grants HSL greater financial and operational independence. It allows the company to make capital expenditure decisions for new projects, modernization, or equipment purchases up to ₹500 crore or an amount equal to its net worth, whichever is lower, without needing prior government approval. This accelerates decision-making and project implementation.
- **Validation of Reforms:** The recognition validates the comprehensive strategic reforms implemented by HSL, which included enhancing financial management, adopting technological modernization (like SAP S4/HANA ERP and AI-driven processes), improving productivity (like round-the-clock shifts and the "Mega Block" concept), and strengthening its vendor base.
- **Boost to Defence & Maritime Sectors:** As a major defense shipbuilder under the Ministry of Defence, the improved financial health and autonomy position HSL to play an expanded and more critical role.

Foot notes:**About Hindustan Shipyard-**

- **Headquarters:** Andhra Pradesh
- **Founded:** 1941

C-DAC and ICAT Signed MoU to Develop Indigenous Automotive Solutions

- **Partnership:** The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop indigenous automotive technologies, promoting self-reliance and innovation under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **Objective:** The partnership aims to accelerate India's transition towards smarter, cleaner, and connected mobility by leveraging domestic innovation and reducing dependence on imported technologies.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** ICAT will engage with the automotive industry to define specific technological needs, while C-DAC will design and develop indigenous solutions. ICAT will support testing, validation, certification, and facilitating connections with automobile manufacturers.
- **National Significance:** The partnership aligns with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India, paving the way for a future-ready, Swadeshi mobility ecosystem.

IISc and IIT Madras joined GBA for Water Security and Resilience Project

- **Project Name:** The project is called the Bengaluru Water Security and Resilience Project, which aims to improve water security and resilience in Bengaluru.
- **Funding:** The project is funded by the World Bank with over ₹3,500 crore.
- **Key Partners:** The key partners involved are the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
- **Objectives:** The project objectives include mitigating urban flooding, enhancing water security through rainwater harvesting and watershed development, and promoting natural flood mitigation strategies.
- **Implementation:** The project will be implemented by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSMILE), with IISc updating its Urban Flood model and IIT-M providing advanced technology capabilities to support the project.

PM Modi Launches ‘Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana’

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- **Implementation:** The project will be implemented by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (BSMILE), with IISc updating its Urban Flood model and IIT-M providing advanced technology capabilities to support the project.

Labour Minister Unveils “Vishwas” Scheme

- **Objective:** To reduce the high volume of legal disputes and litigation (over 6,000 cases pending across various forums) arising from the imposition of penal damages for delayed remittance of Provident Fund (PF) dues.
- **Rationalised Penal Damages:** The scheme significantly reduces the rate of penal damages levied on employers for delayed PF payments.
- **Litigation Abatement:** All pending cases covered under the scheme will be considered abated (ceased/cancelled) upon successful compliance and payment of the reduced penal damages.
- **Duration and Benefit:** The scheme is operational for a period of six months (with a potential extension of another six months) and promotes timely compliance.

DRDO Signs MoU to Develop 300 MW Solar Projects Across India

- **300 MW Solar Initiative:** DRDO has signed an MoU with SECI to develop 300 MW of solar-based renewable energy projects across DRDO facilities in India.
- **Net-Zero Energy Campuses:** The collaboration aims to establish self-reliant, Net-Zero energy campuses by 2027 at all major DRDO locations, aligning with India's clean energy goals.
- **Strategic Partnership:** The MoU exchange ceremony was held at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi, attended by top officials, including Samir V. Kamat, Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO.
- **Renewable Energy Deployment:** The partnership will facilitate the deployment of renewable energy within strategic defence establishments, promoting sustainability and energy security.
- **India's Clean Energy Push:** This initiative supports India's ambitious renewable energy targets, with SECI playing a key role in driving solar power development across the country.

Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu launched new initiative Fare Se Fursat

- **Fixed Airfare System:** Alliance Air's "Fare Se Fursat" scheme introduces a fixed airfare system, eliminating the stress of fluctuating ticket prices and ensuring predictability and transparency in domestic aviation.
- **Single Fare Regardless of Booking Date:** Under this scheme, passengers will pay the same fare whether they book 30 days or 3 hours before departure, promoting affordability and ease of travel.
- **Pilot Phase and Expansion:** The scheme will be rolled out on a pilot basis from October 13 to December 31, 2025, across select UDAN routes, and may be expanded to more routes in 2026 based on feedback and demand patterns.
- **Alignment with UDAN Initiative:** "Fare Se Fursat" complements the government's Regional Connectivity Scheme – UDAN, aiming to make flying accessible and affordable for all Indians, particularly those in smaller towns and cities.
- **Passenger-Centric Approach:** The initiative reflects the government's people-first approach, prioritizing affordability, dignity, and ease of travel, and positioning India as a pioneer in inclusive aviation policy.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

OpenAI Hits \$500 Billion Valuation After Share Sale to SoftBank

- **Valuation:** OpenAI's valuation has skyrocketed to \$500 billion after a \$6.6 billion secondary share sale, surpassing SpaceX's \$400 billion valuation.

- **Investors:** The share sale involved existing and former employees selling stock to outside investors, including Thrive Capital, SoftBank, Dragoneer Investment Group, Abu Dhabi's MGX, and T. Rowe Price.
- **No New Capital:** The deal didn't raise new capital for OpenAI but allowed employees to cash out, signaling investor confidence in the company's long-term prospects.
- **Revenue:** OpenAI generated approximately \$4.3 billion in revenue in the first half of 2025, with a projected annual run-rate revenue of \$8.6 billion.
- **Infrastructure Plans:** OpenAI is planning a massive infrastructure project called Stargate, a 10 GW data center project over four years, potentially requiring up to \$500 billion in investment, with Oracle and SoftBank as partners.

England All-Rounder Chris Woakes Retires from International Cricket

- **Immediate Retirement:** Chris Woakes, 36, has announced his immediate retirement from international cricket, citing the time is right for him to step back.
- **Career Highlights:** Woakes has represented England in 217 games since his debut in 2011/2013, winning two World Cups - the 2019 ICC Men's World Cup and the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.
- **Statistical Achievements:** Woakes took 192 wickets in 62 Test matches at an average of 29.61, with five five-wicket hauls. He also scored a Test century against India at Lord's in 2018.
- **Limited-Overs Career:** Woakes made 122 ODI appearances, taking 173 wickets, and played 33 T20 Internationals, claiming 31 wickets.

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- **Revenue:** OpenAI generated approximately \$4.3 billion in revenue in the first half of 2025, with a projected annual run-rate revenue of \$8.6 billion.
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Sanae Takaichi set to become Japan's First Female Prime Minister

- **Historic Leadership Role:** Sanae Takaichi is poised to become Japan's first female Prime Minister, marking a significant milestone in the country's politics. She won the Liberal Democratic Party leadership election, setting her up for confirmation by parliament.
- **Conservative Stance:** Takaichi is known for her hardline views on defense, national identity, and economic security. She's a staunch critic of China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region and has pledged to strengthen Japan's military posture.
- **Economic Policies:** Takaichi supports expansive fiscal spending and aggressive monetary easing to stimulate Japan's sluggish economy, echoing her mentor Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" blueprint. She's also raised concerns about foreign investors' economic influence and called for stricter rules to protect domestic industries.
- **Women's Representation:** Despite her conservative views on family and gender equality, Takaichi has promised to improve gender representation in her cabinet to "Nordic" standards. Japan currently ranks 118th out of 148 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Gender Gap Report.

Foot notes:

About Japan-

- **Prime Minister:** Shigeru Ishiba
- **Capital:** Tokyo

Khaled al-Anani appointed as UNESCO's Next Director-General

- **Nomination:** Khaled al-Anani was nominated by UNESCO's Executive Board for the position of Director-General.
- **Background:** El-Enany is an Egyptologist and Professor of Egyptology at Helwan University, with over 30 years of teaching experience. He's held various positions, including Vice Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality, Director of the Open Learning Center, and Head of the Tour Guide Department.
- **Previous Roles:** El-Enany has served as Minister of Antiquities and Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of the Arab Republic of Egypt from 2016 to 2022. He's also directed the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.
- **Election:** The nomination will be put to a vote by all UNESCO Member States on November 6 during the Organization's General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. If elected, he'll succeed Audrey Azoulay in mid-November.

Foot notes:

About UNESCO-

- **Director-General:** Khaled al-Anani
- **Headquarters:** Paris
- **Formation:** 1945

Sergio Gor named the youngest U.S. Ambassador to India

- **Early Political Involvement:** Sergio Gor started his political journey as a College Republican and founded the George Washington University chapter of Young America's Foundation. He supported Senator John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign and worked for the Republican National Committee.
- **Republican Party Roles:** Gor served as a spokesman for Representatives Steve King and Michele Bachmann, and later as communications director and deputy chief of staff for Senator Rand Paul. He played a significant role in Paul's office before joining Donald Trump's team.
- **Trump Administration:** Gor worked as chief of staff for the Trump Victory Finance Committee and later as a consultant and book publishing manager for Donald Trump Jr. He co-founded Winning Team Publishing, which published books about Trump's presidency.
- **Director of Presidential Personnel Office:** In November 2024, Gor was named director of the White House Presidential Personnel Office, overseeing over 4,000 appointees in the Trump administration.

Foot notes:

About US-

- **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
- **President:** Donald Trump
- **Vice President:** JD Vance

India-UK Launch Connectivity & Innovation Centre

- **Launch and Funding:** The India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre was launched on October 10, 2025, with a combined initial investment of £24 million (approximately ₹250 crore) over four years, committed by both countries.
- **Objective:** The Centre aims to advance digital inclusion, next-generation connectivity, and secure communication systems, aligning with the India-UK 2035 Vision and fostering a trusted, inclusive, and resilient digital future.
- **Benefits:** The partnership is expected to deliver tangible socio-economic benefits, including boosting digital inclusion, creating commercial opportunities for telecom and tech startups, and fostering global standards leadership in emerging technologies like 6G and AI-driven communications.
- **Implementation:** The Centre will unite the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, and the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK-India Technology Security Initiative.

Sebastian Lecornu Re-Appointed as New PM of France

- **Re-appointment Date:** Sébastien Lecornu was re-appointed as Prime Minister of France on October 10, 2025, after a brief resignation.
- **Previous Role:** Before becoming Prime Minister, Lecornu served as the Minister of the Armed Forces from May 20, 2022, to September 9, 2025.
- **Tenure:** His initial tenure as Prime Minister lasted only 26 days, from September 9, 2025, to October 6, 2025, making it the shortest in the history of the French Fifth Republic.
- **Political Affiliation:** Lecornu is a member of the Renaissance party and has held various positions in the French government, including Minister for Local Authorities and Minister of the Overseas.

IMF raises India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.6%

- **Reason for the Upgrade:** Strong First Quarter Momentum: The primary driver for the upward revision is the "carryover from a strong first quarter" (April-June 2025), where India's GDP grew at an impressive 7.8%. This robust initial performance provides a higher base and greater momentum for the rest of the fiscal year.
- **Resilience Despite Global Headwinds:** The forecast reflects the Indian economy's resilience and strong domestic fundamentals, as the strong Q1 growth is seen as more than offsetting the immediate impact of global challenges, such as the increased US tariffs on Indian imports.
- **Revised Figures:** The new forecast of 6.6% is a 20 basis points (0.2 percentage point) increase from the previous estimate of 6.4% (made in the July World Economic Outlook update).
- **Implication: Fastest Growing Major Economy:** This higher projection reinforces India's position as the fastest-growing major economy in the world for the current and next fiscal year, highlighting its role as a key engine of global growth.
- **Contrasting Outlook for FY27:** While the FY26 forecast was raised, the IMF simultaneously lowered India's growth projection for FY27 to 6.2% (from 6.4% earlier).

Adani, Google to Build India's Largest AI Data Hub

- **Massive Investment:** Google plans to invest \$15 billion (approximately ₹1.25 lakh crore) over five years (2026-2030) in this initiative, which is its largest-ever investment in India.
- **Location and Scale:** The facility will be India's largest AI data centre campus, located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is planned to have an initial gigawatt-scale (GW) compute capacity, designed for advanced AI workloads.
- **Core Partnership & Technology:** The project is a collaboration between Google and AdaniConneX (a joint venture of Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX), with Bharti Airtel

as a key partner. The hub will house TPU and GPU-based compute power essential for training large AI models.

- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** A major focus is on clean energy. The Adani Group will co-invest in new transmission lines, clean energy generation, and energy storage systems to power the hub sustainably, ensuring its operations are as environmentally conscious as possible.

India Elected to UN Human Rights Council for 2026–28

- **Seventh Term:** The 2026–2028 term is India's seventh stint on the UN Human Rights Council since its creation in 2006. This demonstrates a sustained and continuous involvement in the global human rights body, with mandatory breaks taken in compliance with the rules.
- **Elected Unopposed:** India was elected unopposed to one of the vacant seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Although unopposed, a pro-forma secret ballot vote was held where India received overwhelming support from the UN General Assembly members.
- **Three-Year Tenure:** The term of membership is for three years, commencing on January 1, 2026. Council members are elected by the UN General Assembly.
- **Commitment to Human Rights:** India's Permanent Representative to the UN emphasized that the election "reflects India's unwavering commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms." India's candidacy was presented with a focus on its pluralistic society and constitutional guarantees of rights.

Singapore Tops Henley Passport Index 2025

- **Singapore's Top Ranking:** Singapore has reclaimed the top spot in the Henley Passport Index 2025, offering visa-free access to a record 193 destinations out of 227 globally.
- **Top 3 Passports:** Following Singapore are South Korea and Japan, which share the 2nd and 3rd spots, respectively, with visa-free access to 190 and 189 destinations.
- **India's Ranking:** India's passport slipped to Rank 85 in 2025, down from Rank 80 in 2024, reflecting changing visa policies, global security considerations, and diplomatic negotiations affecting Indian travelers.
- **Global Trends:** The index reveals an increasingly competitive landscape in global mobility, with Asian nations dominating the top spots and traditional Western powers like the US and UK experiencing a decline in their rankings.
- **Passport Power Shift:** The rise of Middle Eastern nations like the UAE and China's steady climb up the rankings underscore a broader trend of emerging economies gaining ground in global mobility.

Military Leader Michael Randrianirina Sworn in as President of Madagascar

- **Context of Takeover:** Colonel Michael Randrianirina's ascent to the presidency followed a military takeover, often termed a coup, that ousted the former president, Andry Rajoelina, who had fled the country amidst widespread, youth-led "Gen Z" protests over chronic social and economic issues.
- **Military Background:** Randrianirina is a Colonel and the former commander of the elite CAPSAT military unit, which played a critical role in seizing power and supporting the protests, despite the fact that Randrianirina himself was previously arrested in 2023 on accusations of plotting a coup.
- **Transitional Period:** The new leader was sworn in on Friday, October 17, 2025, and announced that a military-led committee will govern for a transitional period of up to 18 to 24 months alongside a civilian government before new elections are organized.
- **International Condemnation:** The change in government has been met with international disapproval, with both the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN) condemning the unconstitutional seizure of power and the AU immediately suspending Madagascar's membership.

Nagma Mohamed Mallick appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Japan

- **Senior Diplomat and Batch:** Nagma Mohamed Mallick is a highly experienced, 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer whose appointment to Tokyo reflects her seniority and a distinguished three-decade-long career in Indian diplomacy.
- **Previous Diplomatic Roles:** Prior to her assignment to Japan, Mallick was serving as India's Ambassador to the Republic of Poland (with concurrent accreditation to Lithuania), demonstrating her deep experience in international postings across Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- **Trailblazing Career:** She holds a notable distinction as the first woman Deputy Chief of Protocol (Ceremonial) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), highlighting her pioneering role for women in the Indian Foreign Service.
- **Strategic Significance of Posting:** Her appointment to Japan is critical as the country is one of India's most significant strategic and economic partners, especially concerning cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, defense, and investment.

BANKING & FINANCE NEWS

Shirish Chandra Murmu Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

- **Appointment Date:** Shirish Chandra Murmu was appointed as the RBI Deputy Governor, effective October 9, 2025.
- **Term Duration:** His appointment is for a period of three years, starting from October 9, 2025.
- **Current Role:** Murmu is currently serving as an Executive Director at the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Predecessor:** He will replace Rajeshwar Rao, whose term as Deputy Governor ends on October 8, 2025.
- **Portfolio Allocation:** The specific portfolio allocation for Murmu has not been announced yet, but the RBI has four Deputy Governors overseeing departments like monetary policy, financial markets regulations, banking supervision, and regulations.

Axis Bank's MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry awarded Banker of the Year

- **Leadership Experience:** Amitabh Chaudhry has been the MD & CEO of Axis Bank since 2019, bringing over two decades of banking experience, including previous roles at HDFC Life and Bank of America.
- **Digital Transformation:** Under Chaudhry's leadership, Axis Bank has undergone significant digital transformation, introducing initiatives like the Axis Mobile App, Video KYC, and contactless payments.
- **Strategic Vision:** Chaudhry's strategic vision for Axis Bank includes strengthening digital banking, expanding rural and semi-urban reach, boosting corporate banking solutions, and focusing on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Although specific details about the "Banker of the Year" award are not available, Chaudhry's leadership and achievements have likely contributed to his recognition in the industry.

Foot notes:

About Axis Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Amitabh Chaudhry
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1993

Govt appoints Asheesh Pandey as MD & CEO of Union Bank

- **Appointment:** Asheesh Pandey was appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India for a three-year term, effective from September 2025, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

- **Banking Experience:** Pandey brings over 27 years of banking experience, previously serving as Executive Director at Bank of Maharashtra and Chief General Manager and COO at Union Bank of India.
- **Digital Transformation Expertise:** He has expertise in digital lending, corporate credit, and treasury, and has led significant digital transformation initiatives, including implementing WhatsApp banking, video KYC, and doorstep banking.
- **Educational Background:** Pandey holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a postgraduate management qualification specializing in finance and marketing.
- **Achievements:** During his tenure, Pandey has implemented various digital solutions and played a crucial role in the bank's digital transformation, including overseeing corporate credit, treasury, and digital lending initiatives.

Foot notes:**About Union Bank-**

- **Non-Exe Chairman:** Srinivasan Varadarajan
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1919

Kalyan Kumar appointed as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India

- **Banking Experience:** Kalyan Kumar has nearly three decades of banking experience, starting as a Rural Development Officer at Union Bank of India in 1995. He has held various leadership roles in branch operations, training, and corporate functions.
- **Digital Transformation Expertise:** Kumar has expertise in digital transformation, strategic planning, data analytics, economic advisory, and IT excellence, which he applied during his tenure at Punjab National Bank.
- **Leadership Roles:** He has served as Executive Director at Punjab National Bank since October 2021 and played a pivotal role in strengthening operational efficiency, enhancing governance frameworks, and driving strategic initiatives.
- **Merger Experience:** Kumar was closely involved in the amalgamation of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India, showcasing his ability to navigate complex challenges in India's public sector banking landscape.

