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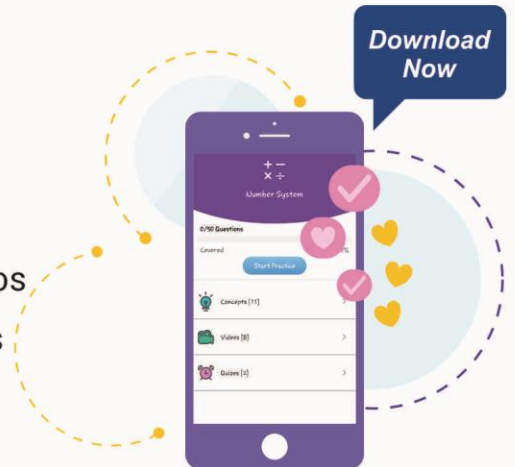
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ARTICLES

FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy Renaming

The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 trophy has been renamed the “Viswanathan Anand Cup” to honour the five-time world champion from India. The announcement was made in Goa during the tournament’s opening ceremony, with top officials present. This marks a landmark moment in chess history — recognising Anand’s contributions and India’s growing significance in the chess world.



The Renaming and Unveiling

- **Honoree:** The trophy is named in honor of Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, widely regarded as India's first chess Grandmaster and one of the greatest players in the history of the sport. The title "Viswanathan Anand Cup" will serve as a lasting tribute to his immense contributions to global chess and his role in establishing India as a chess powerhouse.
- **Announcement:** The official announcement was made by All India Chess Federation (AICF) President Nitin Narang during the colorful opening ceremony of the **FIDE World Cup 2025** tournament.
- **The Trophy:** The newly unveiled silverware is a perpetual running trophy. It is described as "majestic, magnificent and deeply symbolic in design." A key feature is the inclusion of the **peacock** (India's National Bird) in a frozen dancing pose, symbolizing grace, wisdom, and India's cultural heritage.
- **Dignitaries:** The ceremony, which took place in Panjim, Goa, India, was attended by several prominent figures, including Union Sports

Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, and FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich.

The FIDE World Cup 2025

The renaming coincides with the FIDE World Cup 2025, which is being hosted in India:

- **Location and Dates:** The tournament is taking place in Goa, India, from November 1 to November 26, 2025.
- **Format:** It is an eight-round, single-elimination knockout event, where each match consists of two classical games, followed by rapid and blitz tie-breaks if needed.
- **Participation:** The event features 206 players from 80 countries, competing for a total prize fund of **\$2 million**.
- **Significance:** The World Cup is a crucial event, as the top three finishers will earn direct qualification for the prestigious **2026 Candidates Tournament**, which determines the challenger for the next World Chess Championship.
- **Indian Players:** The tournament is being held in India for the first time since 2002. It features a strong contingent of Indian Grandmasters, including reigning World Champion D. Gukesh, as well as rising stars like R. Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi.

The Trophy Design

- **Description:** The new trophy is described as "majestic, magnificent and deeply symbolic in design," crafted from **brass and gold-plated** to be a perpetual rolling trophy.
- **Key Symbolism:** It prominently features the **peacock** (India's National Bird) in a frozen dancing pose, which is meant to symbolize **grace, wisdom, and India's cultural heritage**.

Jalandhar's Namitbir Singh Walia: International Master Achievement

A Landmark Achievement

In a proud moment for Punjab's chess fraternity, Namitbir Singh Walia, hailing from Jalandhar, has clinched the prestigious title of International Master (IM) in chess. This feat places him as the second player from the state to earn this honor, following fellow Jalandhar-native Dushyant Sharma.

Milestones & Performance Highlights

- The decisive accomplishment: at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament (France), Namitbir secured the final norm and finished **4th overall**.
- His peak classical rating, as cited, is around **2,408**, reflecting his growing strength.
- Among his notable wins: the 65th Odisha Senior State FIDE Rating Open Chess Championship in 2025.
- With this title, Punjab now has two International Masters both from Jalandhar underscoring the city's rising significance as a chess-talent hub.

Significance & Impact

- For Namitbir personally this marks not just a title, but the culmination



of years of disciplined training, national and international competition, and mentorship.

- For the state of Punjab and the region of Jalandhar, it signals a momentous step: more visibility, more hope for aspiring players, and a concrete example of what dedication can achieve in competitive chess.
- His achievement comes approximately four years after Dushyant Sharma became Punjab's first-ever IM in February 2022, when he crossed the 2,400 rating mark.
- In broader terms, it contributes to India's growing stature in the global chess map, showcasing the depth of talent beyond the traditional centres.

Namitbir Singh Walia's rise from early chess enthusiast in Jalandhar to achieving the International Master title marks a high-point in his career and in the chess journey of Punjab.

Appointment of Surya Kant as 53rd Chief Justice of India

The Government of India issued a notification appointing Justice Surya Kant as the **53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, to assume office on **24 November 2025**. According to the notification, he will succeed the incumbent CJI and hold the post until his retirement at the statutory age of 65, expected around 9 February 2027.



Key Milestones

- On 7 July 2000, appointed Advocate-General of Haryana (youngest in that role) and designated Senior Advocate in March 2001. Elevated as Permanent Judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court on 9 January 2004.
- Appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court from 5 October 2018 to 23 May 2019. Elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 24 May 2019. On 14 May 2025, nominated as Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), reflecting his commitment to legal services and access to justice.

- Known for judgments in constitutional law, rights-based matters and institutional reforms. Expressed a vision of the judiciary as “the moral spine of democracy,” emphasising responsiveness, inclusion and institutional accountability. With his background and breadth of experience, he is well placed to steer challenges such as pendency, digital justice, legal aid, through his CJI-term.

The 52nd Chief Justice of India

Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai

- Justice B.R. Gavai took oath as the **52nd Chief Justice of India** on 14 May 2025. He succeeded Justice Sanjiv Khanna, whose term ended on 13 May 2025.

Contributions & Vision

QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026

The QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026, an annual list by global education analytics firm QS, has ranked Lund University (Sweden) as the world's most sustainable university. This is the first time Lund University has topped the list since its inception in 2023, displacing the University of Toronto, which had held the top position in both 2024 and 2025. This year's rankings assess nearly 2,000 universities across 106 countries, up from around 1,750 in the previous edition, marking a significant expansion of global participation in evaluating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance in higher education.

Top 10 Universities in QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

The top 10 universities for 2026 are as follows,

1. Lund University, Sweden
2. University of Toronto, Canada
3. University College London (UCL), United Kingdom
4. University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
5. University of British Columbia, Canada
6. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom
7. Imperial College London, United Kingdom
8. University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney), Australia
9. McGill University, Canada
10. University of Manchester, United Kingdom

This list reflects strong performances by universities in the UK and Canada, with Sweden's Lund University claiming a perfect score of 100.

India's Growing Footprint in Global Sustainability Rankings

India has shown notable progress in the 2026 edition

- 103 Indian universities featured in the rankings
- 26 institutions debuted in the rankings, the second highest number of new entries after Mainland China
- India ranks fourth in terms of total representation, behind the US (240), China (163), and the UK (109)
- This signals growing attention toward sustainability in Indian higher education institutions, with more universities aligning with ESG goals and sustainable development practices.

Key Takeaways

- **Previous top:** University of Toronto (2024 & 2025)
- **India's representation:** 103 universities
- **Indian debutants:** 26
- **Ranking criteria:** Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) impact
- **QS launched the sustainability rankings in:** 2023

India Win First-Ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup Title (2025)

India, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, clinched their maiden ICC Women's World Cup title by defeating South Africa in the final of the 2025 edition (which was held in India).



Detail	Summary
Match	Final of the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup
Winner	India
Runner-up	South Africa
Margin	India won by 52 runs
Venue	DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, India
Date	Sunday, November 2, 2025
India's Score	298/7 in 50 overs
South Africa's Score	246 all out in 45.3 overs

Key Performances for India

- **Shafali Verma (Player of the Match):** Top-scored with a brilliant **87 runs** off 78 balls and also took **2 crucial wickets**.
- **Deepti Sharma (Player of the Tournament):** Contributed a vital **58 runs** off 58 balls and delivered a match-winning spell with the ball, taking **5/39**.
- **Smriti Mandhana:** Provided a strong foundation with **45 runs**.
- **Richa Ghosh:** Gave the innings a late boost with a quickfire **34 runs** off 24 balls.

Match Summary

- **Toss:** South Africa won the toss and elected to field.
- **India's Innings:** India posted a commanding total of **298/7**, the second-highest score ever in a Women's World Cup final. Shafali Verma and

Smriti Mandhana shared a 104-run opening partnership, followed by Deepti Sharma's composed fifty and Richa Ghosh's powerful cameo.

- **South Africa's Chase:** South Africa's captain, **Laura Wolvaardt**, fought valiantly, scoring a magnificent **101**. However, a lack of support and a brilliant bowling effort from India's spin attack, particularly Deepti Sharma, saw them bowled out for 246.
- **Historic Win:** The victory ended a long wait for the Indian women's team, which had reached the finals in 2005 and 2017 but had fallen short on both occasions. This win marked their **first-ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup title**.

South Africa's Fight and Collapse

- **Laura Wolvaardt's Heroics:** South African captain **Laura Wolvaardt** played a magnificent innings, scoring **101 runs off 98 balls** with 11 fours and 1 six. She finished the tournament as the highest run-scorer with 571 runs, but her efforts were in vain due to a lack of support.
- **Crucial Run Out:** India's first breakthrough came from sharp fielding, with a **direct hit by Amanjot Kaur** running out Tazmin Brits (23) to break a strong opening stand.
- **The Collapse:** South Africa, at one point, was well-placed at 123/2\$, but Shafali's double-strike and Deepti's final match-winning spell, which took the final five wickets for a mere 37 runs, proved too much.

Historical Significance

- This victory marked India's **first-ever ICC Women's ODI World Cup title**, ending a 50-year wait since the tournament began.
- It was a redemption moment for the Indian team, having finished as **runners-up twice** before in 2005 and 2017.

IIT Bombay Develops India's First Quantum Diamond Microscope

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has achieved a significant technological milestone by developing India's first indigenous Quantum Diamond Microscope (QDM). This breakthrough, accomplished by the P-Quest Group at IIT Bombay under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), positions India among a select group of nations with native capability in advanced quantum sensing and imaging.



The indigenous QDM was formally announced at the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC 2025), and it represents a major step forward, having also earned India its first patent in the domain of quantum magnetic imaging.

Core Technology: Nitrogen-Vacancy (NV) Centers

The Quantum Diamond Microscope is a cutting-edge quantum imaging system that functions by leveraging the unique properties of Nitrogen-Vacancy (NV) centers within a thin layer of synthetic diamond.

- What are NV Centers? They are atomic-scale defects in the diamond lattice, consisting of a single nitrogen atom replacing a carbon atom, adjacent to a vacant lattice site (a missing carbon atom).
- Quantum Sensing: These NV centers behave as highly sensitive quantum sensors. Crucially, they maintain their quantum coherence (their ability to exist in a superposition of spin states) even at room temperature, making them exceptionally sensitive to minute variations in magnetic, electric, and thermal fields.
- Working Principle: The microscope uses a technique called Optically Detected Magnetic Resonance (ODMR). A laser is shone onto the diamond layer, causing the NV centers to fluoresce. The intensity and wavelength of this fluorescence change depending on the local magnetic field interacting with the NV center's electron spin. By mapping these changes in fluorescence across the diamond surface, the QDM creates a high-resolution image of the magnetic field emanating from the sample placed on the diamond.

Revolutionary Applications

The QDM's ability to provide dynamic, wide-field, three-dimensional (3D) magnetic field imaging at the nanoscale has transformative potential across several critical sectors:

1. Semiconductor Diagnostics and Electronics:

- It enables non-destructive evaluation of advanced 3D chip architectures, cryogenic processors, and integrated circuits.
- It can map current paths and charge flow in multilayered, encapsulated chips without damaging the device, helping in fault detection and analysis.

2. Neuroscience and Biological Imaging:

- The QDM can map real-time magnetic activity in neurons and brain tissue, offering a non-invasive tool to study brain signaling and neurological disorders with unprecedented detail.
- It can also be used for bio-imaging to detect magnetically labeled cells or biomarkers.

3. Materials Research and Geosciences:

- It allows for the study of magnetic properties of layered structures, phase transitions in materials, and ionic movement in batteries (aiding in battery safety and performance improvement).
- It is poised to assist in geological magnetization studies and the analysis of quantum materials.

Alignment with National Quantum Mission (NQM)

The development of the QDM is a direct outcome of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), spearheaded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The IIT Bombay team, led by Professor Kasturi Saha, aims to further integrate the QDM technology with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based computational imaging. This integration will create a robust quantum imaging platform to enhance precision and expand its application range, strengthening India's goal of achieving self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat) in critical next-generation technologies.

Mexico's Fátima Bosch Crowned Miss Universe 2025

In an electrifying and highly controversial finale held on November 20, 2025, in Nonthaburi, Thailand, Fátima Bosch Fernández of Mexico was crowned Miss Universe 2025. The 74th edition of the global beauty pageant concluded with the 25-year-old designer and advocate claiming the prestigious title, marking Mexico's fourth-ever victory at the competition.



The New Miss Universe: Fátima Bosch

Fátima Bosch Fernández, hailing from Santiago de Teapa, Tabasco, is the first woman from her state to win the Miss Universe crown. Her personal background and platform centered on women's empowerment, inclusivity, and overcoming challenges.

- **Age and Background:** Bosch is 25 years old and holds a degree in Fashion and Apparel Design from Universidad Iberoamericana, with further studies in Milan and Vermont.
- **Advocacy:** She is a fierce advocate for neurodiversity and mental health, having openly shared her personal journey of overcoming learning disabilities, including dyslexia and ADHD.
- **Final Answer:** Her victory was sealed by her compelling and fearless response in the final question round, where she was asked about the challenges facing women in 2025 and how she would use her title. She stated, "We are here to speak up, bring change, and make history together."

Fátima Bosch's win is seen by many as a powerful narrative of triumph, proving that authenticity, intelligence, and moral courage can transcend traditional expectations in the world of pageantry, cementing her role as a symbol of strength and change.



NATIONAL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

India Sets Three Guinness World 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.

India ranked 9th in the Climate Risk Index 2026

- Rank: India is ranked 9th globally among countries most affected by extreme weather events between 1995 and 2024.
- Extreme Weather Events: India faced around 430 extreme weather events, including floods, heatwaves, cyclones, and droughts, resulting in over 80,000 deaths and economic losses of \$170 billion.
- Vulnerability: India is categorized as facing "continuous threats" due to recurring disasters that hinder recovery, with its vast population and high exposure to monsoon variability making it particularly vulnerable.
- Progress: India improved its annual rank from 10th in 2023 to 15th in 2024, reflecting gradual progress in disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and climate adaptation policies.

Haryana ranked as 'Top Achiever' state in Ease of Doing Business

- Reform Areas: Haryana excelled in three key reform areas: Business Entry, Land Administration, and Sector-Specific Healthcare.
- Reforms Implemented: The state has implemented 9 key reforms and is fast-tracking 13 more under its deregulation initiative, aiming to complete all 23 identified reforms by year-end.

- Simplified Processes: Haryana has simplified the Change of Land Use (CLU) process, reducing documentation from 19 to just 3 essentials, with an average approval time of 36 days.
- Investor-Friendly Initiatives: The state has integrated all services with the National Single Window System (NSWS) and implemented its own Jan Vishwas framework, decriminalizing minor offenses and introducing civil penalties.

