

FEBRUARY 2026

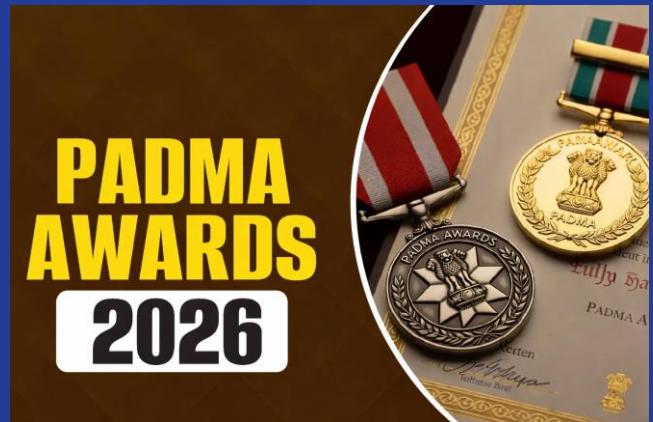


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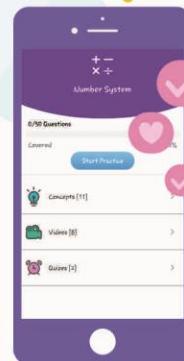
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ARTICLES

World Hindi Day: 10 January

Celebrated every year on **January 10**, World Hindi Day (Vishwa Hindi Diwas) aims to promote the use of the Hindi language globally. As we move into 2026, the language continues to evolve from a regional identity to a global powerhouse of communication and technology.

The Theme for 2026

The theme for World Hindi Day 2026 is "**Hindi: Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence.**"

This theme highlights a dual mission:

- **Preservation:** Using Hindi to safeguard India's vast heritage, ancient scriptures, and traditional wisdom.
- **Innovation:** Integrating Hindi into the digital frontier, particularly in **AI and Machine Learning**, ensuring the language remains relevant in the age of automation and global digital discourse.

History and Significance

World Hindi Day is distinct from India's "National Hindi Diwas" (celebrated on September 14). While the national day focuses on Hindi's status within India, World Hindi Day focuses on its **international reach**.

- **The Origin (1975):** On January 10, 1975, the first **World Hindi Conference** was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra. It was inaugurated by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and attended by 122 delegates from 30 countries.
- **The Proclamation (2006):** In 2006, former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh officially declared January 10 as World Hindi Day to mark the anniversary of that first conference.
- **UN Recognition:** The date also commemorates the first time Hindi was spoken in the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 1949.

Why Hindi Matters in 2026

Hindi is currently the **third most spoken language** in the world, with over **610 million speakers**.

| Feature | Impact in 2026 |
|------------------|--|
| Digital Presence | Hindi content consumption on OTT platforms and YouTube has seen a 200% growth, making it a "language of business." |
| AI Integration | Large Language Models (LLMs) are now being trained specifically on Devanagari scripts to serve rural and semi-urban populations. |
| Global Diplomacy | UNGA resolutions now frequently include Hindi as a language for disseminating information, alongside other global languages. |

Republic Day: 26th January

Republic Day, celebrated annually on **January 26th**, is one of India's three national holidays. In 2026, India celebrates its **77th Republic Day**, marking 76 years since the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950, transitioning the nation into a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic.



Theme for 2026: "Vande Mataram & Atmanirbhar Bharat"

The 2026 celebrations are built on a dual theme that bridges India's revolutionary past with its ambitious future:

- **"Vande Mataram" (150 Years of Patriotic Inspiration):** A tribute to the 150th anniversary of the national song. This theme honors the spirit of the freedom struggle and the cultural identity that unified the nation.
- **"Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India):** A focus on India's journey toward becoming a global powerhouse in defense, technology, and manufacturing.

Key Pillars of the 2026 Focus:

- **Viksit Bharat @2047:** Aligning the parade displays with the vision of a fully developed nation by its centenary of independence.
- **Nari Shakti (Women Power):** Continued emphasis on women-led contingents in the armed forces and female representation in state tableaux.
- **Green Growth & Digital India:** Showcasing sustainable energy milestones and India's leadership in the digital economy.

Chief Guests: A Diplomatic Milestone

In a significant diplomatic gesture, India has invited **two top leaders of**

the European Union as joint Chief Guests for 2026:

- **Ursula von der Leyen** (President of the European Commission)
- **António Costa** (President of the European Council)

This marks a historic first where two EU heads are attending together, signaling a deep strategic and economic partnership between India and the European Union, particularly regarding Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and green technology.

Highlights of the 2026 Parade (Kartavya Path)

- **The Animal Contingent:** A new addition for 2026 featuring the **Army Animal Contingent**, including Bactrian Camels and Zanskar Ponies used in high-altitude operations.
- **Indigenous Might:** The parade will feature the latest "Make in India" defense hardware, including advanced drone swarms, the **Tejas** fighter jet flypast, and indigenous missile systems.
- **Tableaux:** Over 20 states and various ministries will present moving displays. This year, many focus on the "Vande Mataram" legacy and regional industrial achievements.
- **Flypast:** The grand finale features a spectacular aerial display by the Indian Air Force, including the 'Vertical Charlie' maneuver and 'Eklavya' formation.

Padma Awards 2026

On the eve of the 77th Republic Day (January 25, 2026), President Droupadi Murmu approved the conferment of **131 Padma Awards**. This year's list continues the "People's Padma" tradition, highlighting a mix of global icons, cultural legends, and "unsung heroes" who have made extraordinary contributions to society.



| Category | Number of Awards |
|--|------------------|
| Padma Vibhushan (Exceptional & Distinguished Service) | 05 |
| Padma Bhushan (Distinguished Service of High Order) | 13 |
| Padma Shri (Distinguished Service in any field) | 113 |
| Total | 131 |

Quick Facts: The 2026 list includes **19 women**, **16 posthumous awardees**, and **6 recipients** from the Foreigner/NRI/PIO/OCI category.

Key Awardees: List of Winners

1. Padma Vibhushan (Highest Honor)

| Name | Field | State/Country |
|--|------------------------|---------------|
| Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous) | Art | Maharashtra |
| Shri V.S. Achuthanandhan (Posthumous) | Public Affairs | Kerala |
| Shri K.T. Thomas | Public Affairs | Kerala |
| Ms. N. Rajam | Art | Uttar Pradesh |
| Shri P. Narayanan | Literature & Education | Kerala |

2. Padma Bhushan

| Name | Field | State/Country |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Shri Mammootty | Art | Kerala |
| Ms. Alka Yagnik | Art | Maharashtra |
| Shri Vijay Amritraj | Sports | USA / India |
| Shri Uday Kotak | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| Shri Shibu Soren (Posthumous) | Public Affairs | Jharkhand |
| Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari | Public Affairs | Uttarakhand |

Key Padma Shri Highlights

- Posthumous Honors:** Iconic actor **Dharmendra** and veteran politician **V.S. Achuthanandhan** were honored posthumously with the Padma Vibhushan.
- The "Unsung Heroes":** About **45 recipients** were recognized in the "Unsung Heroes" category—individuals working at the grassroots level in fields like agriculture, archaeology, and social service.
- Sports Milestone:** This year saw a heavy emphasis on cricket, recognizing both **Rohit Sharma** and **Harmanpreet Kaur** for their leadership and World Cup contributions.
- First Foreign Coach:** **Vladimir Mestvirishvili** (Georgia) became the first foreign wrestling coach to receive a Padma Shri (posthumously) for training Indian Olympic medalists.

Union Budget 2026-27

On February 1, 2026, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget for the 2026-27 financial year. This was her record-breaking **9th budget**, delivered on a Sunday (coinciding with Magha Purnima).

The theme of this year's budget is "**Yuva Shakti-driven Bharat**".



| Parameter | 2026-27 Estimate | Notes |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Total Expenditure | ₹53.47 Lakh Crore | 7.7% increase over FY 2025-26 |
| Capital Expenditure (Capex) | ₹12.2 Lakh Crore | Boost for Infrastructure "Future-Ready" |
| Fiscal Deficit Target | 4.3% of GDP | Down from 4.4% in FY 2025-26 |
| GDP Growth Estimate | 10% (Nominal) | Real growth + Inflation |
| Total Receipts | ₹36.52 Lakh Crore | Non-borrowing receipts |

New Tax Regime Slabs (FY 2026-27)

| Income Slab | Tax Rate |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Up to ₹4,00,000 | Nil |
| ₹4,00,001 – ₹8,00,000 | 5% |
| ₹8,00,001 – ₹12,00,000 | 10% |
| ₹12,00,001 – ₹16,00,000 | 15% |
| ₹16,00,001 – ₹20,00,000 | 20% |
| ₹20,00,001 – ₹24,00,000 | 25% |
| Above ₹24,00,000 | 30% |

1. The "Big Three" Kartavyas

The Budget was prepared under the guidance of three "Duties":

- Accelerating Growth:** Scaling manufacturing in 7 strategic sectors.
- Fulfilling Aspirations:** Enhancing capacity for the common man.
- Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas:** Ensuring regional and community-wide access to resources.

2. Infrastructure & Rail Connectors

- High-Speed Rail:** Seven new corridors identified (e.g., Mumbai-Pune, Delhi-Varanasi, Hyderabad-Bengaluru) as "Growth Connectors."
- Waterways:** 20 new National Waterways to be operationalized over 5 years.
- Freight:** A new Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) connecting **Surat to Dankuni**.

3. Defence: Sharp Rise in Outlay

The Defence budget has been hiked to **₹7.85 Lakh Crore**.

4. Sector-Specific Gems

- Tourism:** Scheme to upskill 10,000 tourist guides across 20 iconic sites in collaboration with IIMs.
- Education:** Establishment of **5 University Townships** in industrial corridors.
- Tech:** Tax holiday for foreign companies using Indian Data Centres until 2047.

NATIONAL NEWS



JANUARY 2026

India Develops 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Stations



- These stations are developed by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, under the ₹2,000-crore Mission Mausam.
- By using 3D-printing (additive manufacturing), the production cost and time are significantly reduced compared to traditional stations.
- These solar-powered stations track temperature, humidity, wind, and rainfall in real-time, enabling "neighborhood-level" weather alerts.

Lt. Governor Kavinder Gupta launches Ladakh Sports Policy 2025

- The policy creates a dedicated Ladakh Sports Council to serve as the institutional backbone for sports development.
- It outlines significant financial rewards, including cash prizes of up to ₹1 crore for Olympic gold medalists, along with monthly scholarships and out-of-turn promotions for athletes and coaches.
- There is a specific emphasis on para-athletes and women

sportspersons, ensuring equal access to world-class training.

Footnotes: Ladakh's Lt. Governor: Kavinder Gupta, Capital: Leh

Assam Becomes 1st State to Constitute 8th State PC

- Assam is the first state to take this step ahead of the scheduled expiry of the 7th Pay Commission.
- The commission is headed by Subhas Das, former Additional Chief Secretary of Assam. It is tasked with reviewing and recommending revisions for the salaries, allowances, and pensions.
- The commission has been given a mandate to submit its report within 18 months (around mid-2027).

Footnotes: Assam's Governor: Lakshman Acharya, CM: Himanta Biswa Sarma, Capital: Dispur

Revati Mohite Becomes Meghalaya's First Woman Chief Justice

- Historic Appointment & Swearing-In: Justice Dere was administered the oath of office by Meghalaya Governor Chandrashekhar H. Vijayashankar at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan in Shillong.
- Distinguished Career at Bombay High Court: Before her elevation, she served as a senior judge at the Bombay High Court for over 12 years (since 2013).

Footnotes: Meghalaya's CM: Conrad Sangma, Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar, Capital: Shillong

Justice Soumen Sen Sworn in as Chief Justice Kerala

- Oath of Office: Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath to Justice Sen at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram, in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Judicial Succession: He succeeds Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar, who retired on January 9, 2026, after serving as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.

Footnotes: Kerala's Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram, Estd: 1956

Mizoram declared as 'Ginger Capital of India'

- Production Excellence & Scale: The state produced over 60,000 tonnes of ginger in the 2024–25 season, and in 2025 alone, the state government procured 3.38 crore kg.
- Flagship 'Bana Kail' Scheme: Under this "Handholding Scheme," the state government provides a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹50 per kg for ginger.
- Infrastructure & Processing: To support this status, a new Ginger Processing Unit was inaugurated at the Sairang Horticulture Centre on January 13, 2026.

Footnotes: Mizoram's Governor: V. K. Singh, CM: Lalduhoma

Indian honoured Sinha

- Exceptional Rescue Record: Inspector Sinha, based at Lucknow's Charbagh station, was recognized for leading the rescue of over 1,500 children from human trafficking and exploitation across Uttar Pradesh's rail network over the past three years. In 2025 alone, her team rescued 1,032 children.
- Leadership of "Operation NanheFarishte": She was honored for her role in spearheading the RPF's flagship child-protection initiative, Operation NanheFarishte.

Footnotes: Minister for Railway: Ashwini Vaishnav, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1853

India Ranks 6th in Asia Manufacturing Index 2026

- Mixed Pillar Performance: While India ranks 1st in Workforce (due to labor size and cost) and 3rd in Economy (driven by high GDP growth), it struggles in other areas. It ranks poorly in Tax Policy (9th), International Trade (9th), and Political Risk (9th), with the report highlighting high logistics costs and administrative complexity as major bottlenecks.
- Strategic "Red Flag" for Make in India: The index serves as a call to action for India's goal of a \$1 trillion manufacturing economy by FY2026. The report suggests that to move up, India must pivot from relying solely on labor availability to accelerating logistics efficiency, policy stability, and digital infrastructure to compete with Southeast Asian peers.

Railways Chandana

Footnotes: Top Performers: China (1st), Malaysia (2nd), Vietnam (3rd)

Indian Railways Deploys First Humanoid Robot 'ASC ARJUN'

- Advanced AI Surveillance: ASC ARJUN is equipped with a Face Recognition System (FRS) for intrusion detection and AI-based crowd monitoring. It generates real-time alerts for the Railway Protection Force (RPF) control room, helping manage heavy passenger flow and identify suspicious activities.
- Indigenous Development: The robot is a product of indigenous innovation, having been designed and developed entirely in Visakhapatnam. Standing at 165 cm, it features semi-autonomous navigation and obstacle-avoidance technology, allowing it to patrol platforms 24/7.
- Interactive Passenger Assistance: Beyond security, it acts as a digital assistant. It can make automated announcements in English, Hindi, and Telugu, and is programmed with "friendly" social gestures, such as offering a Namaste to passengers and saluting RPF personnel.

MP Mangubhai Patel Declares 2026 as 'Year of Agriculture'

- Financial Commitment & "Samriddh Kisan" Vision: Under the tagline "Prosperous Farmer – Prosperous State," the Governor highlighted a massive jump in the state's agriculture budget—from ₹600 crore in 2002-03 to over ₹27,000 crore in 2024-25—to drive the state toward becoming a global agricultural hub.
- 10-Point Development Model: The initiative is built on a

multifaceted model focusing on 10 core activities, including technology transfer (drones and hydroponics), natural farming, digital transparency in markets, and expanding e-Mandi systems across 259 markets to benefit over 40 lakh registered farmers.

Footnotes: MP's Governor: Mangubhai C. Patel, CM: Mohan Yadav, Capital: Bhopal

Indian researchers developed a new high-voltage supercapacitor



- Unprecedented Voltage Capacity: The new supercapacitor achieves an operating voltage of 3.4 V, overcoming the traditional 3.0 V limit of commercial devices where electrolytes typically begin to decompose or face safety risks like flammability.
- Advanced Material Innovation: It utilizes a dual-functional Porous Graphene Carbon Nanocomposite (PGCN) electrode that is both water-repellent and highly compatible with organic electrolytes, doubling the energy density and providing 33% higher energy storage than conventional models.
- Industrial Scalability and Durability: The electrodes are produced through an eco-friendly hydrothermal process that is easily scalable for mass production, with the resulting device retaining 96% of its performance even after 15,000 charge-discharge cycles.

DECEMBER 2025

IIT Bombay's ATMAN 3.0 Accelerator Launch

- Conversion to Investment-Ready Businesses: The core objective is to transform promising, early-stage HealthTech startups (13 selected from 173 applicants) into investment-ready businesses.
- Global Recognition: Deepavali has been officially recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, joining the ranks of other Indian traditions like Yoga and Durga Puja.
- UNESCO's Acknowledgement: The festival is described by UNESCO as a community celebration tied to the lunar calendar, marking the last harvest of the year and the start of a new year and season.

Sujalam Bharat App for Real-Time Rural Water Data

- Unified Geo-Referenced System: The app is the platform for the Sujalam Bharat Database, which aims to bring every rural drinking water scheme in the country onto a single, unified, and geo-referenced digital map.
- Unique Digital Identity (Sujal Gaon ID): Each rural water scheme and its service area will receive a unique digital identifier called the Sujalam Bharat – Sujal Gaon ID. This functions as a "digital identity" (similar to Aadhaar) for the water system, clearly linking households to their specific water source and scheme.
- Real-Time Transparency & Accountability: The platform provides real-time, comprehensive data to both citizens and institutions on critical parameters.

- Community Ownership: By making all data transparent and easily accessible, the app significantly enhances community ownership of the drinking water supply systems.

Kerala's First Gen-Z Post Office Opened

- Youth-Centric Design Philosophy: Conceived under the motto "Of the students, by the students, for the students," the space was co-created by CMS College students and India Post officials. It features a nature-inspired design with a vertical garden, picnic-table seating, and furniture made from refurbished tires.
- Integrated Leisure Facilities: To break the "formal" image of post offices, it includes a recreation and relaxation corner equipped with a bookshelf and board games, alongside a cozy indoor reading nook for quiet reflection.
- Part of a National Modernization Goal: This launch is part of a broader national initiative to revamp 46 post offices within educational campuses across India to make them vibrant, tech-enabled spaces that resonate with contemporary student lifestyles.

India Opens World's Highest War Memorial at Galwan

- Tribute to Galwan Martyrs: The memorial is dedicated to the 20 Indian soldiers (the "Gallants of Galwan") who were killed in the fierce hand-to-hand clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley, Eastern Ladakh, on June 15, 2020. It is a solemn tribute to their supreme sacrifice.
- World's Highest War Memorial: It has been constructed at a very high altitude, around 14,500 feet (approx. 4,420 meters) above sea

level, making it the highest memorial of its kind in the world.

- Design and Features: The structure is built with red and black granite, symbolizing valor and sacrifice. The design is said to be inspired by a trishul and damru, reflecting divine energy and the Himalayan landscape.

Rajasthan Becomes First Indian State to Fully Digitise Voter Rolls Under SIR

- First State to Achieve Full Digitisation: Rajasthan was the first state among those participating in the second phase of the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to achieve 100% digitisation of the data collected during the enumeration process. This marked a significant milestone for the ECI's push for error-free digital electoral rolls.
- Basis for Draft Rolls: The fully digitised data forms the basis for the Draft Electoral Roll publication. Achieving 100% digitisation quickly allows for a more efficient and transparent process for the subsequent phases, which include the period for Claims and Objections from the public.

Amit Shah Inaugurates Banas Dairy's Bio-CNG Plant

- Circular Economy Model: The Bio-CNG and Fertilizer Plant is central to Banas Dairy's "Circular Dairy Economy" model. This model converts cow dung and other organic waste from farmers into Bio-CNG (bio-fuel) and organic manure (branded as 'BhoomiAmrit'), creating a closed-loop system for sustainability and waste management.

- Inspiration for Cooperatives (White Revolution 2.0): Amit Shah, as the Minister of Cooperation, highlighted the Banas model as an inspiration for cooperatives nationwide under the vision of White Revolution 2.0. The Bio-CNG tradition started by Banas Dairy is intended to be replicated across the country to modernize the dairy sector and promote self-reliance.
- Part of Major Expansion: The inauguration of the Bio-CNG plant was part of a larger set of projects, including the laying of the foundation stone for a 150-ton milk powder plant and the dedication of a protein plant and an automated paneer plant.