Foot notes:**About Central Bank of India-**

- **Non-Exe Chairman:** Tapan Ray
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1911

FSIB recommends Ramakrishnan Chander as LIC's MD

- **Recommendation:** The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Ramakrishnan Chander for the role of Managing Director at Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), pending final approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Selection Process:** FSIB interviewed five candidates on September 30, 2025, and selected Chander based on his performance in the interview, overall experience, and suitability for the role.
- **Experience:** Ramakrishnan Chander has over three decades of experience in LIC, having joined in 1990 as an Assistant Administrative Officer and holding various leadership positions, including Chief Investment Officer.
- **Current Role:** Chander assumed charge as LIC's Chief Investment Officer and Key Managerial Personnel on June 5, 2025, showcasing his expertise and leadership skills within the organization.
- **Leadership Structure:** This appointment is crucial for LIC's continued success, with the insurance giant operating under a robust leadership structure that includes four managing directors and a CEO

Foot notes:

About LIC-

- **Present CEO & MD:** R. Doraiswamy
- **Founded:** 1956
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

RBI grants SRO status to Finance Industry Development Council

- **First SRO for NBFCs:** FIDC is the first organization officially recognized as an SRO for the general Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) sector in India.
- **Extended Regulatory Arm:** It will function as the extended arm of the RBI, aimed at ensuring better regulatory compliance and market discipline among NBFC members.
- **Mandate for Compliance:** Its core role involves framing and enforcing a Code of Conduct and ethical standards, and monitoring member adherence to RBI guidelines.
- **Dispute Resolution Focus:** FIDC is responsible for establishing a grievance redressal and dispute resolution framework for issues within the NBFC community.
- **Part of RBI's New Framework:** The recognition was granted under the RBI's comprehensive 'Omnibus Framework for SROs', signaling a push towards co-regulation in the financial system.

Foot notes:

About RBI-

- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Bank rate:** 5.5 %

World Bank Ups India's FY26 Growth Estimate to 6.5%

- **Revised Growth Estimate:** The World Bank has increased India's growth estimate for FY26 to 6.5%, up from its previous projection of 6.3% made in June.
- **Economic Outlook:** This revision reflects the World Bank's confidence in India's economic growth prospects, driven by various factors, including government initiatives and investments.
- **Comparison with Previous Projections:** The upward revision indicates a positive shift in the World Bank's outlook on India's economy, which is now expected to perform better than previously anticipated.
- **Global Economic Context:** The revision comes amid a complex global economic scenario, with the World Bank closely monitoring economic trends and adjusting its projections accordingly.

PayPal Onboards India's UPI as First Payments System Partner

- **Integration with PayPal World:** PayPal has integrated India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the first payments system partner on its new platform, PayPal World, enabling seamless cross-border transactions.
- **Global Interoperability:** This partnership aims to create a global network of digital wallets, allowing users to transact across borders without the need for multiple accounts or platforms.
- **Increased Reach:** With UPI's integration, PayPal's global reach expands, enabling Indian users to make international transactions easily and efficiently.
- **Boost to Financial Inclusion:** This move is expected to enhance financial inclusion, reduce transaction costs, and spur innovation in fintech, aligning with India's 'Digital India' vision.
- **Strategic Partnership:** PayPal's partnership with NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) highlights the growing importance of UPI in global financial transactions and reflects a shift towards a borderless digital economy.

Foot notes:

About PayPal-

- **Chairman:** John Donahoe
- **Headquarters:** U.S
- **Founded:** 1998

RBI unveils four UPI initiatives at Global Fintech Festival 2025

- **AI-Based UPI HELP:** This AI-powered support system transforms complaint resolution and mandate management, enabling users to check transaction status, raise and track complaints, manage mandates, and access contextual guidance. It's developed using a Small Language Model (SLM) trained on payment data.
- **IoT Payments with UPI:** This initiative allows transactions directly from connected devices like cars, smart TVs, and wearables, making payments faster, smarter, and frictionless. Users can make instant payments for services like fuel, EV charging, or other services via connected devices.
- **UPI Reserve Pay:** This feature enables users to securely block and manage credit limits for specific purposes across merchant and UPI apps. It provides transparency with a clear view of blocked and utilized credit across merchant apps, UPI applications, and issuer platforms.
- **Interoperable Net Banking Solution (Banking Connect):** This platform offers seamless payments and standardized merchant onboarding, addressing long-standing net banking challenges.

Foot notes:**About RBI-**

- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

HDFC Bank Launches “My Business QR”

- **Digital Payment Solution:** HDFC Bank launched "My Business QR," a digital payment solution for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Easy Payments:** The solution allows businesses to accept payments digitally through a QR code, making transactions easier and more convenient.
- **Simple Setup:** Merchants can set up the QR code in minutes, without any additional hardware requirements.
- **Real-Time Tracking:** The solution provides real-time tracking of transactions, helping businesses manage their finances more effectively.
- **Increased Sales:** By accepting digital payments, businesses can increase sales and reach a wider customer base, promoting growth and financial inclusion.

RBI appoints Shri Sanjay Kumar Hansda as new Executive Director

- **Appointment:** Sanjay Kumar Hansda has been appointed as Executive Director in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from March 3, 2025.
- **Department:** He will head the Department of Economic and Policy Research in the RBI, bringing over 30 years of central banking experience to the role.

- **Background:** Before his elevation, Dr. Hansda served as Adviser in the Department of Economic and Policy Research and held key positions such as Adviser in the Monetary Policy Department.
- **Experience:** He has worked extensively in areas like banking, monetary policy, interest rates, liquidity management, inflation, and financial markets, and has represented RBI in several national and international forums.
- **Previous Role:** Dr. Hansda rejoined RBI on October 6, 2025, after serving as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Sonali Sen Gupta appointed as RBI Executive Director

- **Over Three Decades of RBI Experience:** She has a career of more than thirty years at the Reserve Bank of India, indicating deep institutional knowledge and extensive experience in the financial sector.
- **Multifaceted Expertise:** Her experience covers critical functions within the RBI, including Financial Inclusion, Human Resource Management, Banking Regulation, and Supervision.
- **Prior Leadership Role:** Immediately before her ED appointment, she was serving as the Regional Director for Karnataka at the RBI's Bengaluru Regional Office.
- **International Policy Representation:** She has represented the RBI on global platforms, notably in the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPMI) and the OECD International Network on Financial Education (INFE). She also served as a Director on the board of the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE).
- **Current Directorship and Policy Contribution:** She currently serves as the RBI's Nominee Director on the Board of Indian Overseas Bank.

Foot notes:

About RBI-

- **Governor:** Sanjay Malhotra
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Established:** 1935

Maithri Wickremesinghe appointed to Central Bank governing board

- **Appointment Date:** Maithri Wickremesinghe was appointed as a member of the Governing Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, effective October 2, 2025.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As a member of the Governing Board, Wickremesinghe will oversee the administration and management of the Central Bank's affairs and determine its general policies.
- **Monetary Policy Board:** He will also be a member of the Monetary Policy Board, playing a key role in shaping the country's monetary policies.

- **Background:** Wickremesinghe is a distinguished professional, designated as a President's Counsel (P.C.), indicating his expertise in law and governance.
- **Governing Board's Objective:** The Governing Board is responsible for ensuring the stability of the financial system, identifying and evaluating associated risks, and outlining policy measures to mitigate them.

Global Finance Recognizes DBS Bank as Asia's Safest Bank for 17th Consecutive Year

- **Consecutive, Long-Term Achievement:** DBS Bank has earned the "Safest Bank in Asia" title from Global Finance for 17 consecutive years (from 2009 to 2025), highlighting a sustained track record of stability and financial resilience over nearly two decades.
- **Global Ranking and Peer Group:** The bank maintained a strong global standing, securing the 2nd position in the 'World's 50 Safest Commercial Banks' list, demonstrating its strength among its international, non-government-backed peers.
- **Core Evaluation Criteria:** The ranking methodology relies on an evaluation of the long-term foreign currency ratings awarded by the three major credit rating agencies: Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch for the world's 500 largest banks.
- **High Credit Ratings:** DBS holds among the highest credit ratings globally, specifically an "AA-" and "Aa1" from its credit rating agencies, which are foundational to the "Safest Bank" recognition.

RBI revises Merchant Trade Transactions Guidelines

- **Definition and Conditions:** For a trade to be classified as MTT, goods acquired shall not enter the Domestic Tariff Area. However, some transformation may be allowed if the AD bank is satisfied with the documentary evidence and bonafides of the transaction.
- **Eligible Goods and Routing:** MTT shall be undertaken for goods permitted for exports/import under the prevailing Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of India. The entire trade must be routed through the same AD bank.
- **Timeframe and Credit:** The entire MTT must be completed within nine months, with no outlay of foreign exchange beyond four months. Short-term credit may be extended for MTT, but not backed by advance remittance for the export leg.
- **Payment and Caution Listing:** **Payment for the import leg can be made from the balances in the EEFC account of the merchant trader.** Merchant traders with outstanding of 5% or more of their annual export earnings will be liable for caution listing.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Army Conducts 'Vayu Samanvay' Exercise

- **Exercise Focus:** The "Vayu Samanvay" exercise focuses on the coordinated use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and counter-UAS measures, showcasing the Indian Army's preparedness in modern warfare.
- **Location:** The exercise was conducted in Ambala, highlighting the army's strategic presence in the region.
- **UAS Warfare:** The exercise demonstrates the army's capabilities in UAS warfare, including surveillance, reconnaissance, and combat operations.
- **Counter-UAS Measures:** The exercise also emphasizes the importance of counter-UAS measures to neutralize potential threats from enemy drones.

Major General G. Srinivas Assumes Command as CDM Commandant

- **Appointment:** Major General Harsh Chhibber took over as the 27th Commandant of CDM, succeeding Rear Admiral Sanjay Datt, VSM, who retired after 36 years of service in the Indian Navy.
- **Background:** Major General Chhibber is a distinguished officer with a PhD and holds the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM). He's an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the Army Service Corps in December 1988.
- **Vision:** He outlined his vision for CDM, focusing on advanced strategic studies, innovative training methodologies, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement to address global security challenges.
- **Leadership:** Major General Chhibber aims to position CDM at the forefront of defence education through collaborations with academic institutions, think tanks, and industry leaders.

Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Drone Kavach' in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Objective:** The exercise aimed to validate the Army's operational preparedness for fighting in a drone-dominated battlefield and assess its ability to integrate advanced drone technologies into active combat while developing effective counter-drone measures.
- **Location and Duration:** The exercise was conducted in forward areas of eastern Arunachal Pradesh from September 25 to 28, 2025, and involved the Spear Corps under the Eastern Command.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise was attended by personnel from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), strengthening joint operational coordination between the Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in safeguarding India's eastern frontier.

- **Key Focus Areas:** The exercise emphasized tactics, techniques, and procedures for handling drone warfare, including simulated target acquisition and neutralization operations, active counter-measures like electronic jamming systems, and passive defenses like camouflage and deception.

Major General G. Srinivas Takes Charge as Commandant of CDM

- **New Appointment:** Major General G. Srinivas has taken charge as the Commandant of CDM in Secunderabad, succeeding Lieutenant General Harsh Chhibber, who has been elevated to the post of Director General Information Systems.
- **Background:** Maj Gen Srinivas is a distinguished Gunner Officer with extensive experience in joint operational planning, defence management, and strategic leadership. He is an alumnus of both the College of Defence Management and the National Defence College.
- **Previous Role:** Before assuming the role of Commandant, Maj Gen Srinivas was responsible for planning and executing operational logistics in the Western Command theatre, including during Operation Sindoor, where his leadership in logistics management proved pivotal.
- **Role of CDM:** The College of Defence Management is a premier tri-services training institution that imparts modern management practices, leadership skills, and joint operational perspectives to senior officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

HAL receives GE Aerospace jet engine for Tejas light combat jets

- **Engine Delivery:** HAL has received the fourth GE-F404-IN20 engine from US-based GE Aerospace for the Tejas Mk-1A program, with 12 engines expected by the end of the current financial year.
- **Contract Details:** The delivery is part of a \$716 million contract signed in 2021 for 99 F404-IN20 engines to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A fighter jets.
- **Production Timeline:** HAL aims to scale up production to 30 aircraft per year by 2026-27, with the Indian Air Force planning to induct 352 Tejas aircraft, including both Mk1A and Mk2 variants.
- **Indian Air Force Order:** The IAF has ordered 83 Tejas Mk1A jets, with discussions underway for an additional 97 aircraft, which would make the Tejas Mk1A a key component of the IAF's light fighter fleet.

- **Self-Reliance:** The GE-F404-IN20 engine will enhance the Tejas Mk-1A's combat capabilities, supporting India's push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Air Marshal Hardeep Bains takes over as Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel

- **Appointment** – Air Marshal Hardeep Bains has assumed charge as the Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel (AOP) at Air Headquarters.
- **Responsibilities** – As AOP, he will oversee all personnel matters of the Indian Air Force (IAF), including human resource management, training, and welfare.
- **Background** – He was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF and has extensive operational and administrative experience.
- **Leadership Roles** – He has held key appointments at various command and staff levels, contributing significantly to IAF operations and administration.
- **Succession** – He takes over the role from his predecessor, continuing the responsibility of managing the personnel branch for enhancing the operational efficiency of the IAF.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Ship Akshar

- **Commissioning Details:** The ICGS Akshar was commissioned on October 4, 2025, at Karaikal, Puducherry, marking a significant milestone in India's maritime security.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** The ship is the second vessel in the Adanya-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) series, designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited, showcasing India's growing self-reliance in defense manufacturing with over 60% indigenous content.
- **Operational Roles:** The ship will be deployed for surveillance of maritime zones, search and rescue, pollution control, and enforcement of maritime laws, playing a critical role in India's maritime defense.
- **Symbolism:** The name 'Akshar' means 'imperishable', symbolizing the Indian Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to securing India's maritime interests.

The 'Drone Armour' exercise conducted in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Exercise Objective:** The exercise aimed to validate the Army's operational preparedness for fighting in a next-generation, drone-dominated battlefield, and to assess its ability to integrate advanced drone technologies into active combat while developing effective counter-drone measures.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involved the Indian Army's Spear Corps under the Eastern Command and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration in national security operations.

- **Key Activities:** The exercise included tactical maneuvers, target acquisition, and neutralization operations, with a focus on both active counter-measures (electronic jamming systems and hard-kill drone interceptors) and passive defenses (camouflage, deception, and dispersion tactics).
- **Strategic Importance:** The exercise was conducted in forward areas of eastern Arunachal Pradesh, a region critical to India's national security due to its proximity to the China and Myanmar borders.

Foot notes:**About Arunachal Pradesh-**

- **Governor:** Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
- **Chief Minister:** Pema Khandu
- **Deputy Chief Minister:** Chowna Mein
- **Capital:** Itanagar

DRDO Launches IRSA 1.0 for Military Radio Interoperability

- **Unified Software Framework:** IRSA 1.0 is India's first national software architecture standard for Software Defined Radios (SDRs) used by the Army, Navy, and Air Force, ensuring seamless communication across services.
- **Interoperability:** The standard enables waveform portability, allowing different radio systems to communicate with each other securely and efficiently, even in complex multi-domain operations.
- **Self-Reliance:** IRSA 1.0 aligns with the Government's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and Make in India mission, reducing dependence on foreign communication systems and promoting indigenous defence manufacturing.
- **Key Features:** The standard includes a common software architecture, scalability for next-generation technologies like AI and 5G, and a certification framework for security and reliability.

Foot notes:**About DRDO-**

- **Minister of Defence:** Rajnath Singh
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Formed:** 1958

Indian Army Launches Indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid

- **Indigenous Development:** SAKSHAM is an indigenous system developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), showcasing India's growing capability in defense technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- **Real-Time Detection and Neutralization:** SAKSHAM detects, tracks, identifies, and neutralizes hostile drones in real-time, providing a unified "Recognised UAS Picture" across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS) up to 3,000 meters above ground level.
- **AI-Driven Technology:** The system uses AI-driven threat analysis, enhancing accuracy and decision-making speed in neutralizing aerial threats. It employs AI-based fusion technologies for automated threat classification and soft/hard kill decision-making.
- **Integration with Existing Systems:** SAKSHAM integrates seamlessly with existing air defense and surveillance networks, including the Akashteer System, India's automated air defense network, to intercept and neutralize threats instantly.

Air Marshal Hardeep Bains takes over as Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel

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India-UK Hold First Joint Carrier Strike Exercise

- **Exercise Konkan 25:** The exercise marked the first-ever joint exercise between the Indian Navy's INS Vikrant Carrier Strike Group and the UK's HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group in the Western Indian Ocean.
- **Participating Ships:** The Indian Navy's INS Vikrant was accompanied by destroyers INS Kolkata, INS Mormugao, and INS Surat, frigates INS Tabar and INS Teg, and fleet oiler INS Deepak. The UK's Carrier Strike Group included HMS Prince of Wales, RN destroyer HMS Dauntless, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer JS Akebono, RN frigate HMS Richmond, and Royal Norwegian Navy frigate HNoMS Roald Amundsen.
- **Objectives:** The exercise aimed to enhance maritime and air interoperability, conduct anti-submarine warfare drills, air defense exercises, and cross-deck flying operations, strengthening the Free & Open Indo-Pacific vision and advancing India-UK Vision 2035 on defense and security.

- **Multilateral Cooperation:** The exercise featured participation from Japan and Norway, reflecting multilateral Indo-Pacific cooperation and reinforcing a rules-based international order.

India-Australia Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025

- **Exercise Dates:** The fourth edition of AUSTRAHIND 2025 began on October 13, 2025, and will conclude on October 26, 2025, in Perth, Australia.
- **Participating Forces:** A 120-member Indian Army contingent, led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles along with troops from other arms and services, is participating in the exercise.
- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability, and provide a platform for exchanging tactics, techniques, and procedures in sub-conventional warfare, especially in urban and semi-urban terrain scenarios.
- **Training Activities:** The exercise will focus on joint company-level operations in open and semi-desert terrain, including missions ranging from joint planning, tactical drills, and specialized arms skill development.
- **Strategic Significance:** AUSTRAHIND 2025 is designed to bolster defence cooperation, advance mutual understanding, and strengthen the long-term foundation of India-Australia military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific context.

India, Indonesia begin naval drill 'Samudra Shakti – 2025'

- **Nature and Edition:** It is the fifth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL), reinforcing the two nations' commitment to maritime partnership.
- **Location and Duration:** The exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam (under the Eastern Naval Command) and was conducted from October 14 to 17, 2025.
- **Key Participants:** Major participating ships included the Indian Navy's INS Kavaratti (an Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette) and the Indonesian Navy's KRI John Lie (a Corvette equipped with an integral helicopter).
- **Focus of Drills (Sea Phase):** The exercise was split into Harbour and Sea Phases, with the latter focusing on complex tactical operations such as Helicopter Operations, Air Defence Exercises, Weapon Firing Drills, and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercises to enhance tactical coordination.

India-South Korea Hold First Bilateral Naval Exercise IN-RoKN

- **Exercise Details:** The exercise took place on October 13, 2025, at the Busan Naval Base in South Korea, marking the first-ever bilateral naval exercise between India and South Korea.
- **Participating Ships:** The Indian Navy's INS Sahyadri, a Shivalik-class stealth frigate, participated in the exercise alongside the South Korean Navy's ROKS Gyeongnam.
- **Exercise Structure:** The exercise consisted of two phases - the Harbour Phase and the Sea Phase. The Harbour Phase included professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, sports events, and training interactions, while the Sea Phase featured joint manoeuvres and coordinated operations.
- **Strategic Significance:** The exercise demonstrates a shared commitment to a rules-based maritime order and supports regional security architecture through joint naval readiness, highlighting the growing partnership between India and South Korea in the Indo-Pacific region.

INS Sahyadri Joins Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JAIMEX) 2025

- **Enhanced Interoperability Drills:** The sea phase of JAIMEX-25, conducted from October 16 to 18, 2025, involved high-end and complex maritime drills. Key exercises included Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), missile defence simulations, flying operations, and underway replenishment (refuelling and supply at sea), significantly enhancing the tactical coordination and interoperability between the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- **Boosting the Special Strategic and Global Partnership:** The exercise reinforces the robust defense and maritime cooperation that forms a crucial pillar of the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" established between India and Japan in 2014. It underscores the shared commitment to regional stability.
- **Support for a Free, Open, and Inclusive Indo-Pacific:** JAIMEX-25 is a key manifestation of the mutual vision shared by both democracies for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region. The joint exercise contributes to maintaining maritime order and security in this strategically important domain.
- **Demonstration of Indigenous Capability:** INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built Shivalik-class Guided Missile Stealth Frigate. Its participation showcases India's growing pursuit of indigenous defense technology and reinforces the nation's "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India) vision on the global stage.