The Constitution 131st Amendment Bill, 2025 proposes bringing Chandigarh under Article 240

- Grant of Direct Presidential Power (Article 240): The Bill aims to include Chandigarh in the list of UTs under Article 240 (currently including Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, etc.). This article empowers the President of India to make regulations "for the peace, progress, and good government" of the UT.
- Paving the Way for an Independent Administrator/LG: The current arrangement has the Governor of Punjab serving as the Administrator of Chandigarh (a system in place since 1984).
- Weakening Punjab's Claim and Control: This is the most politically sensitive implication. Chandigarh serves as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana. Punjab, the parent state from which Chandigarh was carved out, has a long-standing and emotional claim to the city as its exclusive capital.

Indian Railways Surpasses 1 Billion Tonne Freight Loading

- Record Timeframe for Milestone: Indian Railways crossed the 1 billion tonne mark (1,020 Million Tonnes, MT) as of November 19, 2025. This achievement was accomplished earlier than ever before in any financial year.
- Key Commodity Drivers: The achievement was driven by strong and sustained demand across core industrial sectors. Coal remained the largest contributor, accounting for over half of the total volume at 505 MT. This was followed by high loading of Iron Ore (115 MT) and Cement (92 MT), which are essential for infrastructure and industrial expansion.
- Improved Operational Efficiency: The daily average loading rate increased to approximately 4.4 MT per day, up from 4.2 MT during the same period last year.

India Ranks 36th in Global Commitment to Development Index (CDI) 2025

- Overall Rank and Scope: India secured the 36th position in the 2025 CDI. The index typically evaluates 40 of the world's most influential economies (including G20 nations) on policies "beyond aid" that have global spillover effects on development, poverty, and security.
- Standout Strength (Environment): India achieved its highest ranking in the Environment component, placing 8th globally (among the top 10). This strong score is primarily attributed to its relatively low greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita and its adherence to international environmental agreements, country's population or economic size.

OCTOBER 2025

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Launches NIELIT Digital University Platform

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

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

- **Re-election Term:** India has been re-elected to the ICAO Council for a three-year term, from 2025 to 2028, during the 42nd ICAO Assembly Session held in Montreal, Canada.
- **Part II Representation:** India is part of Part II of the Council, which comprises states that make the largest contribution to the provision of facilities for international civil air navigation.
- **Founding Member and Continuous Presence:** India has been a founding member of ICAO since 1944 and has maintained an uninterrupted presence on the Council for 81

years, showcasing its commitment to global aviation standards.

- **Commitments for 2025-2028:** India's re-election reflects its commitment to strengthening aviation safety, security, and sustainability, as well as promoting equitable global connectivity.

R Venkataramani re-appointed as Attorney General of India

- **Re-appointment Date:** R Venkataramani was re-appointed as the Attorney General of India on September 26, 2025, for a two-year term.
- **Term Duration:** His re-appointment is effective from October 1, 2025, and will last for two years.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Attorney General, he will represent the government in litigations, advise on complex legal issues.
- **Background:** Mr. Venkataramani, 75, succeeded veteran jurist K.K. Venugopal after completing his predecessor's term when he first assumed office on October 1, 2022.
- **Authority:** The Attorney General is a constitutional position appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Union government, and holds the right to appear in any court across the country.

India's first officially child marriage free district is Balod

- **Zero Child Marriages for Two Years:** The designation was granted after no cases of child marriage were reported in the district for two consecutive years. This status was confirmed

following a rigorous verification process.

- **Complete Certification Coverage:** The entire district, including all 436 Gram Panchayats and 9 urban bodies, received formal certificates from the state government, certifying them as child marriage-free.
- **Part of a National Campaign:** Balod's success is a major milestone under the national initiative, 'Child Marriage-Free India' (also known as Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat), which was launched by the Prime Minister in August 2024.

Uttarakhand Becomes First State to Abolish Madrasa Board

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

professional courses on par with other students.

- **Inclusion of Other Minority Communities:** The new bill extends recognition to educational institutions belonging to other minority communities.

India's smartphone exports hit record \$13.4 billion

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

The National Red List Roadmap & Vision 2025-2030 launched

- **Launch and Objective:** The National Red List Roadmap was launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi to create a nationally coordinated framework for assessing, documenting, and protecting India's vast array of species. The roadmap aims to establish a science-based red-listing and threat evaluation system.
- **Scope and Coverage:** The initiative will assess approximately 11,000 species, including 7,000 species of flora and 4,000 species of fauna, across India's diverse ecosystems.
- **Importance for India's Biodiversity:** India is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, hosting nearly 8% of global flora and 7.5% of fauna, with four biodiversity hotspots.

India rolled out AI-powered UPI payments within ChatGPT

- **Pilot Project Launch:** India has launched a pilot project enabling AI-powered UPI payments within ChatGPT, allowing users to make transactions directly from the platform.
- **Partnership:** The project is a collaboration between the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Razorpay, and OpenAI, with banking partners Axis Bank and Airtel Payments Bank.
- **Key Features:** The AI-powered payment system uses natural

language processing to interpret user commands, validates transactions, and ensures secure payments through UPI.

- **Security Measures:** The system employs end-to-end encryption, on-device biometric authentication, and multi-factor authentication to ensure secure transactions.
- **Potential Impact:** This development could revolutionize digital payments in India, making transactions more convenient and seamless, while also paving the way for wider adoption of AI-powered payment systems.

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



- **Historic Indian Record:** Bharath Thammineni becomes the first Indian mountaineer to successfully summit nine of the world's 14 peaks that are above 8,000 meters (known as the eight-thousanders).
- **Final Summit: Cho Oyu:** The historic feat was completed with the successful ascent of Mount Cho Oyu (8,201m), the world's sixth-highest mountain, on October 14, 2025.
- **List of Major Summits:** His nine 8,000m summits include the iconic peaks of Mount Everest (8,848m), Kangchenjunga (8,586m), Lhotse (8,516m).

SEPTEMBER 2025

Odisha Ranks 5th in E-Bus Adoption, Plans 1,000+ Fleet

- **National Ranking:** Odisha secured the 5th position in India for electric bus (e-bus) adoption.
- **Current Status:** The state has already introduced e-buses in key cities under the 'Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.
- **Expansion Plan:** Odisha government announced plans to expand its e-bus fleet to over 1,000 buses in the coming years.
- **Objective:** The move aims to promote green public transport, reduce carbon emissions, and improve urban mobility.
- **Significance:** With this step, Odisha is set to become a leading state in sustainable transport, aligning with India's net zero and clean energy goals.

India's First Port-Based Green Hydrogen Project at VOC Port

- **Project Inauguration:** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated the project on September 5, 2025, marking a significant step in India's clean energy transition.
- **Green Hydrogen Production:** The Rs 3.87 crore pilot facility produces 10 Nm³/hr of green hydrogen, powering streetlights and an electric vehicle charging station in the port colony, making VOC Port the first Indian port to generate green hydrogen.
- **Renewable Energy Integration:** The project aligns with India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, aiming to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, promote sustainable energy, and

position VOC Port as a key green bunkering hub in south India.

CP Radhakrishnan elected as India's 15th Vice President

- **Election Result:** CP Radhakrishnan won the election with 452 votes, defeating Opposition nominee B Sudershan Reddy who secured 300 votes. A total of 767 votes were cast, with 752 being valid and 15 invalid.
- **Background:** Radhakrishnan is a veteran of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and has deep roots in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He served as the BJP's State President in Tamil Nadu from 2004 to 2007.
- **Governor Roles:** Before becoming Vice President, Radhakrishnan served as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 31, 2024, and previously as the Governor of Jharkhand for nearly one and a half years.

Acharya Devvrat Gets Additional Charge as Maharashtra Governor

- **Temporary Appointment:** This is an additional charge for Acharya Devvrat, meaning he will concurrently serve as the Governor of both Gujarat and Maharashtra. This is a temporary arrangement until a permanent Governor for Maharashtra is appointed.
- **Constitutional Mandate:** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, made the appointment exercising her powers under the Constitution. When the office of a Governor falls vacant, the President can appoint the Governor of a neighboring state to assume the responsibilities.
- **Experienced Administrator:** Acharya Devvrat is a seasoned administrator, having served as

the Governor of Gujarat since 2019. Prior to that, he was the Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Udaipur was awarded the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation in 2025

- **First Indian Cities to Receive Accreditation:** Udaipur, along with Indore, holds the distinction of being the first two Indian cities to be recognized under the Ramsar Convention's Wetland City Accreditation scheme. This marks a significant milestone for India in its efforts toward urban environmental conservation.
- **Part of a Global Network:** By receiving this accreditation, Udaipur joins a select group of cities worldwide that are recognized for their sustainable wetland conservation practices.
- **Benefits of the Accreditation:** The status as a "Wetland City" will promote eco-tourism and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. It also reinforces the city's brand as the "City of Lakes" and a model for balancing urban development with ecological preservation.

Marium Fatima Becomes Bihar's First Female FIDE Master

- **Name and Origin:** Marium Fatima is a talented young chess player from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, who has made history by becoming the state's first Woman FIDE Master (WFM).
- **Achievement:** She achieved this milestone at the recently concluded Commonwealth Chess Championship, where she surpassed the 2000 FIDE rating mark required for the prestigious title, eventually achieving a FIDE rating of 2083.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



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.
- **New Advanced Air Wing:** The flat-deck design and EMALS allow it to operate heavier, more advanced aircraft, including the J-35 stealth fighter and the KJ-600 Airborne Early Warning (AEW) aircraft, significantly enhancing its combat capability.

India and Ecuador Signed Pact to Boost Diplomatic Cooperation

- **Diplomatic Boost:** The MoU was signed during Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita's meeting with Ecuador's Minister of Foreign and Human Mobility Affairs Gabriela Sommerfeld, aiming to deepen collaboration in key sectors.
- **Key Areas of Cooperation:** The discussions focused on boosting cooperation in areas like trade, pharmaceuticals, training, and capacity building, highlighting the potential for mutual growth.
- **Existing Ties:** India and Ecuador established diplomatic relations in 1969 and have been working together on various fronts, including trade, investment, IT, agriculture, and education.
- **Economic Ties:** The bilateral trade between India and Ecuador reached \$142 billion in 2022-23, with India exporting pharmaceuticals, vehicles, and machinery, and importing crude oil, wood, and cocoa.

- **Future Prospects:** The MoU is expected to enhance cooperation in diplomatic training, people-to-people exchanges, and economic partnerships, further solidifying India-Ecuador relations.

Sweden became the world's first cashless country

- **Cash in Circulation:** The amount of physical currency in circulation has dropped by half since 2007, with only 8% of the population using cash in 2022.
- **Digital Payment Methods:** Sweden's digital payment landscape is dominated by mobile payment apps like Swish, used by over 80% of the population, and BankID, an electronic identification system used by adults more than twice a day.
- **Factors Driving Cashlessness:** The country's rapid digitalization is driven by a supportive regulatory framework, tech-savvy citizens, and a strong banking sector. The 1990s robberies also prompted a shift towards cashless transactions.

Sergio Gor Sworn In as US Ambassador to India

- **Youngest Ambassador:** At 38, Sergio Gor is the youngest US Ambassador to India, making him a key player in strengthening US-India relations.
- **Strategic Partnership:** Gor's appointment highlights the growing significance of the US-India partnership in maintaining regional stability and promoting economic collaboration, particularly in countering China's influence in Asia.
- **Trade and Economy:** Gor aims to enhance bilateral trade, remove regulatory bottlenecks, and promote investment and

innovation through joint ventures, focusing on sectors like semiconductors and renewable energy.

- **Diplomatic Experience:** Before becoming Ambassador, Gor served as Director of Presidential Personnel in the Trump administration, overseeing over 4,000 posts, and has met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials.
- **Strengthening Ties:** Gor's swearing-in ceremony, attended by President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance, underscores the priority Washington places on its relationship with New Delhi, aiming to advance strategic interests and expand trade ties.

Jakarta Becomes World's Most Populous City surpassing Tokyo according to UN Report 2025

- **New Rank and Population:** Jakarta, including its surrounding metropolitan region (Jabodetabek), is now ranked No. 1 with an estimated population of approximately 42 million residents.
- **Toppling Tokyo:** Tokyo, which previously held the top spot, has dropped to third place with an estimated population of around 33 million. Dhaka, Bangladesh is ranked second with about 37 million.
- **Revised Methodology:** The main reason for the dramatic change is the UN's updated criteria. The new methodology uses consistent and standardised geospatial and population density criteria to define "urban areas," providing a more accurate measure of cities like Jakarta with extensive urban sprawl.

OCTOBER 2025

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

- **Valuation:** OpenAI's valuation has skyrocketed to \$500 billion after a \$6.6 billion secondary share sale, surpassing SpaceX's \$400 billion valuation.
- **Investors:** The share sale involved existing and former employees selling stock to outside investors, including Thrive Capital, SoftBank, Dragoneer Investment Group, Abu Dhabi's MGX, and T. Rowe Price.
- **Revenue:** OpenAI generated approximately \$4.3 billion in revenue in the first half of 2025, with a projected annual run-rate revenue of \$8.6 billion.
- **Infrastructure Plans:** OpenAI is planning a massive infrastructure project called Stargate, a 10 GW data center project over four years, potentially requiring up to \$500 billion in investment, with Oracle and SoftBank as partners.

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

- **Nomination:** Khaled al-Anani was nominated by UNESCO's Executive Board for the position of Director-General.
- **Background:** El-Anany is an Egyptologist and Professor of Egyptology at Helwan University, with over 30 years of teaching experience. He's held various positions, including Vice Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality, Director of the Open Learning Center, and Head of the Tour Guide Department.
- **Election:** The nomination will be put to a vote by all UNESCO Member States on November 6

during the Organization's General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. If elected, he'll succeed Audrey Azoulay in mid-November.

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

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

India UK Launch Connectivity & Innovation Centre

- **Launch and Funding:** The India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre was launched on October 10, 2025, with a combined initial investment of £24 million (approximately ₹250 crore) over four years, committed by both countries.
- **Objective:** The Centre aims to advance digital inclusion, next-generation connectivity, and secure communication systems,

aligning with the India-UK 2035 Vision and fostering a trusted, inclusive, and resilient digital future.

- **Benefits:** The partnership is expected to deliver tangible socio-economic benefits, including boosting digital inclusion, creating commercial opportunities for telecom and tech startups, and fostering global standards leadership in emerging technologies like 6G and AI-driven communications.
- **Implementation:** The Centre will unite the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, and the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK-India Technology Security Initiative.

Sebastian Lecornu Re-Appointed as New PM of France

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

IMF raises India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.6%

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

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

- Massive Investment: Google plans to invest \$15 billion (approximately ₹1.25 lakh crore) over five years (2026-2030) in this initiative, which is its largest-ever investment in India.
- Location and Scale: The facility will be India's largest AI data centre campus, located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

It is planned to have an initial gigawatt-scale (GW) compute capacity, designed for advanced AI workloads.

- Core Partnership & Technology: The project is a collaboration between Google and AdaniConneX (a joint venture of Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX), with Bharti Airtel as a key partner. The hub will house TPU and GPU-based compute power essential for training large AI models.
- Sustainable Infrastructure: A major focus is on clean energy. The Adani Group will co-invest in new transmission lines, clean energy generation, and energy storage systems to power the hub sustainably, ensuring its operations are as environmentally conscious as possible.