India's Digital Hub DHRUVA Launched

- Unique Digital Address Identifier (DAI): The system assigns a Digital Address Identifier (DAI)—a unique, verified digital ID—to every physical address. This digital address is often presented as a UPI-like virtual label (e.g., name@entity) for easy sharing.
- Consent-Based and Privacy-Centric: A key feature is consent-based sharing. Users retain control over their address data, granting time-bound authorisation to entities (like e-commerce, banks, or government departments) to access their geocoded or full address, ensuring strong privacy protection.
- Sectoral Impact: DHRUVA aims to drastically improve efficiency and reduce costs across multiple sectors, including Logistics/E-commerce (faster, more accurate last-mile delivery), Finance/KYC (reliable address verification), and Governance.

India's 1st 24x7 Open-Networked Court Opened

- Location and Naming: The first 24x7 Open-Networked (ON) Court was launched in the Kollam district of Kerala. The "ON" stands for Open and Networked, signifying its digital, accessible, and integrated nature.
- Fully Online & 24x7 Accessibility: The court operates entirely online, handling all stages from e-filing to judgment delivery. It specifically allows for 24x7 e-filing, removing the time-bound restrictions of traditional court operations, making justice accessible at any hour, from anywhere.
- Focus on Asynchronous Justice: It aims to enable asynchronous proceedings where lawyers and judges can work at their convenience and not all parties need to be present simultaneously for procedural steps.

India Commissions Its First Home-Grown Water-Soluble Fertilizer Pilot Plant

- Breakthrough in Indigenous Technology: Developed after seven years of research by RajibChakraborty (President of the Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association) and supported by the Ministry of Mines, this is the first time India has created its own process for WSF. Historically, India has relied entirely on "borrowed" or licensed technologies from abroad.
- Drastic Reduction in Import Dependency: Currently, India imports nearly 95% of its specialty fertilizers, with 80%

coming directly from China. This plant aims to flip that script, moving India from an import-heavy buyer to a potential global exporter of specialty fertilizers.

- Environmental Sustainability: The plant is recognized as a project of national importance because it is a zero-effluent and emission-free facility. This eco-friendly design addresses the high pollution levels usually associated with chemical fertilizer production.

SRO successfully launched a communication satellite "BlueBird Block-2"



- Record-Breaking Payload: At approximately 6,500 kg (6.5 tonnes), BlueBird Block-2 is the heaviest commercial payload ever launched by ISRO's "Bahubali" rocket, the LVM3-M6. It is also the largest commercial communications satellite ever deployed into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- Direct-to-Mobile Connectivity: Developed by the US-based firm AST SpaceMobile, the satellite is designed to provide high-speed 4G and 5G cellular broadband directly to standard, unmodified smartphones. This eliminates the need for specialized satellite phones or ground-based cell towers in remote areas.

NOVEMBER 2025

India Sets Three Guinness Records™ Under "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan"

- Campaign Launch: The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in conjunction with Poshan Maah, aiming to improve health and nutrition among women, adolescent girls, and children.
- Massive Participation: Over 19.7 lakh health camps were organized across all districts, with a footfall of more than 11 crore people, and participation from over five lakh Panchayati Raj representatives, 1.14 crore students, and 94 lakh self-help group members.
- Health Screenings: The campaign recorded significant health screenings, including 1.78 crore hypertension screenings, 1.73 crore diabetes screenings.

Toshiba Delivered India's First 220kV Mobile GIS System to POWERGRID

- Indigenous Manufacturing: The 220kV Mobile Gas-Insulated Switchgear (m-GIS) System was designed and built in line with POWERGRID's operational requirements, marking a significant milestone in India's power transmission sector.
- Key Features: The m-GIS system offers rapid deployment, enhances grid flexibility, resilience, and disaster-readiness, and features a modular "Connect-Disconnect-Redeploy" design for operational agility.
- Benefits: The system enables fast grid restoration, temporary power

evacuation, and substation augmentation with minimal infrastructure and time.

India Launches Heaviest Comsat CMS-03 on LVM3-M5 Rocket

- Launch Details: India's heaviest communication satellite, CMS-03, was launched by ISRO using the LVM3-M5 rocket from Sriharikota. This mission boosts India's communication capabilities.
- Satellite Capabilities: CMS-03 will enhance connectivity, maritime awareness, and digital amenities for millions. It will also provide secure communication networks, maritime domain monitoring, and disaster communication support.
- Rocket's Nickname: The LVM3-M5 rocket was hailed as a "Bahubali" lifter for carrying India's heaviest communication payload to orbit, demonstrating India's growing space capabilities.
- Impact on India's Space Program: The successful launch of CMS-03 marks a significant milestone in India's space program.

India achieved the milestone of crossing 500 Gw in total power capacity

- Total Power Capacity: India's total installed electricity capacity has surpassed 500 GW, reaching 500.89 GW as of September 30, 2025. This milestone reflects the country's progress in expanding its energy infrastructure to meet growing demand.
- Non-Fossil Fuel Dominance: Non-fossil fuel sources, including renewable energy, hydro, and nuclear power,

account for over 51% of the total capacity, with 256.09 GW of the total power mix. This marks a significant shift towards cleaner energy sources.

- Renewable Energy Milestone: On July 29, 2025, renewable energy met 51.5% of India's total electricity demand, generating 203 GW of power. This demonstrates the growing reliability and capacity of renewable energy in meeting India's power needs.
- COP26 Goal Achievement: India has achieved its COP26 goal of having 50% of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, five years ahead of schedule.

Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub launched

- Objective: The hub aims to position Telangana among the top 20 global AI hubs by 2035, fostering innovation, research, and collaboration across multiple sectors.
- Central Platform: The hub will serve as a central platform for AI-driven innovation, supporting research and collaboration across various sectors, and helping Telangana become a leading destination for AI research and technology in India.
- Research and Development: The hub will focus on developing cutting-edge AI solutions, leveraging the expertise of its partners to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.
- Growth and Development: By fostering a strong AI ecosystem, the hub is expected to create new opportunities.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Zohran Mamdani sworn in as 112th Mayor of New York

- He is the 112th Mayor of New York City and holds the distinction of being the city's first Muslim mayor, the first mayor of South Asian (Indian) descent, and the first to be born in Africa (Kampala, Uganda).
- At 34 years old, Mamdani is the youngest person to lead New York City in over a century (since 1917). He was sworn in using a Quran from the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center in a ceremony held at the historic, decommissioned Old City Hall subway station.

India Introduces New e-Business Visa for Chinese

- This is a new sub-category called the e-Production Investment Business Visa. It was introduced on January 1, 2026, specifically to facilitate the entry of Chinese subject matter specialists, engineers, and technical professionals needed for industrial projects.
- Unlike a standard business visa, the e-B-4 is designed for high-end technical tasks that were previously stuck in "Employment Visa" red tape. This includes installation and commissioning of equipment, quality checks, maintenance, plant design, and IT/ERP ramp-ups.

Delcy Rodríguez Becomes Venezuela's Interim President

- Engagement with the U.S.: Unlike her predecessor, she has signaled a willingness to negotiate with the U.S. administration (under President Donald Trump) to prevent further military escalation and seek sanctions relief.
- Oil Diplomacy: As a former Oil Minister, she is central to negotiations regarding Venezuela's vast petroleum reserves. Recent reports indicate she may facilitate the transfer of millions of barrels of oil to the U.S. to stabilize the domestic economy and appease Washington.

Footnotes: Official language: Spanish, Currency: Venezuelan bolívar, Capital: Caracas

India Unveils Logo & Website for BRICS Presidency 2026

- Lotus-Inspired Design: The official logo features a lotus shape with a central "Namaste" gesture, incorporating the colors of member nations to symbolize "unity in diversity" and mutual respect.
- Strategic Theme: India's chairmanship is guided by the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability," focusing on a people-centric and "humanity-first" approach.
- Digital Hub: The newly launched official website (brics2026.gov.in) serves as the

primary digital platform for real-time updates on meetings, initiatives, and documents throughout the presidency.

IOA Launches National Olympic Education & Development Programme

- Integrated National Framework: The NOEDP is a comprehensive framework launched on January 12, 2026, designed to deliver structured Olympic education, ethics training, and professional development for athletes, coaches, and administrators from the grassroots to the elite level.
- Leadership & Hub: The National Olympic Academy (NOA), based in Ahmedabad, has been reactivated as the central hub for research and dialogue. It is led by IOA President PT Usha (President of NOA) and Olympic medalist Gagan Narang (Director of NOA).

PFRDA Constitutes High-Level Committee

- Objective and Mandate: The committee is tasked with formulating a framework for assured payouts under the National Pension System (NPS). The goal is to enhance retirement income security by moving beyond traditional annuities and creating regulations for "market-based guarantees" that are legally enforceable.
- Leadership and Composition: The panel is chaired by Dr. M. S. Sahoo, the former Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). It includes a diverse group of experts from

the fields of finance, law, actuarial science, insurance, and academia.

Footnotes: Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's Chairman: Sivasubramanian Ramann, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2003

Akasa Air Becomes India's Fifth Global Airline Member

- Joining the Global Elite: Akasa Air is now the fifth active Indian airline to become an IATA member, joining the ranks of Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, and SpiceJet. This membership places the young carrier within a global network of over 360 airlines that account for approximately 80% of total global air traffic.
- Safety Benchmark Achievement: The induction follows Akasa Air's successful completion of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) in December 2025. Clearing this rigorous, internationally recognized audit is a mandatory prerequisite for membership.

Footnotes: Akasa Air's MD & CEO: Vinay Dube, Estd: 2021

MeitY Launches PARAM SHAKTI Supercomputing Facility

- High-Performance Computing Power: PARAM SHAKTI is a petascale supercomputer with a peak computing capacity of 3.1 petaflops, meaning it can perform over 3.1 quadrillion calculations per second. This makes it one of the most powerful computational assets in Indian academia, significantly accelerating research in complex fields.
- Indigenous Development (PARAM RUDRA Series): The system is a flagship of India's

"Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant) initiative in technology. It is built using the indigenous RUDRA series of servers and an Indian-developed software stack created by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

India's Forex Reserves Rise to \$687.19 Billion

- Recovery from Sharp Decline: This rise of \$392 million marks a stabilization after a massive drop of \$9.81 billion in the previous week. This recovery helps India maintain its position as one of the top global holders of foreign reserves.
- Gold as the Primary Driver: The increase was almost entirely fueled by a surge in the value of gold reserves, which rose by \$1.57 billion to reach a total of \$112.83 billion. This offset a decline in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), which fell by \$1.12 billion during the same period.

UAE Becomes India's Second-Largest LNG Supplier

- Long-Term Energy Security: A landmark 10-year Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed between India's Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and ADNOC Gas. Under this deal, ADNOC will supply 0.5 million metric tonnes (MMTPA) of LNG annually to India starting in 2028, with the deal valued between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion.
- Strategic Trade Expansion: Beyond energy, the two leaders set an ambitious target to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032 (up from \$100 billion in FY 2024-25). The visit also saw the signing of a Letter of Intent for a

Strategic Defence Partnership and agreements on food safety and civil nuclear cooperation.

NASA Astronaut Sunita Williams Retires

- Record-Breaking Career: Effective December 27, 2025, Williams retired after 27 years of service. She concludes her career with 608 total days in space (the second-most by a NASA astronaut) and holds the record for the most cumulative spacewalk time by a woman, totaling 62 hours and 6 minutes across nine excursions.
- Global Legacy and Mentorship: A retired U.S. Navy captain of Indian-Slovenian descent, Williams is celebrated as a "trailblazer" by NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman. In her post-retirement activities, she has already begun a "homecoming" tour in India (visiting New Delhi in January 2026).

Microsoft Unveils Second-GEN 'Maia 200' In-House AI Chip

- Massive Performance Leap: Built on TSMC's cutting-edge 3nm process, the Maia 200 features over 140 billion transistors. It is optimized for "inference" (running AI models) and delivers over 10 petaFLOPS of 4-bit (FP4) performance—three times faster than Amazon's competing Trainium 3 chip.
- Industry-Leading Memory & Efficiency: To solve the "memory wall" bottleneck, Microsoft equipped the chip with 216GB of HBM3e memory and a redesigned subsystem. This allows for 30% better "performance-per-dollar" than previous systems.

DECEMBER 2025

Indian-Origin Arkin Gupta Named in Forbes Under-30 List

- Forbes Category and Expertise: Arkin Gupta was featured in the Finance category of the Forbes 30 Under 30 list (specifically the 2026 list for the US). He is recognized for his expertise in financial innovation and early-stage investment strategies.
- Focus on Scalable Fintech Products: Forbes also highlighted his leadership in creating scalable financial products designed for diverse user groups, with a focus on first-time investors. His work aims to simplify complex financial processes.
- Commitment to Democratization and Transparency: Gupta has voiced his commitment to democratizing access to smarter financial tools.

India Tops WADA's Global Doping List for Third Consecutive Year

- Global Rank #1: India recorded 260 positive doping cases (Adverse Analytical Findings) in 2024—the highest in the world and the only country to hit triple digits.
- High Positivity Rate: India's positivity rate of 3.6% is significantly higher than other major nations; for comparison, China conducted triple the tests but had a rate of only 0.2%.
- Primary Offending Sports: Three disciplines accounted for the majority of cases: Athletics (76), Weightlifting (43), and Wrestling (29).
- Systemic Issues: The report highlights a "medal-at-all-costs" culture, where athletes at both elite and grassroots levels (like

the Khelo India games) resort to doping to secure government jobs and cash rewards.

Oman launches First Polymer One-Rial Banknote

- Official Launch and Circulation: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) announced the issuance in December 2025, with the note officially entering public circulation on January 11, 2026.
- Enhanced Durability: Unlike traditional cotton-based paper notes, this banknote is made from polymer substrate. This material is water-resistant, more durable in Oman's hot and humid climate, and has a significantly longer lifespan.
- Advanced Security Features: The note incorporates sophisticated security elements, including a large transparent window (inspired by the Oman Botanic Garden) and a color-shifting foil featuring a frankincense tree that changes color when tilted.

Russia Plans Lunar Nuclear Power Plant Deployment by 2036

- Joint Russia-China Collaboration: The plant is a cornerstone of the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), a joint project between Russia and China. It is designed to provide a stable, long-term energy source for a permanent scientific base, moving away from one-time "hit-and-run" missions.
- Nuclear-Powered Infrastructure: While occasionally referred to generally as a "power plant," the project involves Rosatom (Russia's nuclear agency) and the Kurchatov Institute. Nuclear energy is considered essential for the Moon because solar power is unreliable during the 14-day

lunar nights and in the shadowed regions of the South Pole.

- Supporting Lunar "Workhorses": The primary purpose of the facility is to provide autonomous electricity for lunar rovers, scientific observatories, and habitat infrastructure.

PM Modi Conferred Oman's Highest Civilian Honour

- 29th International Honour: This award marks the 29th highest civilian honour conferred upon PM Modi by foreign nations during his tenure. It follows other recent 2025 honours from countries like Ethiopia, Namibia, and Brazil.
- Symbol of 70-Year Ties: The conferment coincides with the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Oman, highlighting the deep historical and strategic "maritime bridge" between the two nations.
- Presented by Sultan Haitham: The award was personally presented by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik at the Al Baraka Palace. It recognizes PM Modi's "exceptional contribution".

Deepinder Goyal Tops 2025 Hurun-IDFC 1st Self-Made Entrepreneurs

- Dethroning a Retail Legend: For the first time, DeepinderGoyal has overtaken Radhakishan Damani (founder of Avenue Supermarts/DMart), who slipped to the second spot. This marks a significant symbolic shift from traditional retail to a digital-first economy.
- Surge in Valuation: Goyal's company, Eternal, saw its valuation grow by 27% over the past year, reaching ₹3.2 lakh

crore. In contrast, Avenue Supermarts experienced a 13% decline, bringing its valuation to ₹3 lakh crore.

- A "Problem-Solving" Ecosystem: The list underscores a shift in entrepreneurial strategy. Founders are moving away from traditional business pitches toward "problem-solving" models that address specific consumer pain points, particularly in fintech, food-tech, and healthcare.

Nvidia Tops Hurun Global 1000 as World's Most Valuable Company

- New Global #1: Nvidia climbed two spots to claim the top position, overtaking tech giants Microsoft and Apple. As of the report's cut-off date (November 14, 2024), Nvidia's value was recorded at approximately \$4.6 trillion, marking a massive 49% increase over the last year.
- Massive Wealth Creation: Nvidia was the biggest "wealth creator" on the list this year, adding roughly \$1.5 trillion in value—more than the total valuation of many entire industries. Over the last five years (since the pandemic), it has added a staggering \$4.3 trillion to its market cap.
- Shift in the "Top Three": For the first time, Apple and Microsoft have been displaced from the top spot. Apple retained the second position (valued at \$4 trillion), while Microsoft—last year's number one—slipped to third place (valued at \$3.8 trillion).

Singapore Changi Airport Wins World's Best Airport Title 2025

- Record-Breaking 13th Win: Changi Airport has now won the

"World's Best Airport" title a record 13 times. It regained the top position after being ranked second in 2024, overtaking Qatar's Hamad International Airport.

- Multiple Accolades: In addition to the top overall prize, Changi won several category-specific awards in 2025, including World's Best Airport Dining and the inaugural award for World's Best Airport Washrooms, reflecting its attention to even the smallest details of the passenger experience.
- Asian Dominance: The 2025 rankings underscore a broader trend of Asian excellence in aviation. Three of the top five airports globally are located in Asia: Singapore Changi (#1), Tokyo Haneda (#3), and Seoul Incheon (#4).

Air India Wins Best Domestic Airline 2025

- Second Consecutive Win: This marks the second year in a row that Air India has secured this top title, signaling consistent improvement in passenger perception since its privatization.
- Decided by Reader Vote: Unlike jury-based awards, this was determined entirely by a reader's choice poll. It reflects actual feedback from travelers regarding service quality, reliability, and the overall "new Air India" experience.
- Validation of "Vihaan.AI": The award is seen as a major milestone for Air India's 5-year transformation plan, Vihaan.AI. The airline noted that the win validates its efforts in fleet modernization and service consistency.

- Focus on Service & Food: The airline attributed the win to specific initiatives, including upgraded food and beverage offerings and the efforts of frontline staff who have been retrained to deliver "world-class Indian hospitality."

Bulgaria Adopts Euro as its Currency



- The Bulgarian lev is being phased out at a fixed conversion rate of 1.95583 leva to 1 euro. During a one-month "dual circulation" period in January 2026, both currencies remain legal tender for cash transactions, though change is primarily given in euros to remove the old currency from circulation.
- By joining the Eurozone, Bulgaria gains access to ECB liquidity, a seat on its Governing Council, and aims to reduce business costs, improve price transparency, and strengthen financial resilience.
- To avoid price hikes during the currency switch, Bulgaria requires dual price displays (lev and euro) until August 8, 2026, while authorities monitor fair conversion.

Footnotes: Bulgaria's President: Rumen Radev, Capital: Sofia, Official language: Bulgarian

NOVEMBER 2025

ISRO to Launch Indian Navy's Advanced GSAT-7R Satellite

- Launch Details: ISRO is set to launch the GSAT-7R satellite on board the LVM3 spacecraft from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The launch is scheduled for 5:26 PM on November 2, 2025.
- Satellite Capabilities: The GSAT-7R satellite will provide robust telecommunication coverage across the Indian Ocean Region, enabling secure voice, data, and video connectivity. It will link ships, submarines, aircraft, and Maritime Operations Centres through a seamless high-bandwidth network.
- Strategic Importance: The launch of GSAT-7R marks a significant step in strengthening the Navy's space-based communications and maritime domain awareness network.