IAF Participated in Multinational Exercise 'Ocean Sky 2025'

- **Dual Global Recognition:** SBI clinched two major titles: World's Best Consumer Bank 2025 and Best Bank in India 2025. This dual win reinforces its stature as a global banking leader committed to innovation and customer excellence.
- **Focus on Digital Transformation and Technology:** The award acknowledges SBI's significant strides in digitalization and technological leadership. Its strategy is centered on being a 'Digital First, Consumer First' bank.
- **Massive Digital Customer Engagement:** The bank's flagship mobile application, YONO (You Only Need One), plays a critical role, serving over 100 million customers with 10 million daily active users. Innovations like YONO 2.0, which allows users to seamlessly move transactions between physical branches and the app, were highlighted.
- **Commitment to Financial Inclusion and Accessibility:** SBI was recognized for its efforts in financial inclusion and expanding services across India's diverse geographic landscape. This includes investing in 600 new branches (a fourfold increase over the previous fiscal year) to serve underserved rural and semi-urban areas, as well as enabling vernacular voice banking and simplified onboarding.
- **Immense Scale and Customer Base:** SBI is India's largest commercial bank, serving an extensive customer base of over 520 million and adding approximately 65,000 new customers daily.

SPORTS NEWS

Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil Win Gold in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team at ISSF Junior World Cup

- **Gold Medal Win:** Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil won the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event, defeating fellow Indians Vanshika Chaudhary and Jonathan Antony 16-10 in the final.
- **Top-Seeded Qualification:** The duo topped the qualification round with a combined score of 582, setting them up for success in the final.
- **Dominant Performance:** Rashmika and Kapil dominated the final, maintaining their lead from the qualification round to secure India's third gold medal in the tournament.
- **Recent Form:** The pair had recently won gold in the men's and women's 10m air pistol junior events at the Asian Championships in Kazakhstan, showcasing their strong form.
- **Medal Standings:** This win helped India take the lead in the overall medal standings with 11 medals, including three gold, five silver, and three bronze.

India Win 7th SAFF U-17 Football Title

- **Seventh Title Win:** India won their seventh SAFF U-17 Championship title by defeating Bangladesh 4-1 in penalties after the match ended 2-2 after extra time.
- **Thrilling Match:** The final was a thrilling encounter, with India dominating the early stages and taking a 2-1 lead at halftime through goals from Dallalmuon Gangte (4') and Azlaan Shah KH (38').
- **Bangladesh's Late Surge:** Bangladesh showed resilience and equalized in the last minute of the game through Ihsan Habib Riduan, forcing the match into a penalty shootout.
- **Penalty Shootout Heroics:** India goalkeeper Manashjyoti Baruah played a crucial role in the penalty shootout, saving a shot from Md Azam Khan and helping India win 4-1.

India's Anushka Thokur Wins Gold in 50-meter rifle 3-positions event

- **Gold Medal Win:** Anushka Thokur clinched gold in the women's 50-meter rifle 3-positions event at the ISSF Junior World Cup, showcasing her exceptional shooting skills.
- **Dominant Performance:** This victory marks Thokur's second gold in the competition, following her earlier win in the 50-meter rifle prone event, demonstrating her consistency and talent.
- **Indian Sweep:** Thokur led a podium sweep for India in the women's 50m rifle events, highlighting the country's strong presence in the sport.
- **Event Location:** The ISSF Junior World Cup is currently underway at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Delhi, providing a platform for young shooters to showcase their abilities.

India's Sheetal Devi clinched her first World Para Archery gold

- **Historic Victory:** Sheetal Devi, 18, became the compound women's world champion at the Gwangju 2025 World Archery Para Championships, defeating defending champion Oznur Cure Girdi of Türkiye 146-143.
- **Breakthrough Performance:** Devi's gold medal marks a significant milestone in her career, following her silver medal at the 2023 Pilsen World Championships and bronze at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- **Unique Shooting Style:** Born without arms, Sheetal uses her feet to shoot, showcasing exceptional technique and mental control. She loads the arrow, stabilizes the bow, and releases the string using a customized setup.

- **Multiple Medals:** In addition to her individual gold, Sheetal won silver in the women's compound team event with Sarita and bronze in the mixed team event with Toman Kumar.

Rinku Hooda Wins Gold, Sundar Singh Gurjar Bags Silver in Men's Javelin F46

- **Record-Breaking Throw:** Rinku Hooda won the gold medal with a championship-record throw of 66.37 meters, breaking a 10-year-old record in the men's F46 javelin throw event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025.
- **India's Dominance:** Sundar Singh Gurjar, the reigning world record holder, secured silver with a best throw of 64.76 meters, showcasing India's dominance in the event with a 1-2 finish.
- **Competition Results:** Cuba's Guillermo Varona Gonzalez earned bronze with 63.34 meters, while India's Ajeet Singh finished fourth with 61.77 meters in the men's F46 javelin throw.
- **Classification:** The F46 classification includes athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power, or limited arm movement who compete in a standing position, highlighting the athletes' exceptional skill and adaptability.

Yogesh Khatuniya Wins Silver in Men's Discus Throw F56 at World Para Athletics Championship

- **Event and Medal:** Yogesh Kathuniya secured a silver medal in the Men's F56 discus throw event with a best throw of 42.49 meters.
- **Competition Details:** He achieved this feat at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, India.
- **Consecutive Silver Medals:** This silver medal marks Kathuniya's third consecutive silver in the World Championships, following his podium finishes in 2023 and 2024.
- **Gold Medal Winner:** Brazilian athlete Claudiney Batista won the gold medal with a throw of 45.67 meters, while Greece's Konstantinos Tzounis took the bronze with a distance of 39.97 meters.

Grandmaster P Iniyan Wins 62nd National Chess Championship

- **Unbeaten Performance:** Grandmaster P Iniyan from Tamil Nadu won the championship without losing a single game in 11 rounds, showcasing his exceptional skill and consistency.

- **Nine Points Secured:** Iniyar accumulated nine points from seven wins and four draws, demonstrating his dominance in the tournament.
- **Notable Victories:** He secured crucial wins over prominent players like IM Harsh Suresh, GM Deepan Chakkravarthy, and GM Sasikiran Krishnan, who finished third in the tournament.
- **Superior Tie-Break Results:** Iniyar's victory was sealed by superior tie-break results, highlighting his ability to perform under pressure.
- **Double Triumph:** This win, combined with his earlier National Rapid Championship title, positions Iniyar for future international competitions with his rating surpassing 2600, further solidifying his reputation as a top chess player in India.

Mirabai Chanu Wins Silver in Women's 48kg Category at World Championships

- **Recent Performance:** Mirabai Chanu recently won a gold medal in the women's 48kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Ahmedabad, lifting a total of 193kg.
- **Weight Class Adjustment:** Chanu dropped down to the 48kg weight class to adjust to new weight categories implemented for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, after competing in the 49kg category previously.
- **Competition Experience:** She has been competing at a high level, including a fourth-place finish in the women's 49kg category at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- **Upcoming Events:** She is currently preparing for the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships, a major event in the weightlifting calendar.

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Fritz to win the Japan Open title

- **Match Result:** Carlos Alcaraz defeated Taylor Fritz in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, to claim his 24th career title and eighth title of the season.
- **Tournament Performance:** Alcaraz had a remarkable run in Tokyo, dropping only one set throughout the tournament. He overcame a scary ankle injury in his first-round win and still managed to dominate the competition.
- **Head-to-Head Record:** This win improves Alcaraz's head-to-head record against Fritz to 4-1. Alcaraz avenged his loss to Fritz at the Laver Cup earlier this month.
- **Season Highlights:** With this victory, Alcaraz now boasts 67 wins and eight titles in 2025, solidifying his lead in the ATP rankings. He's tied with Alexander Zverev for the most titles among men born since 1990.
- **Future Plans:** Alcaraz announced that he won't compete in the Shanghai Masters to recover for the rest of the season, aiming to maintain his top ranking.

Abhishek Sharma Sets Record in ICC Men's T20I Batter Rankings

- **Record-Breaking Rating:** Abhishek Sharma has achieved the highest-ever rating in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings, scoring 931 points, surpassing Dawid Malan's record of 919 points set in 2020.
- **Current Ranking:** Although his rating slightly dipped to 926 after a rare failure, he still leads the rankings, ahead of England's Phil Salt by 82 points.
- **Asia Cup Performance:** Sharma's record-breaking performance was fueled by his impressive run at the Asia Cup, where he scored 314 runs at an average of 44.85, earning him the Player of the Tournament title.
- **Consecutive Scores:** Abhishek Sharma shares the record for most successive T20I scores of 30-plus, with seven consecutive scores, alongside Mohammad Rizwan and Rohit Sharma.
- **Indian Dominance:** Sharma's achievement adds to India's strong presence in the rankings, with Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli also featuring among the top batters, and Varun Chakravarthy topping the bowling charts.

India Clinches One-Two in Men's Javelin F44 at World Para Athletics

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Nishad Kumar Wins Maiden Gold at World Para Athletics Championships

- **Event and Location:** Nishad Kumar won the gold medal in the men's high jump T47 event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in New Delhi.

- **Record-Breaking Jump:** He cleared a height of 2.14m, setting a new Asian record and coming close to the world record of 2.16m held by Roderick Townsend.
- **Historic Win:** This is Nishad's first gold medal at the World Championships, after winning silver medals in consecutive editions, including the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- **Competition Results:** Abdullah Ilgaz of Turkey won the silver medal with a European record jump of 2.08m, while world record holder Roderick Townsend settled for bronze with a jump of 2.03m.
- **Personal Milestone:** Nishad Kumar achieved this feat on his birthday, October 3, 2025, and expressed his happiness, saying he had been working hard for this moment and "didn't want to miss it."

India finishes ISSF Junior World Cup at New Delhi as table-topper

- **Medal Count:** India topped the medals table with 19 medals in Olympic events, including 6 gold, 8 silver, and 5 bronze.
- **Additional Medals:** India added 2 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze medals in non-Olympic events, further increasing its medal tally.
- **Top Performers:** Tejaswani Singh won silver in the junior women's 25m pistol event, while Mukesh Nellavalli claimed gold in the 25m pistol men junior individual event.
- **Other Notable Performances:** Sahil Choudhary won bronze in the 25m pistol men junior individual event, and Addya Katyal and Arjun narrowly missed the bronze medal match in the trap mixed team event.
- **Global Rankings:** India's performance in the tournament showcases its growing dominance in shooting sports, with AIN (Athletes from Independent Nations) and Italy securing second and third positions in the medals table, respectively.

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Shriyanshi Valishetty Wins Women's Singles at Al Ain Masters 2025

- **Tournament Details:** The Al Ain Masters 2025 is a BWF Tour Super 100 event held in Abu Dhabi, featuring top international talent and offering a total prize pool of USD 120,000.
- **Final Match:** Shriyanshi Valishetty defeated Tasnim Mir in the Women's Singles final with a score of 15-21, 22-20, 21-7, showcasing a remarkable comeback after losing the first game.
- **Historic Win:** This victory marked Shriyanshi's maiden BWF Super 100 title, highlighting her rising star status in Indian badminton.
- **Player Profile:** Shriyanshi, currently world No. 61, is just 18 years old and has had a remarkable 2025 season, including winning the India Junior International Series in August.
- **Other Indian Winners:** The Al Ain Masters 2025 also saw Indian pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun winning the Men's Doubles title, defeating Indonesia's Raymond Indra and Nikolaus Joaquin 21-17, 21-18.

India Finishes 10th at World Para Athletics Championships 2025

- **Best-Ever Performance:** India finished 10th at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, its best-ever performance in the tournament, with a total of 22 medals - 6 gold, 9 silver, and 7 bronze.
- **Medal-Winning Athletes:** Some notable Indian medalists include Simran (gold in women's 200m T12 and silver in women's 100m T12), Preeti Pal (silver in women's 100m T35 and bronze in women's 400m T35), and Navdeep (silver in men's Javelin Throw T41).
- **Championship Records:** Indian athletes set 3 Championship Records and 7 Asian Records during the tournament, showcasing their exceptional performance.
- **Home Advantage:** The championships were held in India, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, which likely contributed to the country's impressive performance with athletes delivering over 30 personal bests.

Nishad, Simran Win Gold at Para Athletics Worlds 2025

- **Nishad Kumar's Historic Win:** Nishad Kumar won gold in the men's high jump T47 event, clearing 2.14 meters and setting a new Asian record. This is his first gold medal at a world-level event, and he beat five-time defending champion Roderick Townsend from the USA.
- **Simran Sharma's Sprinting Glory:** Simran Sharma claimed gold in the women's 100m T12 final, clocking a personal best of 11.95 seconds. She ran with her guide Umar Saafi and dedicated her win to her country.
- **Classification and Achievements:** Nishad Kumar competes in the T47 category, for athletes with below-elbow or wrist amputation or impairment. Simran Sharma competes in the T12 category, for athletes with visual impairment.
- **India's Medal Tally:** This win contributed to India's impressive performance at the championships, with a total of 22 medals - 6 gold, 9 silver, and 7 bronze. India finished 10th overall.

BCCI appointed Shubman Gill as Captain of the Indian ODI team

- **New Leadership:** Shubman Gill, aged 26, has been appointed as India's new ODI captain, replacing Rohit Sharma, who led the team to victories in the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy.
- **Future-Focused Decision:** The appointment was made with an eye towards the 2027 World Cup, allowing Gill ample time to settle into his new role and prepare the team for the tournament.
- **Shreyas Iyer as Deputy:** Shreyas Iyer has been appointed as Gill's deputy, providing additional support and stability to the team in this transition phase.

- **Rohit Sharma's Legacy:** Rohit Sharma steps down with a stellar captaincy record, having won 42 of his 56 ODIs at a remarkable win percentage of 75%, the highest among Indian captains with over 10 ODI matches.
- **Upcoming Series:** Gill will lead the team in the three-match ODI series against Australia, starting on October 19, followed by a five-match T20 series, marking a significant test for the new captain.

Foot notes:**About BCCI-**

- **President:** Mithun Manhas
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1928

Linthoi Chanambam Wins India's First-Ever Medal at Judo Junior World Championships

- **Historic Medal:** Linthoi Chanambam, a 19-year-old judoka from Manipur, won India's first-ever medal at the Junior World Championships, claiming bronze in the women's -63 kg category.
- **Comeback Story:** Linthoi showed remarkable resilience, having returned to competitive judo earlier this year after being sidelined with an ACL injury for a significant amount of time.
- **Path to Medal:** She fought her way back through the repechage route after losing to Japan's So Morichika in the preliminaries, beating Slovakia's Ilariia Tsurkan in the repechage round and Netherlands' Joni Geilen in the bronze medal match.
- **Winning Moment:** Linthoi secured the historic bronze medal with an impressive ippon, showcasing her technical precision and mental strength under pressure.

Valentin Vacherot Makes History, Wins First ATP Title at Shanghai Masters 2025

- **Historic Win:** Valentin Vacherot made history by becoming the lowest-ranked ATP Masters 1000 champion ever, winning the Shanghai Masters 2025 at world number 204.
- **Cousin Showdown:** Vacherot defeated his cousin Arthur Rinderknech 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final, marking a thrilling conclusion to the tournament.
- **Breakthrough Moment:** This win marks Vacherot's first ATP title, and he jumped 164 spots in the rankings to 40th position, a career-high for the Monegasque player.
- **Impressive Run:** Vacherot's road to victory included stunning wins over top players like Novak Djokovic in the semifinals and Alexander Zverev, Jiri Lehecka, and Felix Auger Aliassime in earlier rounds.
- **Monaco's First:** Vacherot became the first player from Monaco to win an ATP Masters 1000 title, cementing his place in tennis history.

Nithin Babu wins 23rd RCC Classical Cup 2025

- **Tournament Details:** The 23rd RCC Classical Cup Rating Open 2025 was a nine-round tournament held from September 25-30, 2025, at Sharada Vidyalaya Kodialbail in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- **Nithin Babu's Victory:** Nithin Babu emerged as the champion, scoring 8/9 points and winning the tournament on tie-breaks despite losing the last round to runner-up Mandar Pradip Lad.
- **Competition:** A total of 448 players participated, including three International Masters (IMs) from India and players from countries like Canada, Kenya, the USA, and Sri Lanka.
- **Prize Fund:** The tournament had a total cash prize fund of ₹500,000, with the top three prizes being ₹50,000, ₹35,000, and ₹25,000, respectively.
- **Rating Points:** Nithin Babu gained 7.8 Elo rating points from this victory, marking his first rating tournament triumph of the year.

South Africa Clinch Win Over Bangladesh in Women's ODI World Cup Clash

- **Thrilling Finish & South Africa's Comeback:** South Africa won a tight contest by 3 wickets, chasing Bangladesh's target of 233 with only three balls to spare. They recovered from a precarious position of 78/5 to secure the victory.
- **Middle-Order Rescue:** Veteran all-rounders Chloe Tryon (62) and Marizanne Kapp (56) put together a crucial 85-run partnership for the sixth wicket to rebuild the innings and swing the momentum back towards South Africa.
- **Nadine de Klerk's Finishing Act:** All-rounder Nadine de Klerk provided the match-winning final flourish, scoring an unbeaten 37 off 29 balls and hitting the winning runs (a six) in the final over.
- **Bangladesh's Competitive Total:** Bangladesh posted a competitive total of 232/6, anchored by half-centuries from Sharmin Akter (50) and a quickfire, tournament-fastest 50 by 18-year-old Shorna Akter (51*) off just 34 balls.

Rajputana Royals Won Inaugural Archery Premier League 2025

- **Champions of the Inaugural Season:** Rajputana Royals won the very first season of the Archery Premier League (APL), which was held in October 2025.
- **Dramatic Shoot-off Victory:** They secured the title by defeating the Prithviraaj Yodhas in a thrilling final that was decided by a sudden-death shoot-off after the teams were tied 4-4 in sets.
- **Key Archers:** The victory in the shoot-off was clinched by the Royals' star compound archers, Ojas Deotale and Ella Gibson, who both hit the target (yellow dot) flawlessly, while the Yodhas missed.

- **Star-Studded Squad:** The championship team included a formidable quartet of international and national archers, notably Olympic champion recurver Mete Gazoz and Indian Olympian Ankita Bhakat, alongside the shoot-off heroes Deotale and Gibson.
- **Dominant Season Performance:** Rajputana Royals displayed consistent dominance throughout the tournament, losing only one match in the league stage on their way to lifting the trophy.

India's Joby Mathew Wins Bronze at Para Powerlifting World Championships 2025

- **Historic Bronze Medal:** Joby Mathew, India's veteran para powerlifter, clinched a bronze medal at the Para Powerlifting World Championships 2025 in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Category and Weight:** Mathew competed in the 65kg Legend (Masters) category, successfully lifting 148kg and 152kg, with a total lift of 300kg.
- **Personal Best:** Mathew's 152kg lift surpassed his previous personal best of 150kg, achieved just two months ago at the Beijing World Cup.
- **Second World Championship Medal:** This bronze marks Mathew's second World Championship medal, following his bronze at Dubai 2023, where he competed in the 59kg weight category.
- **Inspiration and Recognition:** Mathew's performance is an inspiration for every athlete, showcasing his enduring talent, determination, and India's growing presence in para powerlifting globally.