India Elected to UN Human Rights Council for 2026-28

- Seventh Term: The 2026-2028 term is India's seventh stint on the UN Human Rights Council since its creation in 2006. This demonstrates a sustained and continuous involvement in the global human rights body, with mandatory breaks taken in compliance with the rules.
- Elected Unopposed: India was elected unopposed to one of the vacant seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Although unopposed, a pro-forma secret ballot vote was held where India received overwhelming support from the UN General Assembly members.
- Three-Year Tenure: The term of membership is for three years, commencing on January 1, 2026.

Council members are elected by the UN General Assembly.

- Commitment to Human Rights: India's Permanent Representative to the UN emphasized that the election "reflects India's unwavering commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms." India's candidacy was presented with a focus on its pluralistic society.

Singapore Tops Henley Passport Index 2025



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

SEPTEMBER 2025

Dinesh K Patnaik Appointed India's Envoy to Canada

- **New Appointment:** Senior diplomat Dinesh K. Patnaik has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Canada.
- **Previous Role:** He previously served as Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- **Diplomatic Experience:** Patnaik is a seasoned Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1990 batch, with experience in Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- **Significance:** As High Commissioner, he will play a key role in strengthening bilateral ties, addressing challenges, and expanding cooperation in trade, education, and diaspora engagement.

Singapore ranked safest in Asia, 6th globally in Global Peace Index'25

- **Global Ranking:** Singapore is ranked 6th globally in the Global Peace Index 2025, making it the only Asian country in the top 10.
- **Asian Ranking:** Singapore is the safest country in Asia, followed by Japan (12th globally), Malaysia (13th globally), and Bhutan (not specified globally).
- **Peace Score:** Singapore scored 1.357 in the index, improving from 1.339 in 2024, reflecting its continued commitment to maintaining social stability.

Dr. Deepak Mittal appointed as India's New Envoy to UAE

- **Appointment:** Dr. Deepak Mittal, an Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1998 batch, has been

appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the United Arab Emirates.

- **Background:** As a seasoned diplomat, Dr. Mittal brings extensive experience to his new role, further strengthening India's diplomatic ties with the UAE.
- **Assumption of Office:** He is expected to take up his new assignment shortly, although the exact date hasn't been specified.

Rohit Rathish appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles

- **Appointment Details:** Rohit Rathish, a 2006 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.
- **Current Role:** Rathish is currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and is expected to take up his new assignment shortly.
- **Diplomatic Relations:** India and Seychelles have historically enjoyed close diplomatic relations, with cooperation in areas like defense, security, and economic development. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Seychelles in 2015 marked a significant milestone in bilateral ties.
- **Strategic Importance:** The appointment highlights India's strategic interest in the Indian Ocean region, where Seychelles plays a crucial role. Strengthening ties with Seychelles is vital for India's maritime security and regional influence.

David Lammy becomes UK Deputy PM after Rayner's exit

- **Reason for Angela Rayner's Exit:** Angela Rayner resigned as Deputy Prime Minister and Labour's deputy leader following a probe into her tax affairs, specifically regarding underpaid stamp duty on an £800,000 flat in Hove.
- **David Lammy's Role:** David Lammy has been appointed as the new Deputy Prime Minister while retaining his position as Justice Secretary, overseeing critical issues like court backlogs, prison capacity, and confidence in the criminal justice system.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy Prime Minister, Lammy will stand in for Prime Minister Keir Starmer during his absence and act as a senior sounding board across the government, while also focusing on delivering reforms in the justice department.

Irfaan Ali re-elected as Guyana President

- **Election Results:** Irfaan Ali won a second term as President, with his People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) securing 36 seats in the National Assembly, an increase of three seats from the 2020 election. The party garnered over 55% of the popular vote.
- **International Observers:** The election process was monitored by several international groups, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Carter Center.
- **Opposition Performance:** The We Invest in Nationhood party, a newcomer led by US-sanctioned businessman Azruddin Mohamed.



G.K. ONE LINER

NATIONAL NEWS

- Which initiative helped India set three Guinness World Records™ recently?

Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- Which company delivered India's first 220kV Mobile GIS System to POWERGRID?

Toshiba

- Which rocket launched India's heaviest communication satellite CMS-03?

LVM3-M5

- India recently crossed which milestone in total power capacity?

500 GW

- Which organizations jointly launched India's new AI Lab?

IBM & AICTE

- Which state launched the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub?

Telangana

- Which state became India's first to offer paid menstrual leave?

Karnataka

- What therapy did PM Modi launch as India's first homegrown CAR T-Cell therapy?

NexCAR19

- What is India's rank in Climate Risk Index 2026?

9th

- Which state was ranked 'Top Achiever' in Ease of Doing Business?

Haryana

- What is India's rank in the Climate Risk Index 2026?

9th

- Which state was ranked as 'Top Achiever' in Ease of Doing Business?

Haryana

- Which two institutions signed an MoU to collaborate on 6G, AI and telecom standardization?

TEC & IIT Bombay

- Where did India unveil its first MWh-scale Vanadium Flow Battery?

NTPC

- India's 2 FY26 GDP is projected to rise to what percentage?

Nearly 7.2%

- What technology did India unveil as its first quantum-based diagnostic tool?

Quantum Diamond Microscope

- Which state became the first to implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme statewide?

Punjab

- Who inaugurated India's first modern river ferry terminal?

Nirmala Sitharaman

- Which country became the world's 6th-largest patent filer?

India.

- Which new AI-based system was introduced by Railways for wagon security?

'DRISHTI' system

- Which country is building the world's deepest underwater lab at 6,000 metres?

India.

- Which firm unveiled Coal India's first state-of-the-art multimedia studio?

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

- Who partnered with IndiaAI Mission to launch 'YUVAi for ALL'?

Intellipaati

- Which country was re-elected to the Codex Executive Committee?

India.

- Who took oath again as Bihar Chief Minister?

Nitish Kumar

- Which rare-earth CRM was unveiled as India's first scientific-use CRM?

ColoNoX

- Which launch marks India's first commercial PSLV mission?

India's first commercial PSLV launch

- Who was elected Chairman of the Karnataka Planters Association?

M Salman Baseer

- Which Indian institute ranked top in QS Sustainability Rankings 2026?

IIT Delhi

- Which countries signed a defence R&D cooperation pact?

DRDO (India) & DGA (France)

- Which amendment bill proposes bringing Chandigarh under Article 240?

Constitution 131st Amendment Bill, 2025

- Which sector did Indian Railways surpass 1 billion tonne in?

Freight loading

- What is India's rank in the Global Commitment to Development Index 2025?

36th**INTERNATIONAL**

- Reliance partnered with which tech company to strengthen AI infrastructure in India?

Google

- Which satellite is ISRO set to launch for the Indian Navy?

GSAT-7R

- Which health scheme became the world's No.1?

Ayushman Bharat

- Who was sworn in for a second term as President of Tanzania?

Samia Suluhu Hassan

- India signed MoU with which country to deepen defence cooperation?

Israel

- Who was elected the Mayor of New York City?

Zohran Mamdani

- Which Indian cooperative ranked No.1 globally by ICA Monitor 2025?

GCMMF (Amul)

- Which country launched the third aircraft carrier 'Fujian'?

China

- India signed a pact with which country to boost diplomatic cooperation?

Ecuador

- Which company unveiled MantrAsana, the world's first Tele Surgeon Console?

SS Innovations

- What benchmark did OpenAI launch as its first cultural test for Indian languages?

Inda

- Who was sworn in as the new US Ambassador to India?

Sergio Gor

- Which country became the world's first cashless nation?

Sweden

- CSIR signed a pact with which organisation to boost innovation in Industrial Corridors?

NICDC

- Which two countries will jointly host the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup?

Belgium & Netherlands

- C-DOT partnered with NAM InfoCom for which system?

MCX System

- Who was accredited as India's Representative to ECOWAS?

Abhishek Singh.

- Who became India's Ambassador to Somalia?

Dr Adarsh Swaika.

- Who was appointed India's Ambassador to Mauritania?

Neeraj Agrawal.

- Who was appointed Ambassador/PR to the UN Conference?

Charanjeet Singh.

- Which city became the world's most populous in 2025 according to the UN?

Jakarta

- Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to Libya?

Dr. Hifzur Rahman

- Which countries signed ToR to begin FTA talks?

India and Israel

- Which ministries signed MoU to empower DNTs?

MSJE and MoRD

- Which country became the world's third-largest humanitarian donor in 2025?

UAE

- Which organisations launched DigiArivu for digital & STEM education?

Samsung & UN GCNI**BANKING & FINANCE**

- Which Indian bank crossed the \$100 billion market cap?

SBI

- Who was appointed Part-Time Chairman of J&K Bank?

Shri S. Krishnan

- Which company became India's most valued listed broker?

**Billion brains Garage Ventures
(Groww's parent)**

- Who was appointed Chief Human Resources Officer of IndusInd Bank?

Amitabh Kumar Singh

- Which authority recognised SRPA as the SRO for Payment System Operators?

RBI

- Who was appointed Part-Time Chairman of J&K Bank?

Shri S Krishnan

- Which company became India's most valued listed broker?

**Billionbrains Garage Ventures
(Groww's parent)**

- Who won the historic silver at the ISSF World Championships?

Anish Bhanwala

- Who will captain India at FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025?

Jyoti Singh

- Which country did India defeat to win the 2025 KogniVera International Polo Cup?

Argentina (World No. 1)

- Who won silver at the ISSF World Championships (Shooting)?

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

- Who won gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol at the ISSF World Championships?

Samrat Rana

- Which Olympic medallist announced retirement from badminton?

Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)

- How many medals did India win at the 24th Asian

Archery Championships 2025?

Three gold and two silver

- What was India's bank credit growth in October 2025?

11.3%.

- By how much did India's exports rise in April–October 2025?

4.8% to \$491.8 billion.

- Which bank reclaimed the title of India's most valuable brand in 2025?

HDFC Bank.

- Who was appointed as Whole-Time Member of SEBI?

Sandhip Pradhan

- Who became Part-Time Chairperson of Jana SFB?

Chitra Talwar

- Which bank was honoured as the Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank?

RCMS Bank

- Who was appointed ED at PNB?

Amit Kumar Srivastava

- Who was appointed ED at Indian Bank?

Mini TM

- Who was appointed ED at Union Bank of India?

Amresh Prasad

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- Who was appointed Director in the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances?

Mayank Prabha Tomar

- Who became the Financial Advisor (Defence Services)?

Raj Kumar Arora

- Who was appointed Director of DRDL?

Shri Ankathi Raju

- Who assumed charge as DG of BIS?

Sanjay Garg

- Who was appointed Superintendent of Police in BPR&D?

Manish Singh

- Who became CMD of GAIL (India) Limited?

Shri Deepak Gupta

- Who got an extension as MD & CEO of Digital India Corporation?

Nand Kumarum

- Who was appointed Director in the Ministry of Cooperation?

Vinay Sheel Gautam

- Who was signed as Brand Ambassador by Paradeep Phosphates?

Rahul Dravid

- Who became the first Indian to lead OICA?

Shailesh Chandra

- Who was appointed MD & CEO of PXIL?

Vivek Singla

- Who is the next CMD of GAIL India Limited?

Deepak Gupta

- Who was appointed CFO of Myntra?

Kannan Ganesan

- Who was re-appointed as Chairman of NCLAT?

Justice Ashok Bhushan

- Who became Member Secretary of the 23rd Law Commission?

Dr Anju Rathi Rana.

- Who was appointed Senior Director & GM at Dell India?

Anurag Arora.

- Who became brand ambassador of Haryana State Women's Commission?

Shafali Verma.

- Who was reappointed as Rajasthan Royals head coach?

Kumar Sangakkara.

- Who was appointed assistant coach of KKR?

Shane Watson.

- Who became Director in the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare?

Avinash Lavania.

- Who was appointed UNICEF India's Celebrity Advocate?

Keerthy Suresh.

- Which organisations signed an MoU to boost indigenous defence & logistics tech?

GSV & DRDO.

- Who became Chairman of India Trade Promotion Organization?

Jawed Ashraf.

OBITUARIES

- Which renowned Indian litterateur passed away recently?

Ramdarash Mishra

- Which former North Korean Head of State passed away?

Kim Yong Nam

- Chairman of Hinduja Group who passed away recently?

Gopinath P. Hinduja

- Which veteran singer-actor passed away recently?

Sulakshana Pandit

- Which Nobel Prize-winning DNA pioneer recently passed away?

James Watson

- Which Tamil actor recently passed away?

Abhinay

- Which renowned Telugu poet and lyricist passed away?

Ande Sri

- Which veteran Indian actor recently passed away?

Kamini Kaushal.

- Which environmental icon passed away?

Saalumarada Thimmakka.

- Who was the Chairman Emeritus of Coromandel International who passed away?

Arunachalam Vellayan.

- Which former PM of Bangladesh was sentenced to death by ICT?

Sheikh Hasina.

- Which THDC CMD recently passed away?

R. K. Vishnoi

AWARDS

- Which archaeologist received the Rajyotsava Award?

Ravindra Korisettar

- Who received the Lifetime Achievement Award?

G. Viswanathan

- How many personnel received the Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak 2025?

1,466 personnel

- Who received IIT Kanpur's Top Alumni Award?

CEC Gyanesh Kumar

- Which football icon received a Knighthood honour?

Sir David Beckham

- Which award celebrates Northeast icons and was conferred by Scindia?

Bhupen Hazarika Awards

- Who will receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2023?

Actor Mohanlal

- Which company received the 'Nishtaki Pratishta' Award?

NLC India Limited

- Who won the Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2025 for Science & Technology?

P. M. Murugesan

- Who won the Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025?

Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan

- Which company won two major awards at AIIA 2025?

Digit Insurance

- Who received the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel RRU National K9 Bravery Award 2025?

BSF's tracker dog Babita

- Who was honoured with the Dayton Peace Prize Award 2025?

Salman Rushdie

- Which platform won the GIMI 2025 Award for Public Sector Innovation?

Diia.Engine

- Who earned a Guinness World Record Honour?

Palak Muchhal

- Who received the IofC 2025 Lifetime Achiever Award?

Niketu Iralu

- Who won the 2025 Booker Prize for the novel Flesh?

David Szalay

- Which company received the “NishtakiPratishta” Award?

NLC India Limited

- Who received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2025?

P. M. Murugesan

- Which traditional musical instruments received a GI Tag?

Lepcha musical instruments.

- Which marble from Gujarat received a GI Tag?

Ambaji Marble.

- Who received an Honorary Oscar at the 2025 Governors Awards?

Tom Cruise.

- Who won the AAAI Lifetime Achievement Award 2025?

Prasoon Joshi.

- Who won the 2025 Don Award for F1 excellence?

Oscar Piastrri.

- Who received the CII Quality Ratna Award 2025?

Venu Srinivasan.

- Who was conferred France's Chevalier Award?

Thota Tharani.

- Who received the 'Icon of Indian Cinema' Award 2025?

Ramesh Sippy.

- Who received the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize?

Michelle Bachelet.

- Who won the National Book Awards?

Alameddine and Patricia Smith.

- Which organisation conferred BHEL with the Platinum Award 2025?

APEX India Foundation.

- Who won the Desert Palm Achievement Award 2026?

Leonardo DiCaprio.

SPORTS

- Which 16-year-old became India's 90th Chess Grandmaster?

Ilamparathi AR

- The FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy was renamed after which Indian legend?

Viswanathan Anand

- Which team won the ICC Women's ODI World Cup for the first time?

India

- Which Indian tennis star announced retirement?

Rohan Bopanna

- How many medals did India win at the 2025 Asian Youth Games?

48 medals

- Which New Zealand player retired from T20 Internationals?