Ayushman Bharat Became the World's No. 1 Health Scheme

- Largest Health Assurance Scheme: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) is the world's largest health assurance scheme, providing health coverage to over 12 crore families, or nearly 55 crore individuals, with a coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family annually.
- Free Health Coverage for Seniors: The scheme provides free health coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per family for senior citizens aged 70 and above, benefiting around 6 crore senior citizens across 4.5 crore families.
- Achievements: AB PM-JAY has significantly improved healthcare

accessibility across India, with 49% of the Ayushman cards issued.

Samia Suluhu Hassan Sworn in for Second Term as Tanzania's President

- Disputed Election Victory: President Hassan won the election with a massive landslide, securing around 98% of the vote. However, the election was heavily disputed and rejected as a "sham" by the main opposition parties, with international observers also raising concerns about its transparency and fairness.
- Opposition Exclusion and Crackdown: Her victory came after her two main rival candidates were prevented from running—one was jailed and charged with treason, and the other was disqualified. Critics pointed to an "unprecedented crackdown on political opponents" and increasingly authoritarian tendencies.

Zohran Mamdani Elected Mayor of New York City

- Historic Victory: Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old democratic socialist, has been elected as the 111th Mayor of New York City, becoming the youngest person to hold the office in a century, the first Muslim mayor, and the first person of South Asian descent to lead the city.
- Challenges Ahead: Mamdani will face challenges in implementing his policies, including navigating the city's bureaucracy and obtaining approval from the state legislature for tax changes and legislation. He'll also need to manage the city's relationship

with the White House, particularly given President Donald Trump's criticism of him.

GCMMF (Amul) Ranked World's No.1 Cooperative by ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025

- Ranking and Performance: GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, has been ranked No. 1 cooperative in the world by the ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025, based on its GDP per capita performance. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd secured the second position.
- Global Recognition: The ICA World Cooperative Monitor 2025 is an annual research report that analyzes the economic and social impact of the world's largest cooperatives and mutuals. The report highlights the contributions of cooperatives to inclusive and sustainable development across sectors.

China Launches Third Aircraft Carrier 'Fujian' with Cutting-Edge Tech

- Electromagnetic Catapult System (EMALS): The Fujian is China's first carrier to use an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS), making it only the second navy in the world (after the US) to field this cutting-edge technology.
- Catapult-Assisted Take-Off (CATOBAR): Unlike China's first two carriers, which use a ski-jump, EMALS enables CATOBAR operations, allowing planes to launch with full fuel and weapons loads for extended range and firepower.

G.K. ONE LINER



NATIONAL NEWS

- Who launched the Integrated e-Bill System?

J.P. Nadda

- Which country developed 3D-printed Automatic Weather Stations?

India

- Who launched the Ladakh Sports Policy 2025?

Lt. Governor Kavinder Gupta

- Which state became the first to constitute the 8th State PC?

Assam

- Which UT launched an Integrated Security Hub?

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Which country has the world's largest electrified rail system?

India

- Which police force ranked first in ICJS 2.0 National Rankings?

Uttarakhand Police

- Which organization secured an 'Excellent' MoU rating?

IREDA

- Which state signed an MoU with Digital India BHASHINI?

Madhya Pradesh

- Who became Meghalaya's first woman Chief Justice?

Revati Mohite

- Which state secured the Best State Award?

Maharashtra

- Who was sworn in as Chief Justice of Kerala?

Justice Soumen Sen

- What is India's rank in the Henley Passport Index 2026?

80th

- Which states topped the Export Preparedness Index 2024?

Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu

- Which state is declared the 'Ginger Capital of India'?

Mizoram

- Which authority set four Guinness World Records on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada corridor?

NHAI

- Who won the UN Secretary-General's Award 2025?

Major Swathi Shantha

- Which state launched the 'Semmozhi Illakiya Virudhu'?

Tamil Nadu

- Which city became UP's first Zero Fresh Waste Dump City?

Lucknow

- Which health scheme was launched recently?

Paripoorna Mediclaim Ayush Bima

- Which PSU built a 694-km gas pipeline?

GAIL

- In which state was the PESA Act implemented?

Jharkhand

- Who was honoured by Indian Railways?

Chandana Sinha

- Who launched India's first Open-Sea Farming Project?

Jitendra Singh

- Which sanctuary was declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone?

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- Which pension portal was integrated with UMANG?

SAMPANN

- What is India's rank in the Asia Manufacturing Index 2026?

6th

- Which state launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana'?

Punjab

- Which organization signed a pact with a Pixxel-led consortium?

IN-SPACE

- Which state implemented the UCC Ordinance, 2026?

Uttarakhand

- What is the name of Indian Railways' first humanoid robot?

ASC ARJUN

- Which police force received the President's Police Colour Award 2026?

Sikkim Police

- Which state declared 2026 as the 'Year of Agriculture'?

Madhya Pradesh

- Which state inaugurated its first Drone School & Centre of Excellence?

Nagaland

- Which Indian company signed an MoU with Brazil's Embraer?

Adani Defence

- What is India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2025?

38th

- Which body launched Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0?

NITI Aayog

- What new digital identity platform was launched recently in India?

New Aadhaar App

- What innovation did Indian researchers recently develop?

A high-voltage supercapacitor

INTERNATIONAL

- Which country adopted the Euro as its currency?

Bulgaria

- Who was sworn in as the 112th Mayor of New York?

Zohran Mamdani

- Which visa did India introduce for Chinese nationals?

e-Business Visa

- Who became Venezuela's Interim President?

Dely Rodriguez

- Who is India's next Ambassador to Bosnia?

Anshuman Gaur

- What did India unveil for BRICS Presidency 2026?

Logo & Website

- Who was named China's Ambassador to the Philippines?

Jing Quan

- Which programme was launched by IOA?

National Olympic Education & Development Programme

- Which body constituted a High-Level Committee?

PFRDA

- Which university inaugurated the IIT Mandi Catalyst Satellite Centre?

Galgotias University

- Which airline became India's fifth global airline member?

Akasa Air

- Which ministry launched the PARAM SHAKTI supercomputing facility?

MeitY

- Who was appointed Prime Minister of Yemen?

Shaya Mohsen

- What is India's forex reserve value?

\$687.19 Billion

- Who secured appointment as President of Uganda?

Yoweri Museveni

- Which platforms partnered with Wikipedia?

Microsoft, Meta & Amazon

- Which state emerged as India's Global Investment Hub?

Maharashtra

- Who was named High Commissioner to New Zealand?

Muanpuii Saiawi

- Which country became India's second-largest LNG supplier?

UAE

- Which astronaut retired from NASA?

Sunita Williams

- Which city ranked first in Numbeo Safety Index 2026?

Qingdao

- Who was appointed Ambassador of India to Georgia?

Amit Kumar Mishra

- Which Indian brand ranked 3rd in Brand Finance Global 500 (2026)?

Infosys

- Which country passed a bill to ban social media for children under 15?

France

- Which company unveiled the second-gen 'Maia 200' AI chip?

Microsoft

BANKING & FINANCE

- Which bank unveiled the 'Fortuna Wave' logo?

Federal Bank

- Which bank cut Base Rate and BPLR?

Karur Vysya Bank

- Which bank launched Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card?

IDFC First Bank

- Who became CEO of HSBC Private Bank?

Ida Liu

- Who was appointed MD & CEO of Dhaka Bank?

Osman Ershad Faiz

- Who was appointed Director at KMB?

Anup Kumar Saha

- Which bank introduced a solar-powered ATM van?

TGB

- Which regulations were issued by RBI in 2026?

FEMA Regulations & RB-IOS

- Who was appointed Chairman of IndusInd Bank?

Arijit Basu

- Who was re-appointed MD of ICICI Bank?

Sandeep Bakhshi

- Who was appointed Director of HDFC Bank?

Kaizad Bharucha

- Which bank partnered with HyperVerge?

Suryoday Small Finance Bank

- Who took charge as Managing Director of SBI?

Ashwini Kumar Tewari

- Who was appointed CFO of Union Bank of India?

Dhirendra Jain

- Who was re-appointed as Director at CSF Bank?

Munish Jain

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- Who was appointed DIG in the CBI?

C. Kalaichelvan

- Which Olympic champion was named International Event Ambassador?

Andre De Grasse

- Who was appointed Maharashtra Police Chief?

Sadanand Date

- Who was appointed Chief Justice of Kerala?

Justice Soumen Sen

- Who was appointed Director at the Central Silk Board?

P.S. Girisha

- Who was appointed CEO for Health Insurance?

S. Prakash

- Who was appointed AERB Chairman (2026)?

A.K. Balasubrahmanian

- Who was appointed Chief Justice of Uttarakhand?

Justice Manoj Kumar

- Who was appointed DGM of TRIFED?

Raj Kumar

- Who was appointed Director at NMDC Limited?

Vinay Kumar

- Who was appointed President of Meta?

Dina Powell McCormick

- Who was appointed Director General of NIA?

Rakesh Aggarwal

- Who was appointed Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court?

Justice Sujoy Paul

- Who was appointed ITBP Chief?

Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor

- Who was appointed Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026?

MS Dhoni

- Who was appointed CEO of Tata Communications?

Ganesh Lakshminarayanan

- Who was appointed Country Head of Guardian India?

Karunakaran Azhisur

- Who was appointed CVO of MRPL?

Meenaxi Rawat

- Who was appointed Director at SJVN?

Rajesh Kumar

- Who was appointed DIG in CRPF?

Ravi Shankar Chhabri

- Who was appointed CEO of Raymond Lifestyle?

Satyaki Ghosh

- Who was appointed coach of the Indian Women's Football Team?

Amelia Valverde

- Who was appointed DIG in CRPF?

Swapna Gautam Meshram

- Who was appointed Director of GMDC?
- Sandeep Kumar (IAS)
- Who was appointed DG Safety, Railway Board?

Hitendra Malhotra

OBITUARIES

- Which former billiards champion passed away recently?

Manoj Kothari

- Which former Union Minister passed away recently?

Suresh Kalmadi

- Which renowned ecologist passed away?

Madhav Gadgil

- Which former Union Minister from Assam passed away?

Kabindra Purkayastha

- Which former hockey player passed away?

Davinder Singh

- Which Olympic snowboarding pioneer passed away?

Ueli Kestenholz

- Who was the creator of Dilbert who passed away?

Scott Adams

- Which environmental leader passed away recently?

Kirtida Mekani

- Which Italian fashion designer passed away?

Valentino Garavani

- Who was the founder of Singapore Hindi Society who passed away?

Shriniwas Rai

- Which former Indian football defender passed away recently?

Ilyas Pasha

- Which former BCCI Chief passed away?

Bindra

- Which veteran journalist and Padma awardee passed away?

Mark Tully

- Which Maharashtra Deputy CM passed away?

Ajit Pawar

- Which former coach of the Indian Hockey Team passed away?

Michael Nobbs

AWARDS

- Who was honoured with the Sangita Kalanidhi Award?

R.K. Shriramkumar

- Who was conferred the Nritya Kalanidhi Award?

Urmila Satyanarayana

- Who was conferred the 2026 IEEE Medal?

NVIDIA CEO

- Who won the Geophysics Award 2025?

Gnana Kumaraswamy

- Which Indian industrialist received Italy's prestigious civilian award?

Shrinivas Dempo

- Who won the 2025 Booker Prize?

David Szalay

- Which organisation won Asia's Best Employer Brand Award 2026?

BSE

- Which PSU won the SKOCH ESG Award 2025?

GAIL

- Which bank bagged the IBA Award?

Karnataka Bank

- Who received the Lifetime Achievement Award?

Namita Gokhale

- Who won the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement?

Toby Kiers

- Which ONGC asset won prestigious safety awards?

B&S Asset

- Who will receive the Padmapani Award?

Ilaiyaraaja

- Which organisation won the SKOCH Award 2025?

C-DOT

- Who won the ICPA Treasury Excellence Award?

Awanish Kumar Bharati

- Which PSU won the Champion of Change CSR Award?

RVNL

- Who received the Lifetime Contribution Award?

Vartika Shukla

- Who will be honoured with Padma Shri 2026?

Rohit Sharma

- Who became the first Indian Wiley Research Awardee?

Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

- Who was awarded the Padma Vibhushan 2026?

Dharmendra Singh Deol

- Who was honoured with the Ashok Chakra?

Shubhanshu Shukla

SPORTS

- Who won Women's 10m Air Rifle gold?

Ameerah Arshad

- Who became the oldest female tennis player?

Venus Williams

- Who won gold in men's 10m air pistol?

Ajay Kumar

- Who won a historic karting title?

Atiqa Mir

- Who crossed 500 Ashes runs?

Travis Head

- Which athlete announced retirement after winning gold?

Jinson Johnson

- Who won silver in Women's U-19 squash?

Anahat Singh

- Who announced retirement from international cricket?

Usman Khawaja

- Which team clinched the Ashes series at SCG?

Australia

- Who won the national boxing title?

Nikhat Zareen

- Who became second-highest run-scorer in cricket?

Virat Kohli

- Who announced retirement after India series?

Alyssa Healy

- Who won India Open Badminton?

Kidambi Srikanth

- Who was Player of the Month (Dec 2025)?

Mitchell Starc

- Who became India's 92nd Grandmaster?

Aaryan Varshney

- Which team won LG Cup Ice Hockey?

- Who was named Vice-Captain of Indian Women's Team?

Smriti Mandhana

- Which team won its maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy?

Vidarbha

- Which Padma awardee announced retirement?

Saina Nehwal

- Who scored the first century in WPL history?

Nat Sciver-Brunt

- Who was named brand ambassador for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup?

Rohit Sharma

- Which former Australian bowler announced his retirement?

Kane Richardson

- Which state won the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 overall title?

Haryana

DEFENCE

- Who was appointed Vice Chief of IAF?

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor

- Which ship was commissioned by Indian Coast Guard?

ICGS Samudra Pratap

- 2026 was declared as the year of what?

Networking & Data Centricity

- Which water purification system was developed by DRDO?

SWaDeS

- Which missile system was successfully tested by DRDO?

MPATGM

- Which exercise was conducted by the Indian Army?

Sanjha Shakti

- Who released the Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework?

General Anil Chauhan

- Which countries conducted DOSTI-17 exercise?

India, Sri Lanka & Maldives

- Who inaugurated the ammunition facility?

Union Defence Minister

- Which satellite was deployed by SpaceX for Italy?

COSMO-SkyMed SG

- What did Indian scientists recently create?

Supercomputer Simulation

- Which system was developed by RRI scientists?

RDSNS

- Which institution partnered with the Indian Army to develop an AI defence system?

IISc

- What new defence policy framework was released recently?

Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

JANUARY 2026

R.K. Shriramkumar honoured with Sangita Kalanidhi

- Identity and Heritage: R.K. Shriramkumar is a distinguished violinist and musicologist hailing from the illustrious Rudrapatnam family of Karnataka. He is the grandson of the veteran violinist R.K. Venkatarama Shastry and the grand-nephew of the legendary vocalist Sangita Kalanidhi R.K. Srikantan.
- Specialization & Scholarship: He is widely recognized as an authority on the compositions of Muthuswami Dikshitar. His expertise particularly lies in the Sangita Sampradaya Pradarsani, a seminal musicological text that preserves the authentic versions of Dikshitar's kritis.

Gnana Kumaraswamy Wins Geophysics Award 2025

- Recognition of Professional Excellence: Gnana Kumaraswamy Batta, who serves as the Deputy General Manager (Geophysics) at Oil India Limited (Kakinada), received the award under the category of "Excellence in Environmental and Engineering Geophysics."
- Pioneering Technical Innovation: The award specifically recognizes his work in introducing the Full Wave Uphole Seismic Survey as a superior alternative to the traditional Crosshole Seismic Survey. This technical advancement allows for more precise data collection in

complex geological environments.

Hungarian-British David Szalay won 2025 Booker Prize



- Winning Work: Szalay won the prestigious £50,000 award for his sixth novel, "Flesh," a "brilliantly spare" and propulsive story that follows a man named István from his youth in Hungary to his life among London's elite.
- Historic "First": With this victory, Szalay became the first Hungarian-British author to win the Booker Prize, following a unanimous decision by a judging panel chaired by Irish novelist Roddy Doyle.

BSE Wins Asia Best Employer Brand Award 2026

- Regional Recognition: The award was presented at the 16th Asia's Best Employer Brand Awards in Singapore, recognizing BSE's excellence in human resources and its commitment to fostering a world-class workplace environment across the Asian continent.
- Excellence in HR Practices: BSE was selected for its innovative talent acquisition strategies, robust employee engagement programs, and its focus on digital

transformation within its organizational culture.

- Leadership in Financial Services: This accolade highlights BSE's success in balancing its role as a critical market infrastructure provider with a modern, employee-centric approach that attracts top-tier financial and tech talent.

GAIL Wins SKOCH ESG Award 2025

- Recognition for Business Agility: GAIL was specifically conferred the award for Business Agility and Corporate Performance, highlighting its ability to adapt to changing market dynamics while maintaining a robust financial and operational growth trajectory.
- Clean Energy Leadership: The award recognizes GAIL's pivotal role in leading India's transition toward a gas-based economy. The jury lauded its consistent focus on environmental responsibility, including its expanding portfolio in green hydrogen and renewable energy.

Footnotes: GAIL's Chairman & MD: Sandeep Kumar Gupta, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1984

Karnataka Bank Bags IBA Award

- Top Honor in Fintech Adoption: The bank emerged as the Winner in the 'Best Fintech & DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure) Adoption' category. This award recognizes the bank's successful integration of national digital platforms like UPI, Aadhaar, and DigiLocker to enhance customer service delivery.

- Talent and Strategy Recognition: Karnataka Bank was adjudged Runner-up in the 'Best Tech Talent' category, highlighting its commitment to nurturing skilled IT professionals. It also received Special Mentions in three other critical areas: Best Technology Bank, Best Digital Financial Inclusion, and Best Digital Sales.

Footnotes: Karnataka's Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot, CM: Siddaramaiah, Capital: Bengaluru

Namita Gokhale Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

- Honoring a Literary Legend: The award recognizes Gokhale's "sustained contribution" to Indian literature and publishing. Best known for her cult classic debut *Paro: Dreams of Passion* and her Sahitya Akademi-winning novel *Things to Leave Behind*, she is celebrated for her vivid portrayal of the Himalayan region and her commitment to cross-cultural dialogue.
- Award Details and Ceremony: The lifetime achievement honor carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation, and a trophy. It will be formally presented during the Banaras Lit Fest, scheduled to take place in Varanasi from January 30 to February 1, 2026.

Biologist Toby Kiers Wins Tyler Prize

- Pioneering Fungal Research: Dr. Kiers, a professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, was recognized for her groundbreaking work on mycorrhizal fungi. Her research revealed that these underground networks act as a "biological marketplace," where fungi and plants "trade" nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen for carbon-rich sugars.

- Global Conservation Advocacy: Alongside her award, Kiers leveraged the platform to launch the "Underground Advocates" program through her NGO, the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks (SPUN).

Ms. Vartika Shukla Conferred Lifetime Contribution Award

- Awarding Body and Industry Impact: The award was presented at the FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Awards 2025 (held in Jan 2026) in New Delhi. It celebrates her over three decades of leadership and transformative impact on India's core industrial sectors, specifically in refineries, chemicals, and petrochemicals.
- Champion of Self-Reliance: The honor specifically recognizes her commitment to the "Make in India" initiative. Under her guidance, EIL has significantly reduced dependence on foreign technologies by developing indigenous engineering solutions and project management expertise for critical national infrastructure.

