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WEEKLY — Current Affairs

NATIONAL NEWS

Aurangabad Railway Station Renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar

- **New Official Name:** The Aurangabad Railway Station was officially renamed as "Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Railway Station." The change was approved by the competent authority and announced by the Central Railway/South Central Railway.
- **New Station Code:** Along with the name change, the railway station received a new code. The former code, AWB, has been replaced with the new code: CPSN.
- **Honoring Maratha History:** The renaming is a tribute to Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the second ruler of the Maratha state. The original name of Aurangabad was derived from the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.
- **Alignment with City Name:** The station's renaming formalizes its alignment with the name of the city, which was officially changed from Aurangabad to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar nearly three years earlier by the Maharashtra government. The railway notification followed a state gazette notification issued on October 15 (of the relevant year).
- **Location and Division:** The station is a significant hub located on the Kacheguda-Manmad section and falls under the Nanded Division of the South Central Railway zone. It serves as a major gateway for tourists visiting UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Ajanta and Ellora Caves.

Justice Surya Kant to Become 53rd Chief Justice of India

- **Expected Date of Oath and Tenure:** Justice Surya Kant is slated to take the oath as the 53rd CJI on November 24 (of the relevant year), the day following the retirement of the current CJI, Justice B. R. Gavai. He is expected to have a tenure of approximately 14 months, retiring on February 9, 2027.
- **Recommendation and Seniority:** His name was formally recommended to the Union Government by the outgoing CJI, Justice B. R. Gavai, following the established convention where the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is recommended as the successor.
- **Judicial Journey and Origin:** Justice Kant was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019. Prior to this, he served as the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court and for over 14 years as a judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He is notable for being the first person from Haryana to assume the office of the Chief Justice of India.
- **Landmark Judgments:** His time on the Supreme Court bench has been marked by involvement in several consequential cases, including those concerning the abrogation of Article 370, the electoral bonds scheme, and the order to keep the colonial-era sedition law in abeyance pending a government review.

Uttar Pradesh to Get 76th District Named Kalyan Singh Nagar

- **76th District Formation:** The new administrative unit, if formally approved, will become the 76th district of Uttar Pradesh, continuing the state's administrative reorganization efforts.
- **Tribute to Former CM:** The district is named Kalyan Singh Nagar as a major tribute to the late former Chief Minister and veteran BJP leader, Kalyan Singh, recognizing his lifelong contribution to state politics and governance.
- **Proposed Merger Area:** The new district will be carved out by merging specific areas from two existing districts: it is primarily proposed to include Atrauli and Gangiri tehsils from Aligarh and Dibai tehsil from Bulandshahr.
- **Historical Connection:** The proposed area holds deep significance to Kalyan Singh's legacy, as Atrauli was his birthplace (Madhauri) and his long-standing assembly constituency, while Dibai was also a core area of his political influence.
- **Administrative Goal:** The move is intended to enhance administrative efficiency and development in the geographically extended and underdeveloped areas of Aligarh and Bulandshahr, making government services more accessible to local residents.

NCERT Signs MoU with IIT-Madras to Boost EdTech and Research

- **Alignment with NEP 2020:** The primary purpose of the collaboration is to strengthen educational research, development, and technology integration in line with the vision and goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes technology-infused, inclusive, and quality education.
- **Focus on AI/ML and EdTech:** The partnership will leverage cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to create innovative learning solutions. This includes developing Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) tools, gamification, and Extended Reality (XR) content to make learning more engaging.
- **Digital Content and Multilingualism:** A key deliverable is the development and dissemination of high-quality digital educational content. The goal is for all educational books and resources to be "born digital" and made available in 22 Scheduled Languages to support education in a child's mother tongue.
- **Teacher Professional Development (CPD):** The MoU will focus heavily on the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) of teachers. IIT-Madras will provide expertise and training on using the new AI-powered pedagogical and technological tools to enhance teaching effectiveness and assessment.

MDL, Swan Defence Sign Pact to Build Navy Landing Platform Docks

- **Partnership Details:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) and Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Ltd (SDHI) have signed an exclusive Teaming Agreement to jointly design and construct LPDs for the Indian Navy, leveraging each other's strengths in shipbuilding and infrastructure.

- **Project Value:** The Defence Acquisition Council has approved the acquisition of LPDs at an estimated cost of ₹33,000 crore, highlighting the strategic priority assigned to amphibious capability and marking one of the largest indigenous naval procurement projects.
- **Key Roles:** MDL will lead ship design, project management, and system integration, while SDHI will provide its world-class shipbuilding facilities, including the largest graving dry dock in the country, to deliver high-quality LPDs.
- **Benefits:** The partnership aims to deliver technologically advanced and globally competitive platforms, enhancing the Indian Navy's blue-water capabilities and supporting the government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance in defense manufacturing).