11th Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad Concluded

- **Host City and Dates:** The championships were held in Ahmedabad, India, from September 28 to October 11, 2025, at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex.
- **Disciplines and Events:** The event featured four disciplines: swimming, artistic swimming, diving, and water polo, with a total of 65 medal events.
- **Participating Countries:** Although the exact number of participating countries isn't specified, the championships saw athletes from various Asian nations, including China, Japan, Kazakhstan, and India, competing in different events.
- **Notable Performances:** China dominated the diving events, with athletes like Tai Xiaohu, Lin Hengnuo, and Liu Zihan winning gold medals in their respective categories.
- **India's Performance:** Indian athletes also made their mark, with Srihari Nataraj winning silver and bronze medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle events, respectively.

Manipur wins 30th Senior Women's National Football Championship

- **Record Title Victory:** Manipur secured their 24th title in the history of the Senior Women's National Football Championship (also known as the Rajmata Jijabai Trophy), extending their dominance as the most successful team in the tournament.

- **Final Match & Score:** Manipur defeated West Bengal in the final match with a score of 1-0. The match was a tense, gripping affair that remained goalless for the majority of the game.
- **Late Goal Decider:** The winning goal was scored in stoppage time (93rd minute) by star forward Lynda Kom Serto, who finished the tournament as one of the top goalscorers.
- **Host and Year:** The Final Round of the 30th Senior Women's National Football Championship was held in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh, and concluded on October 15, 2025.
- **Successful Title Defence:** With this victory, Manipur successfully defended their title, having also won the previous edition of the SWNFC.

Foot notes:**About Manipur-**

- **Capital:** Imphal
- **Governor:** Ajay Kumar Bhalla

Messi Becomes Top Assist Maker in International Football

- **New International Record:** Lionel Messi became the all-time leading assist provider in men's international football history, surpassing the previous record held by Neymar and Landon Donovan.
- **Record-Breaking Performance:** He achieved this milestone by registering two assists during Argentina's 6-0 victory over Puerto Rico in a friendly match.
- **Total Tally:** His two assists in the match took his total international career assists to 60.
- **Players Surpassed:** Messi overtook both Neymar (Brazil) and Landon Donovan (USA), who reportedly had 58 international assists each at the time of the record.
- **Cemented Playmaking Legacy:** This record further cements Messi's legacy not just as one of the greatest goalscorers, but also as one of the most gifted and prolific playmakers in the history of international football.

Mohun Bagan Wins 125th IFA Shield

- **Event and Teams:** Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) won the 125th edition of the IFA Shield football tournament. They defeated their arch-rivals, East Bengal FC, in the final.
- **Match Result:** The final, a highly contested Kolkata Derby, ended in a 1-1 draw after extra time. Mohun Bagan secured the victory with a 5-4 win in the penalty shootout.
- **Title Significance:** This victory marked Mohun Bagan's 21st IFA Shield title and, more importantly, ended a 22-year title drought in the competition, with their last win also coming against East Bengal in 2003.

- **Key Moments:** Mohun Bagan's goal in regulation time was scored by Lalengmawia Ralte (Apuia) just before halftime, which equalized the score. The decisive moment in the shootout was a save made by Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Vishal Kaith against East Bengal's fourth penalty.

India Clinches Silver at Sultan of Johor Cup 2025

- **Tournament Outcome:** India finished as runners-up in the Sultan of Johor Cup 2025, losing to Australia 1-2 in the final, despite being one of the three-time champions of the tournament.
- **Final Match Details:** Australia won the final match 2-1, with Ian Grobbelaar scoring the winning penalty goal with just two minutes left in the fourth quarter. Anmol Ekka had equalized for India in the second quarter after Australia's initial lead.
- **India's Performance:** The Indian team had a strong run in the tournament, winning three out of five matches and drawing one, but a loss to Australia in the final match took away their chance of winning the title. They had victories against Great Britain (3-2), New Zealand (4-2), and Malaysia (2-1), and a thrilling 3-3 draw against Pakistan.
- **Points Table:** India finished second in the points table with 10 points, behind Australia who topped the table with 11 points from five matches. Great Britain secured third place with 7 points.

Tanvi Sharma Clinches Silver at Junior Badminton Worlds Championship

- **Historic Achievement:** Tanvi Sharma, a 16-year-old Indian shuttler, won a silver medal in the girls' singles category at the BWF World Junior Championships 2025, becoming the third Indian female shuttler to achieve this feat after Aparna Popat (1996) and Saina Nehwal (2006).
- **Final Match Details:** Tanvi lost to Thailand's Anyapat Phichitpreechasak in the final with a score of 7-15, 12-15, despite putting up a spirited performance and leading 6-1 and 8-5 in the second game.
- **Double Medalist:** Tanvi became the first Indian shuttler to win multiple medals in a single edition of the World Juniors, bagging a bronze in the mixed team event and a silver in girls' singles.
- **Future Prospects:** Tanvi's performance has marked her as a promising talent for the senior circuit, with her sights set on breaking into the senior circuit and improving her consistency. She aims to work on her patience for longer rallies, endurance, and net game.

Jyothi Surekha Becomes First Indian Woman to Medal in Archery World Cup Final

- **Historic Achievement:** Jyothi Surekha Vennam made history by becoming the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the Archery World Cup Final, clinching the bronze medal in Nanjing, China.
- **Flawless Performance:** Vennam secured the bronze medal with a flawless performance, defeating world number two Ella Gibson of Great Britain 150-145 by shooting 15 perfect arrows.
- **Tournament Journey:** Vennam began her campaign with a confident 143-140 win over Alexis Ruiz from the USA in the quarterfinals, but faced a narrow defeat in the semifinals against world number one Andrea Becerra of Mexico 143-145.
- **Bronze Medal Match:** Vennam rebounded impressively in the bronze medal match, shooting 15 consecutive 10s across five ends to outclass Gibson and finish her campaign on a high note.

Abhishek Sharma and Smriti Mandhana awarded ICC Player of the Month

- **Abhishek Sharma's Achievement:** Abhishek Sharma was named ICC Player of the Month for his outstanding batting display in the Asia Cup 2025 and ODI series against Australia, scoring 314 runs in seven matches at an average of 44.85 and a strike-rate of 200.
- **Smriti Mandhana's Performance:** Smriti Mandhana won the award for her impressive batting against Australia women, scoring 58, 117, and 125 in three matches, accumulating 308 runs at an average of 77 and a strike rate of 135.68 in four ODIs.
- **Ranking and Tournament Highlights:** Abhishek Sharma is currently ranked No.1 batter in T20I batters rankings and was adjudged Player of the Tournament in the Continental Cup.
- **Mandhana's Fastest Hundred:** Smriti Mandhana hit the fastest hundred by an Indian batter during the Australia series, reaching the three-figure mark in 50 deliveries in the third contest.

Zoravar Singh Sandhu Wins Historic Bronze at ISSF Shotgun Worlds 2025

- **Historic Achievement for India:** The bronze medal in the Men's Trap event is only the third individual medal for India in the men's trap discipline at the Shotgun World Championships. He joins the elite company of Karni Singh (silver, 1962) and Manavjit Singh Sandhu (gold, 2006).

- **Veteran's Poise:** At the age of 48, Zoravar Singh Sandhu's achievement is a testament to his longevity, experience, and mental resilience, competing against a field that included Olympic and World Champions.
- **Performance in Challenging Conditions:** He clinched the medal in the final held in Athens, Greece, despite tough weather and lighting conditions, demonstrating remarkable composure and a solid final score of 31 hits.
- **Qualification for World Cup Final:** By winning the bronze, Sandhu secured an automatic qualification spot for the prestigious ISSF World Cup Final 2025, scheduled to be held in Doha, Qatar, in December.
- **India's Only Medalist:** Sandhu was the only Indian athlete to qualify for a final and win a medal for the country at the ISSF Shotgun World Championship 2025, making his bronze the highlight of India's performance.

Vishvajit More Wins Bronze at U23 Wrestling World Championship

- **Event and Category:** Vishvajit More won the bronze medal in the Men's Greco-Roman 55kg category at the U23 Wrestling World Championship in Novi Sad, Serbia.
- **Bronze Medal Bout Victory:** He defeated Kazakhstan's Yerassyl Mamyrbekov with a tight score of 5-4 in the bronze medal match, demonstrating great grit and composure under pressure.
- **Back-to-Back Success:** This is his second consecutive bronze medal at the U23 World Championships (having also won one in the 2024 edition). This consistency showcases his steady rise and adaptability on the international stage.
- **Significance for India (Greco-Roman):** The medal is highly important as it was India's first and only medal in the Greco-Roman discipline at that year's championships, a style where Indian wrestlers have historically seen limited success.

Rohit Sharma become India's third-highest run-getter in ODIs

- **Surpassed Sourav Ganguly:** Rohit Sharma overtook former captain Sourav Ganguly's career aggregate of 11,221 runs to claim the third spot on the list of India's highest run-scorers in One Day Internationals.
- **Timing of the Milestone:** He achieved this record during the second ODI against Australia at the Adelaide Oval on October 23, 2025, where he scored a crucial 73 runs.

- **Efficiency:** Rohit reached this landmark in fewer innings than Ganguly. He surpassed the tally in his 267th ODI inning (275th match), whereas Ganguly took 297 innings (308 matches).
- **Batting Record Highlights:** As of this achievement, Rohit Sharma's ODI record includes over 11,249 runs at an impressive average (approx. 48.69), featuring 32 centuries and 59 fifties, and he holds the record for the highest individual score in ODIs (264).

India Clinch Double Gold in Kabaddi at Asian Youth Games 2025

- **Double Gold Medal Sweep:** India achieved a complete clean sweep in the Kabaddi event, winning the gold medal in both the Boys' Under-18 and Girls' Under-18 categories, reaffirming the nation's supremacy in its indigenous sport at the youth level.
- **Unbeaten Dominance:** Both the Indian boys' and girls' teams went undefeated throughout the entire tournament, showcasing consistent high-level performance and tactical superiority from the group stages right through to the finals.
- **Contrasting Finals against Iran:** While both finals were against Iran, they were won in different fashions: the girls' team recorded a crushing and dominant victory with a score of 75-21, whereas the boys' team won a close, tense battle with a final score of 35-32.
- **Girls' Record-Breaking Win:** The Indian girls' massive 75-21 victory in the final against Iran was noted as the largest margin of victory in a Youth Games Kabaddi final since 2013, highlighting their exceptional form and power difference over the competition.

Max Verstappen wins F1 US Grand Prix

- **Dominant Weekend Performance:** Max Verstappen secured a "perfect" weekend by winning both the Sprint Race on Saturday and the Grand Prix on Sunday, starting from pole position for both. In the main race, he was largely unchallenged, leading from start to finish.
- **Title Race is Reignited:** The victory, his third Grand Prix win in the last four races, significantly closed the gap to the championship leaders. Verstappen moved to third place in the Drivers' Championship, now trailing leader Oscar Piastri by 40 points and second-placed Lando Norris by 26 points with five Grand Prix and two Sprint races remaining.
- **Pressure on McLaren:** Championship leader Oscar Piastri finished a disappointing fifth after a difficult weekend that also included crashing out of the Sprint race with

his teammate Lando Norris. Norris finished a strong second in the Grand Prix, cutting his teammate Piastri's lead to just 14 points, which further complicates McLaren's internal title fight and helps Verstappen's cause.

- **Record-Breaking US Success:** With this win, Verstappen became the first driver to secure seven Grand Prix victories in the United States, further cementing his mastery of the event and the Circuit of the Americas (COTA), where he has now won four out of the last five races.

Vishvajit More Wins Bronze in 55kg Greco-Roman at U-23 Wrestling World Championships

- **First Medal for India in the Championship:** Vishvajit More's bronze was the first medal secured by the Indian contingent at the 2025 U-23 World Wrestling Championships, which took place in Novi Sad, Serbia.
- **Discipline and Category:** He competed in the Greco-Roman style, which is historically less dominant for India compared to freestyle wrestling. His medal in the 55kg category is a significant boost for India in this specific wrestling discipline.
- **Triumph in the Bronze Medal Bout:** More won the hard-fought bronze medal match with a close 5-4 scoreline against Yerassyl Mmayrbekov of Kazakhstan, showcasing exceptional grit and determination in the medal playoff.
- **Repeat Success at U-23 Worlds:** This marked Vishvajit More's second consecutive bronze medal at the U-23 World Championships. He had also won a bronze in the 55kg Greco-Roman category at the 2024 edition, highlighting his consistency as a top-tier U-23 wrestler.

Lionel Messi Clinches 2025 MLS Golden Boot

- **Record-Breaking Goal Tally:** Messi clinched the Golden Boot with a league-high 29 goals during the MLS regular season. He finished ahead of his closest competitors, Denis Bouanga and Sam Surridge, who each scored 24 goals.
- **Inter Miami's First Winner:** He became the first player in Inter Miami CF's history to win the prestigious MLS Golden Boot, marking a significant milestone for the club since its inception in 2018.
- **Near-Record Goal Contributions:** Messi also led the league in assists with 19, resulting in a total of 48 goal contributions (goals + assists). This tally is the second-most in a single season in MLS history, just one shy of Carlos Vela's record of 49 set in 2019.

- **Paving the Way for MVP and Playoff Success:** Having won the MLS MVP award in 2024, his 2025 Golden Boot win made him the overwhelming favorite to win the MVP again, which would make him the first player in MLS history to win the award in back-to-back years.

Veer Bhadu Creates History with India's First MMA Bronze at Asian Youth Games

- **Historic First MMA Medal for India:** Veer Bhadu's bronze medal is the first-ever medal for India in the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) discipline at any edition of the Asian Youth Games, marking a significant milestone for the sport in the country.
- **Category and Event:** He competed in the Boys' 80kg category of the Traditional Mixed Martial Arts event at the 2025 Asian Youth Games held in Manama, Bahrain.
- **Victory by Unanimous Decision:** Veer secured his bronze medal by defeating his opponent, Dechachot Barisri of Thailand, with a unanimous decision, showcasing a dominant performance in his final bout.
- **Tournament Format:** In his category, six competitors were divided into two groups (Group A and Group B). Veer finished second in his group (Group A), which qualified him for the bronze medal playoff, where he defeated his Group B counterpart.
- **Part of India's Strong Contingent:** His medal contributed to India's growing tally at the 2025 Asian Youth Games, which saw the nation's young athletes excel across various disciplines, including athletics and kabaddi.

AWARDS NEWS

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards 2024

- **Awards Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards 2024 to 20 geoscientists on September 26, 2025, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi.
- **Award Categories:** The awards were given in 12 categories, including 9 individual awards and 3 team awards, recognizing outstanding contributions in mineral discovery, mining technology, mineral beneficiation, basic and applied geosciences.
- **Importance of REEs:** President Murmu emphasized the strategic significance of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) in modern technology, including smartphones, electric vehicles, defense systems, and clean energy solutions, and stressed the need for India to achieve self-reliance in REE production.

- **Awardees:** Notable awardees include Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai, who received the National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement, and Susobhan Neogi, who received the National Young Geoscientist Award.

Peter Durber wins Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Award Details:** Peter Durber, associated with Tropifresh, a New Spitalfields exotics importer and wholesaler, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the FPC Fresh Awards 2025.
- **Event Location:** The awards ceremony was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London on September 26, 2025, and was attended by 600 guests from the fresh produce and horticulture sectors.
- **Industry Recognition:** The award recognizes Durber's decades of dedication to the UK exotics market, highlighting his contributions to the industry's growth and development.
- **Other Winners:** Other notable winners at the event included Greosn, which was crowned Fresh Produce Business of the Year, Dyson Farming, recognized as Technology Champion of the Year, and Thanet Earth, honored with the first-ever Net Zero Impact Award.

DRDO Wins BusinessLine Changemaker of the Year

- **Award Recognition:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was recognized for its outstanding contributions to national defense, showcasing its pivotal role in safeguarding India's borders.
- **Operation Sindoor:** DRDO's award was specifically attributed to its success in Operation Sindoor, where it demonstrated its capabilities in neutralizing enemy assets and enhancing national security.
- **Changemaker Awards:** The award is part of the BusinessLine Changemaker Awards, which honor outstanding achievements in various fields, including education, social welfare, digital innovation, and national defense.
- **Self-Reliance in Defense:** DRDO's win highlights its efforts in achieving self-reliance in critical defense technologies, transforming India from an arms importer to a nation capable of developing its own defense systems.

Novotel Vijayawada Varun Bags 'Best 5-Star Deluxe Hotel' Award

- **Award Recognition:** Novotel Vijayawada Varun received the "Best 5-Star Deluxe Hotel" award at the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Excellence Awards 2025, solidifying its position as a top luxury hospitality destination in the state.

- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to Manish Pathak, General Manager of Novotel Vijayawada Varun, who credited his team's dedication to service excellence and guest satisfaction.
- **Hotel Features:** As Vijayawada's first and only international 5-star deluxe property, Novotel Vijayawada Varun boasts 233 well-appointed rooms, multiple signature dining options, and flexible venues for weddings, conferences, and MICE events.
- **Amenities and Services:** The hotel offers a range of amenities, including a rooftop jogging track, infinity pool, dedicated wellness zone with gym and spa, and 10,000 sqft of banqueting space.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department Wins Global Tourism Award 2025

- **Award Recognition:** The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department won the Global Tourism Award 2025, a prestigious international recognition for its outstanding efforts in promoting tourism in the state.
- **Reason for Award:** The award was given for positioning Andhra Pradesh as one of the most promising tourism destinations in the country, showcasing its efforts in developing tourism infrastructure and promoting the state's unique attractions.
- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented in a ceremony held at Yashobhoomi in Delhi, where Nishita Goyal, Tourism Consultant, accepted the award on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government.
- **Tourism Development:** The state's tourism department has been working tirelessly to develop Gandikota as a promising eco and adventure tourism destination.

Dr. R. Arthur James Receives Tamil Nadu Scientist Award 2022

- **Award Details:** Dr. R. Arthur James, Professor and Chair of the Department of Marine Science at Bharathidasan University, received the Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) 2022 in Environmental Science.
- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented by Govi. Chezhaan, Minister for Higher Education, and M. P. Saminathan, Minister for Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, at a ceremony held at the Resource Centre for Tribal Development in Udhagamandalam.
- **Award Significance:** The TANSA Award is one of the highest recognitions for scientists in Tamil Nadu, acknowledging exceptional contributions to various scientific fields.
- **Cash Prize and Citation:** The award carries a cash prize of ₹50,000 and a citation, symbolizing the State government's encouragement of scientific excellence.

- **Dr. James' Affiliation:** Dr. James is affiliated with Bharathidasan University, where he has made significant contributions to environmental science research.

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli awarded Mahatma Award

- **Award Details:** Prasanna Kumar Motupalli, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of NLC India Limited (NLCIL), received the prestigious Mahatma Award in the Individual category for his outstanding leadership in business, sustainability, and social impact.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony took place at the India International Centre in New Delhi on October 1, 2025, recognizing Motupalli's significant contributions to NLCIL's sustainable and inclusive growth.
- **Leadership Recognition:** The Mahatma Award acknowledges Motupalli's exceptional leadership skills, highlighting his ability to drive business success while prioritizing sustainability and social responsibility.
- **Joint Presentation:** The award was jointly presented by philanthropist Amit Sachdeva and the Aditya Birla Group, underscoring the recognition of Motupalli's efforts across industries.

Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur conferred with National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Awards 2025

- **Contribution to Ayurvedic Education:** Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur has spent over six decades contributing to Ayurvedic education and Sanskrit scholarship, shaping the academic future of Ayurveda.
- **Prolific Writer and Researcher:** He has authored 31 books and over 300 academic works, including 319 publications in Sanskrit, demonstrating his significant impact on Ayurvedic literature.
- **Mentorship:** Prof. Gaur has mentored 24 PhD scholars and 48 postgraduates, highlighting his role in nurturing future generations of Ayurvedic scholars.
- **Recognition:** He has received several national honors, including the Rashtrapati Samman, for his contributions to Ayurvedic literature and education.
- **Award Citation:** The National Dhanwantari Ayurveda Award 2025 recognizes Prof. Gaur's lifelong contributions to Ayurveda, inspiring young scholars to carry forward the tradition with zeal and respect for knowledge.