Rohit Sharma to Be Honoured with Padma Shri 2026

- Recognition of Leadership Legacy: The award primarily honors Rohit's captaincy, specifically leading India to two major ICC titles in a short span: the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup and the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy.
- End of an Era: The honor comes as Rohit transitioned out of the longer formats, having retired from T20Is in 2024 and Test cricket in 2025. He remains an active and vital figure in the ODI setup as the team looks toward the 2027 World Cup.

- Individual Brilliance: Beyond leadership, the award acknowledges his historic career statistics, including being the only player with three ODI double-centuries and his milestone of surpassing 20,000 international runs with 50 centuries across formats.

Dr Chandrakant Lahariya Becomes 1st Indian Wiley Research Awardee

- Global Recognition for Policy Impact: Dr. Lahariya won in the "Impact Beyond Academia" category, a prize that honors researchers whose work transcends journals to create tangible changes in policy and society. He was selected from over 2,000 nominations worldwide.
- Advancing National Immunization: His evidence-based evaluations supported the introduction of six new vaccines into India's national program.

Dharmendra Singh Deol awarded Padma Vibhushan 2026

- Posthumous Recognition: The award was conferred posthumously, following the passing of the "He-Man" of Indian cinema on November 24, 2025. This recognition serves as a final tribute to his massive influence on Indian culture and his career spanning over six decades.
- Top-Tier Honor: This is an elevation of his previous honors; he was already a recipient of the Padma Bhushan in 2012. For 2026, he is one of only five recipients of the Padma Vibhushan.

DECEMBER 2025

Shri P. K. Motupalli Wins M. S. Swaminathan Green Excellence Award

- Recipient and Position: The award was conferred upon Shri P. K. Motupalli, who is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise in India.
- NLCIL's Role in Energy Transition: The recognition highlights NLCIL's evolution under his guidance, emphasizing the company's commitment to balancing national energy security needs with global climate commitments and sustainability.
- Impact and Inspiration: The award serves to motivate individuals and organizations in the public sector to pursue excellence in environmental stewardship and sustainable industrial development, in line with the national vision for a greener future.

Dibyajyoti Sarkar Makes Guinness World Record

- The Record Category: Dibyajyoti Sarkar, an Indian martial artist and electrical engineer, achieved the Guinness World Record for the "Most Full Extension Punches in One Minute While Holding Two Eggs."
- The Achievement: He successfully executed an extraordinary 331 full-extension punches in one minute. Crucially, he performed this feat while keeping both eggs unbroken in his hands, demonstrating immense speed, precision, and control.
- Surpassing the Previous Benchmark: Sarkar significantly surpassed the previous world

record for this category, which stood at 302 punches.

Donald Trump awarded First FIFA Peace Prize

- Inaugural Recipient: Donald Trump was the first-ever winner of the newly created award, officially named the "FIFA Peace Prize – Football Unites the World."
- Date and Venue: The award was presented by FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Friday, December 5, 2025, during the Final Draw for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.
- Rationale for the Award: FIFA stated the prize is meant to reward "individuals who have taken exceptional and extraordinary actions for peace and by doing so have united people across the world."

Microsoft Store Awards 2025

- Focus on AI and Productivity: The awards heavily favored AI-powered and productivity-focused applications, reflecting Microsoft's strategic direction. New categories were introduced to celebrate this trend, such as AI Assistants and Computer-Using Agents (CUA).
- Productivity Champion: Notion was a standout winner in the Productivity category. It was recognized for transforming scattered notes, tasks, and projects into a unified workspace with native Windows features like quick-launch and offline access.
- New Automation Category: The new Computer-Using Agents (CUA) category, focusing on advanced automation, was won by Manus by Manus AI. This app was cited for its secure,

sandboxed AI agent that can execute complex, multi-step tasks like running code and managing web tasks.

Mohammad Alfaraj wins Art Basel Gold Award

- Award and Category: Mohammad Alfaraj, a multidisciplinary artist from Saudi Arabia, was named the Gold Awardee in the Emerging Artist category of the inaugural Art Basel Awards 2025.
- Multidisciplinary Practice: His work is highly regarded for its unique blend of mediums, including film, photography, sculpture, and poetry. His art often creates a "cinematic collage" charged with stories, memory, and a poetic search for truth.
- Key Themes and Materials: Alfaraj's work is deeply influenced by his hometown of Al-Ahsa (a palm tree oasis and major oil source). He frequently incorporates organic and manmade waste materials, such as palm fronds and charcoal from burned trees, to explore themes of environmental tension, collective memory, and the relationship between nature and progress.

President Presents National Handicrafts Awards for 2023 and 2024

- The awards included the Shilp Guru Awards (the highest honour for unparalleled mastery) and the National Handicrafts Awards (recognizing outstanding contributions to the craft heritage).
- The President highlighted that women constitute a significant 68% of the workforce in the handicrafts sector, making its

promotion crucial for women's social and economic empowerment.

- The President emphasized that the sector provides livelihood to over 3.2 million people, mostly in rural and remote areas, contributing to inclusive development.

Supriya Sahu Wins UNEP Champions of the Earth 2025 Award



- Highest UN Environmental Honour: The Champions of the Earth Award is the highest environmental honour of the United Nations, recognizing individuals and organizations whose actions have a transformative impact on the environment.
- Award Category: She received the award in the Inspiration and Action category, which celebrates individuals who have created measurable benefits for people and the planet through bold initiatives.
- Key Contribution - Sustainable Cooling: Her primary recognition is for pioneering contributions to sustainable cooling and ecosystem restoration in Tamil Nadu. This included promoting nature-based shading systems and integrating heat-adaptation measures into public infrastructure to combat urban heat waves.

TIME Magazine Names 'Architects of AI' as Person of the Year 2025

- Recognition of AI's Pivotal Year (2025): The selection marks 2025 as the year when Artificial Intelligence's full potential truly "roared into view," shifting from a niche technology to one that a critical mass of consumers and industries saw as part of their mainstream lives, making a return to a pre-AI world impossible.
- Focus on the Builders, Not Just the Technology: TIME intentionally selected the "individuals who imagined, designed, and built AI"—the Architects—rather than choosing the concept of AI itself. This spotlights the unparalleled influence and responsibility of a small group of leaders.

Anant Ambani received the Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare

- Global Awarding Body: The award was presented by the Global Humane Society (GHS), the international brand of the American Humane Society, which is the world's oldest national humane organization. This places the award among the most prestigious global recognitions in the field.
- Historic Recipient Status: Anant Ambani is the youngest ever and the first Asian to receive this esteemed recognition. This highlights the transformative, global impact of his work and places him in the company of past honorees like US Presidents and major Hollywood icons.

- Focus on Dignity and Seva: Upon receiving the award, Ambani emphasized that Vantara's mission is guided by the principle of sarva bhuta hita (the wellbeing of all beings) and the spirit of seva (selfless service).

CRPF Officer Dinesh Khatak Awarded UHM's Efficiency Medal

- Recipient and Designation: The awardee is Dinesh Khatak, a senior officer (Second-in-Command or 2-IC) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) 196 Battalion. The medal is one of the highest honours instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for security personnel.
- Recognition Criteria: The medal is awarded for exemplary leadership, operational achievements, discipline, and a long-standing contribution to national security. It is a recognition of exceptional efficiency and dedication in service.

DMRC Wins Best Performing Unit Award at NECA 2025

- Specific Awardee: The award was won by the East Vinod Nagar Metro Station on the Delhi Metro's Pink Line, in the Metro Stations sector category. The award was presented by President Droupadi Murmu on National Energy Conservation Day (December 14th) at Vigyan Bhawan.
- Focus on Energy Conservation: The recognition is for the station's exemplary and sustained efforts in energy efficiency and performance over the last three financial years.

NOVEMBER 2025

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel RRU National K9 Bravery Award 2025 awarded to BSF's tracker dog Babita

- Award Details: The award was presented during a national ceremony held in Hyderabad, recognizing Babita's outstanding contributions.
- Heroic Act: In September 2025, Babita played a crucial role in an anti-smuggling operation, guiding BSF personnel to a suspicious residence, leading to the capture of three smugglers.
- Stationed in Amritsar: Babita is part of the BSF team in the Amritsar Sector of Punjab, where she continues to serve with distinction.

Diia.Engine Wins GIMI 2025 Award for Public Sector Innovation

- About Diia.Engine: It's a groundbreaking platform enabling government institutions to build and upgrade digital systems quickly, securely, and cost-effectively, without relying on single developers.
- Impact: The platform hosts 54 registries and digital government systems, used by 25 public institutions, accelerating Ukraine's transition to a digital state.
- Features: Diia.Engine offers a drag-and-drop interface, built-in integrations, security protocols, multilingual support, and open API system for seamless interoperability.

Salmon Rushdie Honored with Dayton Peace Prize Award 2025

- Award Details: The Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished Achievement Award, also known as the Lifetime Achievement Award, is a prestigious recognition of Rushdie's work in promoting peace through literature.
- Literary Merit: Rushdie's award recognizes his literary merit and commitment to peace, joining past recipients like Jimmy Carter, Elie Wiesel, and Margaret Atwood.
- Overcoming Adversity: Rushdie received the award after publishing his first work of fiction since being stabbed on a New York lecture stage in 2022.

Sir David Beckham Received Knighthood Honour

- Recognition of Services to Sport and Charity: David Beckham was knighted by King Charles III at Windsor Castle for his outstanding contributions to football and charitable causes, particularly his work with UNICEF and The King's Foundation.
- A Proud Moment: Beckham described the knighthood ceremony as the "proudest" moment of his professional life, expressing gratitude for the recognition of his philanthropic work, which he considers just as important as his sporting achievements.
- Long-standing Relationship with the Royal Family: Beckham has a close relationship with the royal family, having attended significant events like Prince William's wedding and Prince Harry's wedding, and even queued for hours to pay his respects to Queen Elizabeth II when she lay in state.
- Personalized Ceremony Attire: Beckham wore a bespoke suit

designed by his wife, Victoria Beckham, which was inspired by King Charles' youthful style and caught the monarch's attention during the ceremony.

Scindia Confers Bhupen Hazarika Awards Celebrating Northeast Icons

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia conferred the Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika National Awards at a cultural ceremony held in Guwahati.
- The event was a special tribute, coinciding with the legendary artist, Bhupen Hazarika's, birth centenary year, celebrating his legacy of unity through art.
- Six eminent personalities from diverse Northeastern states were felicitated for their significant contributions to literature, cinema, music, and cultural preservation.

IIM Ranchi Earns Prestigious AMBA Accreditation and 4 Palms in Eduniversal 2025 Rankings

- AMBA Accreditation: Elite Global Status: The accreditation from the Association of MBAs (AMBA) places IIM Ranchi in the top 2% of global business schools. AMBA is one of the most prestigious and selective international benchmarks, focusing exclusively on postgraduate management education (MBA, MBM, and DBA programs).
- Rigorous Quality Benchmark: The AMBA accreditation was awarded after a meticulous review process that assessed several key areas, including curriculum innovation.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

JANUARY 2026



C Kalaichelvan appointed as DIG in CBI

- C. Kalaichelvan is a 2012-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre. Prior to this promotion, he was already serving within the agency as a Superintendent of Police (SP).
- His appointment as DIG is effective from the date he assumes charge and will continue for a tenure up to December 31, 2028, or until further orders from the government.
- His promotion was part of a larger administrative move where seven IPS officers from the 2012 batch were elevated to the rank of DIG within the CBI to strengthen the agency's senior investigative leadership.

Footnotes: CBI's Director: Shri Praveen Sood, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1963

Justice Soumen Sen appointed as Kerala's CJ

- Justice Sen, currently the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, is being transferred to the Kerala High Court. The President of India issued the order under Article 222 of the Constitution, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium.
- Justice Sen began his career at the Calcutta High Court, where he stood first in his LL.B. examination in 1990. Before his elevation to the bench in 2011, he was a renowned advocate representing major institutions like the RBI and SEBI. Notably, he also served as the Acting

Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court in late 2025 before his stint in Meghalaya.

Footnotes: Kerala's Governor: Rajendra Arlekar, CM: Pinarayi Vijayan, Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Justice Manoj Kumar appointed CJU

- Succession and Effective Date: Justice Gupta officially assumed charge on January 10, 2026, following the retirement of the previous incumbent, Justice Guhanathan Narendar, who demitted office on January 9.
- Prior Judicial Career: Before this elevation, Justice Gupta served as the senior-most judge of the Allahabad High Court. He was originally appointed as a judge of the Allahabad High Court on April 12, 2013.

Footnotes: UK's Governor: Gurmit Singh, CM: Pushkar Singh, Capital: Dehradun

Raj Kumar appointed DGM of TRIFED

- Background and Tenure: Raj Kumar is a 2012-batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factories Service (IOFS). His appointment to TRIFED is on a deputation basis for a period of five years or until further orders.
- Regional Responsibility: He will serve as the DGM (Director level) at TRIFED's Ranchi office, overseeing the Bihar-Jharkhand region. This is a strategic posting given Jharkhand's significant tribal population and the region's importance in the marketing of forest produce.

Footnotes: TRIFED's Chairman: M. Raja Murugan, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1987

Shri Vinay Kumar appointed as Director at NMDC Limited

- Dual Leadership Role: Already serving as the Director (Technical) since May 2023, Shri Vinay Kumar has been given the additional charge of Director (Commercial). This strategic move by the Ministry of Steel ensures leadership continuity.
- Strategic Oversight: In this expanded capacity, he will oversee NMDC's commercial operations, including marketing strategies, domestic and international contracts, pricing, and business development. This dual responsibility aims to streamline the coordination between technical production and market outreach.

Footnotes: NMDC's Chairman: Amitava Mukherjee, HQ: Hyderabad, Estd: 1958

Meta appoints Dina Powell McCormick as President

- Strategic AI & Infrastructure Focus: Reporting directly to CEO Mark Zuckerberg, she will spearhead Meta's "next phase of growth," specifically overseeing multi-billion-dollar investments and ensure these massive technical projects align with the company's financial and economic goals.
- Bridge Between Wall Street and Washington: McCormick brings a unique blend of experience from the highest levels of both

finance and government. She spent 16 years at Goldman Sachs (leading their global sovereign business) and served as Deputy National Security Adviser under Donald Trump, as well as a senior official in the George W. Bush administration.

Footnotes: Meta's CEO: Mark Zuckerberg, HQ: U.S, Estd: 2004

Rakesh Aggarwal appointed as DG, NIA

- New Leadership: Rakesh Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the DG of the NIA. His tenure will last until his superannuation on August 31, 2028.
- Succession and Stability: He succeeds Sadanand Vasant Date (1990-batch), who was prematurely repatriated to Maharashtra in late December 2025 to lead the state police as DGP. Aggarwal had been holding the additional (interim) charge of the agency since December 31, 2025.

Footnotes: NIA's Previous DG: Sadanand Vasant Date, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 2008

Justice Sujoy Paul appointed as Chief Justice Calcutta

- Judicial Milestone: Justice Sujoy Paul, who has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court since October 2025, was formally elevated to the position of permanent Chief Justice.
- Constitutional Appointment: The appointment was made under Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India. Justice Paul is slated to serve in this capacity until his retirement on June 20, 2026, upon reaching the age of 62.

Footnotes: Calcutta's Previous Chief Justice: Soumen Sen, Mayor: Firhad Hakim

Centre appoints Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor as ITBP Chief

- Profile and Tenure: Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor is a 1990-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre. He has been appointed to the post until October 31, 2026, which is the date of his superannuation (retirement), or until further orders.
- Succession and Restructuring: He succeeds Praveen Kumar, who has been moved to head the Border Security Force (BSF). This shift is part of a broader leadership reorganization within India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to ensure operational continuity across sensitive borders.

Footnotes: ITBP's Previous DG: Praveen Kumar, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1962

MS Dhoni appointed Goodwill Ambassador for Pune Grand Tour 2026

- Pioneering Cycling Event: The Pune Grand Tour is India's first-ever international multi-stage professional road cycling race. It is a UCI (Union Cycliste Internationale) 2.2 category event, marking India's formal entry into the global professional cycling calendar.
- Dhoni's Strategic Role: As Goodwill Ambassador, Dhoni—known for his focus on fitness and endurance—aims to amplify the event's visibility and inspire young athletes to take up cycling. The initiative also seeks to re-establish Pune's legacy as the "Cycle Capital of India" and

promote sports tourism in the region.

Tata Communications appointed Ganesh Lakshminarayanan as CEO

- Leadership Transition: Lakshminarayanan will formally take over the role of MD and CEO on April 13, 2026. He succeeds the current chief, A.S. Lakshminarayanan, who is retiring after a six-year tenure that saw the company's shift from a telecom major to a technology powerhouse.
- Proven Track Record: An industry veteran with over 30 years of experience, Ganesh most recently served as the MD and Group Vice President for ServiceNow India and SAARC. He previously led Airtel Business as its CEO, where he achieved 50% growth over three years and significantly increased market share.

Footnotes: Tata's Previous CEO: Amur Swaminathan, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1868

Guardian India appoints Karunakaran Azhisur as Country Head

- Dual Leadership Role: Azhisur will serve as the Country Head – India while simultaneously retaining his current position as the Chief Information Officer (CIO). In this expanded role, he will oversee overall India operations across the company's centers in Chennai and Gurugram.
- Focus on AI and Digital Transformation: With over two decades of global experience (including Silicon Valley), he is tasked with driving technology-led growth.

DECEMBER 2025

Google appoints Amin Vahdat as New Chief Technologist

- Strategic New Role: Vahdat has been appointed to the newly created role of Chief Technologist for AI Infrastructure. This move elevates the strategic importance of the computing backbone (data centers, networks, chips) that powers all of Google's large-scale AI models and cloud services.
- Direct AI Battleground: By focusing on the infrastructure, Google is asserting that compute capacity is the key differentiator in the high-stakes AI competition.

Foot notes: Google's CEO: Sundar Pichai, HQ: United States, Founded: 1998

Indian-Origin Neal Mohan Named TIME's 2025 CEO of the Year

- TIME cited his role in making YouTube the "cultural diet that the globe is beginning to subsist on," calling him the "farmer" of this ecosystem.
- Under his leadership (since February 2023), the platform has cemented its place as a dominant force against intense competition in the attention economy.
- Mohan's defining bet for YouTube's future is Artificial Intelligence (AI). In 2025, the company launched over 30 AI-powered tools designed to lower the barrier to entry for creators.
- These tools include automatic dubbing, text-to-music generation, and video summarization, reflecting a strategic move to democratize

content creation and enhance platform safety.

Saleem Ahmad appointed as CMD of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

- Vast Industry Experience: Ahmad is a seasoned Civil Engineer (1990 batch, Jamia Millia Islamia) with over 35 years of experience in the construction and infrastructure sectors, specifically in executing large-scale bridges, tunnels, and residential/commercial projects.
- Previous Leadership Roles: Prior to joining RVNL, he served as the Director (Projects) at NBCC (India) Limited. He also spent over two decades at the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as Executive Director (Civil), where he was a key figure in urban transit transformation.
- Selection Process: Ahmad was selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) from a competitive pool of 10 candidates across major PSUs like CONCOR, IRCON, and RailTel, highlighting his distinguished administrative and technical acumen.

Anu Garg appointed as the first woman CS of Odisha

- First Woman Chief Secretary: A 1991-batch IAS officer of the Odisha cadre, Anu Garg was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Odisha on December 24, 2025. She is the first woman to ever hold the state's highest bureaucratic office.
- Succession and Tenure: She will officially take charge on January 1, 2026, succeeding Manoj Ahuja (1990 batch), who retires on December 31, 2025. Her tenure

is expected to last until her retirement in March 2029.

- Consistent Trailblazer: This is the second major glass ceiling she has broken; in February 2023, she became the first woman Development Commissioner of Odisha—the second-highest-ranking position in the state's bureaucracy.