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy Launches 'KOYLA SHAKTI' Dashboard and CLAMP Portal

- **KOYLA SHAKTI Dashboard:** A digital platform integrating the entire coal value chain from mine to market, enabling real-time coordination among coal companies, railways, ports, and end-users. It provides end-to-end visibility on coal production, dispatch, logistics, and consumption.
- **CLAMP Portal:** A unified digital solution for streamlining land acquisition, compensation, and rehabilitation processes in the coal sector. It ensures transparency, efficiency, and accountability in land management practices.
- **Launch Details:** The launch event was held on October 29, 2025, in New Delhi, with senior officials and industry leaders in attendance. The Minister emphasized that KOYLA SHAKTI will serve as the digital backbone of India's coal ecosystem.
- **Objective:** The initiative aims to enhance transparency, efficiency, and data-driven governance in India's coal sector, aligning with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance".

Foot notes:

About KOYLA SHAKTI-

- **Developer:** Developed by the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) under the direction of the Ministry of Coal.
- **Technological Framework:** Powered by the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) as part of the National Logistics Policy (2022).

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.

- **Record-Breaking Achievements:** The three Guinness World Records include most people registered for a healthcare platform in one month (3.21 crore), most people signed up for breast cancer screening online in one week (9.94 lakh), and most people signed up for vital signs screening online in one week at the state level (1.25 lakh).
- **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, 69.5 lakh oral cancer screenings, and 62.6 lakh antenatal check-ups.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Manish Gupta appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Ireland

- **Diplomatic Status and Service:** Mr. Manish Gupta is a senior diplomat belonging to the 1998 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS). His appointment is a continuation of a distinguished career.
- **Previous Role:** Prior to this designation, he was serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Ghana, indicating his experience in leading diplomatic missions in diverse regions.
- **Timing of Announcement:** The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, officially announced the appointment on October 24, 2025. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- **Strengthening Bilateral Ties:** His posting aims to further strengthen the long-standing diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between India and Ireland, which formally date back to 1947.
- **Focus on Diaspora:** A crucial aspect of his role will involve engaging with and promoting the interests of the approximately 80,000-strong Indian community in Ireland, which is well-integrated and plays a key role in sectors like healthcare, IT, and engineering.

Catherine Connolly Elected as Ireland's 10th President

- **Historic Victory:** Catherine Connolly won a landslide victory in the presidential election held on October 24, 2025, securing 63.4% of the valid votes cast, the highest percentage received by any President since the office was established in 1938.
- **Record-Breaking Votes:** Connolly received 914,143 first-preference votes, marking the highest number of first-preference votes ever received by a candidate in Ireland, surpassing the quota of 721,350 votes.

- **Inauguration and Term:** She will be inaugurated as President on November 11, 2025, and will serve as the 10th President of Ireland for the next seven years, succeeding Michael D. Higgins.
- **Key Endorsements:** Connolly received support from Sinn Féin, the main opposition party in the Dáil, after the party decided not to run its own candidate, describing her victory as a "stunning victory for optimism and hope".

Stellerus to Launch First 3D Wind Data Satellite Network

- **Revolutionary Technology:** Stellerus Technology, a Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) start-up, aims to be the world's first provider of satellite-enabled three-dimensional wind data. This technology will help wind power, transport, and insurance firms boost revenues, cut costs, and manage risks.
- **Cost-Effective Solution:** By leveraging China's cost competitiveness in satellite manufacturing, Stellerus can make global 3D wind data collection economically viable. A satellite in the US would cost around \$100 million to build, compared to 20 million yuan (\$2.8 million) in China.
- **Improving Weather Forecasting:** 3D wind data is crucial for improving weather forecasting, especially severe climate events. Stellerus' satellite network will provide critical data on wind direction, speed, and changes with altitude.
- **Expansion Plans:** Stellerus is seeking to raise \$10m–\$20m to fund its expansion in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

World Bank Approves \$280 Million Loan for Kerala's Health System

- **Project Name and Funding:** The loan of \$280 million (around ₹2,400 crore) is for the Kerala Health System Improvement Programme (KHSIP). It is a part of a larger \$400 million initiative, with the remaining funds provided by the state government.
- **Target Population & Focus:** The primary focus is to improve the health and quality of life for 11 million elderly and vulnerable people in the state. This addresses the rising burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and Kerala's rapidly aging population (over 20% elderly).
- **Chronic Disease Management:** A major objective is the digital tracking and treatment of chronic diseases. The program aims to track and support over 90% of registered patients with hypertension and diabetes using individual electronic tracking mechanisms.
- **Home-Based and Emergency Care:** The initiative will establish a home-based care model for bedbound, homebound, and vulnerable elderly patients. It also focuses on strengthening the emergency and trauma care system with a 24/7 network of ambulances and trauma registries.