India Conferred with ISSA Award 2025 for 'Outstanding Achievement in Social Security'

- **Award Recognition:** India has been recognized for its exceptional progress in social protection systems globally, receiving the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025.
- **Social Security Coverage Expansion:** The award acknowledges India's historic expansion in social security coverage from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, covering over 940 million citizens, as recognized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- **Digital Infrastructure:** India's extensive digital public infrastructure, including the e-Shram portal, has played a crucial role in efficient last-mile delivery of social security benefits, connecting over 310 million unorganized workers with social welfare schemes.
- **Global Impact:** This award highlights India's commitment to inclusive and universal social protection, empowering the last person in line, and aligns with the guiding principle of "Antyodaya" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.

Shri Krishna Hegde Miyar receives Mahatma Award for Lifetime Achievement

- **Award Details:** Krishna Hegde Miyar, Group General Manager (HR) at Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), received the Mahatma Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Individual Category for Social Responsibility and Social Impact on October 1, 2025.
- **Contribution:** Miyar was recognized for his significant contributions towards developing people-centric HR policies, utilizing digital technology to enhance HR efficiency, fostering inclusive leadership, and spearheading MRPL's flagship CSR initiative, Samrakshan.
- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented by Dr. Kiran Bedi, the first woman IPS officer of India, and Amit Sachdeva, a Gandhian and lawyer who founded the Mahatma Award.
- **About the Award:** The Mahatma Award honors individuals and organizations that promote social responsibility, sustainability, and humanitarian efforts, reflecting the values of Mahatma Gandhi. It recognizes catalysts for positive change and transformative work in various domains.
- **Miyar's Achievement:** This recognition highlights Miyar's commitment to creating positive social impact and his dedication to upholding the principles of Mahatma Gandhi's legacy.

Ashray Akruiti conferred with the prestigious Mahatma Award 2025

- **Award Category:** Ashray Akruti received the Mahatma Award 2025 for its outstanding work in Social Good and Impact as a nonprofit organization.
- **Organization's Mission:** The organization focuses on creating a society where everyone enjoys dignity, opportunity, and hope, with significant impacts in Education, Healthcare, and Skill Development.
- **Beneficiaries:** Ashray Akruti's initiatives provide essential resources and opportunities to children, youth, and women from disadvantaged backgrounds, empowering them and offering hope.
- **Founder's Quote:** D. P. K. Babu, Managing Director of Ashray Akruti, said the award teaches them that genuine inclusion is not charity, but justice, and it's for the children, youth, and families who inspire them to strive for more.
- **Award Background:** The Mahatma Award, established by the Mahatma Foundation with support from the Aditya Birla Group, celebrates individuals and groups making real changes in society.

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Nobel Prize 2025 in Medicine Awarded to Brunkow, Ramsdell & Sakaguchi

- **Discovery:** The three scientists won the award for their discoveries concerning peripheral immune tolerance, which helps us understand how our immune system fights off microbes while avoiding autoimmune diseases.
- **Research Impact:** Their findings have laid the foundation for a new field of research and led to the development of new treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases.

- **Prize Details:** The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine comes with a gold medal and a prize sum of 11 million Swedish crowns, equivalent to approximately \$1.2 million.
- **Selection Process:** The winners were selected by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute medical university, a prestigious institution that recognizes outstanding contributions in medicine.
- **International Recognition:** The scientists are from the United States (Brunkow and Ramsdell) and Japan (Sakaguchi), highlighting the global nature of medical research and the Nobel Prize's recognition of international achievements.

Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 awarded to Clarke, Devoret and Martinis

- **Discovery:** The trio discovered that quantum mechanics can be observed on a macroscopic scale, large enough to be held in one's hand, by creating a superconducting circuit with a Josephson junction. This allowed them to demonstrate quantum mechanical tunneling and quantized energy levels.
- **Quantum Tunneling:** Quantum tunneling enables particles to pass through seemingly impassable barriers. In this case, the researchers observed Cooper pairs of electrons tunneling through a thin insulating barrier in the electrical circuit.
- **Impact on Quantum Computing:** Their discovery laid the foundation for superconducting quantum bits, or qubits, which are crucial components of many quantum computers today. Qubits enable quantum computers to process vast amounts of information exponentially faster than classical computers.
- **Experimental Setup:** The researchers sandwiched two superconductors between a thin insulating barrier, creating a Josephson junction. By cooling the material to extreme temperatures, they made it superconducting, allowing Cooper pairs to flow without resistance.

Foot notes:

About Nobel Prize-

- **Presented by:** Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- **Country:** Sweden

Dr. Hemant Sharad Pande honoured with 'People Centric Leadership Award

- **Current Role:** Dr. Hemant Sharad Pande serves as the Director of Personnel at Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), a role he assumed after being Area General Manager at South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).
- **Awards and Recognition:** Although specific details about the "People Centric Leadership" award are not available, Dr. Pande was recognized as the 'Best General Manager' by Coal India Limited in 2022 for his exceptional leadership.
- **Professional Background:** Dr. Pande has over 35 years of experience in the coal industry, with expertise in mining technology, land acquisition, and industrial relations.

He has worked on various projects and held leadership positions in companies like WCL and SECL.

- **Previous Experience:** Before joining WCL as Director of Personnel, Dr. Pande was the Area General Manager of Raigarh Area in SECL, where he successfully implemented several projects, including a solar power unit and coal dispatch systems.

President of India Presents “My Bharat – NSS” Awards for 2022-23

- **Award Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the MY Bharat-National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards for 2022-23 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on October 6, 2025, recognizing outstanding contributions of youth in social service, community development, and nation-building.
- **Awardees:** A total of 50 recipients, including 10 NSS Units and their Programme Officers, and 30 NSS Volunteers, received the award for their exceptional service and leadership.
- **Objective:** The MY Bharat-NSS Awards aim to develop the personality and character of students through voluntary community service, fostering social responsibility among youth.
- **Monetary Prizes:** The awardees received monetary prizes, including ₹2 lakh for NSS Units, ₹1.5 lakh for Programme Officers, and ₹1 lakh for NSS Volunteers, along with certificates and silver medals.

Indian Peacekeepers Honoured for Dedicated Service

- **UN Medal Recognition:** 838 Indian peacekeepers, including 12 women, were awarded UN medals for their service in South Sudan, recognizing their dedication to maintaining peace and protecting civilians in challenging environments.
- **Service Highlights:** Indian peacekeepers protected civilians, secured humanitarian convoys, and provided medical aid in conflict zones, including areas like Bor, Akobo, and Pibor in South Sudan.
- **Medical and Veterinary Services:** The Indian contingent conducted medical outreaches, delivering free treatment to around 315 displaced persons in Malakal, and also provided veterinary assistance to thousands of animals, supporting local livestock owners.
- **India's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping:** India has a long history of contributing to UN peacekeeping, with over 290,000 personnel deployed globally, and currently has over 5,000 peacekeepers serving in nine active missions.

Nobel Prize Chemistry 2025 awarded to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson & Omar M. Yaghi

- Chemistry to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi for their pioneering work on metal-organic frameworks (MOFs).

- **Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs):** MOFs are innovative materials built from metal ions linked with organic molecules, creating highly porous structures with vast potential in various applications.
- **Impact on Chemistry:** The development of MOFs has revolutionized the field of chemistry, opening up new avenues for research and applications.
- **Recognition:** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry recognizes the groundbreaking contributions of Kitagawa, Robson, and Yaghi to the development of MOFs, highlighting the significance of their work in advancing chemical science.

HURL Shines Platinum at FAME National Awards 2025

- **FAME National Awards Background:** The FAME National Awards recognize excellence and achievements in various industries. Although specific details about HURL's achievement are scarce, it's clear that FAME Awards are prestigious and highly regarded.
- **Event Details:** The 2025 FAME National Conference was held in Charlotte, NC, from May 20-22, 2025, featuring over 250 attendees, dynamic sessions and robust networking opportunities.
- **HURL's Achievement:** HURL won a platinum award, indicating exceptional performance and dedication in their field. Unfortunately, more specific details about their achievement aren't readily available.
- **Industry Impact:** The FAME Awards likely recognize excellence in industries such as manufacturing, given the context of the FAME USA organization.

BS Chandrasekhar, Brian Lara win Lifetime Achievement awards

- **Award Recognition:** BS Chandrasekhar and Brian Lara were honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for their remarkable contributions to cricket. This award acknowledges their outstanding careers and impact on the sport.
- **Brian Lara's Achievements:** Brian Lara is widely regarded as one of the greatest batsmen in cricket history. He scored 11,953 runs in Test matches and 10,405 runs in ODIs, making him one of the few batsmen to achieve 10,000+ runs in both formats.
- **BS Chandrasekhar's Legacy:** BS Chandrasekhar was a legendary Indian spin bowler known for his unique bowling style and match-winning abilities. He took 242 wickets in 58 Test matches and 1063 wickets in first-class cricket.
- **Ceremony Highlights:** The CEAT Cricket Awards 2025 ceremony celebrated cricketing excellence, with other notable winners including Joe Root (International Cricketer of the Year), Sanju Samson (T20I Batter of the Year), and Varun Chakravarthy (T20I Bowler of the Year).

Laszlo Krasznahorkai Is Awarded Nobel Prize in Literature

- **Award Motivation:** László Krasznahorkai was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his "compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art". This recognition highlights his significant contribution to the literary world.
- **Birth and Background:** Krasznahorkai was born on January 5, 1954, in Gyula, Hungary. His Hungarian background has influenced his writing, and he continues to write in Hungarian.
- **Literary Style:** Krasznahorkai's works are known for their complex and thought-provoking themes, often exploring the human condition, society, and the power of art. His writing style is characterized as visionary and compelling.
- **Prize Details:** Krasznahorkai is the sole recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2025, indicating the significance of his contributions to literature. The prize recognizes his entire body of work rather than a single piece.

Maria Corina Machado Win Nobel Peace Prize 2025 Laureate

- **Nobel Peace Prize Winner:** Maria Corina Machado has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2025 for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy.
- **Venezuelan Opposition Leader:** Machado leads the Vente Venezuela opposition party against President Nicolás Maduro and has been a key figure in the country's democratic movement, advocating for free and fair elections.
- **Background:** Born in 1967 in Caracas, Venezuela, Machado studied industrial engineering and finance, and briefly worked for the family business before establishing a nonprofit to care for impoverished and orphaned street children.
- **Activism:** Machado co-founded Súmate, an organization promoting free and fair elections, and was elected to the National Assembly in 2010, but was expelled in 2014. She has faced significant challenges and risks for her activism, including spending much of the past year in hiding.

Abhinav Gupta-led Stradux Honored at Times Business Awards 2025

- **Award Category:** Stradux Technologies Pvt. Ltd. was honored with the award for AI Disruption Startup in Fintech at the Times Business Awards 2025, recognizing its innovative contributions to the fintech sector.
- **Event Details:** The award ceremony took place at the Novotel HICC in Hyderabad, with Shri G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Culture, Tourism & Development of Northeastern Region, as the chief guest.
- **Abhinav Gupta's Background:** Abhinav Gupta, the founder of Stradux, has over two decades of experience in fintech and product innovation, having worked with global firms like Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and the National Stock Exchange.

- **Stradux's Expertise:** Under Abhinav's leadership, Stradux has developed products that address real-world financial challenges by combining AI, data analytics, and domain expertise.
- **Recognition Significance:** This award cements Stradux's position as one of India's most promising AI-led disruptors in the fintech ecosystem and challenges the company to scale further, innovate deeper, and make fintech more intelligent and inclusive.

Nobel Prize in Economics 2025 awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt

- **Award Details:** The Nobel Prize in Economics for 2025 was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for their groundbreaking work on radical theories that transformed our understanding of economic growth and development.
- **Research Focus:** Their research focused on the role of innovation, technological advancements, and institutions in shaping economic growth, providing new insights into the drivers of prosperity and progress.
- **Key Contributions:** Joel Mokyr's work highlighted the importance of human capital and knowledge in economic growth, while Philippe Aghion and Peter Howitt developed the Schumpeterian growth model, emphasizing the role of innovation and creative destruction.
- **Impact:** Their research has had a profound impact on our understanding of economic growth, innovation, and development, influencing policy decisions and shaping the field of economics.

Dr. Sonali Ghosh Becomes First Indian to Receive WCPA-Kenton Miller Award

- **First Indian Recipient:** Dr. Sonali Ghosh is the first Indian to receive the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award for innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability.
- **Current Position:** She is the Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam, India, and was also the first woman to hold this position.
- **The Award:** The award is presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and honors individuals who make innovative contributions to the long-term sustainability and management of protected areas worldwide.
- **Key Innovation:** She was recognized for championing a community-based conservation model. Her approach successfully integrates local community engagement, public awareness, and the blend of traditional ecological knowledge with modern scientific expertise.

Masaki Kashiwara Wins 2025 Abel Prize

- **High Honor:** Masaki Kashiwara was awarded the 2025 Abel Prize, which is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious honors in mathematics, often called the "Nobel Prize of Mathematics."
- **First Japanese Recipient:** He became the first Japanese mathematician to be awarded the Abel Prize since its establishment in 2002.
- **Field of Contribution:** He received the prize for his "fundamental contributions to algebraic analysis and representation theory".
- **Key Innovations:** His two most significant and cited contributions are the development of the theory of D-modules (an algebraic framework for studying systems of linear differential equations) and the discovery of crystal bases (a combinatorial tool used in representation theory).
- **Impact:** Kashiwara's work is considered a visionary achievement that has built bridges between previously disparate fields of mathematics.

TCIL awarded the HR Excellence Award at the Fortune Leadership Awards 2025

- **Recognition of Exemplary HR Practices:** TCIL was honored with the HR Excellence Award for its outstanding HR practices, employee development, innovation, and inclusivity.
- **Comprehensive HR Reforms:** From 2021 to 2025, TCIL implemented wide-ranging HR reforms, including a comprehensive HR policy, function-wise restructuring, merit-based promotions, and digitization through E-Office and ERP.
- **Emphasis on Skill Development:** TCIL emphasized skill-building, with 58 executives earning global certifications in cyber security, networking, and auditing, enhancing delivery on high-value projects.
- **People-First Culture:** By fostering inclusivity, transparency, and innovation, TCIL has created a people-first culture that supports national priorities like Digital India, Smart Cities and BharatNet.
- **Leadership's Vision:** Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, TCIL, stated that the award reflects the team's dedication to nurturing an innovative, inclusive workforce aligned with Digital India.

Dr Archana M G wins Dr Divya Ravindran Memorial Award

- **Recipient and Award:** Dr. Archana M. G. was presented with the Dr Divya Ravindran Memorial Award for her outstanding contributions to cancer research.
- **Focus of Research:** The award recognizes her breakthrough work in developing a novel approach for breast cancer treatment, specifically targeting HER2-positive breast cancer.

- **Innovative Methodology (Nanoparticles):** Her research centers on creating nanoparticles using polysaccharides isolated from pomegranate peel (fruit rind). This is a bio-fabricated, green chemistry approach.
- **Precision Therapy:** These nanoparticles are designed to function as a targeted delivery system, carrying both the chemotherapy drug Doxorubicin and siRNA molecules that specifically silence or target the HER2 gene, offering a promising avenue for precision therapy.

Sundarbans aquaculture model wins FAO global recognition

- **Model Name and Developer:** The recognised model is the Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME), developed by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS), an NGO based in West Bengal, India.
- **Core Principle (Ecosystem Integration):** SAIME is an ecosystem-based, climate-adaptive approach that innovatively integrates mangrove conservation with aquaculture. It mandates keeping 5%–30% mangrove coverage within the shrimp farming pond area.
- **Livelihood and Economic Impact:** The model achieved significant economic success, with farmers' annual net profit increasing by over 100%. This was primarily due to a reduction in production costs, as farmers use mangrove litter as natural fodder for the Black Tiger Shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), reducing the need for expensive chemical inputs.
- **Environmental and Climate Benefits:** The approach promotes chemical-free shrimp farming and enhances coastal resilience against sea-level rise, storms, and erosion by restoring mangroves.

Masako Nozawa Becomes First Voice Actor to Receive Japan's Cultural Merit Award

- **Historic Achievement:** Masako Nozawa, the legendary voice behind Goku in the Dragon Ball franchise, has become the first voice actor to receive Japan's prestigious Person of Cultural Merit recognition, a testament to her lifelong contribution to Japanese culture and the global legacy of Dragon Ball.
- **Award Details:** The Person of Cultural Merit distinction comes with a lifelong pension of 3.5 million yen per year and acknowledges exceptional contributions to the advancement of Japanese culture, with 21 individuals chosen for the 2025 honors.
- **Career Highlights:** Nozawa has had a career spanning over six decades, voicing iconic characters like Goku, Gohan, Goten, and Bardock in Dragon Ball, Kitaro in

GeGeGe no Kitaro, and early Doraemon adaptations, cementing her status as one of the most influential figures in Japanese voice acting history.

- **Impact on Voice Acting Industry:** Nozawa's recognition signals a new era for voice actors, validating their work as a serious art form and paving the way for future generations to be recognized for their contributions to Japanese culture.

Neeraj Chopra Conferred Honorary Rank of Lieutenant Colonel

- **Honorary Rank:** Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower, was conferred the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 22, 2025.
- **Recognition of Achievements:** The rank recognizes Chopra's outstanding achievements and exemplary service to the nation, with Defence Minister Singh describing him as an "epitome of perseverance, patriotism, and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence".
- **Military Career:** Chopra joined the Indian Army as a Naib Subedar on August 26, 2016, and was promoted to Subedar in 2021 and Subedar Major in 2022, showcasing his dedication and commitment.
- **Awards and Accolades:** Chopra is a recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Padma Shri, Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, Arjuna Award, Param Vishisht Seva Medal, and Vishisht Seva Medal, highlighting his contributions to sports and national pride.

Apical awarded the Sustainable Supply Chain Partnership Award

- **The Award and Recipient:** Apical Group, a major vegetable oil processor, won the Sustainable Supply Chain Partnership Award (Singapore/Malaysia category) at the ESGBusiness Awards 2025. This marks a recognition of their leadership in fostering sustainable and responsible sourcing.
- **Focus of the Recognition:** The award specifically recognizes Apical's commitment to building a responsible, deforestation-free palm oil sourcing model that promotes inclusive growth across its entire value chain.
- **Guiding Strategy (Apical2030):** The company's efforts are guided by its long-term sustainability roadmap, Apical2030. This strategy is built on four pillars: Transformative Partnerships, Climate Action, Green Innovation, and Inclusive Progress, and aligns with their "5Cs" business philosophy (Community, Country, Climate, Customer, and Company).

- **Industry Collaboration:** The company was noted for co-developing the NDPE Implementation Reporting Framework (IRF) and actively engaging with major industry groups like the RSPO and POCCG.

Colonel Koshank Lamba awarded Vir Chakra

- **Award and Precedence:** The Vir Chakra (VrC) is India's third-highest wartime gallantry award, conferred for acts of conspicuous bravery in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea, or in the air.
- **Operation and Context:** Colonel Lamba was awarded the Vir Chakra for his actions during Operation Sindoor (a direct military response to a terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir on April 22, 2025), which involved precision strikes against terrorist infrastructure across the border.
- **Specific Act of Gallantry:** His citation highlights his "flawless leadership" and "exceptional bravery" in executing India's first-ever rapid air mobilization of a specialised equipment battery at short notice. This action ensured the timely and covert induction of critical assets.
- **Operational Achievement:** He leveraged his technical prowess and tactical knowledge to transform his subunit into a mission-capable force within five days, which was instrumental to the successful offensive of Operation Sindoor.
- **Regiment:** Colonel Koshank Lamba belongs to the 302 Medium Regiment of the Indian Army.