Saleem Ahmad Takes Charge as CMD of RVNL

- Official Assumption of Charge: Saleem Ahmad officially assumed the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) on December 23, 2025. He succeeds Sukhmal Chand Jain, whose tenure concluded on the same day.
- Previous Leadership at NBCC: Before this appointment, Ahmad served as the Director (Projects) at NBCC (India) Limited, where he was instrumental in overseeing large-scale urban redevelopment and institutional construction projects.
- Distinguished Career & Expertise: A 1990-batch Civil Engineering graduate from Jamia Millia Islamia, he brings over 35 years of experience. His career includes a significant tenure at the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as Executive Director.

Shri A.K. Balasubramanian appointed as Chairman of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

- New Chairman: Shri A.K. Balasubramanian takes over as the Chairman of AERB, ensuring the safe use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India.
- Previous Chairman: The previous Chairman, Dr. Dinesh Kumar

Shukla, served from December 31, 2022, and played a crucial role in shaping AERB's safety regulations.

- AERB's Mission: The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board's mission is to ensure that the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear energy in India does not cause undue risk to people's health and the environment.

Bharti Airtel appoints Shashwat Sharma as MD & CEO

- New MD & CEO: Shashwat Sharma, currently CEO-designate, will succeed Gopal Vittal as MD & CEO of Airtel India, subject to shareholder approval.
- Leadership Transition: Gopal Vittal will transition to the role of Executive Vice Chairman, overseeing Bharti Airtel and its subsidiaries, focusing on group strategy and development.
- Financial Leadership Changes: Soumen Ray will become Group Chief Financial Officer, while Akhil Garg will take over as CFO of Airtel India, effective January 1, 2026.
- Growth Focus: The leadership changes aim to drive Airtel's growth in digital services, 5G expansion, and enterprise solutions, amidst increasing competition in the telecom sector.

PNB Housing Finance appoints Ajai Kumar Shukla as New MD & CEO

- Extensive Industry Experience: Ajai Kumar Shukla brings over 30 years of comprehensive experience in the housing and mortgage lending business. His vast background spans key

institutions, including significant tenures at LIC Housing Finance Ltd., ICICI Bank, and most recently, as the Chief Business Officer at Tata Capital Housing Finance Ltd.

- Mandate for Operational Transformation: Shukla's leadership is expected to focus on strengthening the company's growth strategy, improving operational efficiency, and guiding the long-term expansion of its footprint in the competitive Indian housing finance market. The market views him as a leader capable of driving organizational change.

Retired IPS Officer Prashant Kumar appointed chairman of UPESSC

- Distinguished Law Enforcement Career: A 1990-batch IPS officer, Prashant Kumar retired on May 31, 2025, after serving as the acting Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh. He is widely recognized for his "zero-tolerance" policy against organized crime and for leading over 300 successful police operations (encounters) during his tenure.
- Administrative Heavyweight: Often referred to as "The Enforcer" in administrative circles, Kumar's appointment to an educational body is seen as a strategic move by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to bring strict discipline and "clean" recruitment processes to the state's massive education sector.

Raj Kumar Goyal sworn in as new CIC



- Filling a Vacancy at the Helm: Raj Kumar Goyal was sworn in to fill the post of the Chief Information Commissioner, which had been vacant since September 2025 following the retirement of the previous CIC, Heeralal Samariya. The CIC is the apex body for the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- Senior Bureaucratic Experience: Goyal is a 1990-batch (retired) IAS officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre. He superannuated as the Secretary, Department of Justice under the Ministry of Law and Justice, bringing extensive legal and administrative experience to the transparency watchdog.
- CIC Attains Full Strength: Alongside the appointment of the CIC, the selection panel also recommended the names of eight new Information Commissioners (ICs). With these new appointments, the Central Information Commission is set to operate at its full sanctioned strength of 11 members (one CIC and ten ICs) for the first time in over nine years, which is crucial for reducing the backlog of RTI appeals and complaints.

NOVEMBER 2025

Mayank Prabha Tomar appointed as Director in the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

- Appointment Details: Mayank Prabha Tomar, an IRS officer of the 2009 batch, has been appointed as Director in DARPG for a period of five years under the Central Staffing Scheme.
- Role and Responsibilities: As Director, Tomar will work under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, focusing on policies and initiatives to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in governance.
- Key Objectives: The department aims to simplify procedures, modernize processes, and implement e-Governance initiatives, fostering innovation and citizen-centric governance.

Sanjay Garg Assumes Charge as DG of Bureau of Indian Standards

- Previous Role: Before joining BIS, Garg served as Additional Secretary in the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Secretary of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Key Achievements: During his tenure at ICAR, Garg led digital initiatives, expanding the Kisan Sarathi portal to connect farmers directly with agricultural scientists, enhancing research management and administration through IT applications.
- Responsibilities: As DG of BIS, Garg will guide the development of national standards, promote quality certification, and enhance consumer protection

mechanisms. He will also lead India's representation in the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

Manish Singh appointed as Superintendent of Police in BPR&D

- Previous Role: Before joining BPR&D, Singh served as Commandant, State Reserve Police Force (SRPF) Group-16, Bhachau-Kutch, in Gujarat. He has handled several challenging assignments during his tenure with the Gujarat Police.
- Role at BPR&D: As SP, Singh will play a crucial role in advancing research-driven policing strategies, enhancing training systems, and supporting modernization projects across India's law enforcement framework. His expertise is expected to strengthen the Bureau's capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiatives.
- Key Areas of Focus: With his engineering background and practical experience in policing, Singh is likely to focus on areas like data-based analytical approaches to law enforcement, community policing, digital forensics, and technology-led investigation models.

Nand Kumarum Gets Extension as MD & CEO of Digital India Corporation

- Additional Charge: Kumarum has been holding the additional charge of MD & CEO of Digital India Corporation since January 1, 2025, and will continue to do so until the appointment of a regular incumbent or until his extended term ends.
- Dual Leadership Roles: Apart from his role at Digital India Corporation, Kumarum also

serves as President & CEO of the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and CEO of MyGov, reflecting the government's focus on integrated and tech-driven citizen engagement.

- Digital Governance Expertise: With extensive administrative expertise and a strong background in digital transformation initiatives, Kumarum's expanded.

Shri Deepak Gupta appointed as CMD, GAIL (India) Limited

- Appointment: Deepak Gupta, currently Director (Projects) at GAIL, has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited, pending final government approval.
- Background: Gupta has over three decades of experience in the oil and gas sector, with significant contributions to GAIL's core business areas, including project management, construction, operations, and business development.
- Tenure: He is set to succeed Sandeep Gupta on March 1, 2026, and will serve as CMD until his superannuation on February 28, 2029.

Vinay Sheel Gautam appointed as Director in the Ministry of Cooperation

- Appointment Details: Vinay Sheel Gautam, an IRS-IT officer from the 2009 batch, has been appointed as Director in the Ministry of Cooperation.
- Tenure: His appointment is for a period of five years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

SPORTS

JANUARY 2026



Ameerah Arshad Wins Women's 10m Air Rifle

- Arshad won the title in a dramatic finish, edging out Railways' Rajshree Anil Kumar Sancheti by the narrowest possible margin of 0.1 point. She finished with a total score of 251.9, while Sancheti settled for silver with 251.8.
- In addition to her senior gold, she also secured the silver medal in the Youth Women's 10m Air Rifle final on the same day, finishing just behind Karnataka's Tilitama Sen.
- Arshad played a pivotal role in leading the Haryana team (alongside teammates Ramita and Shruti) to a gold medal in the senior team category with an aggregate score of 1892.7.

Venus Williams to become oldest female player

- At 45 years old, Williams will become the oldest woman to ever compete in the Australian Open singles main draw. She will surpass the previous record held by Japan's Kimiko Date, who was 44 when she played in the 2015 tournament.
- This marks Venus's 22nd appearance at Melbourne Park and her first since 2021. It comes exactly 28 years after her tournament debut in 1998, where she famously defeated her sister Serena in the second round.
- To prepare for the Grand Slam (starting January 18), Williams has also accepted wildcards for

the Auckland Classic and the Hobart International, marking her first competitive appearances outside the United States since 2023.

Ajay Kumar wins gold in men's 10m air pistol

- In his first-ever senior national final, Ajay outshone a formidable lineup that included Paris Olympics medalist Sarabjot Singh, reigning World Champion Samrat Rana, and defending champion Varun Tomar. His victory is being hailed as a testament to the deep talent pool in Indian shooting where "unheralded" athletes can challenge global stars.
- Ajay, who has been training at the AMU in Mhow for six years, credited his aggressive start (a commanding 51.4 in the first series) for the win. His success follows the tradition of his mentor, legendary shooter Jitu Rai, and solidifies the Army's dominance in the national circuit following Varun Tomar's win the previous year.

Atiqa Mir Wins Historic Karting Title

- At just 11 years old, Atiqa Mir became the first Indian to secure a top-five finish globally on debut in the Junior S125 category (ages 12–14) during the IAME UAE Karting Championship at the Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi. She moved up from the Mini category early, competing against older, more experienced drivers in faster, heavier karts.
- She holds the distinction of being the first Indian and first Asian female to be selected for the

Formula 1 Academy's "Discover Your Drive" program. This global initiative is backed by Formula 1 to identify and develop young female talent to bridge the gap into professional single-seater racing.

Travis Head reaches 500 Ashes runs

- Travis Head became the first player in the 143-year history of the Ashes to score over 500 runs in a single series while maintaining a strike rate above 75 (finishing with a strike rate of approximately 88). This "Trav-ball" approach surpassed the previous aggressive benchmark set by David Warner (SR 74.39) in 2013–14.
- After being promoted to open the innings for the first time in his Test career during the series opener in Perth, Head scored three centuries (Perth, Adelaide, and Sydney).

Gold Medalist Jinson Johnson announces Retirement

- Asian Games Glory: A three-time Asian Games medalist, Johnson's career pinnacle was at the 2018 Jakarta Games, where he won gold in the 1500m and silver in the 800m. He finished his career on a high by securing a bronze medal in the 1500m at the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Games.
- National Record Holder: He leaves the sport as the current national record holder in the 1500m (3:35.24), a mark he set in Berlin in 2019. In 2018, he famously shattered Sriram Singh's 42-year-old national

record in the 800m, though that record was recently eclipsed in 2025.

Anahat Singh gets silver in Women's U-19

- Final Stand: Entering as the top seed and favorite, the 17-year-old Anahat narrowly lost a hard-fought final to France's Lauren Baltayan with a scoreline of 9-11, 11-7, 3-11, 9-11.
- Historic Run: This was Anahat's ninth appearance in a British Junior Open final across various age groups. Had she won, she would have become only the second Indian woman to claim the U-19 title, following Joshna Chinappa's historic win in 2005.

Usman Khawaja Announces Retirement from International Cricket

- A Full Circle Farewell: Khawaja played his 88th and final Test match at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), the same venue where he made his debut against England in 2011. Fittingly, his final appearance ended in a victory as Australia clinched the Ashes series 4-1.
- Breaking Barriers: As the first Pakistan-born and first Muslim cricketer to represent Australia, Khawaja leaves a historic legacy. In his retirement speech, he emphasized his journey as a "proud Muslim colored boy" who overcame racial stereotypes to reach the pinnacle of the sport, hoping to inspire future generations from diverse backgrounds.

Australia clinches Ashes series at Sydney Cricket Ground

- SCG Victory and Series Scoreline: Australia clinched the

fifth and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) with a five-wicket win on Day 5. After bowling England out for 342 in their second innings, Australia successfully chased a target of 160, overcoming a middle-order collapse of 5-59 thanks to a steady unbeaten partnership between Alex Carey and Cameron Green.

- Emotional Milestones: The match served as a historic farewell for Usman Khawaja, who retired from international cricket after his 88th Test. Additionally, Steve Smith etched his name deeper into the record books during the series by surpassing Sir Donald Bradman's long-standing record for the most career runs scored by an Australian against England (over 5,028 runs).

Nikhat Zareen Clinch Title at National Boxing Championships

- Third National Title: Representing Telangana, Nikhat Zareen clinched her third senior national title by defeating the 2023 world champion, Nitu Ghanghas, in the flyweight (51kg) final. The highly anticipated bout between the two world champions ended in a convincing 5-0 unanimous decision in favor of Nikhat.
- Historic Joint Event: This championship was a milestone for Indian boxing as it was the first time the Men's and Women's National Championships were held simultaneously at the same venue.

Virat Kohli Becomes Second-Highest Run-Scorer in Cricket

- Surpassing Kumar Sangakkara: Kohli reached this landmark during the first ODI against New

Zealand in Vadodara. With a match-winning knock of 93 runs, he surpassed the legendary Sri Lankan batter Kumar Sangakkara's career tally of 28,016 runs. He now sits at 28,068 runs across all formats, trailing only the great Sachin Tendulkar (34,357 runs).

- Fastest to 28,000 Runs: During the same innings, Kohli became the fastest player in history to reach the 28,000-run mark. He achieved the feat in just 624 innings, shattering the previous record held by Sachin Tendulkar, who took 644 innings to reach the same milestone.

Alyssa Healy Announces Retirement After India Series



- Strategic Farewell Series: Healy will officially retire at the conclusion of the home multi-format series against India in March 2026. While she will skip the T20I leg to allow the team to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup with a new leader, she will captain the side in the ODIs and play her final international match in the one-off Test at the WACA in Perth (March 6-9).
- End of a Golden Era: Healy retires as one of the most decorated players in history, having won eight World Cups (six T20 and two ODI) and a Commonwealth Games gold medal. She leaves the game with over 7,000 international runs and 275 dismissals.

DECEMBER 2025

Simranpreet Kaur Brar Wins Gold in Women's 25m Pistol

- Event and Competition: She won the gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 held in Doha, Qatar.
- Record-Equalling Performance: Simranpreet, who is 21 years old, shot a superb score of 41 hits out of 50 in the final, which equalled the Junior World Record in the event.
- Impact for India: The medal contributed to India's strong performance at the World Cup Final, showcasing the country's growing depth in pistol shooting. The victory also earned high praise, particularly as it was achieved after she rallied from a slow start in the final.

Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar Wins Silver in 50m Rifle 3-Positions at ISSF World Cup

- Event and Venue: The medal was won in the Men's 50m Rifle 3-Positions (3P) event at the ISSF World Cup Final held in Doha, Qatar.
- Podium Finish: Aishwarya finished with a silver medal, scoring 413.3 in the final. The gold medal was clinched by Jiri Privratsky of Czechia, and the bronze went to Olympic champion Liu Yukun of China.
- Significant Milestone: This silver medal, won on his World Cup Final debut, completed a significant milestone for Tomar: securing a full set of medals (gold, silver, or bronze) at all possible World and Continental Championships (including World

Championship, Asian Games, and Asian Championships).

GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa Wins FIDE Circuit 2025

- Only Male Indian Qualifier: He is the only male Indian player to qualify for the Candidates Tournament 2026 via the FIDE Circuit path.
- Consistent Performance: His win was the result of a highly consistent year, including major victories at the Tata Steel Masters, Superbet Chess Classic Romania, UzChess Cup Masters, and a strong finish at the London Chess Classic Open.
- Second Consecutive Appearance: This will be his second consecutive appearance at the Candidates Tournament, solidifying his status as one of the world's elite chess players.

Germany wins Men's Junior Hockey World Cup

- Record-Extending Title: This victory secured Germany's eighth Men's Junior Hockey World Cup title, extending their record as the most successful nation in the tournament's history. They also successfully defended their crown from the previous 2023 edition.
- Venue and Score: The final was held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai, India. The match ended 1-1 in regulation time before Germany won the penalty shoot-out 3-2.
- India's Bronze: In the Bronze Medal match, India staged a stunning comeback to defeat Argentina 4-2, ensuring the host nation finished on the podium with the third-place medal.

India win bronze at 2025 Junior Men's Hockey World Cup

- Dramatic Comeback Victory: India defeated Argentina 4-2 in the Bronze Medal match. The victory was a sensational turnaround, as India was trailing 0-2 going into the final quarter (the last 15 minutes) of the match.
- First-Ever Bronze: This medal is particularly significant as it is India's first-ever bronze medal at the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup. India's previous medals were two Golds (2001, 2016) and one Silver (1997).
- Fourth Quarter Blitz: India scored four goals in the final 11 minutes of the game to secure the victory. The goals were scored by Ankit Pal (49'), Manmeet Singh (52'), Sharda Nand Tiwari (57' - penalty stroke), and Anmol Ekka (58').
- Goalkeeper and PC Heroics: The spectacular comeback was fueled by the brilliance of goalkeeper Princedeep Singh in goal and the execution of key penalty corners in the final minutes, converting two of them and earning a penalty stroke.

Indian Swimmer's Double Gold at Asian Youth Para Games

- The Athlete and Event: The Indian para-swimmer is Abdul Quadir Indori. He achieved the rare feat of winning two gold medals in the swimming events at the ongoing Asian Youth Para Games (AYPG) 2025.
- Venue and Edition: The Asian Youth Para Games 2025 is being hosted in Dubai, UAE. This is

the fifth edition of the Games and a crucial platform for nurturing the next generation of Asian Para-athletes.

- **Rising Strength of Para-Sports:** His exceptional performance was widely applauded by the Paralympic Committee of India, which acknowledged it as a reflection of his dedication, discipline, and the rising strength of India's young para-athletes.

Jharkhand Clinch Maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Title

- **Ishan Kishan's Heroics:** Captain Ishan Kishan led from the front, scoring a blistering 101 off 49 balls, including 10 sixes, to help Jharkhand post a massive 262/3.
- **Kumar Kushagra's Contribution:** Kushagra played a crucial role, scoring 81 off 38 balls, and sharing a 177-run partnership with Kishan.
- **Anukul Roy's All-Round Performance:** Roy was named Player of the Series, scoring 303 runs and taking 18 wickets, including a crucial 40-run knock and two wickets in the final.
- **Jharkhand's Dominant Campaign:** The team won 10 of its 11 matches, showcasing their strength and consistency throughout the tournament.
- **MS Dhoni's Guidance:** Former India captain MS Dhoni played a key role in Jharkhand's success, providing valuable guidance and support to the team.

Smriti Mandhana Becomes First Asian to 4,000 T20I Runs

- **First Asian & Indian:** Mandhana is the first Asian woman and the first Indian cricketer (male or female) to reach the 4,000-run mark in T20 Internationals. She joins an elite global club that previously only featured New Zealand legend Suzie Bates.
- **Fastest to the Milestone:** She became the fastest player in women's T20I history to reach 4,000 runs in terms of balls faced. She achieved the feat in just 3,227 balls, significantly quicker than Suzie Bates, who took 3,675 balls.
- **Consistency Across Formats:** This T20I milestone comes shortly after Mandhana played a pivotal role in India's 2025 ODI World Cup victory. She currently averages nearly 30 in T20Is with a strike rate of over 123, featuring one century and 31 half-centuries.

Sukhman Singh Triumphs at IGU 124th Amateur Championship

- **Dominant Victory:** Sukhman Singh defeated Harman Sachdeva (Haryana) in the 36-hole final with a commanding 7UP lead after 29 holes, ending the match early due to his unassailable lead.
- **World's Longest-Running Event:** The championship, organized by the Indian Golf Union (IGU), was first held in 1892, making it the oldest amateur matchplay tournament in the world.
- **Sporting Lineage:** The win is particularly significant as Sukhman is the son of Simarjeet Singh, a former India No. 1

amateur golfer. Sukhman's victory achieved a title that had famously eluded his father during his career.