Kane Williamson

- Which team won the 42nd Indian Oil Servo Surjit Hockey Trophy?

Indian Oil Mumbai

- Who reclaimed World No.1 after winning the Paris Masters?

Jannik Sinner

- Who finished T-27 at the Maybank Championship?

Aditi Ashok

- How many medals did India clinch at the 24th Asian Archery Championships 2025?

3 Gold & 2 Silver

- Who won bronze at the ISSF World Championship (Rifle & Pistol)?

Esha Singh.

- Who won Air Rifle Gold and set a world record at the 2025 Deaflympics?

Dhanush Srikanth.

- Who won the GT Open Indoor World Series title?

Kushal Dalal.

- Which country won the Women's Blind T20 World Cup?

India.

- Who became the fourth cricketer to achieve 4000 runs & 300 wickets?

Ravindra Jadeja.

- Who won silver in the 25m Centre Pistol at ISSF World Championships?

Gurpreet Singh.

- Who clinched the MotoGP 2025 title?

Marco Bezzecchi.

- Who became India's 26th Woman Grandmaster?

Sarayu Velpula

- Which country won its 4th Davis Cup title in 2025?

Italy

- Who won gold in 25m pistol at Deaflympics?

Abhinav Deshwal

- Who won the 2nd Women's Kabaddi World Cup 2025?

India

- Who won the Women's Blind Cricket T20 World Cup?

Indian team

- Who was named India's ODI captain for SA series?

KL Rahul

- Who won the Indian Open squash title?

Anahat Singh

- How many medals did India win at ITTF World Youth Championships?

Two

- Who won the UK Women's Blitz title?

Bodhana Sivanandan

- Which country won gold in Mixed 10m Air Rifle at the 2025 Deaflympics?

India.

- Which team won gold at the 36th Senior National Fencing Championship?

- Who won the 2025 Las Vegas Grand Prix?

Max Verstappen

- Who won gold in women's 25m pistol at Deaflympics?

Pranjali Dhumal

- Who won the 2025 Australian Open Super 500?

Lakshya Sen

- Who was appointed Tournament Ambassador for ICC Men's T20 WC 2026?

Rohit Sharma

- Who won bronze at the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship for India?

Giovanna de Sequeira

- Who became the 2025 FIDE World Cup Champion?

Javokhir Sindarov

DEFENCE

- Which company unveiled India's first defence EV 'VEER'?

Pravaig

- Who assumed charge as Controller General of Defence?

Vishvajit Sahay

Jammu & Kashmir.

- Who won Miss Universe 2025?

Fátima Bosch (Mexico).

- Which exercise did the Indian Army conduct in the Desert Sector?

VAYU SAMANVAY-II

- Who took charge as the 40th Chief of Materiel?

Vice Admiral B. Sivakumar

- Which new survey vessel was commissioned by the Indian Navy at Kochi?

INS Ikshak

- India began the Joint Military Exercise Mitra Shakti 2025 with which country?

Sri Lanka

- India signed MoUs with which country to strengthen trade and the marine sector?

Angola

- The 6th Army Exercise VINBAX is being held between India and which country?

Vietnam

- Which new anti-submarine ship was commissioned by the Indian Navy?

INS Mahe

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



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.
- **Recognition:** Babita received a medal and a commendation certificate, acknowledging her sharp tracking skills and dedication.
- **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.
- Recipients included writer Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi (Arunachal Pradesh), singer Laishram Mema (Manipur), filmmaker Rajni

Basumatary (Assam), and historian Prof. David R. Syiemlieh (Meghalaya), among others.

- Minister Scindia highlighted that conferring the awards honors "an era of empathy and cultural synthesis" and spoke of the critical role of women and youth in the journey toward a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Padma Awardee Mohanlal to be Conferred Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023

- Highest Cinema Honour:** Mohanlal was conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023, which is the highest recognition in Indian cinema, for his iconic contribution to the field.
- Five-Decade Career:** The legendary actor, director, and producer is being honored for his remarkable cinematic journey spanning almost five decades and over 350 films across multiple languages.
- Iconic Contribution:** He is widely referred to as "The Complete Actor" for his unparalleled versatility and ability to seamlessly portray a vast range of roles.

NLC India Limited Receives Prestigious "NishtakiPratishta" Award

- Award Recognition:** The award recognizes Motupalli's outstanding contributions to Odisha's growth, particularly in enhancing power generation capacity and steering NLCIL's sustainable development initiatives.
- Leadership:** Motupalli's visionary leadership and dedication to

fostering growth and sustainability in Odisha were highlighted during the ceremony.

- NLCIL's Projects:** NLCIL's impactful projects in Odisha, including the Talabira II & III coal mines and the proposed Thermal Power Plant, were showcased.

P. M. Murugesan received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award 2025 for Science & Technology

- Award Category:** He was awarded in the 'Application of Science & Technology for Rural Development' category, recognizing his contributions to transforming agricultural waste into sustainable livelihoods.
- Innovative Work:** Murugesan developed machines to extract and process banana fiber from waste stems, promoting eco-friendly products and empowering thousands of women.
- Impact:** His innovations have helped reduce harmful burning practices, created employment opportunities for rural women, and promoted sustainable waste-to-wealth models.
- Gandhian Values:** The award honors individuals who embody Gandhian principles, and Murugesan's work reflects a commitment to self-reliance, peace, and sustainable development.

Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan Wins Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025

- Award Winner:** Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor of Materials Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc),

Bengaluru, has been conferred the prestigious Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025.

- Award Details:** The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, the highest among national science and technology awards, and a citation.
- Selection Process:** Out of 50 applications from leading national institutions, 10 candidates were shortlisted, and Dr. Gopalakrishnan was selected by a committee chaired by eminent nuclear scientist Dr. Anil Kakodkar.

Digit Insurance Won Two Major Awards at AIIA 2025

- Digital Insurer of the Year:** Digit Insurance was recognized for transforming India's non-life insurance sector through AI and automation, making it the only private Indian insurance company to win an award this year.
- Woman Leader of the Year:** Jasleen Kohli, MD & CEO of Digit Insurance, received this honor for her transformative leadership, becoming the first Indian woman leader to achieve this distinction.
- Seventh AIIA Win:** This marks Digit Insurance's seventh win at the AIIA Awards, with previous wins including General Insurance Company of the Year in 2024, 2020, and 2019.
- Tech-Driven Excellence:** Digit Insurance's comprehensive AI and automation across its value chain earned it the Digital Insurer of the Year title.
- Leadership Recognition:** Jasleen Kohli's award highlights her strategic acumen and leadership in steering Digit Insurance to its successful public listing.

OCTOBER 2025

Sherry Singh Wins India's First Mrs Universe Crown

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

President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards 2024

- **Awards Ceremony:** President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Geoscience Awards 2024 to 20 geoscientists on September 26, 2025, at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre in New Delhi.
- **Award Categories:** The awards were given in 12 categories, including 9 individual awards and 3 team awards, recognizing outstanding contributions in mineral discovery, mining technology, mineral

beneficiation, basic and applied geosciences.

- **Importance of REEs:** President Murmu emphasized the strategic significance of Rare Earth Elements (REEs) in modern technology, including smartphones, electric vehicles, defense systems, and clean energy solutions.

Peter Durber wins Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Award Details:** Peter Durber, associated with Tropifresh, a New Spitalfields exotics importer and wholesaler, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the FPC Fresh Awards 2025.
- **Event Location:** The awards ceremony was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London on September 26, 2025, and was attended by 600 guests from the fresh produce and horticulture sectors.
- **Industry Recognition:** The award recognizes Durber's decades of dedication to the UK exotics market, highlighting his contributions to the industry's growth and development.

DRDO Wins BusinessLine Changemaker of the Year

- **Award Recognition:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was recognized for its outstanding contributions to national defense, showcasing its pivotal role in safeguarding India's borders.
- **Operation Sindoor:** DRDO's award was specifically attributed to its success in Operation Sindoor, where it demonstrated its capabilities in neutralizing enemy assets and enhancing national security.

- **Changemaker Awards:** The award is part of the BusinessLine Changemaker Awards, which honor outstanding achievements in various fields, including education, social welfare, digital innovation, and national defense.

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

- **Award Recognition:** Novotel Vijayawada Varun received the "Best 5-Star Deluxe Hotel" award at the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Excellence Awards 2025, solidifying its position as a top luxury hospitality destination in the state.
- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to Manish Pathak, General Manager of Novotel Vijayawada Varun, who credited his team's dedication to service excellence and guest satisfaction.
- **Hotel Features:** As Vijayawada's first and only international 5-star deluxe property, Novotel Vijayawada Varun boasts 233 well-appointed rooms, multiple signature dining options, and flexible venues for weddings, conferences, and MICE events.
- **Amenities and Services:** The hotel offers a range of amenities.

Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department Wins Global Tourism Award 2025

- **Award Recognition:** The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department won the Global Tourism Award 2025, a prestigious international recognition for its outstanding efforts in promoting tourism in the state.
- **Reason for Award:** The award was given for positioning Andhra Pradesh as one of the most promising tourism destinations in

the country, showcasing its efforts in developing tourism infrastructure and promoting the state's unique attractions.

- **Award Presentation:** The award was presented in a ceremony held at Yashobhoomi in Delhi, where Nishita Goyal, Tourism Consultant, accepted the award on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh government.
- **Tourism Development:** The state's tourism department has been working tirelessly to develop Gandikota as a promising eco and adventure tourism destination.

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

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

₹50,000 and a citation, symbolizing the State government's encouragement of scientific excellence.

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli awarded Mahatma Award

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

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

- **Contribution to Ayurvedic Education:** Prof. Banwari Lal Gaur has spent over six decades contributing to Ayurvedic education and Sanskrit scholarship, shaping the academic future of Ayurveda.
- **Prolific Writer and Researcher:** He has authored 31 books and over 300 academic works, including 319 publications in

Sanskrit, demonstrating his significant impact on Ayurvedic literature.

- **Mentorship:** Prof. Gaur has mentored 24 PhD scholars and 48 postgraduates, highlighting his role in nurturing future generations of Ayurvedic scholars.

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



- **Award Recognition:** India has been recognized for its exceptional progress in social protection systems globally, receiving the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025.
- **Social Security Coverage Expansion:** The award acknowledges India's historic expansion in social security coverage from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, covering over 940 million citizens, as recognized by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- **Digital Infrastructure:** India's extensive digital public infrastructure, including the e-Shram portal, has played a crucial role in efficient last-mile delivery of social security.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Former AP IAS Officer Gets Oxford's Lifetime Award

- **Award Recognition:** Lakshmikantham received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Oxford (Keble College, O'Reilly Theatre), UK, for his commendable contribution to changing the educational ecosystem. The award was presented at the 14th World Leaders Summit 2025.
- **Background:** Lakshmikantham is a retired collector and former Joint Executive Officer (JEO) of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). He has served as the Vice Chair of International Trade and Business Alliances, Europe India Centre for Business and Industry in India.

NTPC Kanti Wins Prestigious Global Water Tech Award 2025

- **NTPC's Achievements:** NTPC Limited has received several awards and recognitions for its efforts in sustainability and water resource management, such as the Forward Faster Sustainability Award 2025 in the Water Resilience category.
- **Water Conservation Efforts:** NTPC has been recognized for its water conservation efforts, including NTPC Barauni being ranked #1 in water resource conservation in the national awards.
- **Global Recognition:** NTPC Limited has gained international recognition, including being ranked 433 in Forbes' Global 2000 list in 2023, showcasing its prominence in the energy sector.

Dr. Meenakshi Pahuja awarded The Prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar

- **Award Details:** Dr. Meenakshi Pahuja was awarded the Nari Shakti Puraskar in 2018 by President Ram Nath Kovind for her remarkable achievements in open-water swimming.
- **Achievements:** She's a renowned open-water swimmer who has completed numerous marathon swims globally, including crossing rivers, lakes, and oceans in countries like the US, UK, Samoa, and South Africa.
- **Record-Breaking Feats:** Dr. Pahuja is the first Indian to swim across Key West in Florida and complete the Lake Travis Solo in Texas. She's also the first Indian to finish the Tex Robertson Highland Lakes Challenge.

Anand V. Patil to Receive Prof. V.K. Gokak Award

- **Award Details:** Anand V. Patil will receive the Prof. V.K. Gokak Award on September 7, 2025, in Bengaluru for his significant contributions to Indian literature, particularly children's literature.
- **Award Namesake:** The award is named after Prof. Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, a renowned literary figure and Jnanpith Award winner who made monumental contributions to Kannada literature.

Anuparna Roy wins Best Director Award at Venice Film Fest

- **Historic Win:** Anuparna Roy made history by winning the Orizzonti Award for Best Director at the 82nd Venice Film Festival, a prestigious honor in the film industry.
- **Debut Feature Film:** The award was given for her feature debut

film "Songs of Forgotten Trees", showcasing her talent and potential as a filmmaker.

- **Presentation:** The film was presented by renowned Indian filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, highlighting the recognition she received from within the industry.

Leela Upadhyay to receive Kavya Prabha National Award

- **Recognition of a Multifaceted Career:** Leela Upadhyay, a correspondent of Dainik Janambhumi, is being recognized for his long and impactful career as a poet, journalist, and lawyer. The award highlights his literary depth, which is reflected in his poems and articles that capture the essence of rural life, cultural roots, and human values in contemporary Assamese literature.
- **Date and Location of Conferment:** The Kavya Prabha National Award will be officially conferred upon Upadhyay during the International Poetry Conference, which is scheduled to be held on November 1, 2025, at Barekuri in the Tinsukia district of Assam.

Camel International Award to Younus Ahamed

- **Award Recognition:** Younus Ahamed has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to global business leadership with the Camel International Award 2025.
- **Current Role:** Ahamed serves as the Executive Director of Dotspace Coworking in the Middle East, showcasing his expertise in leadership and business management.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

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.
- Central Staffing Scheme: The appointment was made under the Central Staffing Scheme, which enables officers from various All India and Central Services to serve in key administrative positions across Union Ministries and Departments.

Justice Vikram Nath nominated Executive Chairman of NALSA

- Constitutional Convention and Authority: Justice Nath was nominated by the President of India (Droupadi Murmu) under the powers conferred by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. By convention, this post is held by the second most senior judge of the Supreme Court, succeeding the previous Executive Chairman, Justice Surya Kant (who was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India).
- Statutory Mandate of NALSA: NALSA is a statutory body constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Its core mandate, derived from Article 39A of the Constitution, is to ensure that free and competent legal services are provided to the economically weaker and marginalized sections of society, thus

promoting justice on the basis of equal opportunity.

- Prior Role and Experience: Before this nomination, Justice Nath served as the Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), which provides free legal services concerning matters before the apex court. His experience in this capacity provides a direct background in supervising legal aid delivery mechanisms.

Nikhil Dhongari appointed as Deputy Secretary in the National Health Authority

- Service and Batch: Nikhil Dhongari belongs to the Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS), a central civil service, and is an officer of the 2012 batch. His appointment is a Central Deputation, transitioning him from the Ministry of Railways to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Appointment Authority and Scheme: The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), based on a recommendation from the Ministry of Railways. The posting falls under the Central Staffing Scheme, which facilitates the movement of officers between various Central Ministries and organisations.
- Organizational Context: The NHA is the apex body responsible for implementing the two flagship schemes of the Government of India: the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

PUMA appoints Ramprasad Sridharan as New MD

- New Role and Effective Date: Ramprasad Sridharan has been appointed as the new Managing Director of PUMA India, a significant leadership role he will officially assume starting in December 2025.
- Extensive Industry Experience: Sridharan brings over 25 years of experience in brand building, retail leadership, and commercial strategy across the Asia Pacific region, specifically within the footwear and fashion industry.
- Succession: Sridharan takes over the reins from Karthik Balagopalan, who stepped down from the MD role after nearly two decades with the company to pursue new interests outside the organisation.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar to Chair International IDEA in 2026

- New Leadership Role: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is set to assume the Chairship of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the entire year of 2026.
- Date and Location of Takeover: He will formally take over the position on December 3, 2025, during a meeting of the Council of Member States to be held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Organisation's Mandate: International IDEA is a key intergovernmental organisation established in 1995, dedicated to strengthening democratic institutions and processes across its 35 member countries worldwide.