HAL and Russian UAC signed MoU for the production of civilian aircraft SJ-100

- **Partnership Details:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russia's United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to produce the SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India.
- **Aircraft Details:** The SJ-100 is a twin-engine, narrow-body regional jet that can accommodate up to 100 passengers. It has a flight range of 3,530 kilometers and can operate in extreme weather conditions, making it suitable for Indian weather conditions.
- **Production and Market:** The aircraft will be manufactured in India, marking a significant milestone for the country's aviation sector. The Indian aviation sector is estimated to require over 200 jets for regional connectivity in the next 10 years, and an additional 350 aircraft for nearby international tourist destinations.
- **UDAN Scheme:** The SJ-100 aircraft is expected to be a game-changer for India's short-haul connectivity under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, which aims to enhance air travel accessibility to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.
- **Significance:** This partnership marks India's re-entry into passenger jet manufacturing after decades and is seen as a strategic leap towards India's goal of becoming an aviation manufacturing hub. It will also create a robust ecosystem of suppliers, engineers, and maintenance capabilities.

Reliance and Meta Partner for ₹855 Crore AI Joint Venture, REIL

- **Joint Venture Details:** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Meta Platforms have launched a joint venture, Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Limited (REIL), with an initial investment of approximately ₹855 crore (\$102.6 million). RIL's subsidiary, Reliance Intelligence Limited, will hold 70% stake, while Meta's subsidiary, Facebook Overseas Inc., will hold 30%.
- **Objective:** REIL aims to develop and scale enterprise AI services across India, democratizing access to advanced AI solutions for businesses of all sizes.
- **Alignment with India's Digital Push:** The venture aligns with India's push for self-reliance ('Swadeshi') and made-in-India digital solutions, supporting the country's growing emphasis on homegrown innovation and digital transformation.
- **Growth Potential:** The partnership is expected to catalyze AI adoption, improve productivity, and enable Indian firms to compete globally with advanced, sovereign AI capabilities.

James Anderson receives knighthood from Princess Anne

- **Knighthood Ceremony:** James Anderson was formally knighted by Princess Anne at Windsor Castle on October 28, 2025, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to cricket.
- **Achievement:** Anderson received this honor for his remarkable 22-year cricketing career, where he took 704 Test wickets, making him England's all-time leading wicket-taker and the most successful fast bowler in Test history.

- **Previous Recognition:** Earlier in 2025, Anderson was named in former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's resignation honours list, becoming the only sportsperson to be recognized.
- **Elite Group:** With this knighthood, Anderson joins an elite group of English cricket legends, including Sir Ian Botham, Sir Geoffrey Boycott, Sir Alastair Cook, and Sir Andrew Strauss.
- **Legacy:** The knighthood acknowledges not only Anderson's statistical milestones but also his contributions as a mentor, leader, and ambassador of the game, inspiring countless cricketers with his professionalism and passion.

Russia Tests Nuclear-Powered 'Poseidon' Underwater Drone

- **Successful Test:** Russia has successfully tested the Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone, with President Vladimir Putin hailing it as a "huge success" and a game-changer in modern strategic warfare. The test marked the first time the drone traveled under its own nuclear power.
- **Design and Capabilities:** The Poseidon is an autonomous, nuclear-powered unmanned underwater vehicle capable of delivering both conventional and nuclear warheads. It can reach depths of up to 1,000 meters and speeds of 100 knots (about 115 miles per hour).
Stealth Technology: The drone uses stealth technology to evade acoustic tracking devices, with a silent running strategy like other submarines. Its main stealth feature is its very low speed before it reaches the target area, making it virtually impossible to intercept.
- **Nuclear Reactor and Warhead:** The Poseidon's nuclear reactor is 100 times smaller than those found on traditional submarines but packs a punch with a yield significantly higher than Russia's Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile. The warhead is estimated to be several megatons, capable of obliterating large coastal cities and naval bases.
- **Strategic Implications:** The Poseidon's test has profound strategic implications, introducing a new dimension to nuclear deterrence that bypasses traditional missile-based defense systems.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indigenous anti-submarine warfare ship 'Mahe' inducted

- **First of a New Series:** 'Mahe' is the lead ship in a planned series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC) being built for the Indian Navy. It was delivered by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).
- **Core Role:** The vessel's primary function is Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) in coastal and shallow waters (littorals). Its induction will significantly boost the Navy's capability to detect and neutralize underwater threats in these critical zones, which are often inaccessible to larger warships.