Vaibhav Suryavanshi breaks AB de Villiers' record with fastest 150 in men's List A cricket



- **Breaking a Global Legend's Record:** Suryavanshi smashed the record for the fastest 150 in men's List A cricket, reaching the milestone in just 54 balls. He surpassed the previous world record of 64 balls set by the legendary AB de Villiers against the West Indies in 2015.
- **Youngest Centurion in History:** At 14 years and 272 days, he became the youngest player ever to score a century in men's List A cricket. He broke the long-standing record held by Pakistan's Zahoor Elahi, who was over 15 years old when he achieved the feat.
- **World Record Team Total:** His opening assault laid the foundation for Bihar to post 574/6, which is now the highest-ever team total in the history of List A cricket worldwide, overtaking the previous record held by Tamil Nadu (506/2).

NOVEMBER 2025

Tamil Nadu's 16-Year-Old Ilamparthi AR Becomes India's 90th Chess GM

- Age and Background: Ilamparthi AR is one of the youngest chess Grandmasters from India, born in 2009 and currently studying at Velammal Matriculation Higher Secondary School.
- Chess Journey: He was a former World No. 1 in the Under-8 category and became an International Master in 2023 after surpassing the 2400 Elo rating threshold.
- Training and Mentorship: Ilamparthi trains under Grandmaster Shyam Sundar M and is mentored through the WestBridge Anand Chess Academy (WACA).

Indian Tennis Star Rohan Bopanna Announces Retirement

- Final Match: His last professional match on the Tour was at the Paris Masters, where he and partner Alexander Bublik lost in the opening round earlier that week.
- Oldest World No. 1: In January 2024, at the age of 43, he became the oldest player in ATP history to debut as the men's doubles World No. 1.
- First Grand Slam: He won his first Grand Slam in mixed doubles at the 2017 French Open with Gabriela Dabrowski.
- Gold Medal Win: Avani Lekhara clinched the gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 category at the 2025 Para Shooting World Cup in Al Ain, Dubai, showcasing her exceptional shooting skills.

India Shines at 2025 Asian Youth Games with Record 48 Medals

- Record-Breaking Medals: India won a record 48 medals at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Manama, Bahrain, surpassing its previous best performances in 2009 and 2013. The medals included 13 gold, 18 silver, and 17 bronze.
- Best Ever Performance: This achievement marked India's best-ever performance at the Asian Youth Games, with the country finishing sixth in the medal tally. The Indian contingent consisted of 222 athletes who competed across various disciplines.

Kane Williamson announces Retirement from T20 Internationals

- Retirement Details: Kane Williamson announced his retirement from T20 Internationals on November 2, 2025, to focus on ODIs and Test cricket. He made the announcement just months before the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.
- Career Statistics: Williamson played 93 T20I games for New Zealand, scoring 2,575 runs at an average of 33, with 18 half-centuries and a highest score of 95. He is New Zealand's second-highest men's T20I run-scorer.

Indian Oil Mumbai Wins 42nd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Trophy

- Tournament Details: The 42nd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Tournament was held at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar from October 23 to November 1, 2025. Twelve top men's teams competed in a league-cum-knockout format.

- Final Match: Indian Oil Mumbai defeated Indian Railways Delhi 2-1 in the final match, winning the title for the third consecutive time and seventh time overall. Gurjinder Singh scored the first goal through a penalty corner in the third minute, and Sunil Yadav scored another goal through a penalty stroke in the 34th minute.

Sinner wins Paris Masters to reclaim world No 1 ranking

- Paris Masters Victory: Jannik Sinner won the Paris Masters title, defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-6(4) in the final. This marks his first Paris Masters title and fifth ATP Masters 1000 crown.
- Reclaiming World No. 1 Ranking: Sinner reclaimed the world No. 1 ranking, which he briefly lost to Alcaraz after the U.S. Open. He now leads Alcaraz by a narrow margin in the ATP rankings.
- Unbeaten Run: Sinner extended his indoor winning streak to 26 matches, showcasing his dominance on the court. He became the first player to win a 1000-level event.

India Creates History at 2025 Asian Youth Games

- Best-Ever Medal Tally: India achieved its best-ever performance at the Asian Youth Games, winning a total of 48 medals, including 13 gold, 18 silver, and 17 bronze medals. This surpasses the country's previous best tally of 48 medals in 2013.
- Dominant Boxing Performance: India's young boxers made history with 5 medals, including 3 golds, 1 silver, and 1 bronze.

BANKING NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Federal Bank Unveils New Brand Logo 'The Fortuna Wave'

- Design Philosophy: The new wordmark uses a rounded, fluid typeface instead of uppercase letters. This change reflects a move toward being more approachable and solution-oriented, as the bank aims to appeal to a younger, digitally-savvy demographic.
- Yellow Underline: The familiar yellow underline from the previous logo has been retained, symbolizing the bank's continued commitment to partnership and support.

Footnotes: FB's MD & CEO: KVS Manian, HQ: Kerala, Estd:1931

Karur Vysya Bank Cuts Base Rate and BPLR

- Karur Vysya Bank has slashed both its Base Rate and its Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) by 45 basis points (bps). This marks a substantial downward revision aimed at passing on liquidity benefits to borrowers.
- Affected Loans: These cuts primarily benefit "old" borrowers whose loans (sanctioned before April 2016) are still linked to the Base Rate or BPLR regimes, rather than the newer MCLR or EBLR systems.
- Strategic Alignment: By lowering these rates, KVB is positioning itself competitively to improve credit growth in its retail and MSME portfolios, which reported a strong 17.15%

YoY growth in advances as of December 31, 2025.

Footnotes: KVB's MD & CEO: Mr. Ramesh Babu, HQ: Tamil Nadu, Estd:1916

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches 'Zero-Forex Diamond Reserve Credit Card'

- Zero Forex Markup & Global Cash Access: The card eliminates the standard 2%-3.5% foreign exchange markup fee on all international transactions. Additionally, it offers interest-free ATM cash withdrawals globally until the payment due date (subject to a nominal transaction fee of ₹199).
- Comprehensive Insurance & Protection: To enhance traveler security, the card includes a ₹25,000 trip cancellation cover, coverage for lost baggage or delayed flights, an air accident cover of ₹1 crore, and a personal accident cover of ₹10 lakh.

Footnotes: IDFC FIRST Bank's MD & CEO: V. Vaidyanathan, HQ: Mumbai, Estd.: 2015

HSBC Private Bank appoints Ida Liu as CEO

- Elite Industry Transition: Ida Liu joins HSBC after an 18-year tenure at Citigroup, where she most recently served as the Global Head of Citi Private Bank. She succeeds Gabriel Castello, who served as the interim CEO and will now transition to the role of Vice Chair.
- Strategic UHNW Focus: Her mandate is to deepen HSBC's

leadership among Ultra-High-Net-Worth (UHNW) clients and sophisticated entrepreneurs, focusing specifically on strengthening cross-border connectivity across major global wealth corridors.

Footnotes: HSBC's Previous CEO: Gabriel Castello, HQ: Mumbai, Estd.: 1853

Dhaka Bank appoints Osman Ershad Faiz as MD & CEO



- Extensive Global Experience: Faiz brings over 30 years of international banking expertise to the role. He has held high-profile leadership positions at major global institutions, including serving as the Managing Director and COO of Standard Chartered Bank Singapore and the Chief Information and Operating Officer (CIOO) of the FinTech firm AMTD Digital.

- Award-Winning Leadership: Beyond his technical skills, Faiz is a highly decorated professional. He received the "Legend" Award at the World CIO 200 Summit (2023) and has been repeatedly featured on the HEROes Global Role Model lists for his advocacy of gender diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Footnotes: Dhaka Bank's Chairman: Abdul Hai Sarker, HQ: Dhaka, Estd: 1995

KMB appointed Anup Kumar Saha as Director

- Strategic Oversight of Retail: Effective January 12, 2026, Saha was appointed to lead the bank's Consumer Banking vertical. He will also oversee Marketing and Data Analytics, critical functions for the bank's goal of driving customer-centric growth and digital innovation.
- Proven Track Record: Saha brings over 32 years of experience in financial services. He most recently served as the Managing Director of Bajaj Finance, where he was instrumental in transforming the company into one of India's most profitable NBFCs. Prior to that, he spent 14 years at ICICI Bank in various senior leadership roles.

Footnotes: KMB's MD & CEO: Ashok Vaswani, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1985

TGB Introduces Solar-powered ATM Van

- National Recognition and Award: The initiative earned the prestigious SKOCH Silver Award in early 2026, recognizing the bank's excellence in innovation and sustainable governance. It is credited as a first-of-its-kind project for any Gramin bank in India.
- Comprehensive Mobile Services: Beyond a standard ATM, the van functions as a mobile branch. It features a Banking Correspondent (BC) on board to assist with services like opening new accounts, Aadhaar-based fund transfers, and enrollment in social security schemes like Atal Pension Yojana.

Footnotes: TGB's Chairman: Satyendra Singh, HQ: Agartala, Estd: 1976

RBI Issues FEMA Regulations, 2026

- Unified Quarterly Reporting: To streamline oversight, the RBI introduced a standardized reporting framework. All guarantees—including their issuance, modification, and invocation—must now be reported to Authorised Dealer (AD) banks using the new Form GRN.
- Strict Penalties and LSF: The regulations introduce a clear penalty structure for delayed reporting to discourage non-compliance. The Late Submission Fee (LSF) is calculated using a fixed base of ₹7,500 plus 0.025% of the amount involved for every year of delay (pro-rated monthly).

Footnotes: RBI's Governor: IAS Sanjay Malhotra, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1935

IndusInd Bank appointed Mr. Arijit Basu as Chairman

- Leadership Succession: Basu succeeds Sunil Mehta, whose tenure concludes on January 30, 2026. The appointment is for a three-year term (until January 2029) and has received the necessary approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Strategic Governance Role: His appointment comes at a crucial time as the bank focuses on strengthening corporate governance and navigating a leadership transition following a challenging 2025. He will serve as an Additional Director in the category of Non-Executive Independent Director.

Footnotes: IndusInd Bank's Previous Chairman Sunil Mehta, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1994

ICICI Bank re-appointed Sandeep Bakhshi as MD

- Extended Tenure: Bakhshi has been granted a further two-year term, effective from October 4, 2026, to October 3, 2028. This extension follows his current term, which is scheduled to conclude on October 3, 2026.
- Regulatory Status: The re-appointment is currently subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the bank's shareholders. Notably, this two-year term concludes well before he reaches the RBI-mandated age ceiling of 70 for bank CEOs (which he will turn in May 2030).

Footnotes: ICICI Bank's Part-time Chairman: Pradeep Kumar Sinha, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1955

RBI Issues RB-IOS, 2026

- Significant Compensation Hike: The maximum compensation for consequential financial loss has been increased to ₹30 lakh (up from ₹20 lakh). Additionally, the award for mental anguish, harassment, and loss of time has been tripled to ₹3 lakh.
- Stricter Timelines for Redressal: The window for a customer to file a complaint after receiving a bank's response has been tightened to 90 days (previously one year). Regulated entities must now submit their written versions to the Ombudsman within 15 days, or face the risk of an ex parte award against them.
- Broadened Scope and Efficiency: The scheme now applies to a wider range of services (not just financial) provided by regulated entities. It introduces a "summary process" for faster resolution, meaning the Ombudsman is not bound by formal rules of evidence.

DECEMBER 2025

RBI reduces repo rate to 5.25 percent

- Context of the Decision (Goldilocks Period): The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided on the rate cut on December 5, 2025. This move was prompted by what the RBI Governor described as a "rare Goldilocks period".
- The Specific Rate Change: The policy repo rate was reduced by 25 basis points (0.25%), from 5.50% to 5.25%. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was adjusted to 5.00%, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate to 5.50%.

Foot notes:

About RBI-

- Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Established: 1935
- Bank rate: 5.5% (as of 6 June 2025)
- Interest on reserves: 3.35%
- Policy repo rate: 6.0%
- Marginal standing facility rate: 6.25%
- CRR: 4.0%
- SLR: 18.00%

RBI Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3%

- Stronger-than-Expected Q2 Performance: The upward revision was primarily driven by the robust GDP growth of 8.2% recorded in the July-September

quarter (Q2) of FY26, which was a six-quarter high. This demonstrated a resilient economic momentum.

- Buoyant Domestic Demand: Economic activity was underpinned by resilient domestic demand, supported by factors like the rationalisation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), festival-related spending, and a steady recovery in urban demand alongside robust rural demand.

Narendra Ostawal appointed Non-Executive Director at IDFC First Bank

- Official Confirmation: Ostawal's appointment as a Non-Executive Non-Independent Director was formally ratified on December 20, 2025, after a postal ballot process. He had previously joined as an Additional Director in September 2025, but this latest step makes the appointment permanent and subject to rotation.
- Warburg Pincus Representation: He joins the board as a nominee of Currant Sea Investments B.V., an affiliate of the global private equity giant Warburg Pincus. This follows a massive investment of approximately ₹7,500 crore made by Warburg Pincus and ADIA into the bank earlier in April 2025.

IIFL Finance appointed Former RBI Dy-Governor BP Kanungo as Chairman

- Elevation from the Board: Bibhu Prasad Kanungo was already serving as a Non-Executive Independent Director on the

board of IIFL Finance since June 2025. His elevation to the position of Chairperson was approved unanimously by the board and took effect immediately.

- Monetary Policy Background: During his tenure at the RBI, Kanungo was a vital member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He also represented the RBI on the boards of major national institutions including NABARD, National Housing Bank, and Punjab National Bank.

Brajesh Kumar Singh Recommended as Next MD & CEO of Canara Bank

- Current Role: Brajesh Kumar Singh is presently serving as the Executive Director of Indian Bank, a position he has held since March 2024.
- The Selection Process: He emerged as the top choice after the FSIB—the headhunter for state-owned banks—interviewed a shortlist of 17 candidates for the role.
- Succession Plan: If approved by the government, he will succeed K. SatyanarayanaRaju, who is set to retire at the end of December 2024.

DBS Named Global Bank of the Year 2025

- Triple Global Accolade: The 2025 award is the third time DBS has clinched the prestigious Global Bank of the Year title from The Banker, highlighting its sustained, long-term leadership in the global financial industry.
- Innovative Use of Technology (AI and Blockchain): A key

factor in the win was the bank's exceptional and innovative use of technology.

- Dual Global Best Bank Status: DBS now concurrently holds the top global bank awards from two major financial publications, The Banker and Euromoney ("World's Best Bank"), cementing its position as one of the most globally decorated banks.

Bank of Baroda Wins 'Best Bank in India' 2025

- Robust Financial Performance: The bank was chosen based on its superior financial performance over the evaluation period. This includes strong growth in its balance sheet, profitability, and asset quality, demonstrating resilience and sustainable growth in the competitive Indian banking landscape.
- Support for MSMEs and Financial Inclusion: A key area of strength was the bank's initiative to support small businesses. This includes the launch of products like Smart OD (Overdraft), which provides easy working capital access, and the use of digital verification (like B2B sales data and GST returns) for fast, under-24-hour loan approvals, thereby boosting financial inclusion.

Ravi Ranjan appointed as the MD of SBI

- Tenure: His appointment is effective immediately and will run until his superannuation on September 30, 2028, or until further orders from the government.
- Extensive Career: A veteran "career banker," he joined SBI as a Probationary Officer in 1991.

Before this elevation, he served as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) for Global Markets and previously headed the Corporate Accounts Group (CAG).

- Global & Diverse Experience: His background includes over 33 years of experience across retail banking, corporate banking, and international operations, including significant overseas assignments in Hong Kong and Los Angeles.

Govt. Extends Tenure of SBI MD Ashwini Kumar Tewari

- New Tenure and Superannuation: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended Tewari's term beyond its previous end date of January 27, 2026. He will now serve until December 31, 2027, which coincides with his date of superannuation (retirement).
- Leadership Stability: This is the second extension granted to Tewari. The move is seen as a strategic decision by the Ministry of Finance to ensure "leadership continuity" at India's largest public sector bank.
- Career Banker Background: Tewari is a veteran of the SBI group, having joined as a Probationary Officer in 1991.

Malavika R. Harita appointed as Additional Independent Director of Axis Bank

- Extensive Experience: Harita brings over 43 years of experience in marketing, communication, and entrepreneurship. She is well-known for her 25-year tenure as the CEO of Saatchi & Saatchi Focus in India.

- Strategic Value for Axis Bank: Her expertise as a "Communication Evangelist" and Brand Strategist is expected to strengthen the bank's digital-first marketing strategies and its engagement with the startup ecosystem.
- Corporate Governance: Her appointment aligns with SEBI's diversity and governance mandates. She is also currently an independent director for Symphony Limited and a mentor for several non-profits and startups.

IDFC First Bank Unveils 'Gaj: Invitation-only Metal Credit Card'



- The IDFC First Bank Gaj card is the most premium, invitation-only metal credit card in the Ashva-Mayura-Gaj trilogy, featuring a twin-elephant design symbolizing stability and exclusivity.
- It offers a high-value reward system where 1 reward point equals ₹1 for flight and hotel bookings, with accelerated rewards on travel and a joining fee fully offset by welcome points.
- Designed for global travelers, the card provides zero forex markup, interest-free international cash withdrawals for up to 45 days, trip cancellation cover, and complimentary lounge access for cardholders and guests.

NOVEMBER 2025

India's Banking Giant SBI Reaches \$100 Billion Mark



- \$100 Billion Market Cap Club: SBI became the sixth Indian company and the third bank (after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank) to join the elite \$100 billion market capitalization club.
- Strong Quarterly Performance: This valuation surge was primarily driven by the bank's robust financial results for the September 2025 quarter (Q2 FY26), which significantly beat market expectations.
- Dual ₹100 Trillion Milestone: The market cap milestone coincided with a second major achievement: SBI's total business (deposits plus advances) crossed the ₹100 lakh crore (\$120+ billion) mark.

Shri S Krishnan appointed as Part-Time Chairman of J&K Bank

- Appointment Approval: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved S Krishnan's appointment as part-time chairman of J&K Bank, effective November 13, 2025, until March 26, 2028.
- Previous Roles: Krishnan is a veteran banker with over four decades of experience, having served as MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank.
- Expertise: He brings expertise in corporate credit, risk

management, digital transformation, and business process re-engineering.

Groww's parent, Billionbrains Garage Ventures, became India's most valued listed broker

- Market Capitalization: Billionbrains Garage Ventures boasts a market capitalization of ₹85,251 crore, solidifying its position as India's most valued listed broker.
- Revenue Growth: The company's revenue from operations has grown significantly, reaching ₹3,902 crore, with a profit of ₹1,824 crore and a profit margin of 44.92%.
- Digital Presence: Groww's strong digital presence is evident in its 98.36% coverage of Indian pin codes.

IndusInd Bank appoints Amitabh Kumar Singh as Chief Human Resources Officer

- Leadership Experience: Amitabh brings over 28 years of HR leadership experience, with 21 years at ICICI Group, where he held senior roles, including CHRO at ICICI Home Finance.
- Strategic Focus: He'll spearhead HR strategy and transformation initiatives, focusing on nurturing a performance-driven culture, building leadership capability, and shaping a future-ready workforce.
- Bank's Growth Ambitions: This appointment is part of IndusInd Bank's broader leadership expansion strategy, aiming to strengthen its human capital strategy and drive organizational agility.

RBI Recognised SRPA as SRO for Payment System Operators

- Recognition: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recognized the Self-Regulated PSO Association (SRPA) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for Payment System Operators (PSOs).
- Role of SRPA: SRPA will serve as a unified representative body for PSOs, aligning members with regulatory priorities, promoting industry coordination, and facilitating transparent dispute resolution.
- Impact: The recognition is expected to strengthen governance, compliance, and collaboration across India's digital payments ecosystem.