OCTOBER 2025

Sanae Takaichi set to become Japan's First Female Prime Minister

- **Historic Leadership Role:** Sanae Takaichi is poised to become Japan's first female Prime Minister, marking a significant milestone in the country's politics. She won the Liberal Democratic Party leadership election, setting her up for confirmation by parliament.
- **Conservative Stance:** Takaichi is known for her hardline views on defense, national identity, and economic security. She's a staunch critic of China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region and has pledged to strengthen Japan's military posture.
- **Economic Policies:** Takaichi supports expansive fiscal spending and aggressive monetary easing to stimulate Japan's sluggish economy, echoing her mentor Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" blueprint. She's also raised concerns about foreign investors' economic influence rules.

H Rajesh Prasad appointed as Chandigarh's Chief Secretary

- **Appointment:** H Rajesh Prasad, a 1995-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Chandigarh, replacing Mandip Singh Brar.
- **Background:** Prasad has a strong track record in power sector governance and has held various high-impact administrative

positions across states and Union Territories.

- **Previous Role:** Before taking over as Chief Secretary, Prasad served as Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD), Jammu & Kashmir, where he implemented significant reforms in the power sector.
- **Key Strengths:** He is known for his reform-driven leadership style, with expertise in infrastructure development, urban governance, and cross-departmental coordination, which is expected to benefit Chandigarh's administration.

Vijay Prakash appointed as Additional Director General in CISF

- **Appointment:** Vijay Prakash, a 1996-batch IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh, has been appointed as Additional Director General in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- **Tenure:** His appointment is for a period up to December 14, 2028, with a combined tenure of 7 years.
- **Previous Role:** Before this appointment, Prakash served as Inspector General in CISF and ADG, Fire Service, HQRS, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Shailesh Chandra Appointed MD & CEO of Tata Motors

- **Appointment Details:** Shailesh Chandra has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tata Motors, effective October 1, 2025, for a three-year term until September 30, 2028.

- **Role and Responsibilities:** He will lead the entity that will retain the Passenger Vehicle (PV), Electric Vehicle (EV), and Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) businesses.

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

- **Appointment:** Sudhanshu Vats, Managing Director of Pidilite Industries Ltd, has been appointed as the new Chairman of ASCI, effective at the 39th annual general meeting, as the council marks its 40th anniversary.
- **Leadership Role:** Vats emphasized the importance of self-regulation in advertising, ensuring ads are executed with integrity, respect for the community, and consideration for consumers, particularly with evolving technologies.
- **Expansion Plans:** ASCI plans to expand its presence in Bengaluru and New Delhi, strengthening its reach across key markets and enhancing its role in promoting responsible advertising practices.

Reema Jain appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence

- **Appointment Details:** Reema Jain, a 2013-batch Indian Economic Service (IES) officer, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence, for a tenure of four years.
- **Previous Role:** Before her current appointment, Reema Jain served as Joint Director in the

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- Central Staffing Scheme: Jain's appointment is part of the Central Staffing Scheme, which aims to strengthen administrative leadership.

Praveer Ranjan Takes Charge as CISF DG

- Appointment: Praveer Ranjan, a 1993-batch IPS officer, has been appointed as the new DG of CISF, taking over from R S Bhatti in a formal ceremony.
- Background: Ranjan brings 32 years of distinguished service, including leadership roles in airport security, showcasing his expertise in handling critical infrastructure protection.
- Modernization Commitment: As the 32nd DG of CISF, Ranjan has emphasized his commitment to modernizing CISF operations to prepare the force for future challenges.

Gaurav Banerjee to Lead Sony Pictures India

- Leadership Role: Gaurav Banerjee serves as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI), overseeing the company's strategic direction and operational excellence.
- Experience: He brings over two decades of experience in the media and entertainment industry, with a proven track record of translating content strategies into sustained business growth.
- Previous Roles: Before joining SPNI, Banerjee held key

positions at Disney+ Hotstar and Star India, where he played a crucial role in developing content and driving subscriber growth.

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

- Appointment: M Arvind has been appointed as Director in DPIIT, a key department under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry responsible for promoting industrial development and internal trade.
- Background: M Arvind is a 2011 batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, bringing significant administrative experience to his new role.
- Department's Role: DPIIT plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing industrial policies and strategies to drive India's economic growth and development.

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

- Appointment Details: Neeraj Surendran, a 2015 batch Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) officer, has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for a period of four years.
- Appointment Committee Approval: The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment, and he will be serving on the new position under the Central Staffing Scheme.

- Effective Date: His appointment as Deputy Secretary became effective after the approval, with October 1, 2025, being the date mentioned in recent updates.
- Responsibilities: As Deputy Secretary, Neeraj Surendran will play a key role in shaping policies and initiatives related to skill development and entrepreneurship in India.

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



- Re-election: Andrew Parsons was re-elected as the President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for a third and final four-year term, securing 109 out of 177 valid votes at the 2025 IPC General Assembly in Seoul, South Korea.
- Vote Margin: Parsons defeated his opponent, Dong Hyun Bae of South Korea, who received 68 votes, showcasing a clear mandate from the IPC membership.
- New Leadership Team: Alongside Parsons' re-election, Leila Marques Mota was elected as the First Vice-President, and John Petersson became the Second Vice-President, succeeding Duane Kale of New Zealand who completed his maximum term.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh Gets Additional Charge as CMD of NHPC

- **New Role:** Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh has been given the additional charge of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC Limited, India's leading hydropower company.
- **Reason for Appointment:** He assumes the role following the retirement/vacancy of the previous CMD, ensuring continuity in leadership.
- **Significance:** His appointment is crucial for driving clean energy initiatives, hydropower expansion, and renewable energy diversification under India's green energy mission.

OpenAI names ex-Coursera chief Raghav Gupta as Education Head for India and APAC

- **New Appointment:** Raghav Gupta, former Managing Director of Coursera India & APAC, has been appointed as Education Head for India and Asia-Pacific at OpenAI.
- **Role & Responsibility:** He will lead OpenAI's education initiatives in the region, focusing on integrating AI tools into learning, teaching, and skill development.
- **Strategic Importance:** His appointment comes at a time when AI in education is becoming a key driver for digital learning and workforce upskilling in India & APAC.
- **Significance:** This move strengthens OpenAI's regional presence and aligns with its goal

of making AI-powered learning more accessible to students, educators, and institutions.

T.C.A. Kalyani appointed as New CGA of India

- **Appointment:** T.C.A. Kalyani, a 1991-batch officer of the Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS), has assumed charge as the 29th Controller General of Accounts under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, effective September 1, 2025.
- **Experience:** Kalyani brings over 34 years of experience in public financial management, accounting, and governance, having served in various key ministries, including Defence, Telecom, Fertilizers, Finance, and Home Affairs.
- **Academic Background:** She is a gold medalist in Political Science from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, and holds an M.A. in International Politics and M.Phil. in West European Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Arun Kumar, appointed as Judge of the Allahabad High Court

- **Appointment Notification:** The President of India has appointed Advocate Arun Kumar as a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, effective from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- **Collegium Recommendation:** The Supreme Court Collegium recommended Kumar's appointment on May 9, 2023, after initially deferring the decision due to an Intelligence Bureau report. The Collegium later reiterated its belief that Kumar was "eminently fit and suitable" for the position.

- **Experience and Credentials:** Arun Kumar, about 51 years old, has over 25 years of experience practicing at the Bar, handling cases in constitutional, civil, and revenue jurisdictions before the High Court.

Ariser onboards Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador

- **Partnership Announcement:** Ariser, a smart-casual clothing label, announced Ravindra Jadeja as its brand ambassador, leveraging his popularity and style to promote the brand.
- **Brand Fit:** Jadeja's all-round brilliance on the field resonates with Ariser's promise of style that fits right, feels right, and moves with you, making him a perfect fit for the brand.
- **Quality and Comfort:** Ravindra Jadeja praised Ariser for its focus on quality, comfort, and craftsmanship, stating that the brand delivers on all fronts without a hefty price tag.

Kavinder Singh Negi inducted as Superintendent of Police in CBI

- **Appointment Details:** Kavinder Singh Negi, a 2015-batch IRS (Income Tax) officer, has been inducted as Superintendent of Police in the CBI for a period of four years.
- **Current Role:** Before joining CBI, Negi was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax in Delhi Headquarters, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- **Induction Alongside Others:** He was inducted alongside another officer, Vedant Kanwar (IRS IT: 2016), who was appointed as Superintendent of Police in CBI for a period of three years.



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).
- **Recent Achievement:** He secured his final GM norm on October 30, 2025, and has crossed the required 2500 Elo rating mark earlier at the Rilton Cup 2024-25.

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 14 medals in 2013.
- **Dominant Boxing Performance:** India's young boxers made history with 5 medals, including 3 golds, 1 silver, and 1 bronze. Khushi Chand (46kg), Ahaana Sharma (50kg), and Chandrika Bhoreshi Pujari (54kg) were some of the standout performers who won gold medals.
- **Kabaddi Teams Shine:** Both the boys' and girls' kabaddi teams won gold medals, with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announcing a special reward of Rs 10,00,000 for each team.

Aditi Ashok Finishes T-27 at Maybank Championship

- **T-27 Finish:** Aditi Ashok finished tied for 27th place at the Maybank Championship, carding an even-par 72 in the final round. Her four-day score was 10 under par.
- **Final Round Performance:** Aditi had three birdies and three bogeys in her final round, which determined her overall standing in the tournament.
- **Tournament Winner:** Miyu Yamashita won the championship, securing the title after a birdie on the 18th hole in a playoff against Hye Jin Choi and Hannah Green.
- **Prize Money:** Aditi earned \$24,228 for her T-27 finish, part

of the \$3 million purse offered by the tournament.

Young Prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan Wins UK Women's Blitz Title

- **Dominant Performance:** Bodhana won the UK Women's Blitz Championship with a commanding score of 13.5 out of 15 points. She started the tournament with an incredible streak of eight consecutive wins, finishing a full two points ahead of the runner-up.
- **World Ranking Breakthrough:** This triumph has catapulted her into the top 50 female blitz players in the world. Her performance raised her blitz rating to approximately 2329, a rare feat for a player of her age.
- **Continued Meteoric Rise:** This title follows a year of historic milestones for Bodhana in 2025, including becoming the youngest female to ever defeat a Grandmaster (Peter Wells) and the youngest player to earn the Woman International Master (WIM) title.

Pranjali Dhumal wins Gold in women's 25m pistol at Deaflympics

- **Gold Medal and Location:** Pranjali Prashant Dhumal clinched the Gold medal in the Women's 25m Pistol event at the 25th Summer Deaflympics, which were held in Tokyo, Japan.
- **Record-Breaking Qualification:** She advanced to the final after delivering a historic performance in the qualification round, where she set a new World and Deaflympic qualification record with a score of 573 out of 600.
- **Final Dominance:** In the final, she secured the top position with a score of 34, finishing ahead of

Halyna Mosina of Ukraine (who won silver with 32 points).

Lakshya Sen wins 2025 Australian Open Super 500 title

- **First Title of the Season:** The Australian Open Super 500 title is Lakshya Sen's first BWF World Tour title of the 2025 season. This win ends a title drought on the international circuit, with his last major trophy being the Canada Open Super 500 in 2023.
- **Dominant Final Performance:** In the men's singles final, Sen defeated Japan's Yushi Tanaka in straight games with a commanding score of 21-15, 21-11. The match was concluded in just 38 minutes, showcasing Sen's clinical control and sharp execution.

Javokhir Sindarov Crowned 2025 FIDE World Cup Champion

- **Historic Youngest Champion:** At just 19 years old, Uzbek Grandmaster Javokhir Sindarov became the youngest player in history to win the FIDE World Cup, highlighting the rise of young Asian talent.
- **Decisive Final Match:** Sindarov clinched the title and the \$120,000 top prize by defeating China's GM Wei Yi in a tense rapid-play tiebreak, with the overall score being 2.5–1.5.
- **Candidates Qualification:** As the winner and one of the top three finishers, Sindarov secured a coveted spot in the 2026 FIDE Candidates Tournament, which determines the challenger for the World Championship.
- **Tournament Scale and Location:** The single-elimination knockout tournament was a month-long marathon event.

OCTOBER 2025

England All-Rounder Chris Woakes Retires from International Cricket

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

Rashmika Sahgal and Kapil Win Gold at ISSF Junior World Cup

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

Championships in Kazakhstan, showcasing their strong form.

- **Medal Standings:** This win helped India take the lead in the overall medal standings with 11 medals, including three gold, five silver, and three bronze.

India Win 7th SAFF U-17 Football Title

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

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

- **Gold Medal Win:** Anushka Thokur clinched gold in the women's 50-meter rifle 3-positions event at the ISSF Junior World Cup, showcasing her exceptional shooting skills.
- **Dominant Performance:** This victory marks Thokur's second gold in the competition, following her earlier win in the 50-meter rifle prone event, demonstrating her consistency and talent.
- **Indian Sweep:** Thokur led a podium sweep for India in the women's 50m rifle events, highlighting the country's strong presence in the sport.

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

- **Historic Victory:** Sheetal Devi, 18, became the compound women's world champion at the Gwangju 2025 World Archery Para Championships, defeating defending champion Ozgur Cure Girdi of Türkiye 146-143.
- **Breakthrough Performance:** Devi's gold medal marks a significant milestone in her career, following her silver medal at the 2023 Pilsen World Championships and bronze at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- **Multiple Medals:** In addition to her individual gold, Sheetal won silver in the women's compound team event with Sarita and bronze in the mixed team event with Toman Kumar.

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

- **Record-Breaking Throw:** Rinku Hooda won the gold medal with a championship-record throw of 66.37 meters, breaking a 10-year-old record in the men's F46 javelin throw event at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025.
- **India's Dominance:** Sundar Singh Gurjar, the reigning world record holder, secured silver with a best throw of 64.76 meters, showcasing India's dominance in the event with a 1-2 finish.

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

- **Event and Medal:** Yogesh Khatuniya secured a silver medal in the Men's F56 discus throw

event with a best throw of 42.49 meters.

- **Competition Details:** He achieved this feat at the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, India.
- **Consecutive Silver Medals:** This silver medal marks Kathuniya's third consecutive silver in the World Championships, following his podium finishes in 2023 and 2024.

Grandmaster P Iniyan Wins 62nd National Chess Championship

- **Unbeaten Performance:** Grandmaster P Iniyan from Tamil Nadu won the championship without losing a single game in 11 rounds, showcasing his exceptional skill and consistency.
- **Nine Points Secured:** Iniyan accumulated nine points from seven wins and four draws, demonstrating his dominance in the tournament.
- **Notable Victories:** He secured crucial wins over prominent players like IM Harsh Suresh, GM Deepan Chakkravarthy, and GM Sasikiran Krishnan, who finished third in the tournament.
- **Superior Tie-Break Results:** Iniyan's victory was sealed by superior tie-break results, highlighting his ability to perform under pressure.