Sunil Amrith Wins British Academy Prize for “The Burning Earth”

- **Prize and Recipient:** Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith won the prestigious 2025 British Academy Book Prize (formerly the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize). The award, valued at \$25,000, celebrates outstanding non-fiction that enhances public understanding of global issues in the humanities and social sciences.
- **The Winning Work:** The book, "The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years," offers a global history that is reframed through an ecological lens. It traces the deep interconnectedness of human history and environmental transformation across five centuries and multiple continents.
- **Core Theme of the Book:** The central argument of "The Burning Earth" is that human progress (e.g., freedom, industrialization, and empire) has been intrinsically linked with environmental destruction and exploitation. The book reveals how phenomena like colonialism, industrialization, and shifting human settlement patterns have fueled the modern climate crisis.

- **Key Historical Focus:** Amrith's research highlights a wide range of specific historical events to support his thesis, including the ecological impact of the conquest of the Americas, British gold mining in South Africa, the mobilization of natural resources during the World Wars, and the link between environmental harm and human migration.

Andrzej Poczobut and Mzia Amaghlobeli Win 2025 Sakharov Prize

- **Prize and Honorees:** The winners are Andrzej Poczobut (Belarusian-Polish journalist) and Mzia Amaghlobeli (Georgian journalist), who were jointly awarded the 2025 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament.
- **Basis of the Award:** They were honored for their courageous defense of human rights, freedom of thought, and democratic values, with the prize recognizing their defiant reporting against authoritarianism and injustice in their respective countries.
- **Andrzej Poczobut's Situation:** Poczobut is a vocal critic of the Lukashenko regime and a correspondent for the Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He is currently serving an eight-year sentence in a Belarusian penal colony on what the European Parliament and human rights groups consider "trumped-up" and politically motivated charges stemming from his coverage of mass protests and criticism of the government.
- **Mzia Amaghlobeli's Situation:** Amaghlobeli is a prominent Georgian journalist and the co-founder of independent media outlets Batumelebi and Netgazeti. She was imprisoned for two years on charges related to an anti-government protest, with supporters calling her Georgia's first female political prisoner since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- **Significance:** The European Parliament's decision sends a clear message of solidarity with the people of Belarus and Georgia, reinforcing the importance of a free press and the right to dissent.

SBI Honored as the 'World's Best Consumer Bank 2025' by Global Finance

- **Dual Global Recognition:** SBI received two prestigious titles from Global Finance: the 'World's Best Consumer Bank 2025' and the 'Best Bank in India 2025.' This dual win reinforces its status as a global leader in consumer banking.
- **Digital Transformation and Innovation:** A key factor was SBI's sustained investment in digitalization and technology. This includes efforts like vernacular voice banking, building omni-channel engagement models, and using AI for hyper-personalized offerings.

- **YONO's Digital Prowess:** The bank's flagship digital and lifestyle platform, YONO, played a crucial role. It serves over 100 million customers with 10 million daily active users and accounts for a significant portion of new savings account openings.
- **Massive Customer Base and Scale:** SBI serves an immense customer base of over 520 million and adds approximately 65,000 new customers daily. Its strategy of being a 'Digital First, Consumer First' bank helps manage this massive scale effectively.
- **Commitment to Financial Inclusion:** The awards recognize SBI's success in expanding services across India's diverse geographic landscape, ensuring financial inclusion for underserved segments in rural and semi-urban areas.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

H Rajesh Prasad appointed as Chandigarh's Chief Secretary

- **Appointment:** H Rajesh Prasad, a 1995-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Chandigarh, replacing Mandip Singh Brar.
- **Background:** Prasad has a strong track record in power sector governance and has held various high-impact administrative positions across states and Union Territories.
- **Previous Role:** Before taking over as Chief Secretary, Prasad served as Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Jammu & Kashmir, where he implemented significant reforms in the power sector.
- **Key Strengths:** He is known for his reform-driven leadership style, with expertise in infrastructure development, urban governance, and cross-departmental coordination, which is expected to benefit Chandigarh's administration.
- **Expectations:** As Chief Secretary, Prasad is likely to focus on strengthening urban infrastructure, driving tech-enabled governance, ensuring efficiency and accountability, and promoting a citizen-centric governance model.

Vijay Prakash appointed as Additional Director General in CISF

- **Appointment:** Vijay Prakash, a 1996-batch IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh, has been appointed as Additional Director General in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

- **Tenure:** His appointment is for a period up to December 14, 2028, with a combined tenure of 7 years.
- **Previous Role:** Before this appointment, Prakash served as Inspector General in CISF and ADG, Fire Service, HQRS, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Current Responsibilities:** As Additional Director General, Vijay Prakash will oversee key operations and administrative functions within CISF.
- **Background:** Prakash has extensive experience in security and administration, having held various positions in the Uttar Pradesh Police and CISF, making him a suitable candidate for this role.

Shailesh Chandra Appointed MD & CEO of Tata Motors

- **Appointment Details:** Shailesh Chandra has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tata Motors, effective October 1, 2025, for a three-year term until September 30, 2028.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** He will lead the entity that will retain the Passenger Vehicle (PV), Electric Vehicle (EV), and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) businesses, focusing on electric mobility and global luxury brand expansion.
- **Background:** Chandra currently heads Tata's EV subsidiary, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, and will continue to lead the electric mobility segment, driving Tata Motors' electrification strategy.
- **Leadership Restructuring:** This appointment is part of a larger leadership reshuffle ahead of Tata Motors' demerger into two separate listed entities: one for passenger vehicles and electric vehicles, and another for commercial vehicles.

Sudhanshu Vats appointed as the Chairman of Advertising Standards Council of India

- **Appointment:** Sudhanshu Vats, Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Ltd, has been appointed as the new Chairman of ASCI, effective at the 39th annual general meeting, as the council marks its 40th anniversary.
- **Leadership Role:** Vats emphasized the importance of self-regulation in advertising, ensuring ads are executed with integrity, respect for the community, and consideration for consumers, particularly with evolving technologies.
- **New Initiatives:** ASCI has launched several initiatives, including the AdWise program to train over one million school students in advertising literacy, and ethnographic research on Gen Alpha to develop responsible advertising frameworks.

- **Expansion Plans:** ASCI plans to expand its presence in Bengaluru and New Delhi, strengthening its reach across key markets and enhancing its role in promoting responsible advertising practices.

Reema Jain appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence

- **Appointment Details:** Reema Jain, a 2013-batch Indian Economic Service (IES) officer, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, for a tenure of four years.
- **Previous Role:** Before her current appointment, Reema Jain served as Joint Director in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Central Staffing Scheme:** Jain's appointment is part of the Central Staffing Scheme, which aims to strengthen administrative leadership in strategic ministries and ensure seamless governance.
- **Departmental Experience:** As Deputy Secretary, Jain will contribute to the Department of Defence's policy-making and implementation processes, bringing her experience from the Department of Economic Affairs, which recommended her for central deputation.

Praveer Ranjan Takes Charge as CISF DG

- **Appointment:** Praveer Ranjan, a 1993-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the new DG of CISF, taking over from R S Bhatti in a formal ceremony.
- **Background:** Ranjan brings 32 years of distinguished service, including leadership roles in airport security, showcasing his expertise in handling critical infrastructure protection.
- **Modernization Commitment:** As the 32nd DG of CISF, Ranjan has emphasized his commitment to modernizing CISF operations to prepare the force for future challenges.
- **Welfare and Transparency:** He has also underlined his focus on welfare measures with compassion and transparency in administration, aiming to boost morale and efficiency within the force.

Gaurav Banerjee to Lead Sony Pictures India

- **Leadership Role:** Gaurav Banerjee serves as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), overseeing the company's strategic direction and operational excellence.

- **Experience:** He brings over two decades of experience in the media and entertainment industry, with a proven track record of translating content strategies into sustained business growth.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining SPNI, Banerjee held key positions at Disney+ Hotstar and Star India, where he played a crucial role in developing content and driving subscriber growth.
- **Expertise:** His expertise spans both creative and business aspects of the industry, enabling SPNI to stay innovative while achieving robust financial performance.

Andrew Parsons re-elected IPC President for 3rd & final term

- **Re-election:** Andrew Parsons was re-elected as the President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for a third and final four-year term, securing 109 out of 177 valid votes at the 2025 IPC General Assembly in Seoul, South Korea.
- **Vote Margin:** Parsons defeated his opponent, Dong Hyun Bae of South Korea, who received 68 votes, showcasing a clear mandate from the IPC membership.
- **New Leadership Team:** Alongside Parsons' re-election, Leila Marques Mota was elected as the First Vice-President, and John Petersson became the Second Vice-President, succeeding Duane Kale of New Zealand who completed his maximum term.
- **Parsons' Legacy:** During his presidency, Parsons has overseen significant milestones, including a landmark partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) through 2032 and the successful delivery of several Paralympic Games, including the record-breaking Paris 2024 Paralympics.

M Arvind appointed as Director in Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade

- **Appointment:** M Arvind has been appointed as Director in DPIIT, a key department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for promoting industrial development and internal trade.
- **Background:** M Arvind is a 2011 batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, bringing significant administrative experience to his new role.
- **Department's Role:** DPIIT plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing industrial policies and strategies to drive India's economic growth and development.
- **Responsibilities:** As Director, M Arvind will likely be involved in policy-making, project implementation, and coordination with various stakeholders to promote industrial growth and investment.

Neeraj Surendran appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

- **Appointment Details:** Neeraj Surendran, a 2015 batch Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) officer, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for a period of four years.
- **Appointment Committee Approval:** The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment, and he will be serving on the new position under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- **Background:** Neeraj Surendran's appointment is part of a series of bureaucratic appointments, with Ambica Anand, a 2009-batch Indian Statistical Service (ISS) officer, being appointed as Director in the Ministry of Steel for a period of five years.
- **Effective Date:** His appointment as Deputy Secretary became effective after the approval, with October 1, 2025, being the date mentioned in recent updates.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy Secretary, Neeraj Surendran will play a key role in shaping policies and initiatives related to skill development and entrepreneurship in India.

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- **Background:** Prasad has a strong track record in power sector governance and has held various high-impact administrative positions across states and Union Territories.
- **Previous Role:** Before taking over as Chief Secretary, Prasad served as Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Jammu & Kashmir, where he implemented significant reforms in the power sector.
- **Key Strengths:** He is known for his reform-driven leadership style, with expertise in infrastructure development, urban governance, and cross-departmental coordination, which is expected to benefit Chandigarh's administration.
- **Expectations:** As Chief Secretary, Prasad is likely to focus on strengthening urban infrastructure, driving tech-enabled governance, ensuring efficiency and accountability, and promoting a citizen-centric governance model.

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- **Tenure:** His appointment is for a period up to December 14, 2028, with a combined tenure of 7 years.

- **Previous Role:** Before this appointment, Prakash served as Inspector General in CISF and ADG, Fire Service, HQRS, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Current Responsibilities:** As Additional Director General, Vijay Prakash will oversee key operations and administrative functions within CISF.
- **Background:** Prakash has extensive experience in security and administration, having held various positions in the Uttar Pradesh Police and CISF, making him a suitable candidate for this role.

Gaurav Garg appointed as Deputy Inspector General in NHRC

- **Appointment Details:** Unfortunately, the search results don't confirm Gaurav Garg's appointment as DIG in NHRC, as the current directory of officers doesn't mention him. The NHRC website provides a comprehensive list of current officers, but it's best to verify with the NHRC directly or check recent news sources for the latest information.
- **NHRC Structure:** The NHRC is headed by a Chairperson and comprises other members, including a Secretary-General who serves as the Chief Executive Officer. The Deputy Inspector General plays a crucial role in the investigation division.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** A Deputy Inspector General in NHRC would oversee investigations, monitor law and order situations, and handle human rights-related cases. They would work closely with other divisions, such as law and administration.
- **Investigation Division:** The Investigation Division is headed by a Director General and has several groups, each led by a Senior Superintendent of Police. These groups handle investigations and monitoring of cases.

Foot notes:

About NHRC-

- **Chairman:** Justice V. Ramasubramanian
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Formed:** 1993

Actor Saiyami Kher Becomes Official Ambassador for Ironman India

- **Achievement:** Saiyami Kher completed two Ironman 70.3 triathlons in under a year, making her the only Indian actor to achieve this feat. The Ironman 70.3, also known as the Half Ironman, covers a total distance of 113 km, including a 1.9 km swim, 90 km cycling, and 21.1 km running.
- **Ambassadorial Role:** As the official ambassador for Ironman India, Saiyami Kher aims to inspire more Indians, especially women, to take up endurance sports and promote a culture of fitness and resilience. She will engage with communities through workshops, motivational talks, and social media campaigns.

- **Ironman India Event:** The Ironman India event is scheduled to take place in Goa on November 9, 2025. As ambassador, Saiyami Kher will lead the charge to make it a landmark moment for Indian sports, promoting mental toughness and physical health.
- **Inspirational Journey:** Saiyami Kher views the triathlon not just as a race but as a mindset and a transformative life experience. Her journey from the silver screen to the triathlon course has captivated fans and fitness enthusiasts alike.

Sanju Samson Named EPL Ambassador for India

- **Appointment:** Sanju Samson, a renowned Indian cricketer, has been appointed as the official ambassador for the English Premier League (EPL) in India, aiming to strengthen the league's presence in the country.
- **Role:** As ambassador, Samson will promote the EPL brand, engage with fans across the nation, and inspire young athletes to take up football, leveraging his dynamic personality and massive fan following.
- **Connection to Football:** A lifelong Liverpool supporter, Samson attributes his love for football to his upbringing in Kerala and his family's footballing background, making him an ideal ambassador for the EPL in India.
- **Association with Kerala Blasters FC:** Samson is already associated with Kerala Blasters FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) as a brand ambassador, reflecting his commitment to promoting football in his home state of Kerala.

JPMorgan names Conor Hillery and Matthieu Wiltz as new co-CEOs for EMEA

- **New Leadership:** Conor Hillery and Matthieu Wiltz have been promoted as deputy chief executives for EMEA, although it's unclear if they will be co-CEOs as reported, but they are part of Filippo Gori's leadership team.
- **Filippo Gori's Authority:** Filippo Gori, JPMorgan's new CEO for EMEA, is establishing his authority in the business after his predecessor, Vis Raghavan, left for a significant role at Citi in February.
- **Internal Promotions:** Both Conor Hillery and Matthieu Wiltz are internal appointments, indicating JPMorgan's focus on promoting talent from within the company for key leadership roles.
- **Leadership Structure:** While specific details about their roles and responsibilities are limited, their promotions suggest a shared leadership approach under Gori's guidance.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla Appointed Brand Ambassador of Buildathon 2025

- **Appointment:** Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the Viksit Bharat Buildathon initiative, a nationwide innovation program for students.

- **Objective:** The initiative aims to foster scientific temperament, creativity, and innovation among students, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for India's development towards a Viksit Bharat.
- **Buildathon Details:** The Viksit Bharat Buildathon is a massive school hackathon that will engage over 1 crore students from 1.5 lakh schools across the country, encouraging them to develop prototypes based on four key themes: Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Swadeshi, Vocal for Local, and Samridhi.
- **Themes:** Participants will focus on creating solutions that address real-life challenges, promote indigenous ideas, support local products, and create pathways to prosperity and sustainable growth.

Srinivas Injeti appointed chairperson of NSE Governing Board

- **Appointment:** Srinivas Injeti has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Governing Board of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), effective from September 9, 2025.
- **Background:** Injeti is a retired 1983-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Odisha cadre, with over four decades of experience in corporate regulation, financial services, governance, and public policy.
- **Previous Roles:** He served as the founding Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) from 2020 to 2023 and Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) from 2017 to 2020, where he implemented key reforms like the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- **Expertise:** Injeti brings extensive experience in corporate governance, regulatory reforms, and international diplomacy, having served on the boards of SEBI, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), and other major institutions.

Sharath Kamal appointed as the brand ambassador of Asian Table Tennis Championship 2025

- **Appointment:** Sharath Kamal, a renowned Indian table tennis player, has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the 2025 Asian Table Tennis Championships.
- **Experience:** As a top Indian table tennis player, Sharath Kamal has had a distinguished career, representing India in numerous international competitions.
- **Role:** As brand ambassador, he will likely play a significant role in promoting the championship and inspiring young table tennis players in India and across Asia.
- **Competition:** The Asian Table Tennis Championships are a premier tournament in the table tennis calendar, featuring top players from Asia and beyond.

Raj Kumar Singh accredited as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Honduras

- **Concurrent Accreditation:** Raj Kumar Singh, currently the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to Honduras, expanding India's diplomatic presence in Central America.
- **Residence:** He will reside in Guatemala City, serving both Guatemala and Honduras.
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Singh is a seasoned diplomat from the 1996 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), with extensive experience in international relations and diplomacy.
- **Previous Roles:** Before his current assignment, he served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs from May 2023 to August 2025, and as Director from June 2017 to April 2023.
- **Academic Background:** He holds a Master's degree in History and an M.Phil. in Chinese Studies, reflecting his strong academic foundation in international relations and Asian affairs

Blackstone Appoints Apurva Shah to Lead India Credit Division

- **Appointment:** Apurva Shah has been appointed as Managing Director to lead Blackstone Credit & Insurance's (BXCI) private credit origination business in India, marking the company's first hire in the country for its credit and insurance business.
- **Experience:** Shah brings over 26 years of experience in leveraged finance, securitization, structuring, M&A advisory, and capital markets, having previously held senior roles at Deutsche Bank, Citigroup, DSP Merrill Lynch, and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.
- **Reporting Structure:** Shah will report to Mark Glengarry, Head of APAC for Private Credit Strategies at BXCI, and will be responsible for establishing and leading BXCI's private credit origination business in India.
- **Business Expansion:** This appointment signifies Blackstone's commitment to building a market-leading private credit platform in India, a key priority market for the firm, and reflects its long-term growth strategy in the country.
- **Growth Potential:** The move is expected to help Blackstone capitalize on India's growing credit demand, with the private credit market in India having seen \$9 billion in deals through June, and global funds holding a 68% market share.

IUCN and IRENA Sign MoU to Ensure Renewable Energy Transition

- **Partnership Goal:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) have partnered to accelerate a renewable energy transition that is both sustainable and nature-positive, ensuring solutions for the climate crisis also build a healthier planet.
- **Key Objectives:** The partnership aims to support the rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing environmental challenges while safeguarding biodiversity and strengthening community resilience.

- **Joint Initiatives:** Under the MoU, IUCN and IRENA will develop projects to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity and local communities, create tools to assess biodiversity impacts, and promote co-benefits between renewable energy deployment and conservation.
- **Global Targets:** The partnership aligns with the UAE Consensus goal of achieving 11.2 terawatts of renewables capacity by 2030 while preserving ecosystems and enhancing biodiversity.

Rishi Sunak Joins Microsoft and Anthropic as Adviser

- **Advisory Roles:** Rishi Sunak, the former UK Prime Minister, has joined Microsoft and Anthropic as a senior adviser, providing strategic perspectives on macroeconomic and geopolitical trends.
- **Scope of Work:** Sunak will focus on global strategic matters, avoiding UK-specific policy advice and lobbying the government on behalf of the companies. He'll provide high-level perspectives on macro-economic and geopolitical trends.
- **Payment and Charity:** Sunak's advisory roles are paid, but he'll donate the entire proceeds to The Richmond Project, a charity he founded with his wife to improve numeracy skills across the UK.
- **Restrictions:** The Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (Acoba) has raised concerns about potential unfair advantages for Microsoft, given Sunak's access to privileged information. To mitigate this, Sunak will steer clear of advising on UK policy matters.
- **Previous Experience:** This isn't Sunak's first corporate role; he's also serving as a senior advisor to Goldman Sachs and has worked with other firms like Bain Capital and Makena Capital.