Bank Credit Growth Slows to 11.3% While Deposits Rise to 9.7% in October

- Credit Growth Slows Down: Bank credit growth slowed to 11.3% year-on-year in October, indicating a cautious lending environment and reduced appetite for loans.
- Deposit Growth Picks Up: Deposits rose to 9.7% in October, reaching ₹241.7 lakh crore, showcasing strong inflow of savings and capital into the banking system.
- Narrowing Credit-Deposit Gap: The gap between credit and deposit growth is narrowing, signaling potential shifts in banking strategies and liquidity management.
- Total Bank Credit Outstanding: Total bank credit outstanding stood at approximately ₹193.9 lakh crore as of October 31, 2025, reflecting slower credit expansion across sectors.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY



JANUARY 2026

Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor appointed IAF Vice Chief

- He received the Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal in 2025 for leading the IAF's strategic strikes on Pakistani air bases as head of the South Western Air Command during Operation Sindoora.
- A veteran fighter pilot commissioned in 1986, he has logged over 3,400 flying hours on aircraft including the MiG-21 and MiG-29. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and Fighter Combat Leader with nearly 40 years of service.
- He succeeds Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari, who retired after more than four decades of service.

Footnotes: IAF's Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu, HQ: New Delhi, Founded: 1932

India Commissions ICGS Samudra Pratap

- It is the first vessel of its kind to be entirely designed and built in India (by Goa Shipyard Limited). With over 60% indigenous content, it represents a major milestone for the Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.
- The ship will be based at Kochi (under Coast Guard District Headquarters No. 4) to monitor the western seaboard. Notably, it is the first frontline ICG ship to have two women officers posted onboard as part of its permanent crew, highlighting a shift toward

a more inclusive and gender-neutral operational environment.

2026 declared as 'Year of Networking & Data Centricity'

- Strategic Pillars:** The initiative is built by the Army on three pillars: Indigenisation, Innovation, and Jointness. The Army aims to use home-grown technologies, including secure Indian-developed battlefield management systems and captive data centres, to ensure data security.
- Inter-Service Synergy:** A unified digital platform is being established to improve coordination between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, facilitating seamless joint operations and integrated theater commands.

DRDO Develops Water Purification System 'SWaDeS'

- Features a lightweight manual variant and a high-capacity engine variant (can be deployed in 2-3 minutes for 20-25 soldiers).
- The engine variant can desalinate seawater with Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) as high as 35,000 mg/L, reducing it to safe drinking levels of less than 500 mg/L.
- Specifically designed for Tri-command services, it is highly effective for naval missions, coastal bases, and high-altitude saline bodies like Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh.

Footnotes: DRDO's Chairman: Samir V. Kamat, HQ: New Delhi, Formed: 1958

SpaceX deploys Italy's COSMO-SkyMed 2nd GEN satellite

- The satellite uses state-of-the-art Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR), which allows it to "see" through clouds, smoke, and total darkness. Unlike optical satellites that need sunlight, this X-band radar provides high-resolution imagery in all weather conditions.
- This launch is part of a broader transition where the Second Generation (CSG) satellites are progressively replacing the aging First Generation (CSK) constellation. SpaceX's involvement has been crucial for maintaining this timeline.

Indian Scientists Create SC Simulation

- Solving the Mpemba Paradox:** Using advanced supercomputing, Indian researchers developed the first simulation to prove and explain the Mpemba effect—the counterintuitive phenomenon where hotter water freezes faster than colder water.
- Discovery of "Bypassed" Delays:** The simulation revealed that as water cools, it often gets trapped in short-lived, intermediate molecular states that delay freezing; however, hotter water can sometimes "choose" a faster molecular path to nucleation (ice birth), bypassing these delays.
- Beyond Water:** The study successfully demonstrated that this effect is not exclusive to water but can occur during the fluid-to-solid transition of other materials, offering new insights

into nonequilibrium physics and the thermal control of next-generation electronics.

DRDO Successfully Tests Indigenous MPATGM

- Precision Strike Against Moving Targets: The flight test successfully demonstrated the missile's "top-attack" capability against a moving target. In this mode, the missile climbs steeply after launch and strikes the target from above.
- Advanced "Fire-and-Forget" Technology: As a third-generation weapon system, the MPATGM is equipped with a state-of-the-art Imaging Infrared (IIR) Homing Seeker and integrated AI-based image processing. This allows the operator to "lock on" before launch, allowing the soldier to move to safety immediately.

Footnotes: DRDO'S Chairman: Samir V. Kamat, HQ: New Delhi, Estd: 1958

Indian Army Conducts MCF Exercise 'Sanjha Shakti'

- Military-Civil Fusion (MCF): The exercise served as a first-of-its-kind "Military-Civil Fusion" drill, involving the Indian Army and 16 civilian agencies—including the Maharashtra Police, Force One, and Fire Services—to bridge operational gaps between the forces and the state administration.
- Focus on Hinterland Security: Conducted at the Dighi Hills Range (Khadki Military Station), the drill focused on "Rear Area Security" and humanitarian assistance, ensuring both sectors can act as a single unit during terror threats or natural disasters.

General Anil Chauhan Releases 'Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework'

- Four Pillars of Integration: The policy establishes a roadmap to integrate four critical quantum technologies into the Tri-Services: Quantum Communication (hack-proof networks), Quantum Computing, Quantum Sensing & Metrology.
- Civil-Military Fusion & Jointness: The framework emphasizes a "jointness" approach, ensuring the Army, Navy, and Air Force adopt standardized quantum protocols rather than working in silos.

India, Sri Lanka & Maldives Conducts DOSTI 17 Exercise

- Focus on Non-Traditional Security: The exercise prioritized practical joint training to address non-traditional maritime challenges. This included collaborative MARPOL (marine pollution) response exercises, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) drills, and coordinated Search and Rescue (SAR) operations.
- Strategic Participation: India deployed key assets including the ICGS Vajra, ICGS Atulya, and an ICG Dornier aircraft. The drills were conducted in two phases—a Harbor Phase in Malé for professional exchange and a Sea Phase to test operational coordination and interoperability in open waters.

Union Defence Minister Inaugurates

Ammunition Facility



- Fully Automated Production: The new plant, established by Solar Defence & Aerospace Limited (a subsidiary of Solar Industries), is a fully automated facility. It is dedicated to manufacturing 30mm medium-caliber ammunition, which is extensively utilized by both the Indian Army and the Indian Navy for various weapon platforms.
- Boost to Defense Exports: During the same visit, the Defence Minister flagged off the first tranche of Guided Pinaka weapon systems for export to Armenia. He highlighted that India is rapidly transitioning from a defense importer to a global exporter, with defense exports reaching a record ₹24,000 crore in the current fiscal cycle.

Indian Army Partners with IISc to Develop AI Defence System

- Focus on Indigenous AI Systems: The primary goal is to develop a fully indigenous AI-based system tailored for modern warfare. This initiative aligns with the Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) mission, aiming to reduce the military's dependence on foreign software and hardware for critical defense operations.
- Addressing Digital Battlefield Challenges: The system is being designed to tackle emerging threats in the digital and information domain.

DECEMBER 2025

India-Malaysia Launch Harimau Shakti 2025

- Type and Edition: It is the fifth edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Malaysian Army.
- Objective/Aim: The primary objective is to jointly rehearse the conduct of Sub Conventional Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate. This primarily involves synergising joint responses during counter-terrorist operations.
- Key Training Focus: The scope includes practicing sophisticated tactical actions such as cordon, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, securing helipads, and casualty evacuation drills. It aims to enhance the interoperability of the two forces.

Asim Munir becomes Chief of Defence Forces in Pakistan

- Dual Role and Historical First: Field Marshal Asim Munir is the first military officer in Pakistan's history to hold the titles of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) concurrently. He was appointed for a five-year tenure in this combined role.
- Creation of the CDF Post: The CDF position was formally created and approved by Pakistan's Parliament through the 27th Constitutional Amendment. The new post effectively replaces and centralizes the authority previously held by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), which has been abolished.
- Impact on Tenure and Immunity: The appointment effectively

resets his five-year tenure as COAS-cum-CDF, and the constitutional amendment also granted him and the office lifelong immunity from criminal prosecution

National EMRS Cultural & Literary Festival 'Udbhavam 2025' concluded

- Massive Participation: The three-day event, hosted in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, saw the participation of over 1,500 to 1,800 tribal students from approximately 22 States and Union Territories across India, representing a "mini-India of tribal culture."
- Pathway to National Competition: The winners of 'Udbhavam 2025' in identified categories will go on to represent the EMRSs at the National Kala Utsav, scheduled to be held in Pune, providing further national exposure and opportunities for the students.
- Overall Championship: At the conclusion, the overall champion of the 6th edition of the festival, based on the medal tally across the various competitions, was Telangana, followed by Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

India's first incubator-linked Deep Tech VC fund launched

- Fund Size and Name: The fund has a total corpus of ₹250 crore and is named the Y-Point Venture Capital Fund.
- India's First: It is India's first-ever deep tech VC fund that is managed by an academia-linked incubator (SINE).
- Target Companies: It will invest in pre-seed and seed-stage deep

tech startups, particularly those emerging from IIT Bombay and other premier academic and research institutions across the country.

Indian Navy to Commission First Indigenous Diving Support Craft 'DSC A20'

- Lead Ship in an Indigenous Series: DSC A20 is the first vessel of its class—a series of five indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Crafts. This entire series is being built by Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) in Kolkata, making it a proud achievement under the 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.
- Enhancement of Underwater Capabilities: The primary role of the craft is to substantially strengthen the Indian Navy's diving and underwater support operations, particularly in coastal waters.
- Advanced Design and Specifications: The DSC A20 incorporates a Catamaran hull form. This twin-hulled design offers superior stability, a larger deck area for deploying diving equipment, and improved seakeeping characteristics.

India's First Indigenous Hydrogen Fuel Cell Passenger Vessel Begins Commercial Service

- Zero-Emission Green Technology: The vessel is powered by a Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane (LT-PEM) fuel cell system. This technology converts stored hydrogen into electricity, with the critical result of producing only water as a by-product, ensuring zero smoke, zero

pollution, and noise-free operation on the river.

- Fully Indigenous 'Make in India' Achievement: It is the first vessel in India to feature fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell propulsion in a maritime setting. It was built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and is owned by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), showcasing India's self-reliance in cutting-edge green technology.

Joint Military Exercise DESERT CYCLONE 2025 commenced

- Location and Duration: The exercise is being conducted in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from December 18 to 30, 2025. This follows the inaugural edition (Desert Cyclone-I) which was held in the deserts of Rajasthan, India, in early 2024.
- Participating Units: The Indian Army contingent consists of 45 personnel, primarily from a battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment. The UAE Land Forces are represented by a contingent of similar strength from the 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion.
- Focus on Urban Warfare: The primary objective is to enhance interoperability in urban environments. Training focuses on sub-conventional operations, including Fighting in Built-Up Areas (FIBUA), which is critical for modern peacekeeping and counter-terrorism missions.

Indian Navy to Commission INAS 335 (Ospreys)

- Venue and Leadership: The commissioning ceremony will take place at INS Hansa in Goa. The event will be presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).
- The Aircraft (MH-60R Seahawk): Manufactured by the U.S. firm Lockheed Martin, the MH-60R is a highly versatile, multi-role helicopter. It is often referred to as a "submarine hunter" due to its advanced sonar and sensor suites.
- Expansion of Capability: This is the Navy's second MH-60R squadron. The first, INAS 334 (Seahawks), was commissioned in March 2024 at INS Garuda, Kochi. The addition of INAS 335 at Goa strengthens the Navy's presence on the western seaboard.

Indian Navy Receives New ASW Shallow Water Craft 'Anjadip'

- Third in Series: 'Anjadip' is the third of eight specialized anti-submarine vessels being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) to replace the aging Abhay-class corvettes.
- Aatmanirbhar Achievement: The ship boasts over 88% indigenous content, featuring a 30 mm Naval Surface Gun and home-grown anti-submarine rockets, aligning with the "Make in India" vision.
- Advanced Capabilities: At 77 meters long, these are the largest Indian warships propelled by waterjets. They are equipped with lightweight torpedoes and shallow-water sonar to detect and neutralize underwater threats in coastal zones.
- Historic Milestone: On December 23, 2024, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) inducted Samudra Pratap, the first Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) to be entirely designed and built in India. This marks a major leap in domestic shipbuilding and maritime environmental protection.
- Largest in the Fleet: Measuring 114.5 metres in length with a displacement of 4,170 tonnes, Samudra Pratap is now the largest ship in the Indian Coast Guard's fleet, significantly expanding its operational reach into the high seas.
- Advanced "Oil Recovery" Tech: The vessel is equipped with specialized flush-type side sweeping arms to contain oil spills while in motion. It can recover up to 300 tonnes of oil per hour, featuring an onboard laboratory to analyze contaminants and separate oil from water.
- Precision Maneuvering: It is the first ICG ship to feature Dynamic Positioning (DP-1) and a retractable stern thruster. These allow the ship to remain perfectly stationary with extreme precision in restricted areas.

Indain Coast Guard Inducts First Pollution Control Vessel



NOVEMBER 2025

India-Sri Lanka Begin Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2025

- Exercise Overview: The 11th edition of Mitra Shakti 2025 began on November 10, 2025, at Belagavi, Karnataka, with the aim of enhancing operational coordination and interoperability between the Indian and Sri Lankan armies in sub-conventional operations under UN peacekeeping mandates.
- Objectives: The exercise focuses on joint tactical operations, counter-terrorism, and peacekeeping, with an emphasis on enhancing mutual understanding and operational coordination between the two nations' armed forces.
- Key Activities: The exercise includes joint raids, search and destroy missions, heliborne operations, counter-terrorist drills, and combat reflex shooting, as well as professional exchanges, cultural interactions, and sports events.

Pravaig Unveils India's First Defense EV 'VEER' for Defense operations

- Key Features: The VEER is a modular, high-mobility platform built on the Defy SUV chassis, enabling versatile configurations for reconnaissance, troop transport, medical, and combat support roles. It has a dual-motor all-wheel-drive system, delivering 402 horsepower and 620 Nm of torque.

- Performance: The VEER accelerates from 0-100 km/h in 4.9 seconds, with a top speed between 120-160 km/h. Its 90.9 kWh lithium-ion battery pack offers a range of over 500 km on a single charge, with fast charging capability to 80% in 30 minutes.

Vishvajit Sahay Assume Charge as CG of Defence

- Appointment: Vishvajit Sahay, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), assumed charge as CGDA on November 1, 2025, bringing over three decades of experience in defence finance and public administration.
- Experience: Sahay has served in several key positions, including Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Department of Science and Technology, Joint Secretary in the Department of Heavy Industry, and Finance Manager (Acquisition Wing) in the Ministry of Defence.
- International Exposure: Sahay has represented India at international training forums, including Cambridge University, UK, and the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, Germany, highlighting his global perspective on defence and finance.

Indian Army Conducts VAYU SAMANVAY-II in Desert Sector

- Exercise Details: The Indian Army conducted a large-scale drone and counter-drone exercise called VAYU SAMANVAY-II

in the desert sector under the Southern Command from October 28-29, 2025. The exercise aimed to validate the Army's readiness for technology-driven combat in a complex, electronic warfare environment.

- Objective: The primary objective was to test the Army's capabilities in drone deployment and counter-drone operations, focusing on emerging technologies like unmanned aerial systems, swarm drones, and AI-enabled command and control centers.
- Terrain and Environment: The desert terrain provided an ideal testing ground for drone deployment and countermeasures, allowing the Army to assess endurance, performance, and signal resilience in electronically contested environments.

Vice Admiral B Sivakumar took charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel

- Appointment Details: Vice Admiral B Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM, assumed charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel on November 1, 2025, succeeding Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, AVSM, VSM.
- Academic Qualifications: He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from IIT Chennai, a postgraduate degree in Higher Defence Management from Osmania University, and an MPhil from Madras University.

REASONING ABILITY

Directions(1-5): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions

Nine persons - H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O and P live on nine different floors of a nine storeyed building where the lowermost floor is numbered one, the one above that is numbered two and so on till the topmost floor is numbered nine. Only one person lives on each floor.

K lives three floors above N, who lives on a prime numbered floor. As many persons live above K as below H. Only three floors are between H and M. I lives immediately above M. As many floors between I and O as between O and J. L lives below P and above J but not immediately above.

1. Who among the following person lives three floors below P?

- (A) H
- (B) The one who lives on the fifth floor
- (C) O
- (D) K
- (E) The one who lives immediately below I

2. Who among the following pair of persons lives on the adjacent floor?

| | |
|----------|----------|
| (A) P, I | (B) L, K |
| (C) M, N | (D) O, H |
| (E) J, P | |

3. If the rent of an even numbered floor is Rs.5000 and the rest is Rs.7000, then what is the total amount paid by L, J and M?

- (A) Rs.21000
- (B) Rs.15000
- (C) Rs.17000
- (D) Rs.19000
- (E) Can't be determined

4. Which of the following statements is/are true as per the given arrangement?

- (A) Even number of persons live above O
- (B) Only three persons live between N and J
- (C) L lives immediately below H
- (D) Both a and b
- (E) All the given statements are false

5. How many persons live between the one who lives immediately above O and H?

- (A) Two
- (B) Five
- (C) One
- (D) Three
- (E) Six

Directions (6-9): Study the following statements and then decide which of the given conclusions logically follows from the given statements disregarding the commonly known facts.

6. **Statements:** Only a few songs are simple. All songs are super. All skills are super. No skill is stop.

Conclusion I: Some super cannot be stop

Conclusion II: All super is definitely not simple

- (A) Only conclusion I follows
- (B) Only conclusion II follows
- (C) Either conclusion I or II follows
- (D) Neither conclusion I nor II follows
- (E) Both conclusions I and II follow

7. **Statements:** Some Loss is Lose. All Lose is Fire. No Fire is viral. Only a few viral is visual

Conclusion I: All lose can be visual

Conclusion II: Some loss is not viral

- (A) Only conclusion I follows
- (B) Only conclusion II follows
- (C) Either conclusion I or II follows
- (D) Neither conclusion I nor II follows
- (E) Both conclusions I and II follow

8. **Statements:** All chance is change. Only a few changes are charge. No check is charge. All check is close.

Conclusion I: All charge being close is a possibility

Conclusion II: No chance is check

- (A) Only conclusion I follows
- (B) Only conclusion II follows
- (C) Either conclusion I or II follows
- (D) Neither conclusion I nor II follows
- (E) Both conclusions I and II follow

9. **Statements:** All shoes are clean. Some clean is water. All water is drink. Only drink is empty.

Conclusion I: Some shoes cannot be water

Conclusion II: All drinks can be clean

(A) Only conclusion I follows

(B) Only conclusion II follows

(C) Either conclusion I or II follows

(D) Neither conclusion I nor II follows

(E) Both conclusions I and II follow

10. If all the letters in the word “NATURALISTIC” which comes before M are arranged in alphabetical order followed by all the letters which comes after M are arranged in reverse alphabetical order, then what is the sum of the place value (as per the alphabetical series) of all the letters in prime numbered position?

(A) 55 (B) 49

(C) 43 (D) 52

(E) 47

11. How many such pairs of digits are there in the number “38617425” each of which has as many digits between them in the number (both forward and backward directions) as there are in the number series?

(A) Five (B) Three

(C) Four (D) Two

(E) More than five

Directions (12-16): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions

Eight persons - A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H are sitting around a circular table facing the centre with equal distance between adjacent persons.

Only one person sits between F and the one who faces H (either from left or right). A sits third to the right of F. D and A are immediate neighbours. G sits second to the left of the one who faces D. Neither B nor E is an immediate neighbour of G. As many persons sit between C and E as between E and B.