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

- **Recent Performance:** Mirabai Chanu recently won a gold medal in the women's 48kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in

Ahmedabad, lifting a total of 193kg.

- **Weight Class Adjustment:** Chanu dropped down to the 48kg weight class to adjust to new weight categories implemented for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, after competing in the 49kg category previously.
- **Upcoming Events:** She is currently preparing for the 2025 World Weightlifting Championships, a major event in the weightlifting calendar.

Carlos Alcaraz defeated Fritz to win the Japan Open title

- **Match Result:** Carlos Alcaraz defeated Taylor Fritz in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, to claim his 24th career title and eighth title of the season.
- **Tournament Performance:** Alcaraz had a remarkable run in Tokyo, dropping only one set throughout the tournament. He overcame a scary ankle injury in his first-round win and still managed to dominate the competition.
- **Head-to-Head Record:** This win improves Alcaraz's head-to-head record against Fritz to 4-1. Alcaraz avenged his loss to Fritz at the Laver Cup earlier this month.
- **Future Plans:** Alcaraz announced that he won't compete in the Shanghai Masters to recover for the rest of the season, aiming to maintain his top ranking.
- **Record-Breaking Rating:** Abhishek Sharma has achieved the highest-ever rating in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings, scoring 931 points, surpassing

Dawid Malan's record of 919 points set in 2020.

- **Current Ranking:** Although his rating slightly dipped to 926 after a rare failure, he still leads the rankings, ahead of England's Phil Salt by 82 points.
- **Indian Dominance:** Sharma's achievement adds to India's strong presence in the rankings, with Suryakumar Yadav and Virat Kohli also featuring among the top batters, and Varun Chakravathy topping the bowling charts.

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



- **Record-Breaking Rating:** Abhishek Sharma has achieved the highest-ever rating in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings, scoring 931 points, surpassing Dawid Malan's record of 919 points set in 2020.
- **Current Ranking:** Although his rating slightly dipped to 926 after a rare failure, he still leads the rankings, ahead of England's Phil Salt by 82 points.
- **Asia Cup Performance:** Sharma's record-breaking performance was fueled by his impressive run at the Asia Cup, where he scored 314 runs at an average of 44.85, earning him the Player of the Tournament title.

SEPTEMBER 2025

India Clinches SAFF U-17 Women's Championship Title 2025

- **Championship Victory:** India won the 2025 SAFF U-17 Women's Championship title, showcasing dominance in South Asian women's football.
- **Tournament Host:** The championship was held in Bangladesh, featuring teams from South Asian nations.
- **Consistent Success:** This victory highlights India's growing strength in youth women's football, following recent successes at junior levels.

Oscar Piastrì Wins Dramatic 2025 Dutch Grand Prix

- **Dramatic Victory:** Oscar Piastrì secured a thrilling win at the Dutch Grand Prix, extending his championship lead despite a dramatic late-race retirement of his teammate Lando Norris due to mechanical failure.
- **Race Dynamics:** Piastrì started strong from pole position and built a significant lead, but a series of safety car deployments altered the race dynamics. Norris was closing in on Piastrì until his car failure.
- **Championship Lead:** Piastrì's win increased his championship lead to 34 points, putting him in a strong position to claim the title. His consistency and resilience have been key factors in his success.

Starc Retires from T20Is to Focus on Tests & ODIs

- **Retirement Announcement:** Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc has announced his immediate retirement from T20

International cricket, effective immediately, to focus on Test matches and One-Day Internationals.

- **Reason for Retirement:** Starc cited the physical demands of international cricket and his desire to prioritize Test cricket, which has always been his top priority.

GM Pranav Venkatesh Wins Fujairah Global Superstars 2025

- **Convincing Victory:** Pranav Venkatesh won the Fujairah Global Superstars 2025 chess tournament, scoring 7 points out of 9 and finishing a full point ahead of his nearest rivals.
- **Tournament Performance:** He achieved a remarkable performance rating of 2843, showcasing his exceptional skill and dominance in the tournament.
- **Key Wins:** Pranav defeated notable players like Nihal Sarin, Alan Pichot, and Amin Tabatabaei, demonstrating his ability to handle pressure and outmaneuver strong opponents.

Mitchell Starc officially retired from international T20 cricket

- **Retirement Announcement:** Mitchell Starc has officially announced his retirement from T20 International cricket to focus on his Test and ODI career, prioritizing Australia's upcoming Test series against India and the 2027 ODI World Cup.
- **T20 Career Highlights:** Starc featured in 65 T20Is, taking 79 wickets, which places him second on Australia's all-time list for T20 wickets, showcasing his importance to the team.

- **Future Focus:** Starc's decision allows the Australian team to prepare for the T20 World Cup, giving younger players opportunities to shine, and enables him to extend his Test and ODI careers.

Sakshi & Bartwal Wins for India in World Boxing Championships

- **Sakshi's Dominant Win:** Sakshi Chaudhary won her bout in the women's 54 kg category with a dominant RSC (Referee Stopped Contest) victory over Ukraine's Viktoriia Shkeul, winning the opening round 5-0.
- **Pawan Bartwal's Hard-Fought Win:** Pawan Bartwal secured a winning start for India in the men's 55 kg bout, defeating Brazil's Michael Douglas Trindade with a split decision (3:2).
- **Contrasting Victories:** Sakshi and Bartwal's wins were contrasting, with Sakshi dominating her opponent while Bartwal had to fight hard for his victory.

Veteran Spinner Amit Mishra Retires After Two-Decade Cricket Career

- **Retirement Announcement:** Veteran leg-spinner Amit Mishra has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, ending a professional career spanning over two decades.
- **Career Highlights:** Although specific details about his career highlights aren't available in recent reports, Amit Mishra is known for his skills as a leg-spinner and his contributions to Indian cricket.

BANKING NEWS



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 Billionbrains parent, 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.
- **User Base:** Groww has an impressive 1.29 crore NSE active clients, surpassing its closest competitor, Angel One, which has 75.8 lakh active clients.
- **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.

India's Exports Rise 4.8% to \$491.8 Billion in April–October 2025

- **Overall Growth:** India's total exports (merchandise and services) rose 4.84% to \$491.8 billion in April–October 2025, compared to \$469.11 billion in the same period last year.
- **Key Sectors:** Electronic goods, meat, dairy and poultry products, marine products, cashew, and coffee drove merchandise export growth, with increases of 19.05%, 30.87%, 11.08%, 126.85%, and 10.91%, respectively.
- **Services Sector:** Services exports grew 9.75% to \$237.55 billion, with a trade surplus of \$118.68 billion, up from \$101.49 billion last year.
- **Trade Deficit:** India's merchandise trade deficit widened to \$196.82 billion, while total imports rose 5.74% to \$569.95 billion.

HDFC Bank Reclaims Top Spot as India's Most Valuable Brand in 2025

- **Reclaiming the Top Spot:** HDFC Bank has overtaken Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to reclaim the number one position in the Kantar BrandZ Most

Valuable Indian Brands 2025 report, a title it previously held until 2022.

- **Significant Valuation Growth:** The bank's brand value surged by a remarkable 18% year-on-year, reaching approximately \$45 billion, while the overall brand growth for other top Indian companies slowed down.
- **Success of Brand Campaigns:** HDFC Bank strengthened its customer connection through unique marketing initiatives, such as the "Vigil Aunty" persona, which effectively educated consumers on financial fraud and cybersecurity.

RCMS Bank Honoured as Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank

- **The Award Recognition:** Rani Channamma Mahila Sahakari Bank (RCMS Bank), headquartered in Belagavi, Karnataka, was honoured as the "Best Profit-Making Bank" for the year 2024-25. The award was presented by the Karnataka State Urban Cooperative Banks Federation during the 72nd All India Cooperative Week celebrations held in Haveri.
- **Leadership & Governance:** The award was received by the bank's Chairperson, Dr. Preeti Kore Daddwad. The recognition highlights her effective leadership and the bank's "A" class audit status, which underscores its strong governance, transparency, and operational efficiency.
- **Consistent Performance:** This accolade is part of a streak of recognition for the bank. It has consistently declared a 15% dividend for its shareholders and has previously been recognized as the "Best Mahila Cooperative Bank" at national levels, reinforcing its position as a

model cooperative institution in India.

Amit Kumar Srivastava appointed as Executive Director at PNB

- **New Role & Tenure:** Amit Kumar Srivastava has been appointed as the Executive Director of Punjab National Bank. The appointment is effective from November 24, 2025, and is valid for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- **Previous Leadership:** Prior to this elevation, he served as the Group Chief Risk Officer at PNB. In this role, he was instrumental in strengthening the bank's risk governance and institutionalizing robust risk frameworks.
- **Extensive Experience:** He brings over 31 years of banking experience, having started his career in 1994 as a Management Trainee with the Oriental Bank of Commerce. His career spans various key operational areas including branch banking, credit review, and monitoring.

Mini TM appointed as Executive Director at Indian Bank

- **New Leadership Role:** Mini T.M. has been appointed as the Executive Director of Indian Bank, one of India's leading public sector banks, reinforcing its top-tier management team.
- **Effective Date and Tenure:** She officially assumed charge of her new position on November 24, 2025, for a appointed tenure of three years.
- **Previous Strategic Position:** Prior to this elevation, she served as the Chief General Manager at Bank of Baroda.

OCTOBER 2025

Shirish Chandra Murmu Appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

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

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

- **Leadership Experience:** Amitabh Chaudhry has been the MD & CEO of Axis Bank since 2019, bringing over two decades of banking experience, including previous roles at HDFC Life and Bank of America.
- **Digital Transformation:** Under Chaudhry's leadership, Axis Bank has undergone significant digital transformation, introducing initiatives like the Axis Mobile App, Video KYC, and contactless payments.
- **Strategic Vision:** Chaudhry's strategic vision for Axis Bank includes strengthening digital banking, expanding rural and semi-urban reach, boosting corporate banking solutions, and focusing on Environmental,

Social, and Governance (ESG) principles.

Govt appoints Asheesh Pandey as MD & CEO of Union Bank

- **Appointment:** Asheesh Pandey was appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India for a three-year term, effective from September 2025, approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Banking Experience:** Pandey brings over 27 years of banking experience, previously serving as Executive Director at Bank of Maharashtra and Chief General Manager and COO at Union Bank of India.
- **Educational Background:** Pandey holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a postgraduate management qualification specializing in finance and marketing.

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

- **Banking Experience:** Kalyan Kumar has nearly three decades of banking experience, starting as a Rural Development Officer at Union Bank of India in 1995. He has held various leadership roles in branch operations, training, and corporate functions.
- **Digital Transformation Expertise:** Kumar has expertise in digital transformation, strategic planning, data analytics, economic advisory, and IT excellence, which he applied during his tenure at Punjab National Bank.
- **Merger Experience:** Kumar was closely involved in the amalgamation of Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India, showcasing his ability to navigate complex

challenges in India's public sector banking landscape.

FSIB recommends Ramakrishnan Chander as LIC's MD

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

RBI grants SRO status to Finance Industry Development Council

- **First SRO for NBFCs:** FIDC is the first organization officially recognized as an SRO for the general Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) sector in India.
- **Extended Regulatory Arm:** It will function as the extended arm of the RBI, aimed at ensuring better regulatory compliance and market discipline among NBFC members.

- **Mandate for Compliance:** Its core role involves framing and enforcing a Code of Conduct and ethical standards, and monitoring member adherence to RBI guidelines.

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

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

PayPal Onboards India's UPI as First Payments System Partner

- **Integration with PayPal World:** PayPal has integrated India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as the first payments system partner on its new platform, PayPal World, enabling seamless cross-border transactions.
- **Global Interoperability:** This partnership aims to create a global network of digital wallets, allowing users to transact across borders without the need for multiple accounts or platforms.
- **Boost to Financial Inclusion:** This move is expected to enhance financial inclusion, reduce transaction costs, and spur

innovation in fintech, aligning with India's 'Digital India' vision.

RBI unveils four UPI initiatives at Global Fintech Festival 2025

- **AI-Based UPI HELP:** This AI-powered support system transforms complaint resolution and mandate management, enabling users to check transaction status, raise and track complaints, manage mandates, and access contextual guidance. It's developed using a Small Language Model (SLM) trained on payment data.
- **IoT Payments with UPI:** This initiative allows transactions directly from connected devices like cars, smart TVs, and wearables, making payments faster, smarter, and frictionless. Users can make instant payments for services like fuel, EV charging, or other services via connected devices.

HDFC Bank Launches "My Business QR"

- **Digital Payment Solution:** HDFC Bank launched "My Business QR," a digital payment solution for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- **Easy Payments:** The solution allows businesses to accept payments digitally through a QR code, making transactions easier and more convenient.
- **Simple Setup:** Merchants can set up the QR code in minutes, without any additional hardware requirements.

RBI appoints Shri Sanjay Kumar Hansda as new Executive Director

- **Appointment:** Sanjay Kumar Hansda has been appointed as Executive Director in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from March 3, 2025.
- **Department:** He will head the Department of Economic and Policy Research in the RBI, bringing over 30 years of central banking experience to the role.
- **Previous Role:** Dr. Hansda rejoined RBI on October 6, 2025, after serving as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Sonali Sen Gupta appointed as RBI Executive Director



- **Over Three Decades of RBI Experience:** She has a career of more than thirty years at the Reserve Bank of India, indicating deep institutional knowledge.
- **Multifaceted Expertise:** Her experience covers critical functions within the RBI, including Financial Inclusion, Human Resource Management, Banking Regulation.
- **Prior Leadership Role:** Immediately before her ED appointment, she was serving as the Regional Director for Karnataka at the RBI's Bengaluru Regional Office.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Anish Madhavan appointed as Group Chief Compliance Officer of ICICI Bank

- **Appointment:** Anish Madhavan has been appointed as the Group Chief Compliance Officer (GCCO) of ICICI Bank, effective August 29, 2025, succeeding Subir Saha.
- **Experience:** Madhavan is a seasoned professional with 29 years of experience in banking and finance, and has been associated with ICICI Group for 24 years.
- **Previous Roles:** Madhavan has held key positions within ICICI Bank, including Head of Cards and Payment Solutions, Group Chief Internal Auditor, and Head of Financial Crime Prevention Group.

PNB appointed Raman Grover as CFO

- **Promotion from Within:** Grover's appointment signifies a promotion from within the bank's ranks. Prior to this role, he served as the General Manager of the Finance Division at the Head Office, demonstrating the bank's confidence in its internal talent pool.
- **Extensive Experience:** With over 26 years of experience in the banking sector, Grover brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new position. His long-standing career with PNB provides him with a deep understanding of the bank's financial operations and strategic direction.
- **Succession Planning:** This appointment is part of a planned leadership transition. Grover takes over the CFO responsibilities from Dilip

Kumar Jain, who superannuated from the bank's services on August 31, 2025.

BOB launches 'bob Digi Udyam' digital financing scheme

- **Digital Financing Platform:** BOB's 'bob Digi Udyam' is a digital, collateral-free lending platform designed for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to access working capital loans quickly.
- **Loan Amount and Tenure:** The scheme offers loan amounts ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh with a tenure of 12 months, providing Cash Credit and Overdraft facilities.
- **Credit Guarantee:** The scheme offers collateral-free loans backed by the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), aligning with the Government of India.