Castrol India appointed Saugata Basuray as Interim CEO

- **Appointment:** Saugata Basuray has been appointed as the Interim CEO of Castrol India, effective January 1, 2026, following the resignation of Managing Director Kedar Lele, who will step down on December 31, 2025.
- **Background:** Basuray has over 25 years of experience with Castrol India, having joined as a Management Trainee in 1999. He has held various roles in sales, marketing, and business leadership across four countries and two continents.
- **Current Role:** Currently, Basuray heads the B2C business segment at Castrol India, where he has driven a multi-year transformation of the company's go-to-market model and expanded Castrol's distribution network into rural India.
- **Key Experience:** Basuray's experience includes serving as Executive Assistant to the Managing Director of CIL and Regional Vice President, bp, and leading Castrol's joint venture in Indonesia as Managing Director.

- **Transition:** The appointment of Basuray as Interim CEO aims to ensure continuity and stability during the transition period until a new Managing Director is appointed.

Union Health Ministry Appoints Actor Deepika Padukone As First-Ever Mental Health Ambassador

- **Appointment:** Deepika Padukone has been designated as India's first-ever Mental Health Ambassador to raise awareness about access to mental health services in the country.
- **Objective:** The appointment aims to encourage people to seek timely support through government-approved mental health resources and promote mental health as an integral aspect of public health.
- **Background:** Deepika's organization, LLL Foundation, has been working for the past 10 years to spread awareness about mental health, making her a suitable candidate for the role.
- **Significance:** The partnership is expected to widely disseminate awareness about mental health issues in India, normalize discussions, and reduce stigma around mental health.

Rajeev Juneja appointed as President of PHDCCI

- **Current Professional Role:** Rajeev Juneja is the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Mankind Pharma Ltd., bringing substantial experience from the pharmaceutical sector to the industry chamber.
- **Succeeds:** He has taken charge, succeeding Hemant Jain, who now serves as the immediate former President of the PHDCCI.
- **Visionary Focus:** His stated focus for his tenure includes building stronger industry linkages, promoting innovation, and fostering collaborative growth.
- **National Contribution Goal:** He aims to contribute significantly to the government's long-term goal of 'Viksit Bharat @2047' (Developed India by 2047) through self-reliance and the Chamber's initiatives.
- **New Leadership Team:** The appointment is part of a broader leadership change, with Anil Gupta (KEI Industries Ltd.) taking over as Senior Vice President and Sanjay Singhania (Epack Prefab Technologies Ltd.) as Vice President.

Tata Sons extends Chairman N Chandrasekaran's tenure

- **Extended Executive Tenure:** The Tata Trusts, which control Tata Sons, approved a third executive term for N. Chandrasekaran, extending his chairmanship.
- **Break from Tradition:** This decision marks a significant and historic departure from the Tata Group's traditional retirement policy, which requires executive heads to step down at the age of 65.

- **New End Date:** The extension allows Chandrasekaran to remain in the executive role until he turns 70 years old (or until 2032), a first for a top executive in the conglomerate. His current term was set to end in February 2027.
- **Reason for Continuity:** The primary reason cited for the extension is the need for leadership continuity to successfully see through critical and ambitious new projects, such as the group's major ventures in semiconductors, Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, and the turnaround of Air India.

Dan Katz appointed as IMF First Deputy Managing Director

- **Position and Timing:** Dan Katz was appointed as the First Deputy Managing Director (FDMD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), assuming office on October 6, 2025. This position is widely regarded as the IMF's number two leadership role, succeeding Gita Gopinath.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to this appointment, Katz served as the Chief of Staff to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, advising on a wide range of domestic and international economic matters.
- **Traditional US Nomination:** His appointment follows the convention where the United States, as the IMF's largest shareholder, traditionally nominates the candidate for the FDMD position.
- **Key Experience:** He brings a background in both the public and private sectors, including a long association with the U.S. Treasury Department (including roles in financial intelligence and as a senior advisor) and private sector experience as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs.
- **Strategic Rationale:** IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva cited his "outstanding experience in economic policy and international relations" and "incisive thinking" as crucial for the IMF.

Anant Goenka Named Ficci President-Elect for 2025-26

- **Leadership Transition:** Goenka will succeed Harsha Vardhan Agarwal as President of FICCI at the conclusion of the chamber's 98th Annual General Meeting, scheduled for November 28-29, 2025, in New Delhi.
- **Background and Experience:** Goenka is the Vice Chairman of the USD 5 billion RPG Group, with diversified interests across tyres, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, IT, and specialty sectors. He previously served as Managing Director and CEO of CEAT Ltd.
- **Achievements and Recognition:** During his tenure at CEAT, Goenka led the company's transformation, achieving a 25-fold increase in market capitalization. He has received several awards, including the Kabiller Science of Empathy Prize and being named "Next Generation Business Leader of the Year" by Forbes.

- **Education and Global Outlook:** Goenka holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management and a BS in Economics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. His global outlook and strategic depth will help FICCI navigate the complexities of Indian industry.

AIBI Re-elects Mahavir Lunawat as Chairman

- **Re-election for a Second Term:** Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director of Pantomath Capital Advisors, has been re-elected as Chairman of AIBI for a second two-year term, effective October 2025.
- **Industry Experience and Expertise:** Lunawat brings over 25 years of experience in investment banking, corporate strategy, and capital markets, having led numerous M&A and corporate restructuring projects and managed over 100 IPOs.
- **AIBI's Growth Under Lunawat's Leadership:** During his first term, AIBI underwent significant transformations, including a 71% surge in membership and the establishment of expert committees on KPIs, working capital, and standard procedures.
- **Key Responsibilities as Chairman:** As Chairman, Lunawat will continue to represent AIBI on SEBI's Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) and advocate for the interests of investment bankers.
- **New Vice Chairmen Appointed:** AIBI has also appointed Abhijit Vaidya, Managing Director of Kotak Investment Banking, and Lakha Nair, Managing Director of Axis Capital, as Vice Chairmen.

Tarun Garg appointed as MD and CEO of Hyundai India

- **First Indian to Lead:** Tarun Garg is the first Indian national to be appointed as the MD and CEO of Hyundai Motor India since the company's establishment in 1996, marking a historic milestone in its nearly three-decade history.
- **Effective Date:** His appointment is effective from January 1, 2026. He succeeds the current MD, Unsoo Kim, who will return to a strategic role at the parent company in South Korea.
- **Prior Role at Hyundai:** Before this elevation, Garg served as the Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO). He joined HMIL in 2019 as the Head of Sales, Service, and Marketing.
- **Key Achievements:** Under his leadership as COO, HMIL achieved record sales for three consecutive years and successfully executed India's largest Initial Public Offering (IPO) in 2024.
- **Strategic Significance:** The appointment underscores Hyundai Motor Company's strong confidence in Indian leadership capabilities and signals a focus on deeper localization.

Foot notes:

About Hyundai-

- **President & CEO:** Jose Munoz
- **Headquarters:** South Korea
- **Founded:** 1967

Tarun Garg to Lead Hyundai India as First Indian MD & CEO

- **Historic Appointment:** Tarun Garg is the first Indian national to be appointed as the MD and CEO of Hyundai Motor India (HMIL) since the company's establishment in 1996, marking a significant step toward local empowerment in the South Korean auto giant's top leadership.
- **Date of Takeover:** He will officially assume the role of Managing Director and CEO on January 1, 2026, succeeding the current MD, Unsoo Kim.
- **Prior Achievements:** Before his elevation from Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO), Garg guided HMIL to record sales for three consecutive years, achieved record profits, and played a key role in the company's 2024 IPO, the largest public offering in India's history.
- **Strategic Focus:** His mandate is centered on four key pillars: Future strategy (focusing on next-gen mobility like EVs), Market & People centered (nurturing local talent), Customer orientation (enhancing satisfaction), and strengthening the 'Make in India' initiative.
- **Investment Alignment:** His appointment coincides with Hyundai's announcement of a massive \$5 billion (₹45,000 crore) investment plan in India through FY2030, with a major focus on R&D and expanding manufacturing capacity.

Shri Mahesh Kumar Sharma took charge as Director of Finance at NHPC Limited

- **Appointment Details:** Shri Mahesh Kumar Sharma assumed charge as Director (Finance) of NHPC Limited on October 17, 2025, for a five-year tenure, bringing over 30 years of experience in finance, corporate accounts, treasury, and contracts.
- **Background:** Sharma is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and holds a Diploma in Information Systems Audit (DISA) from ICAI, securing All India 3rd Rank. He has previously served as Finance Head of NHPC's Commercial Division and CFO of NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd.
- **Experience:** Sharma joined NHPC in July 2000 as an Accounts Officer and has held various key roles, including part of the Treasury management team at Corporate Office, Faridabad, and Head of Finance at Pakaldul HE Project. He played a crucial role in the restoration works of Dhauliganga Power Station after the 2013 Uttarakhand flash floods.

- **Expertise:** Sharma's expertise spans financial management of large-scale infrastructure projects, tariff and regulatory frameworks, and contract management. His appointment is expected to bring valuable financial acumen to NHPC's operations and strengthen its position in the power sector.

Rodrigo Paz Elected New President of Bolivia

- **Ends Nearly Two Decades of Leftist Rule:** Paz's victory in the presidential runoff marks a historic shift, bringing an end to the nearly 20 years of dominance by the leftist Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party, founded by former President Evo Morales. He is the first non-socialist leader to win the presidency in two decades.
- **Victory Amidst Economic Crisis:** His win was significantly fueled by voter disillusionment over Bolivia's worst economic crisis in a generation, characterized by a shortage of US dollars, high inflation (soaring to around 23%), and chronic fuel shortages.
- **Centrist/Center-Right Platform:** Paz, of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), ran on a centrist to center-right platform, promising "capitalism for all." His plans include opening parts of the economy to private and foreign investment, promoting business-friendly reforms, and fiscal discipline, while also pledging to maintain some social programs to cushion the blow of economic reforms.
- **Promise to Rebuild International Ties:** Paz has signaled a major shift in foreign policy, vowing to improve relations with the United States and move away from the ideological alignments with countries like Venezuela and Russia that marked the previous MAS governments.

Karthik Narain Joins Google Cloud as Chief Product Officer

- **New Role and Title:** Narain has been appointed as the Chief Product and Business Officer at Google Cloud, a designation that combines leadership over both product and commercial strategies.
- **Scope of Responsibilities:** He is tasked with leading the product and engineering teams across key areas including cloud services, developer tools, data, and Applied AI. He also oversees the go-to-market organization and will work closely with Google Public Sector.
- **Background and Expertise:** Narain is a veteran of the technology consulting industry, having previously served as the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Accenture. His background includes a proven track record of driving large-scale cloud and AI modernization for major enterprises.

- **Strategic Focus on AI:** His appointment is specifically aimed at accelerating customers' journey into the AI era. Google CEO Sundar Pichai highlighted that Narain will partner closely with customers as they transform their businesses with AI, building on the positive response to products like Gemini Enterprise.
- **Accelerating Growth:** The hire signals Google Cloud's strong commitment to accelerating its growth and strengthening its competitive position against rivals like AWS and Microsoft Azure.

Justice Prathiba Singh Named Chair of WIPO Advisory Board

- **Historic First for India:** Justice Singh is the first Indian, and one of the first Asians, to be appointed as the Chair of this prestigious global body, which is a significant recognition of India's growing expertise in Intellectual Property (IP) law.
- **Role and Tenure:** She will lead the WIPO Advisory Board of Judges for a two-year term (2025–2027). The Board is a high-level international group of judges that provides guidance and direction to WIPO's work with judiciaries in the field of IP.
- **Core Focus:** Her primary role as Chair will be to guide discussions and strategies on global judicial cooperation in IP, oversee judicial capacity-building programs, and address emerging IP challenges related to digital technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Prior IP Experience:** Before her appointment to the Delhi High Court in 2017, she was a leading IP lawyer and has had a distinguished judicial career, including serving as the Chairperson and Presiding Judge of the first IP Division of the Delhi High Court (2021–2022).
- **Multilateral Expertise:** Beyond IP, Justice Singh brings experience from another global body, as she currently serves as the Co-Chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) Working Group on Regulatory Considerations for AI in Health, showcasing her ability to navigate complex legal and technical issues internationally.

Raj Kumar Singh accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of El Salvador

- **Concurrent Accreditation:** Raj Kumar Singh will serve as the Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador while concurrently holding his position as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guatemala.

- **Residence in Guatemala City:** As the appointment is a concurrent accreditation, he will operate with residence in Guatemala City, not El Salvador's capital, San Salvador.
- **Senior Diplomat:** He is an experienced career diplomat, belonging to the 1996 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).
- **Broader Regional Role:** This appointment enhances his diplomatic responsibilities in the Central American region, as he is already accredited to both Guatemala and Honduras, with this new role completing a tri-nation regional accreditation.
- **Strengthening Bilateral Ties:** The accreditation aims to strengthen India's bilateral relations with El Salvador in various areas, including trade, culture, and cooperation, as part of India's increased diplomatic focus on Latin American countries.

Nirmal Minda Becomes Assocham President, Chaudhry as Sr. VP

- **New President:** Nirmal Kumar Minda, the Executive Chairman of Uno Minda Group, has taken over as the new President of ASSOCHAM, succeeding Sanjay Nayar.
- **New Senior Vice-President:** Amitabh Chaudhry, the Managing Director and CEO of Axis Bank, has been appointed as the Senior Vice-President. This appointment is subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Minda's Background:** Minda is a prominent figure and pioneer in the auto component industry, with over five decades of experience. His leadership is recognized for driving innovation, self-reliance (localization), and strengthening the automotive supply chain in India.
- **Strategic Focus Areas:** Under Minda's leadership, ASSOCHAM will focus on five key transformative pillars, which he referred to as "Economic Reforms 2.0," aligning with the national goal of Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047.

Akkai Padmashali Becomes First Transgender Member of SC-Appointed Committee

- **Historic Appointment and Representation:** Akkai Padmashali is the first transgender person from the community to be named as a member of a Supreme Court-appointed committee. This marks a significant milestone for representation and ensures that policy recommendations are informed by the lived experiences of transgender persons.

- **Committee's Mandate:** The panel was constituted by the Supreme Court to formulate a national Equal Opportunity Policy for the protection, integration, and advancement of the rights of transgender persons across the country.
- **Core Objective:** The committee's primary task is to draft a comprehensive framework (within six months) to address discrimination faced by the transgender community in key areas like education, employment, and access to public spaces, and to propose measures for effective implementation.
- **Legal Context:** The formation of the committee stems from the Supreme Court's observation of the "grossly apathetic attitude" of Central and State governments towards integrating transgender persons, and aims to ensure the effective implementation of the principles laid down in the landmark NALSA v. Union of India (2014) judgment.

Neeraj Gambhir appointed as Executive Director of Axis Bank

- **New Position and Term:** Neeraj Gambhir was appointed as a Whole-time Director, designated as Executive Director of Axis Bank. The appointment is for a term of three years, with effect from August 4, 2025, pending final shareholder and regulatory approvals (specifically from the RBI, which was later granted).
- **Existing Role and Responsibility:** Prior to his elevation, he served as the Group Executive – Treasury, Markets, and Wholesale Banking Products at Axis Bank (since May 2020). This domain expertise is expected to be a major focus in his Executive Director role, driving the bank's strategy in capital markets and risk management.
- **Extensive Industry Experience:** He brings over 30 years of experience in India's financial sector.
- **Key Industry Contributions:** Mr. Gambhir is an active and influential figure in the broader financial ecosystem.
- **Leadership Restructuring:** His appointment was part of a senior leadership realignment at Axis Bank, which came alongside the retirement timeline of Deputy Managing Director Rajiv Anand and the resignation of another Group Executive.

India Re-Elected Vice-Chair of COP10 Bureau on Anti-Doping

- **Re-election and Term:** India was re-elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific regional group (Group IV). The new term for this prestigious position is 2025–2027.
- **Event and Location:** The re-election took place during the 10th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the UNESCO International Convention against

Doping in Sport, which was held from October 20-22, 2025, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

- **Significance of the Role:** The re-election reinforces India's global commitment to promoting clean sport and strengthens its influence in shaping international anti-doping policies and governance within the only legally binding international instrument dedicated to the issue.
- **Key Proposal/Contribution:** The Indian delegation successfully proposed amendments aimed at harmonizing educational anti-doping projects by integrating the Values Education through Sport (VETS) approach. This initiative focuses on fostering sport values, ethics, and integrity among youth.

Indian Olympic Gold Medalist Abhinav Bindra appointed as Torchbearer for Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics

- **Role and Event:** Abhinav Bindra has been selected as one of the torchbearers for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Torch Relay. The Winter Olympics are scheduled to be held in Italy from February 6 to 22, 2026.
- **Recognition of Legacy:** His selection is a recognition of his historic achievement as India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, which he won in the 10m Air Rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The honor celebrates his profound legacy in global sport.
- **Connection to Olympic Movement:** The appointment underscores Bindra's continued and enduring association with the Olympic movement, even after his retirement from shooting. He is also a long-serving member of the IOC Athletes' Commission.
- **Symbolic Importance:** As a torchbearer, he will carry the Olympic flame, a tradition that symbolizes dreams, perseverance, unity, and the Olympic values of friendship, excellence, and respect as it travels across Italy before the opening ceremony.
- **Previous Torchbearer Experience:** This is not the first time Bindra has participated in an Olympic Torch Relay, as he was also a torchbearer for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics relay.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Translation Day observed on 30th September

- **Date Significance:** International Translation Day is celebrated on September 30, coinciding with the feast day of St. Jerome, the patron saint of translators, who translated the Bible from Hebrew into Latin.

- **United Nations Recognition:** The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 71/288 on May 24, 2017, declaring September 30 as International Translation Day to recognize the role of professional translation in connecting nations and fostering peace.
- **Theme:** The theme for International Translation Day 2025 is "Translation, Peace and Trust," highlighting the crucial role of translators, interpreters, and terminologists in ensuring trustworthy communication and building dialogue between parties.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to promote awareness about the importance of translation in facilitating international communication, peace, and development, while also recognizing the contributions of language professionals worldwide.

International Day of Older Persons observed on 01st October

- **Theme for 2025:** The theme is "Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-being and Our Rights," emphasizing older persons' contributions and rights.
- **History:** The United Nations General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons in 1990, with the first observance in 1991.
- **Significance:** This day raises awareness about the challenges, opportunities, and contributions of older persons worldwide, promoting dignity, respect, and inclusion.
- **Global Population:** The global population aged 65 or over is projected to more than double, reaching over 1.5 billion persons in 2050, with significant increases in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Europe, and Northern America.

World Animal Day 2025 observed on 04th October

- **Date:** World Animal Day is observed annually on October 4, coinciding with the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology.
- **Theme:** The theme for World Animal Day 2025 is "Save Animals, Save the Planet!" highlighting the crucial link between animal welfare and environmental sustainability.
- **History:** World Animal Day was first celebrated in 1925 by German writer and animal rights activist Heinrich Zimmermann and has since become a global movement.
- **Objective:** The day aims to raise awareness about animal rights and welfare, promoting compassion, protection, and action for all animals, whether pets, wildlife, or those in industrial farming.

- **Significance:** World Animal Day emphasizes that protecting animals is essential to protecting the planet, as the well-being of animals is deeply connected to the health of ecosystems and humanity.