12. Who among the following person sits second to the right of C?

(A) A

(B) The one who sits opposite to D

(C) B

(D) The one who sits immediate left of F

(E) G

13. Who among the following persons are immediate neighbours of B?

(A) G, A (B) D, E (C) F, D (D) H, C

(E) C, A

14. What is the position of E with respect to D?

(A) Second to the left (B) Third to the right

(C) Fifth to the left (D) Fourth to the right

(E) Third to the left

15. If all the persons are made to sit in alphabetical order starting from A in an anticlockwise direction, then who among the following persons remain in the same position?

(A) D, H (B) C, H

(C) E, F, C (D) B, G, D

(E) E, D

16. In which of the following option the second person sits third to the left of the first person?

(A) CE (B) DC (C) GE (D) HA

(E) FG

Directions (17-18): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions

G has only two children. K is the daughter-in-law of G, who is the grandfather of H. F is the aunt of M and sister-in-law of K. I is only the son-in-law of L, who is the maternal grandmother of H. M is the only granddaughter of J, who is not married to L. F is unmarried.

17. How is J related to the one who is the spouse of I?

(A) Daughter (B) Grand-mother

(C) Mother-in-law (D) Father-in-law

(E) Can't be determined

18. If H is married to Z, then which of the following statements is/are true?

(A) J and Z are of same gender

(B) Z is the sister-in-law of M

(C) The number of males in the family is more than the number of females in the family

(D) Both a and c

(E) Both a and b

Directions (19-23): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions

28. What is the phrase for the code “is ao” in the given code language?

(A) Will reason (B) Wait give
(C) Time wait (D) Never give
(E) Will wait

29. If the code for the phrase “unless heal” is coded as “ru ez”, then what may be the phrase for the code “du yf ej” in the given code language?

(A) Will good take (B) Wait reason take
(C) Reason will take (D) Good reason take
(E) Take give will

30. What is the code for the phrase “things wait” in the given code language?

(A) ru yf (B) tg rh (C) cv tg (D) is ao
(E) Either b or c

Directions (31-35): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions

Ten persons are sitting in two parallel rows containing five persons each in such a way that there is an equal distance between adjacent persons. In row 1: E, F, G, H and I are seated and all of them are facing south. In row 2: L, M, N, O and P are seated and all of them are facing north. Each person in row 1 faces exactly one person in row 2.

P faces the one who sits third to the left of G. Only one person sits between P and M. As many persons sit to the left of M as to the left of E. L sits immediate left of the one who faces E. As many persons sit between L and O as between G and F, who does not sit at the extreme end. H sits to the right of I and does not face N.

31. Which of the following statements is/are false as per the given arrangement?

(A) Only one person sits to the right of O
(B) H sits immediate right of F
(C) As many persons sit between I and G as to the left of P
(D) Both a and b
(E) All the given statements are false

32. Who among the following person sits to the immediate left of the one who faces H?

(A) O (B) M
(C) L (D) N

(E) Can't be determined

33. How many persons sit between the one who faces N and F?

(A) No one
(B) As many persons sit to the right of H
(C) Two
(D) As many persons sit between G and I
(E) Can't be determined

34. Who among the following person sits second to the right of the one who faces G?

(A) M (B) P (C) L (D) O
(E) N

35. If no one sits to the right of N, then who among the following person sits to the left the one who faces O?

I. I
II. F
III. G
(A) Only I and III (B) Only II
(C) Only II and III (D) Only I and II
(E) Only I

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Directions (36-42): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions.

A study has found that more than 80% of adolescents worldwide are not active enough. They have put their health at risk by sitting focused on a screen rather than running about. The proportion of insufficiently active girls in 27 countries rose to more than 90% in 2016. There was a significant gender gap, with girls lagging behind boys in physical activity, in all but four countries – Afghanistan, Samoa, Tonga and Zambia. The WHO says the situation is serious and that urgent action must be taken to get adolescents moving, with inactivity jeopardising their current and future health. Urgent policy action is needed, particularly to **promote** and retain girls' participation in physical activity.

A study, carried out through school surveys in 146 countries, found that there has been so little improvement in physical activity among those aged 11 to 17 since 2001 that the WHO's global target for getting adolescents moving is unlikely to be met. Member states agreed last year to reduce inactivity levels by 15% by 2030. There

has been a small decrease of a few percentage points among boys, but not girls. In the UK in 2016, more than 85% of the girls were not active enough, and neither were almost 75% of boys. Boys did better in the US, with 64% insufficiently active, down from 71% in 2001, but 80% of the girls were not active enough. Bangladesh fared best, with only 63% of boys and 69% of girls not moving enough. The WHO is concerned by the lack of progress. Adolescents are recommended to do an hour's moderate to vigorous physical activity a day, including walking or cycling to school and playing games.

Physical activity is important to the development of bone and muscular strength, and heart and lung health. It helps young people avoid obesity, heart disease, cancers and diabetes. There is growing evidence that it helps cognitive development, as well as social and motor skills. This is not the good start in life that we would want for our children and adolescents. Although schools provide sports facilities they are often under pressure, but communities and sporting associations can help, and towns can be better planned to encourage active living. Parental encouragement and providing a role model is also valuable.

The WHO global action plan on physical activity says that a culture change is required. There are disadvantages and unintended consequences to the use of digital media, involving excessive amounts of time spent on phones, laptops and gaming devices. The WHO has already recommended restricting screen time for under-fives. We will soon see the evidence start to show that in youth and in adults, there is a need to put a limit on the digital media usage. They are no specific guidelines yet, but we should be concerned about the time spent sedentary. The constant or widening gap in activity levels between boys and girls is a major inequity that must be addressed.

Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for premature death worldwide. The electronic revolution has fundamentally transformed people's movement patterns by changing where and how they live, learn, work, play and travel, progressively isolating them indoors. People sleep less, sit more, walk less frequently, drive more regularly and do less physical activity than earlier. They are increasingly moving from one country to another, from rural to urban areas, from outdoors to indoors, from standing to sitting, from

walking to driving, and from active play to digital play. These changes can have **profound** effects on human health.

36. As per the passage, which of the following statements are true?

37. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the data given in the passage?

- (A) Majority of adolescents worldwide are not active enough.
- (B) In the UK, the percentage of girls who are physically inactive is greater than that of the US.
- (C) In the UK, the percentage of boys who are physically inactive is lesser than that of the US.
- (D) The lowest percentage of inactivity among boys and girls was recorded in Bangladesh.
- (E) None of the above

38. What are the benefits of physical activity?

- 1. It can help in the cognitive development.
- 2. It facilitates the development of bone and muscles.
- 3. It can lead to a decrease in the risk of obesity and diabetes.

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2 & 3

(C) Only 1 & 2

(D) Only 1 & 3

(E) All 1, 2 & 3

39. With which of the following is the author most likely to agree?

(A) Electronic devices have not had much of an impact on our lifestyle.

(B) Digital media cannot be blamed for lack of physical activity.

(C) Sports should be encouraged in schools.

(D) Parents should ask their children to focus solely on their academics.

(E) All of the above

40. Which of the following is the opposite in meaning to the word ‘promote’ as used in the passage?

Directions (43-47): In the following passage, some of the words have been left out and replaced by a blank represented by a letter. First read the passage and try to understand what it is about. Then fill in the blanks as per the questions given.

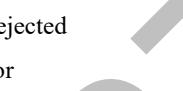
Neither _____(A)_____ the other's name. But President Donald Trump and Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg took _____(B)_____ aim at each other Tuesday at this conference of business and government figures, reprising their roles as antagonists on the global stage. The 73-year-old president and 17-year-old activist _____(C)_____ the first full day of the gathering, painting starkly different visions of the future, and staking out opposite poles on the signature theme of this year's forum: how best to _____(D)_____ a world of increasing temperatures, rising seas and catastrophic wildfires. Trump implicitly _____(E)_____ Thunberg and other activists, saying they peddled warnings of doom at a time when his policies had ushered in a bright new era of economic prosperity for Americans.

50. Investigating agencies will have more _____ powers to intercept and monitor information on computers after a _____ home ministry order.

51. On the one hand, infrastructure is _____, but at the same time the Chinese troops are being provided with three-storey buildings from across the border.

1. Repellent
2. Accessible
3. Coherent
4. Increasing
5. Visible
6. Negate

52. Gujarat High Court _____ the petitions of the two ministers seeking quashing of complaints _____ them in the alleged Rs 400 crore fisheries scam.



1. Accepted
2. Rejected
3. For
4. Against
5. In
6. Resistant

(A) 1 & 3 (B) 3 & 4
(C) 1 and 4 & 2 and 4 (D) 5 & 6
(E) 6 & 1

Directions (53-57): In the question given below, a sentence is given, divided into parts. One of the parts may contain an error. Identify the part that contains the error, and mark it as the correct answer.

answer. Ignore errors of punctuation. In case the sentence is correct as it is, mark option (e), that is, 'No error'. Note – The words in **bold** are grammatically and contextually correct

53. Recent animal **studies** indicate that (A)/ many peripheral clocks outside the brain (B)/ can be synchronise by (C)/ **restricting** food to a few hours every day. (D)

54. On lighter evenings, (A)/ there might even **still** be some (B)/ solar power **available** to further (C)/ reduce the net demand for fossil fuels. (D)

55. Access to education is still a dream for **many**, (A)/ especially in remote and rural areas (B)/ where there is no school buildings or (C) even the possibility of **reaching** the school during rain or snow. (D)

56. The **spurt** in education and desire to fared well (A)/ how
(B) A (C) B (D) C (E) No error

has led to a (B)/ **perturbing** situation where there is a lot of stress (C)/ on the students for achievement and performance. (D)

57. The achieving of improved (A)/ female literacy is closed (B)/ linked to the great (C)/ ongoing demographic transition(D).

Directions (58-62): Match the statement(s) from Column 1 with Column 2 and find which of the following pairs of statements given in the options make(s) contextually and grammatically correct sense.

58.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|--|
| A. We used to go for a midnight walk | D. because I can learn about the lives that people led long ago. |
| B. I like reading historical stories | E. during the mid-summer. |
| C. He had considered becoming a state trooper | F. person even nominally responsible for staff training. |

(A) Only A-F and C-D (B) Only B-D
(C) Only B-E (D) Only A-E and B-D

(E) Only B-F and C-D

59.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|--|
| A. It was a period of her life when | D. of exploding with a lot of heat and wind. |
| B. Neutron bombs release lethal radiation instead | E. she made some lifelong friendships. |
| C. We need to challenge some of the | F. basic assumptions of western philosophy. |

(A) Only A-E

(B) Only B-D

(C) Only B-F and C-D

(D) A-E, B-D and C-F

(E) Only A-E and B-F

60.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|--|--|
| A. She hoped she would avoid recognition | D. is the field of tropical medicine. |
| B. The city centre has altered beyond | E. study techniques of many students are weak. |
| C. After twelve or thirteen centuries of unbroken continuity | F. by wearing dark glasses and a hat. |

(A) Only A-F

(B) Only B-D and A-F

(C) Only C-F

(D) Only B-E and C-F

(E) Only C-D

61.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|--|
| A. Great work by all who carried out this | D. Over Michigan's Upper Peninsula and neared Lake Huron on the US-Canada border |
| B. This marks the fourth unidentified flying object | E. That has been destroyed over North America this month |
| C. President ordered the object to be shot down as it travelled | F. Teams are on the ground, looking to find and |

(A) Both C-D and A-F

(B) Both A-D and B-E

(C) Only B-E

(D) Both C-D and B-E

(E) Only C-D

62.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|--|--|
| A. Everyone knew it, but few would ever talk about it, even today, | D. and channelling positivity and gratitude daily. |
| B. A companion desktop app lets you beam a live feed | E. due to imminent threats of a lawsuit. |
| C. The reason these new behaviours have largely emerged | F. and see this world for the beautiful place it can be. |

(A) A-E, C-F

(B) A-E

(C) C-F

(D) B-E

(E) B-E, C-D

Directions (63-65): Select the phrase/connector from the given five options which can be used to form a single meaningful sentence from the two sentences given below.

63. I. She kept bombarding the brown waters.

II. She was satisfied that the crocodile lurking below had been frightened off.

(A) Since (B) Only if

(C) As through (D) Until

(E) By the time

64. I. Libya is making surprisingly good progress.

II. The murder of America's ambassador and the government's failure to control the country's myriad militias.

(A) However (B) Whereas

(C) When (D) Still

(E) Despite

65. I. You want to find a reliance on facts, cold rationality and coherent, purposeful organisation in America.

II. Look to its firms rather than to its media or its politicians.

(A) If (B) Just as

(C) While (D) Now that

(E) Rather than

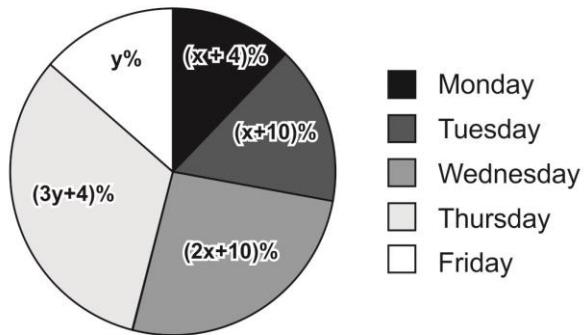
QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Directions (66-70): Study the following information carefully and answer the questions.

The given pie chart shows the percentage distribution of the total number of pillows sold on five different days namely Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Note: The value of x is the cube of an even prime number. The total number of pillows sold on Monday is 60x.

% distribution of the total number of pillows sold



66. Find the number of leather pillows sold on Friday. (Consider only two types of pillows sold: leather and cotton)

Statement I: The number of leather pillows sold on Tuesday is 20% more than that on Friday.

Statement II: The number of cotton pillows sold on Monday is half of the total number of pillows sold on the same day and the number of cotton pillows sold on Tuesday is equal to that on Monday.

(A) The data in statement I alone is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement II alone is not sufficient to answer the question

(B) The data in statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question, while the data in statement I alone is not sufficient to answer the question

(C) The data either in statement I alone or in statement II alone is sufficient to answer the question

(D) The data given in both statements I and II together are not sufficient to answer the question

(E) The data given in both statements I and II together are necessary to answer the question

67. If the ratio of the total number of pillows sold on Tuesday to Saturday is 9:8, find the total number of pillows sold on Saturday.

(A) 300 (B) 420

(C) 800 (D) 320

(E) 180

68. Find the difference between the total number of pillows sold on Wednesday and Thursday.

(A) 310 (B) 400

(C) 550 (D) 210

(E) 170

69. If the total number of pillows sold on Sunday is $(x+y)\%$ more than that on Wednesday and the total number of pillows sold on Saturday is 5x more than that on Sunday, then find the total number of pillows sold on Saturday.

(A) 1574 (B) 1356 (C) 1650 (D) 1290
(E) 1659

70. If the number of pillows sold to males and females on Friday is in the ratio of 13:12, then find the number of pillows sold to females on Friday.

(A) 360 (B) 300 (C) 390 (D) 260
(E) 240

Directions (71-85): What value should come in the place of (?) in the following questions?

71. $3240 - 1750 - ? * 25 = 5230 - 4150$
(A) 11.9 (B) 18.6 (C) 22.7 (D) 16.4
(E) 20.5

72. $\sqrt{98 * 8} + 41^2 = ? * (\sqrt{16} - 1) - \sqrt{1600}$
(A) 216 (B) 583
(C) 354 (D) 421
(E) 679

73. $(1760 \div \sqrt{64}) + ? = 20 * 130 + 145$
(A) 2525 (B) 1750
(C) 3105 (D) 1090
(E) 2245

74. $(714 \div 14) * 70 = 65 * ? * 21 \div 91$
(A) 238 (B) 180
(C) 320 (D) 540
(E) 250

75. $34 * 8 + (12)^2 - 23 * 3 = 5 * ? + 47$
(A) 47 (B) 60
(C) 28 (D) 43
(E) 46

76. $(13/14) * 7/12 * 4(4/5) = 650/?$
(A) 120 (B) 250
(C) 190 (D) 210
(E) 240

77. $(\sqrt[3]{2197} * \sqrt{361} \div \sqrt{169}) + 38 = ? * 19$
(A) 6 (B) 1
(C) 3 (D) 10

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 92. A can complete 87.5% of the work in 14 days and B can complete the work in x days. C can complete the work in $(x + 24)$ days. If A, B and C together complete the work in 8 days and they get the total wage of Rs.2400, then find the wages of C. | (A) 57 (C) 41 (E) 59 | (B) 44 (D) 76 |
| (A) Rs.840 (C) Rs.400 (E) None of these | (B) Rs.720 (D) Rs.900 | |
| 93. A bag contains 5 red balls, 4 pink balls and some green balls. If one ball is randomly picked from the bag, the probability of it being green is $1/4$. Find the probability of randomly picking one pink ball from the bag. | (A) $1/3$ (C) $2/3$ (E) $1/4$ | (B) $1/5$ (D) $1/12$ |
| 94. The average age of four persons (A, B, C, and D) is 37.5 years. The ratio of the age of A to C is 5:4 and the ages of B and D are the same. If the difference between the age of A and D is 20 years, then find the age of D. | (A) 50 years (C) 30 years (E) 40 years | (B) 18 years (D) 20 years |
| 95. The volume of the cube is 4913 cm^3 . If the side of the cube is increased by 3 cm, then it equals to the length of the cuboid. The ratio of the breadth to the height of the cuboid is 5:6 and the volume of the cuboid is 5400 cm^2 . Find the total surface area of the cuboid. | (A) 1860 cm^2 (C) 2140 cm^2 (E) 2080 cm^2 | (B) 1524 cm^2 (D) 1160 cm^2 |
| Directions (96-100): What value should come in the place of (?) in the following number series? | | |
| 96. 20, 32, 48, 68, ?, 120, 152 | (A) 92 (C) 74 (E) 82 | (B) 80 (D) 96 |
| 97. 15, 18, ?, 37, 55, 80, 113 | (A) 22 (C) 34 (E) 24 | (B) 25 (D) 31 |
| 98. -4, -1, 4, 11, 20, 31, ? | | |

ANSWER KEY

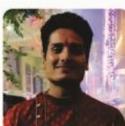
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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. (E) | 2. (C) | 3. (D) | 4. (B) | 5. (A) | 6. (E) | 7. (E) | 8. (A) | 9. (D) | 10. (D) |
| 11. (C) | 12. (D) | 13. (C) | 14. (E) | 15. (C) | 16. (D) | 17. (C) | 18. (E) | 19. (D) | 20. (E) |
| 21. (A) | 22. (C) | 23. (C) | 24. (D) | 25. (C) | 26. (E) | 27. (C) | 28. (D) | 29. (C) | 30. (B) |
| 31. (A) | 32. (E) | 33. (B) | 34. (C) | 35. (D) | 36. (A) | 37. (C) | 38. (E) | 39. (C) | 40. (C) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (B) | 43. (B) | 44. (A) | 45. (C) | 46. (B) | 47. (D) | 48. (D) | 49. (D) | 50. (B) |
| 51. (D) | 52. (C) | 53. (C) | 54. (E) | 55. (C) | 56. (A) | 57. (B) | 58. (D) | 59. (D) | 60. (A) |
| 61. (D) | 62. (B) | 63. (D) | 64. (E) | 65. (A) | 66. (E) | 67. (C) | 68. (B) | 69. (A) | 70. (E) |
| 71. (D) | 72. (B) | 73. (A) | 74. (A) | 75. (B) | 76. (B) | 77. (C) | 78. (E) | 79. (D) | 80. (B) |
| 81. (B) | 82. (A) | 83. (A) | 84. (E) | 85. (B) | 86. (B) | 87. (B) | 88. (B) | 89. (C) | 90. (C) |
| 91. (A) | 92. (C) | 93. (A) | 94. (C) | 95. (A) | 96. (A) | 97. (B) | 98. (B) | 99. (A) | 100. (C) |

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