DPIIT and ICICI Bank Join Hands to Boost Startups

- **Partnership Details:** DPIIT and ICICI Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 4, 2025, to support DPIIT-recognized startups across India under the Startup India initiative.
- **Startup Engagement Programme:** The partnership involves launching a Startup Engagement Programme, offering accelerator access, mentorship, and pilot opportunities to early- and growth-stage startups, hosted on the Startup India portal.
- **Key Benefits:** Startups will gain access to ICICI Bank's Mumbai-based accelerator, workspace, structured curriculum, mentorship from industry leaders, and opportunities for pilot programs with ICICI Bank business units.

R Gandhi Reappointed as Yes Bank Chairman

- **Reappointment Details:** R Gandhi has been reappointed as the part-time non-executive Chairman of Yes Bank for a term from September 20, 2025, to May 13, 2027, as approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As part-time non-executive Chairman, Gandhi will oversee board functions but won't be involved in day-to-day operations.
- **Impact on Yes Bank:** Gandhi's reappointment ensures leadership stability and continuity during the bank's recovery phase post-2020 crisis.

Citibank Appoints Kaustubh Kulkarni as Asia-Pacific IB Co-Head

- **Appointment Details:** Kaustubh Kulkarni has been appointed as the co-head of investment banking for the Asia-Pacific region at Citibank, effective December 2025, pending regulatory approvals. He will be based in Singapore.
- **Experience and Background:** Kulkarni brings nearly three decades of experience from his previous role at JPMorgan, where he held several senior positions, including Senior Country Officer for India, Vice Chair for Asia Pacific, and Head of Investment Banking in India.
- **Strategic Importance:** This appointment is part of Citibank's strategy to expand its investment banking reach in key Asia-Pacific markets, driven by growing deal activity in sectors like technology, healthcare, and renewable energy.

DEFENCE & TECHNOLOGY


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.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and the Vishisht Seva Medal.

Indian Navy commissioned new survey vessel 'Ikshak' at Kochi

- **Indigenous Shipbuilding:** 'Ikshak' is a remarkable example of India's growing self-reliance in shipbuilding, with over 80% indigenous content, reflecting the success of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **Advanced Capabilities:** The vessel is equipped with cutting-edge hydrographic and oceanographic equipment, including a high-resolution multi-beam echo sounder, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and four Survey Motor Boats (SMBs).
- **Operational Versatility:** 'Ikshak' features a helicopter deck, enhancing its operational flexibility and enabling multi-domain missions, including aerial survey, logistics, and disaster response.
- **Strategic Significance:** The ship will play a crucial role in mapping India's coastal waters, ports, and maritime approaches,

ensuring safe navigation, maritime trade, and naval operations, while strengthening India's maritime domain awareness.

- **Commissioning and Deployment:** 'Ikshak' was commissioned on November 6, 2025, at Naval Base Kochi, and will be based at the Southern Naval Command, marking a significant milestone in the Indian Navy's drive to strengthen its survey and charting infrastructure.

6th India-Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX Begins

- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and share best practices in UN peacekeeping operations, promoting regional stability and security.
- **Participation:** The Indian delegation is led by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, while the Vietnamese contingent is headed by Deputy Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant General Phung Si Tan.
- **Significance:** VINBAX reinforces India's strategic engagement with Southeast Asia and showcases its commitment to regional security and defence diplomacy.

India-UK Joint Military Exercise 'AJEYA WARRIOR-25' Begins

- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the Indian and British armies, focusing on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under the United Nations mandate.

- **Participation:** 240 personnel from both armies are participating, with the Indian Army contingent comprising troops from the Sikh Regiment.
- **Activities:** The exercise includes joint mission planning, integrated tactical drills, simulation-based scenarios, and company-level field training exercises.
- **Significance:** AJEYA WARRIOR-25 strengthens defence cooperation, camaraderie, and mutual trust between India and the UK, promoting regional security and global peace.

Navy commissions new anti-submarine ship INS Mahe

- **Lead Ship of the Mahe-Class ASW-SWC:** INS Mahe is the first of eight planned Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW-SWC), built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). This class is specifically designed to replace the Indian Navy's aging Abhay-class Corvettes.
- **Focus on Shallow Water Combat (Littorals):** Its primary role is to conduct high-tempo ASW operations, coastal surveillance, and mine-laying in shallow coastal waters (littorals) where larger, deeper-draft warships cannot effectively maneuver. It is designed to detect and neutralize enemy submarines operating close to the coastline.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative:** The vessel is a symbol of India's push for defense self-reliance, featuring over 80% indigenous content. This highlights India's expanding expertise in management suite and sonar.

OCTOBER 2025

Indian Army Conducts 'Vayu Samanvay' Exercise

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

Major General G. Srinivas Assumes Command as CDM Commandant

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

Indian Army Conducts Exercise 'Drone Kavach' in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Objective:** The exercise aimed to validate the Army's operational preparedness for fighting in a drone-dominated battlefield and assess its ability to integrate advanced drone technologies into active combat while developing effective counter-drone measures.
- **Location and Duration:** The exercise was conducted in forward areas of eastern Arunachal Pradesh from September 25 to 28, 2025, and involved the Spear Corps under the Eastern Command.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The exercise emphasized tactics, techniques, and procedures for handling drone warfare, including simulated target acquisition and neutralization operations, active counter-measures like electronic jamming systems, and passive defenses like camouflage and deception.

Major General G. Srinivas Takes Charge as Commandant of CDM

- **New Appointment:** Major General G. Srinivas has taken charge as the Commandant of CDM in Secunderabad, succeeding Lieutenant General Harsh Chhibber, who has been elevated to the post of Director General Information Systems.
- **Background:** Maj Gen Srinivas is a distinguished Gunner Officer with extensive experience in joint operational planning, defence management, and strategic leadership. He is an alumnus of both the College of Defence Management and the National Defence College.

- **Role of CDM:** The College of Defence Management is a premier tri-services training institution that imparts modern management practices, leadership skills, and joint operational perspectives to senior officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

HAL receives GE Aerospace jet engine for Tejas light combat jets

- **Engine Delivery:** HAL has received the fourth GE-F404-IN20 engine from US-based GE Aerospace for the Tejas Mk-1A program, with 12 engines expected by the end of the current financial year.
- **Contract Details:** The delivery is part of a \$716 million contract signed in 2021 for 99 F404-IN20 engines to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A fighter jets.
- **Self-Reliance:** The GE-F404-IN20 engine will enhance the Tejas Mk-1A's combat capabilities, supporting India's push for self-reliance in defence manufacturing under the 'Make in India' initiative.

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

- **Appointment** – Air Marshal Hardeep Bains has assumed charge as the Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel (AOP) at Air Headquarters.
- **Responsibilities** – As AOP, he will oversee all personnel matters of the Indian Air Force (IAF), including human resource management, training, and welfare.
- **Background** – He was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF and has

extensive operational and administrative experience.

- **Leadership Roles** – He has held key appointments at various command and staff levels, contributing significantly to IAF operations and administration.

Indian Coast Guard Commissions Ship Akshar

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

The 'Drone Armour' exercise conducted in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Exercise Objective:** The exercise aimed to validate the Army's operational preparedness for fighting in a next-generation, drone-dominated battlefield, and to assess its ability to integrate advanced drone technologies into active combat while developing effective counter-drone measures.

- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involved the Indian Army's Spear Corps under the Eastern Command and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration in national security operations.
- **Key Activities:** The exercise included tactical maneuvers, target acquisition, and neutralization operations, with a focus on both active counter-measures (electronic jamming systems and hard-kill drone interceptors) and passive defenses (camouflage, deception, and dispersion tactics).
- **Strategic Importance:** The exercise was conducted in forward areas of eastern Arunachal Pradesh, a region critical to India's national security due to its proximity to the China and Myanmar borders.

DRDO Launches IRSA 1.0 for Military Radio Interoperability

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

architecture, scalability for next-generation technologies like AI and 5G, and a certification framework for security and reliability.

Indian Army Launches Indigenous 'SAKSHAM' Anti-Drone Grid



- **Indigenous Development:** SAKSHAM is an indigenous system developed in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), showcasing India's growing capability in defense technology under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- **Real-Time Detection and Neutralization:** SAKSHAM detects, tracks, identifies, and neutralizes hostile drones in real-time, providing a unified "Recognised UAS Picture" across the Tactical Battlefield Space (TBS) up to 3,000 meters above ground level.
- **AI-Driven Technology:** The system uses AI-driven threat analysis, enhancing accuracy and decision-making speed in neutralizing aerial threats. It employs AI-based fusion technologies for automated threat classification and soft/hard kill decision-making.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Army Conducts Yudh Kaushal 3.0 Multi-Domain Drill in Arunachal Pradesh

- **Exercise Conducted:** The Indian Army carried out Yudh Kaushal 3.0, a large-scale multi-domain military drill in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Objective:** The exercise tested operational readiness, joint warfare capabilities, and integration of modern technology in high-altitude conditions.
- **Forces Involved:** Multiple arms of the Army, including infantry, artillery, aviation, engineers, and electronic warfare units, participated.
- **Strategic Significance:** Conducted close to the LAC (Line of Actual Control) with China, the drill strengthens preparedness against border challenges.

India unveils Vikram 3201, the first fully indigenous 32 bit microprocessor

- **Launch Details:** Vikram-3201 was officially unveiled on September 2, 2025, at the Semicon India Summit in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey.
- **Design and Fabrication:** This microprocessor was designed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and fabricated at the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Mohali, showcasing India's end-to-end capabilities in semiconductor technology.

India-Thailand Military Drill Exercise MAITREE-XIV Begins

- **Exercise Details:** The 14th edition of Exercise MAITREE commenced on September 1, 2025, at the Joint Training Node (JTN) in Umroi, Meghalaya, and will run until September 14, 2025.
- **Participating Forces:** The exercise involves 120 personnel from the Indian Army's Madras Regiment and 53 personnel from the Royal Thai Army's 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.

INS Trikand joins Multilateral Exercise In Egypt

- **Exercise Details:** INS Trikand, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, has arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, to participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, a major multilateral drill scheduled from September 1 to 10.
- **Participating Countries:** The exercise involves multiple nations, including India, the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Greece, Cyprus, and Italy, showcasing international cooperation and commitment to regional security.
- **Tri-Service Participation:** The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force are participating in the exercise, which focuses on irregular warfare, hybrid challenges, and training together on air, land, and sea to enhance interoperability.

Indian Forces Join Russia's ZAPAD 2025 Military Exercise

- **Exercise Details:** The ZAPAD 2025 military exercise is scheduled to take place from September 10 to 16 at the Mulino Training Ground in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. It brings together military contingents

from several nations to enhance operational readiness and defense engagement.

- **Indian Contingent:** A 65-member tri-services contingent from India, comprising 57 soldiers from the Army (mainly from the Kumaon Regiment), 7 officers and airmen from the Indian Air Force, and 1 representative from the Navy, is participating in the exercise.
- **Significance:** India's participation in ZAPAD 2025 reflects its commitment to global security and stability. The exercise provides a platform for India to exchange operational knowledge, adapt to emerging technologies, and reinforce ties with Russia and other participating countries.

India launched SAJEX 2025



- **Strengthening India-Saudi Trade Relations:** SAJEX 2025 is a B2B (business-to-business) event designed to create a direct platform for Indian jewelry manufacturers and exporters to connect with Saudi Arabian buyers. The exhibition aims to boost India's share in the Saudi market, which is projected to grow to \$8.3 billion by 2030.
- **Focus on Bilateral Economic Partnership:** The expo aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, a strategic framework to diversify its economy and reduce dependence on oil. By showcasing India's prowess in gems and jewelry, the event leverages the complementary strengths of both economies: India's position as a leading global exporter and Saudi Arabia's large and growing consumer market.

REASONING ABILITY

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

Eight persons are sitting in two parallel rows containing four persons each in such a way that there is an equal distance between adjacent persons. In row 1: A, B, C and D are seated and all of them are facing north. In row 2: P, Q, R and S are seated and all of them are facing south. Each person in row 1 faces another person in row 2.

Only one person sits between A and D, who sits at one of the extreme ends of the row. The one who sits opposite to A sits immediate right of Q. The number of persons sitting to the left of Q is the same as the number of persons sitting to the right of S. C sits to the right of B. R sits second to the left of S. P doesn't sit at any extreme ends.

1. How many persons sit between C and the one who faces P?

- (A) Two (B) One
(C) No one (D) Either b or c
(E) Either a or b

2. The number of persons sitting between P and Q is same as the number of persons sitting between ____

- (A) S and Q (B) B and A
(C) P and R (D) D and A
(E) Q and R

3. Who among the following person sits second to the right of R?

- (A) P
(B) The one who faces B
(C) The one who faces D
(D) Q
(E) The one who faces A

4. If Q is related to P in the same way B is related to C, then who among the following is related to A?

- (A) D
(B) The one who faces Q
(C) C
(D) The one who faces R
(E) B

5. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way based on the given arrangement and thus form a group. Which of the following does not belong to that group?

- (A) C (B) S (C) D (D) Q
(E) B

Directions (6-9): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

“Birds place chirp miles” is coded as “pq gk uj wz”

“Song fly sing place” is coded as “wz rn st ha”

“Sing birds one miles” is coded as “fv uj gk rn”

“Fly song birds chirp” is coded as “st ha uj pq”

(Note: All the given codes are two letters codes only)

6. What is the word for the code “st” in the given code language?

- (A) Fly (B) Sing
(C) Song (D) Chirp
(E) Either a or c

7. What is the phrase for the code “rn wz” in the given code language?

- (A) Place Sing (B) Fly Birds
(C) Sing Song (D) One Miles
(E) Song Place

8. What is the code for the word “Miles” in the given code language?

- (A) fv (B) pq (C) uj (D) gk
(E) ha

9. What is the code for the phrase “Chirp Birds” in the given code language?

- (A) pq ha (B) gk st
(C) uj wz (D) fv pq
(E) pq uj

Directions (10-13): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

836 276 534 429 316

10. If the position of the first and the last digits of each number in the given series is interchanged, then which of the following number is the second largest?

- (A) 534 (B) 316 (C) 836 (D) 276
(E) 429

11. If all the numbers in the given series are arranged in descending order from left to right, then which of the following number is third from the right end?

- (A) 316 (B) 429 (C) 276 (D) 836
(E) 534

12. If one is subtracted from the last digit of each number in the given series, then how many number(s) thus formed is/are exactly divisible by 2?

- (A) Four (B) Two
(C) Three (D) None
(E) One

13. If the last digit is subtracted from the sum of the first two digits of each number in the given series, then the resultant of which of the following number is an even number?

- (A) 429 (B) 836 (C) 534 (D) 276
(E) None of these

14. If in the word "TURMERIC", all the letters are arranged in alphabetical order from left to right, then which of the following letter will remain unchanged from its original position?

- (A) M (B) I
(C) R (D) E
(E) Both a and c

15. Find the odd one out.

- (A) ACE (B) NPR
(C) QSV (D) HJL
(E) VXZ

16. How many such pairs of digits are there in the number "97185264", each of which has as many digits between them as there are in the numerical series (both forward and backward directions)?

- (A) Three
(B) Four
(C) One
(D) None
(E) Two

Directions (17-20): In the given questions, the relationship between different elements is shown in the statements followed by two conclusions. Find the conclusion which is definitely true.