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World Cerebral Palsy Day observed on 06th October

- **Date and Purpose:** World Cerebral Palsy Day is observed annually on October 6 to raise awareness about cerebral palsy, celebrate the lives and achievements of individuals with CP, and advocate for their rights and inclusion in society.
- **Theme:** The theme for World Cerebral Palsy Day 2025 is "Unique and United", emphasizing individuality while highlighting the collective strength of the CP community. It promotes breaking down barriers, creating inclusive environments, and recognizing unique strengths.
- **Awareness and Impact:** Cerebral palsy affects approximately 17-18 million people worldwide, impacting movement, posture, and muscle tone. Many people with CP face challenges in accessing equal opportunities, quality healthcare, and social inclusion.
- **Importance of Inclusion:** The day emphasizes the importance of creating inclusive environments that recognize and support individuals with cerebral palsy.

Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on 08th October 2025

- **Date and Anniversary:** Indian Air Force Day is celebrated on October 8, 2025, marking the 93rd anniversary of the Indian Air Force, which was established in 1932.
- **Theme:** The theme for Indian Air Force Day 2025 is "Operation Sindoor," highlighting India's growing air power and humanitarian strength in global missions. However,

another source suggests the theme might focus on modernization and operational readiness, so the exact theme might be confirmed by the IAF.

- **Events and Celebrations:** The day features air shows, parades, and demonstrations of modern aircraft at major air bases, showcasing the IAF's operational strength, technological capabilities, and strategic reach.
- **Significance:** Indian Air Force Day honors the dedication, courage, and professionalism of air warriors who protect India's skies and ensures national sovereignty. It also inspires patriotism and unity among citizens.
- **IAF's History and Structure:** The Indian Air Force has a rich history, from its establishment in 1932 to its current status as a powerful force with advanced aircraft and technology.

World Postal Day observed on 09th October 2025

- **Date and Theme:** World Postal Day is observed annually on October 9, commemorating the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) establishment in 1874. The theme for 2025 is "#PostForPeople: Local Service. Global Reach," highlighting the postal sector's role in connecting people and communities worldwide.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to raise awareness about the postal sector's contributions to global communication, commerce, and social and economic development. It emphasizes the importance of accessible communication for everyone, regardless of location.
- **History:** World Post Day was declared by the UPU Congress in Tokyo in 1969, and it's celebrated in over 150 countries. The first known postal document dates back to ancient Egypt in 255 BC, while the world's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, was a British innovation in 1840.
- **Activities:** People can participate in World Post Day by sending letters or cards, visiting local post offices, exploring philately, learning about postal history, and using postal services. Many countries also organize events like exhibitions, workshops, and awareness programs to showcase the value of postal services.

World Mental Health Day observed on 10th October 2025

- **Theme:** The theme for World Mental Health Day 2025 is "Access to Services - Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies," highlighting the need for readily available mental health support during crises. However, some sources mention the theme as "It is time to prioritise mental health in the workplace," which might be an alternate focus area.
- **Importance:** The day aims to promote mental health education, raise awareness about mental illnesses, and advocate against social stigma surrounding conditions like depression, anxiety, and PTSD.

- **Global Impact:** Approximately 1 billion people worldwide live with mental health disorders, including conditions like anxiety and depression. In conflict-affected areas, one in five individuals experiences a mental health condition.
- **Awareness and Action:** The day encourages people to take action, share their stories, and support others in promoting mental well-being. Activities include campaigns, seminars, charity walks, and art exhibitions.

International Day of the Girl Child observed on 11th October 2025

- **Theme:** The theme for International Day of the Girl Child 2025 is "The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis", highlighting girls' leadership and resilience in the face of adversity.
- **Objective:** The day aims to celebrate girls' achievements, amplify their voices, and recognize the unique challenges they face globally, including unequal access to education, child marriage, and gender-based violence.
- **History:** The day was officially declared by the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 2011, and first observed on October 11, 2012, building on the momentum of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- **Importance:** The day emphasizes the need to invest in girls' education, health, and well-being, and to promote their empowerment and support their leadership and participation in decision-making processes.

On 14 October, World Standards Day honors experts behind international standards

- **Date and Purpose:** World Standards Day is celebrated every year on October 14 to raise global awareness about the crucial role of standardization in the world economy and in meeting the needs of consumers, industry, and government.
- **Historical Origin:** The date commemorates the first meeting in London in 1946, when delegates from 25 countries agreed to create an international organization dedicated to fostering global standardization, which led to the formation of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) in 1947.
- **Honors Experts:** The day honors the thousands of volunteer experts worldwide who collaborate to develop the voluntary technical agreements published as International Standards by organizations like the ISO, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), and International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- **2025 Theme:** The international theme for World Standards Day 2025 is "A Shared Vision for a Better World: Spotlight on SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals," emphasizing how standards facilitate collaboration to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

International Day of Rural Women is observed on 15th October 2025

- **Date and Purpose:** The International Day of Rural Women is observed annually on October 15th to recognize the vital role rural women play in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security, and eradicating rural poverty.
- **Rural Women's Contributions:** Rural women constitute approximately 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, producing 60-80% of food in most developing countries, and contributing significantly to household income and community development.
- **Challenges Faced:** Rural women face numerous challenges, including limited access to education, land ownership, credit, and healthcare, as well as a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work and lack of social protection.
- **Empowerment and Support:** Empowering rural women requires addressing these inequalities, providing access to education, training, and economic opportunities, and promoting their participation in decision-making processes.
- **Global Recognition:** The International Day of Rural Women is recognized by the United Nations and celebrated globally to raise awareness about the critical role rural women play in sustainable development and to promote their empowerment and well-being.

International Day for Tolerance observed on 16th October

- **Official Date and Proclamation:** The International Day for Tolerance is observed annually on November 16th. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the day in 1996 (Resolution 51/95) to be observed by its Member States.
- **Origin: UNESCO's Declaration:** The date marks the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by UNESCO Member States on November 16, 1995. The year 1995 was also the United Nations Year for Tolerance, marking the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Definition of Tolerance:** According to the UNESCO Declaration, tolerance is defined as "respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human." It clarifies that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference, but an active attitude affirming universal human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- **Key Objective: Combating Intolerance:** The day serves to raise public awareness of the dangers of intolerance, prejudice, and discrimination. The UN encourages activities, especially educational ones, aimed at promoting mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty observed on 17th October 2025

- **2025 Theme:** The theme for the 2025 observance is "Ending social and institutional maltreatment by ensuring respect and effective support for families."

This shifts the focus beyond just income to the stigma, discrimination, and punitive systems poor families face in institutions (like schools, clinics, or welfare offices).

- **Core Purpose:** The day serves as a global call to action to raise awareness about the urgency of eradicating poverty and destitution worldwide. It recognizes that poverty is a multidimensional violation of human rights—not just an economic issue.
- **Origin and Recognition:** The Day's roots trace back to October 17, 1987, in Paris, France, where over a hundred thousand people gathered to honor the victims of extreme poverty.
- **Emphasis on Dignity and Voice:** A central element of the Day is acknowledging the effort and struggle of people living in poverty and providing them with a platform to make their concerns heard.
- **Alignment with SDGs:** The observance is fundamentally linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1: No Poverty (End poverty in all its forms everywhere).

World Statistics Day observed on 20th October 2025

- **Theme:** The theme for World Statistics Day 2025 is "Driving change with quality statistics and data for everyone", emphasizing the importance of reliable data in decision-making.
- **Date and Frequency:** World Statistics Day is celebrated every 5 years on October 20th, with the next occurrences scheduled for 2030, 2035, 2040, and 2045.
- **Significance:** The day highlights the role of statistics in shaping our understanding of the world, informing policy decisions, and driving progress. Statistics play a crucial role in various fields, including science, medicine, finance, and weather forecasting.
- **Global Celebration:** The United Nations Statistical Commission coordinates the global celebration, which includes a 24-hour non-stop global webinar marathon. This event brings together voices from around the world to showcase innovations and advancements in statistics.

United Nations Day observed on 24th October 2025

- **80th Anniversary of the UN Charter:** The 2025 observance marks the 80th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter on October 24, 1945. This foundational document officially established the United Nations, making the day a celebration of eight decades of multilateralism.

- **Global Theme:** The day is marked under the overarching global theme of "Building Our Future Together" (or similar phrasing like "The United Nations at 80: Building our future together"), emphasizing the renewal of the collective commitment to peace, human rights, and sustainable development for the next generation.
- **Core Purpose and Objectives:** United Nations Day is dedicated to making known to the people of the world the aims and achievements of the UN and gaining support for its work. Its core objectives remain maintaining international peace and security, promoting human rights, upholding international law, and fostering economic and social progress through global cooperation.
- **Focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** The commemoration heavily features the urgency of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 2030 deadline.

OBITUARY NEWS

Padma Vibhushan vocalist Pandit Chhannulal Mishra passed away

- **Contribution to Music:** Pandit Mishra was known for his expertise in various genres, including Khayal, Thumri, Dadra, Chaiti, Kajri, and Bhajan. He was particularly famous for his renditions of Purab Ang thumri.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He received several prestigious awards, including the Padma Bhushan (2010) and Padma Vibhushan (2020), India's second-highest civilian honor, for his contributions to Indian classical music.
- **Legendary Vocalist:** Pandit Chhannulal Mishra was a renowned Hindustani classical vocalist known for his expertise in various genres, including Khayal and Thumri.
- **Padma Vibhushan Awardee:** He was honored with the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, recognizing his significant contributions to Indian classical music.

Veteran Gandhian, socialist and freedom fighter G.G. Parikh passed away

- **Age and Passing:** Dr. G.G. Parikh passed away at the age of 101 at his Mumbai residence.
- **Legacy:** He was a prominent socialist leader, freedom fighter, and founder of the Yusuf Meherally Centre, dedicated to rural development and empowering marginalized communities.
- **Freedom Struggle Participation:** Parikh actively participated in key movements, including the Indian freedom struggle, Samyukta Maharashtra Movement, and Goa Liberation Movement.

- **Imprisonment:** He was imprisoned for ten months during the Quit India movement and later during the Emergency for his activism, showcasing his commitment to social causes.
- **Body Donation:** As per his wishes, his body was donated to JJ Hospital for medical research, reflecting his selfless contribution to society.

Jane Goodall, Legendary Primate Expert passed away

- **Pioneering Research:** Dr. Jane Goodall was a renowned primatologist and anthropologist famous for her groundbreaking research on chimpanzees in Gombe Stream National Park, Tanzania, starting in 1960. Her work challenged scientific views by showing that chimpanzees make and use tools, hunt cooperatively, and display complex emotions.
- **Conservation Efforts:** Goodall founded the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977 to promote wildlife conservation and established programs like Roots & Shoots, a global youth program that encourages young people to take action to make a positive difference.
- **Animal Welfare Advocacy:** Dr. Goodall was a vocal advocate for animal welfare, criticizing animal cruelty in industries like factory farming and laboratory research. She also worked to protect endangered species and their habitats.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Throughout her career, Goodall received numerous awards, including the Kyoto Prize, the Hubbard Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was named a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2003.

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Veteran Actress Sandhya Shantaram passed away

- Veteran actress Sandhya Shantaram, wife of legendary filmmaker V. Shantaram, passed away at the age of 94 in Mumbai on October 4, 2025.
- Born as Vijaya Deshmukh, she was known for her graceful performances and exceptional dancing skills in Indian cinema.
- She starred in several acclaimed films such as Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje (1955), Do Aankhen Barah Haath (1957), Navrang (1959), and Pinjara (1972).
- Sandhya was a prominent figure in both Hindi and Marathi cinema during the 1950s and 1960s.

Punjabi singer Rajvir Jawanda passed away

- Rajvir Jawanda, a 35-year-old Punjabi singer and actor, passed away at Fortis Hospital in Mohali, after a prolonged battle with injuries sustained in a road accident.
- Jawanda was involved in a motorcycle accident on September 27, 2025, near Baddi in Himachal Pradesh's Solan district, where he hit stray cattle, resulting in severe head and spinal injuries.
- Despite undergoing multiple surgeries and continuous medical support, Jawanda's condition remained critical, and he was on life support since his admission to the hospital. His brain activity remained minimal, and he succumbed to multiple organ failure.
- Jawanda was known for hits like "Kali Jawande Di," "Khush Reha Kar," "Sardari," and "Shaandaar." He began his music career with his debut single "Munda Like Me" in 2014 and also acted in Punjabi films like "Subedar Joginder Singh" and "Jind Jaan".

Former Chairman Emeritus of 'Prestige' TTK Jagannathan passed away

- **Demise:** T.T. Jagannathan, former Chairman Emeritus of TTK Prestige, passed away in Bengaluru on October 9, 2025, at the age of 77.
- **"Kitchen Mogul" Title:** He was widely known as 'The Kitchen Mogul' for his transformative role in the Indian kitchenware industry.
- **Key Innovation:** He is credited with a major contribution to safety in the industry, including the invention of the Gasket Release System in pressure cookers.
- **Leadership & Transformation:** He was on the company's board for over five decades and was instrumental in turning around the TTK Group, eventually building TTK Prestige into a billion-dollar brand and a market leader.
- **Educational Background:** He was an alumnus of IIT Madras (gold medalist) and held a PhD in Operations Research from Cornell University, USA.

Oscar-Winning Actress Diane Keaton passed away

- **Date of Passing:** Diane Keaton passed away on October 11, 2025, in Los Angeles, California.
- **Career Span:** Keaton's career spanned over five decades, with notable roles in films like "The Godfather," "Annie Hall," and "Something's Gotta Give."

- **Awards and Accolades:** Keaton won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in "Annie Hall" and received multiple Golden Globe and BAFTA awards.
- **Notable Roles:** Some of her notable roles include Kay Adams in "The Godfather" trilogy, Annie Hall in "Annie Hall," and Samantha in "Something's Gotta Give."
- **Legacy:** Keaton was known for her unique style, which often featured men's vintage clothing, and her ability to play complex, dynamic characters in both comedic and dramatic roles.

Goa Agriculture Minister and Ex-CM Ravi Naik passed away

- **Date and Cause of Death:** Ravi Naik passed away on October 15, 2025, at the age of 79, due to a cardiac arrest in his hometown of Ponda, Goa.
- **Last Government Post:** At the time of his death, he was serving as the Minister for Agriculture, Handicrafts, and Civil Supplies in the cabinet of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, having been elected on a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ticket in the 2022 Goa Assembly elections.
- **Political Journey and Stalwart Status:** Naik was a political veteran, elected as an MLA seven times from the Ponda constituency (and once from Marcaim). His political journey involved significant shifts, having been associated with the Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the Indian National Congress (INC), and finally the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which he rejoined in 2021.
- **Community Leadership:** He was widely regarded as a stalwart and a key leader of Goa's electorally significant Bhandari community (classified under the OBC category), known for his grassroots connection and influence.

Pankaj Dheer, Iconic Karna from Mahabharat passed away

- Pankaj Dheer succumbed to cancer at the age of 68, after undergoing major surgery and struggling with the illness for several months.
- Dheer's portrayal of Karna in Mahabharat became iconic, with his performance still widely remembered and revered today. His depiction of the character was so impactful that images of him as Karna were included in school textbooks, and temples dedicated to the character were built with his likeness.
- Apart from Mahabharat, Dheer appeared in notable films like Baadshah, Soldier, and Sanam Bewafa, as well as TV shows such as Chandrakanta and Sasural Simar Ka. He also co-founded Visage Studioz, a shooting studio, and launched the Abhinay Acting Academy to mentor aspiring actors.
- Pankaj Dheer is survived by his wife Anita Dheer and son Nikitin Dheer, who is also an actor and known for his roles in films like Chennai Express and Shershaah. Nikitin is married to television actress Kratika Sengar.

Former Kenya PM Raila Amolo Odinga passed away

- Raila Odinga passed away in India due to cardiac arrest while undergoing treatment at an Ayurvedic facility in Kochi.
- Odinga was laid to rest on Sunday, October 19, 2025, in his ancestral home in Bondo, near Lake Victoria, Western Kenya, with full military honors. Leaders from across Africa and beyond paid tribute to his legacy, describing him as a champion of democracy and a symbol of hope.
- Odinga was a towering figure in Kenyan politics, serving as Prime Minister from 2008 and playing a crucial role in shaping the country's democracy. He was known for his advocacy for multi-party democracy and constitutional reforms.
- Odinga's death has left a void in Kenyan politics, with many wondering what the future holds for his Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) party and the country's political landscape. President William Ruto has committed to ensuring ODM remains part of the government in 2027.

Legendary Comic Actor Govardhan Asrani passed away

- **Cause of Death:** He had been admitted to Arogya Nidhi Hospital for a few days due to breathing issues, and the cause of death was reported as complications from a prolonged illness, specifically fluid accumulation in his lungs.
- **Iconic Role:** His most famous and beloved role remains that of the eccentric, Hitler-caricaturing Jailer in the cult classic film Sholay (1975), with his iconic line, "Angrezon ke zamane ke jailer..."
- **Prolific Career:** Asrani had a career spanning over five decades, appearing in over 350 films in Hindi and Gujarati, making him one of Bollywood's most consistent and loved character and comic actors.
- **Family and Last Wishes:** He is survived by his wife, actress Manju Asrani. Respecting his wish for a quiet farewell, his last rites were performed in a private ceremony at the Santacruz Crematorium shortly after his passing on the same day.

Renowned singer and actress Raavu Balasaraswathi Devi passed away

- **Pioneer of Playback Singing:** Raavu Balasaraswathi Devi is revered as the first playback singer in Telugu cinema. Her debut as a playback vocalist was for the song "Thinne Meedha Sinnoda" in the film Bhagya Lakshmi (1943), marking a revolutionary shift in the industry.
- **Date and Age of Passing:** She passed away on October 15, 2025, at her residence in Hyderabad due to age-related issues.

- **Extensive Career and Contribution:** Her illustrious career spanned from the 1930s to the 1960s. She worked as both an actress and a singer in Telugu and Tamil films, reportedly singing over 2,000 songs.
- **A Star from a Young Age:** She was a child prodigy who began her artistic journey at a very young age, acting in films like *Sati Anusuya* & *Bhaktha Dhruva* (1936) and lending her voice for the first solo gramophone record by HMV at the age of six.
- **Radio Pioneer:** Besides her cinema contributions, she was also the first 'light music' singer on All India Radio, further cementing her status as a foundational figure in South Indian music.

Veteran Space Scientist Eknath Vasanth Chitnis passed away

- **Pioneer of India's Space Programme:** Eknath Vasant Chitnis was a key figure and one of the earliest architects of India's space efforts, working closely with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme. He was a member-secretary of the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), which later evolved into ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).
- **Instrumental in Launch Site Selection:** He played a crucial role in scouting and selecting Thumba in Kerala as the site for India's first rocket launch, recognizing its strategic equatorial advantage for atmospheric research.
- **Directed the Landmark SITE Project:** Chitnis served as the Director of the groundbreaking Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) in 1975-76. This project used NASA's ATS-6 satellite to beam educational programs to approximately 2,400 remote villages, which is considered the precursor to India's satellite-based telecommunications and broadcasting revolution (INSAT program).
- **Mentor to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam:** He is credited with reviewing the resume of a young scientist, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and recommending his induction and subsequent training for the Indian space program, thereby nurturing a future President of India.

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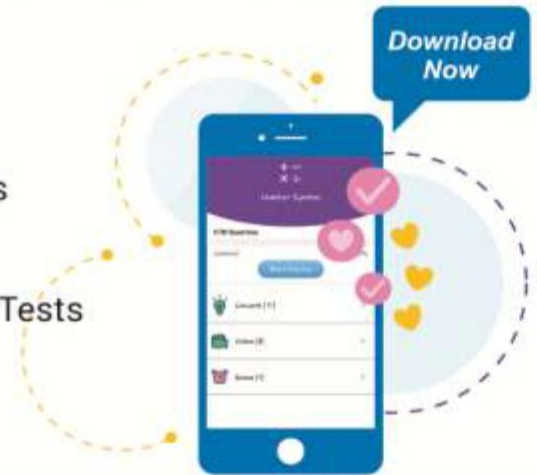
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