17. Statements

$$H \geq M < T = O \leq S < P \geq W$$

Conclusion I: $P > M$

Conclusion II: $T < W$

- (A) Only conclusion I is true
(B) Either conclusion I or II is true
(C) Both conclusions I and II are true
(D) Only conclusion II is true
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

18. Statements

$$S < R \geq A > D = V < P \geq F$$

Conclusion I: $R \geq V$

Conclusion II: $F < A$

- (A) Only conclusion II is true
(B) Either conclusion I or II is true
(C) Both conclusions I and II are true
(D) Only conclusion I is true
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

19. Statements

$$M = D \leq J \leq U \leq K > Y < N$$

Conclusion I: $M < K$

Conclusion II: $K = M$

- (A) Both conclusions I and II are true
(B) Either conclusion I or II is true
(C) Only conclusion II is true
(D) Only conclusion I is true
(E) Neither conclusion I nor II is true

20. Statements

$$Q \leq W > Z = T > B \geq E < I$$

Conclusion I: $E \geq Q$

Conclusion II: $B < W$

- (A) Only conclusion I is true
(B) Neither conclusion I nor II is true
(C) Either conclusion I or II is true
(D) Only conclusion II is true
(E) Both conclusions I and II are true

Directions (21-25): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Seven persons- E, F, G, H, I, J and K bought dresses from a shop one after another. It is assumed that no other persons bought a dress other than the given persons.

E bought a dress three persons before I. Only one person bought a dress between E and G. K bought immediately after E. Two persons bought dresses between J and K, who bought before J. As many persons bought before G as after J. The number of persons bought between K and F is two less than the number of persons bought dresses between F and H.

21. How many persons bought dresses between H and I?

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

22. Who among the following persons bought a dress immediately after K?

- (A) F (B) J
(C) H (D) G
(E) I

23. If all the persons bought dresses in alphabetical order from first to last, then who among the following persons remain unchanged in their position?

- (A) K (B) No one
(C) H (D) E
(E) I

24. If F is related to I, G is related to H, in the same way, then who among the following person is related to K?

- (A) I (B) H
(C) F (D) E
(E) J

25. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true with respect to the final arrangement?

- I. K bought a dress two persons after I
II. E bought a dress at first
III. E bought a dress immediately before K

- (A) Only I
(B) Only I and II
(C) Only II
(D) Only II and III
(E) Only III

Directions (26-30): Study the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Eight persons - M, N, O, P, Q, R, S and T are sitting around a rectangular table in such a way that four of them are sitting at the

corners while other four are sitting in the middle of the sides and all are facing towards the centre.

Two persons sit between S and N, who sits at the corner of the table. S sits second to the right of P, who sits opposite to M. The number of persons sitting between M and N is same as the number of persons sitting between Q and O, when counted from the right of both M and Q. O doesn't sit adjacent to S. T neither faces R nor is an immediate neighbour of M.

26. How many persons sit between M and the one who sits immediate left of S, when counted from the left of M?

- (A) Two (B) One
(C) Three (D) No one
(E) Five

27. If O and R are interchanged in their positions, then who among the following persons sits second to the left of R?

- (A) O (B) S (C) N (D) M
(E) T

28. Which of the following statements is true?

- (A) R sits opposite to Q
(B) Both P and S are immediate neighbours
(C) T sits in the middle of the sides
(D) O sits immediate left of S
(E) Q sits second to the right of M

29. As many persons sit between O and T as between ____

- (A) Q and T (B) R and N
(C) S and O (D) N and P
(E) M and R

30. Who among the following persons sits third to the right of P?

- (A) O (B) N
(C) Q (D) R
(E) None of these

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

E N R F J V A K S W O B X I Y C P T H L U D Q Z G M

31. How many such letters are there in the given series each of which is immediately followed by a vowel and immediately preceded by a consonant?

- (A) One (B) More than three
(C) Three (D) Two
(E) None

32. Which of the following letter is second to the left of the sixth letter from the right end?

- (A) G (B) U (C) H (D) T
(E) L

33. If the consonants which are immediately preceded by a vowel are dropped from the given series, then which of the following letter is fifteenth from the right end?

- (A) A (B) O (C) I (D) W
(E) S

34. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and thus form a group. Which of the following does not belong to that group?

- (A) NRJ (B) KSO (C) XIC (D) CPT
(E) DQG

35. If all the vowels are dropped from the given series, then which of the following letter is eighth from the left end?

- (A) W (B) B (C) S (D) K
(E) X

Directions (36-40): mStudy the following information carefully and answer the given questions.

Seven persons- M, N, O, P, Q, R and S work in a company at different designations-CEO, AM and Clerk. At least two persons but not more than three persons work in the same designation.

N works as AM. M and Q work at the same designation but not as a CEO. P works neither as a Clerk nor with Q. R and O don't work as CEO. The number of persons working with R is the same as the number of persons working as AM.

36. The number of persons working as AM is same as the ____

- (A) Number of persons working with S
(B) Number of persons working as Clerk
(C) Number of persons working with O
(D) Number of persons working with P
(E) Number of persons working as CEO

37. How many persons work as a Clerk?

- (A) Three
(B) Same as the number of persons work as CEO
(C) Either two or three
(D) Two
(E) None of these

38. If Y works as a CEO, then who among the following persons work with Y?

- (A) N and S (B) Q and P
(C) P and S (D) R and M
(E) S and O

39. Who among the following persons works with N?

- (A) S (B) Q
(C) P (D) The one who works as AM
(E) R

40. Four of the following five are alike in a certain way and thus form a group. Which of the following does not belong to that group?

- (A) PS (B) RP (C) NO (D) QR
(E) MQ

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

41. 180 litres mixture (alcohol + water) contains alcohol and water in the ratio 2:3 respectively. Find the quantity of alcohol that must be added so that ratio of quantity of alcohol and water becomes 5:6 respectively.

- (A) 12 ml (B) 18 ml (C) 24 ml (D) 16 ml
(E) 20 ml

42. An inlet pipe can fill an empty tank in 45 minutes whereas an outlet pipe can empty the fully filled tank in 60 minutes. Find the time taken by both the pipes together to fill half of the empty tank.

- (A) 72 minutes (B) 180 minutes
(C) 120 minutes (D) 90 minutes
(E) 150 minutes

43. Rs. 8,760 is divided among 'A', 'B' and 'C' in the ratio 2:1:3 respectively. Find the amount received by 'C'.

- (A) Rs. 4,380 (B) Rs. 2,920
(C) Rs. 3,420 (D) Rs. 2,960
(E) Rs. 4,320

44. Amit and Ajit started a business together with an investment of Rs. 5,400 and Rs. 9,000. Ajit left the business after certain months. At the end of a year, ratio of profit share of Amit and Ajit was 9:10 respectively. Find the time after which Ajit left the business.

- (A) 4 months (B) 5 months
(C) 9 months (D) 6 months
(E) 8 months

45. Length of a train, whose speed is 90 km/h, is 450 metres. Find the time taken (in seconds) by train to cross a bridge of length 550 metres.

- (A) 36 seconds (B) 44 seconds
(C) 40 seconds (D) 42 seconds
(E) 38 seconds

46. Time taken by boat to cover 60 km upstream and 90 km downstream is same. If speed of stream is 5 km/h, then find the distance cover by boat in 2 hours in still water.

- (A) 50 km (B) 40 km (C) 60 km (D) 48 km
(E) 30 km

47. Side of a square is 40% less than length of a rectangle whose area and breadth are 1440 cm^2 and 32 cm respectively. Find the perimeter of square.

- (A) 120 cm (B) 72 cm (C) 60 cm (D) 108 cm
(E) 96 cm

48. An amount invested on simple interest at 'R%' p.a. amounts to Rs. 8,928 in 2 years and Rs. 11,520 in 5 years. Find the amount invested.

- (A) Rs. 7,500 (B) Rs. 7,200
(C) Rs. 7,800 (D) Rs. 7,000
(E) Rs. 8,000

49. Average of seven consecutive numbers is 73. Find the sum of smallest and largest number.

- (A) 148 (B) 144 (C) 142 (D) 152
(E) 146

50. An article is marked 35% above its cost price and sold after allowing discount of 20%. Find the profit/loss percentage incurred on selling the article.

- (A) 8% loss (B) 9% loss
(C) 8% profit (D) 9% profit
(E) 7% profit

51. In 2023, Subhash spends 75% of his income. In 2024, his income is increased by 25% due to which he increased his expenditure by 20%. Find the percentage increase in his savings from 2023 to 2024.

- (A) 40% (B) 30% (C) 20% (D) 25%
(E) 35%

52. Three years ago from now, age of 'P' was 12 years whereas six years hence from now, age of 'Q' will be 24 years. Find the respective ratio of ages of 'P' and 'Q', 12 years hence from now.

- (A) 8:9 (B) 10:9 (C) 9:8 (D) 9:10
(E) 7:8

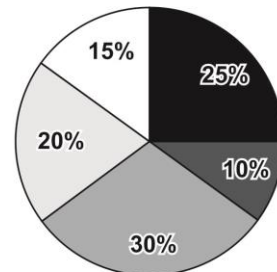
53. What number must be subtracted from $(5/4)$ so as to obtain $(7/12)$?

- (A) $(7/12)$ (B) $(2/3)$ (C) $(1/3)$ (D) $(6/11)$
(E) $(4/7)$

Directions [54-59]: Answer the questions based on the information given below.

Pie chart given below shows the percentage distribution of number of notebooks used by five students (Nutan, Nitin, Naveen, Naman and Nitu) out of total number of notebooks used by all of them together.

Note: Number of notebooks used by Naveen is 540.



■ Nutan ■ Nitin ■ Naveen ■ Naman ■ Nitu

54. Find the average number of notebooks used by Nutan, Nitin and Naman.

- (A) 300 (B) 360
(C) 330 (D) 390
(E) 370

55. Out of total number of notebooks used by Nitu and Naveen together, $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ were Hindi notebooks. Find the sum of number of Hindi notebooks used by both of them.

- (A) 270 (B) 360
(C) 180 (D) 540
(E) 420

56. Number of English notebooks used by Naman is 20% less than number of Maths notebooks used by him. Find the number of Maths notebooks used by him. (Note: Notebook is either English or Maths)

- (A) 160 (B) 200 (C) 240 (D) 120
(E) 180

57. Find the ratio of sum of number of notebooks used by Nitin and Naveen to number of notebooks used by Nitu respectively.

- (A) 2:1 (B) 7:3 (C) 7:4 (D) 5:3
(E) 8:3

58. Number of notebooks used by Mukul is 50 more than that used by Nutan. Number of notebooks used by Naman is what percent of that used by Mukul?

- (A) 84% (B) 76%
(C) 60% (D) 72%
(E) 70%

59. What will come in the place of question mark (?) in the given expression?

$$59. \sqrt{64 \times 9 \div 3 + 12 \times 3} = ? + 36$$

- (A) 36 (B) 28 (C) 24 (D) 32
(E) 22

$$60. (120 - ?) \div 2 + 35 = 86 - 11$$

- (A) 40 (B) 60 (C) 50 (D) 80
(E) 70

$$61. (160 - 64) \div 24 \times 50 = ?2 + 31$$

- (A) 11 (B) 10 (C) 12 (D) 13
(E) 14

$$62. (40 \div 5 + 56 \div 8) \times (? - 42) = 120$$

- (A) 34 (B) 50 (C) 46 (D) 38
(E) 52

$$63. 40\% \text{ of } (320 \div 4) + 2^2 \times 25 = ? + 42$$

- (A) 70 (B) 120 (C) 80 (D) 110
(E) 90

$$64. (6/11) \text{ of } 121 - ?\% \text{ of } 100 = 5^2 + 5$$

- (A) 32 (B) 36 (C) 44 (D) 48
(E) 30

$$65. \frac{\sqrt{144 \div 3 + 1} + 93}{?} = 25$$

- (A) 20 (B) 18
(C) 14 (D) 4
(E) 8

$$66. 35\% \text{ of } 400 - 20\% \text{ of } 300 = (? - 30) \times 2$$

- (A) 70 (B) 60
(C) 90 (D) 80

- (E) 50

$$67. \left(\frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{5}\right) \times \frac{45}{7} = ? \div 12$$

- (A) 40 (B) 38
(C) 48 (D) 26
(E) 36

$$68. (15 - 19 + 10)^2 + ? = 45 \times 2$$

- (A) 48 (B) 46
(C) 54 (D) 58
(E) 64

$$69. \sqrt{65 + \sqrt{25} + ?} = \sqrt[3]{1331}$$

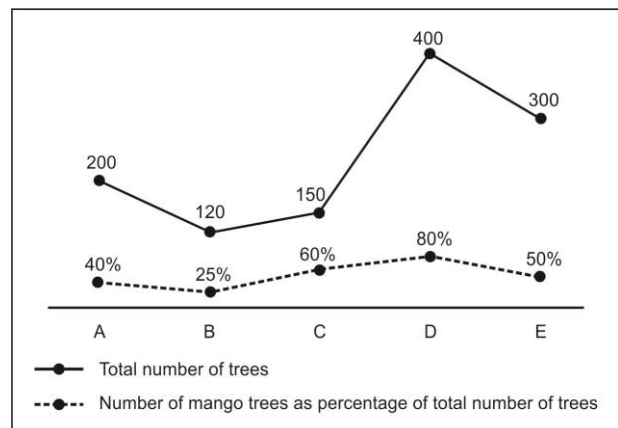
- (A) 51 (B) 41
(C) 35 (D) 25
(E) 27

$$70. 389 + 641 - ? = 180 \times 2$$

- (A) 680 (B) 690
(C) 660 (D) 670
(E) 710

Directions [71-75]: Answer the questions based on the information given below.

Five gardens ('A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'E') have two types of trees (Mango and Apple). Line graph given below shows the total number of trees in each garden. It also shows the number of mango trees as a percentage of total number of trees in that garden.



71. Number of apple trees in 'B' is what percent of number of mango trees in 'E'?

- (A) 80% (B) 20%
(C) 60% (D) 40%
(E) 50%

72. Find the ratio of number of mango trees in 'A' and 'D' together and number of apple trees in same gardens together respectively.

- (A) 2:1 (B) 5:2 (C) 1:2 (D) 2:5
(E) 4:3

73. Find the difference between number of mango trees in 'B' and 'C'.

- (A) 50 (B) 40 (C) 30 (D) 60
(E) 20

74. Number of mango trees in another garden 'F' is 50% more than number of apples trees in 'C'. Ratio of number of apple and mango trees in 'F' is 4:5 respectively. Find the number of apple trees in 'F'.

- (A) 84 (B) 72 (C) 64 (D) 48
(E) 56

75. Find the average number of apple trees in 'D' and 'E'.

- (A) 110 (B) 105 (C) 125 (D) 120
(E) 115

Direction (76-80): What will come in place of the question mark (?) in the following series?

76. 717, 732, 745, 760, 773, ?

- (A) 790 (B) 786
(C) 792 (D) 788
(E) 784

77. 540, ?, 360, 120, 240, 80

- (A) 270 (B) 180
(C) 150 (D) 210
(E) 160

78. 293, 420, 547, ?, 801, 928

- (A) 674 (B) 672
(C) 676 (D) 670
(E) 678

79. 24, 42, 71, 111, ?, 224

- (A) 168 (B) 164
(C) 162 (D) 160
(E) 170

80. 200, 100, 50, 25, ?, 6.25









- (A) 12 (B) 12.25
(C) 12.75 (D) 11.75
(E) 12.5

ANSWER KEY

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

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 ANKIT MISHRA IBPS RRB PO	 JAPPREET KAUR IBPS RRB PO	 PALLAVI IBPS RRB PO	 SONALI YADAV IBPS RRB PO	 RASHMI SBI CLERK	 RANJANA SBI CLERK	 SHUBHAM SBI CLERK	 SATWINDER KAUR SBI CLERK	 JOGINDER SBI CLERK	 MUKESH SBI CLERK
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