- **Indigenous Content:** It marks a major success for the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiative, featuring an indigenous content of over 80-90% in its design and construction. This showcases India's growing self-reliance in advanced naval shipbuilding.
- **Key Capabilities:** Beyond ASW, the ship is designed for underwater surveillance, search and rescue operations, and has advanced mine-laying capability. It is armed with specialized systems like torpedoes and multi-functional anti-submarine rockets.
- **Propulsion and Agility:** The 78-meter-long vessel is noted as the largest Indian Naval warship propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet combination. This system provides it with high speed, enhanced maneuverability, and a reduced acoustic signature.

Vessel 'Sindhu' Launches Historic Voyage to Barren Island

- **Maiden Voyage for Tourism:** The voyage of the passenger vessel 'Sindhu' was its maiden round trip launched by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration specifically to promote adventure and eco-tourism in the islands.
- **Destination:** India's Only Active Volcano: The destination, Barren Island, is home to the only confirmed active volcano in the Indian subcontinent. The trip offers passengers a rare opportunity to view the volcano's glowing crater from a safe distance.
- **Target and Educational Focus:** The vessel, which has a capacity of 500 passengers, sailed near full capacity and included about 125 government school students. This highlights the dual purpose of the initiative: promoting tourism while providing an educational opportunity to learn about the region's unique geological and environmental significance.
- **New Fortnightly Service:** The launch establishes a new fortnightly cruise service from Port Blair (Haddo Wharf/Sri Vijaya Puram) to Barren Island, making the previously inaccessible natural marvel available to the public under a controlled tourism model.
- **Geographical Significance:** Barren Island is located approximately 140 km from Port Blair and sits at the tectonic junction of the Indian and Burmese plates, underscoring its importance as a geological landmark.

India Commenced Tri-Services Exercise 'Ex Trishul' in Coordination with IAF & IN

- **Exercise Location and Duration:** The exercise is being conducted along the western border with Pakistan and will run from October 30 to November 10, 2025. It covers the Thar Desert region from Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) to Sir Creek (Gujarat).
- **Objective:** The exercise aims to enhance joint operations across desert, creek, and coastal areas, including amphibious landings and multi-domain drills in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR), Electronic Warfare (EW), and cyber warfare.

- **Forces Involved:** The exercise involves the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force, with over 20,000 troops deployed, along with battle tanks, howitzers, attack helicopters, and missile systems.
- **Key Deployments:** The Indian Air Force has deployed Rafale and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters, aerial refuelers, AWACS systems, and UAVs. The Navy has positioned frigates and destroyers off the Gujarat coast for combat maneuvers.
- **NOTAM and Significance:** The exercise is seen as a demonstration of India's military preparedness and coordination among its three services, particularly in the context of heightened tensions with Pakistan.

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, making it ideal for utilities, renewable energy projects, and disaster recovery operations.
- **Future Plans:** Toshiba Transmission & Distribution Systems (India) Private Limited (TTDI) is set to deliver India's first indigenous 400kV m-GIS system for POWERGRID in August 2026, and a 132kV m-GIS solution in November 2025.

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.
- **Stealth Capabilities:** The VEER's electric powertrain provides silent operation and low thermal signature, making it nearly invisible to enemy infrared sensors. It also features thermal imaging, 360-degree cameras, and 77GHz radar for enhanced situational awareness.
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** The VEER is fully designed and manufactured in India, ensuring complete data and technology sovereignty. This aligns with the Indian government's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative, promoting self-reliance in defense technology.

BANKING NEWS

RBI approves re-appointment of C S Rajan as Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Reappointment Approval:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of C S Rajan as Part-Time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank for another term, effective January 1, 2026, until October 21, 2027.
- **Term Details:** This reappointment comes after the completion of his initial two-year term as Part-Time Chairman, which started on January 1, 2024. His initial appointment was approved by the RBI in December 2023.
- **Background and Experience:** C S Rajan is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer with extensive experience in leadership roles across critical infrastructure sectors, including energy, highways, water resources, and industry. He has also worked in agriculture and rural development for 14 years.
- **Previous Roles:** Before joining Kotak Mahindra Bank, Rajan served as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Rajasthan and held key positions in Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), including Managing Director and Non-Executive Chairman.
- **Leadership Transition:** The reappointment of C S Rajan comes after the RBI's approval, ensuring continuity in leadership for Kotak Mahindra Bank, a private sector bank in India with a market capitalization of around 4.35 trillion INR.

Foot notes:

About Kotak Mahindra Bank-

- **MD & CEO:** Ashok Vaswani
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1985

Paytm Enables UPI for NRIs with Foreign Numbers

- **No Indian SIM Required:** Paytm's new feature allows NRIs to make UPI payments in India using their international mobile numbers, eliminating the need for an Indian SIM card. This service is currently available to NRIs in 12 countries, including the US, UK, UAE, Australia, and Canada.
- **NRE/NRO Account Linking:** To use the service, NRIs need to link their NRE (Non-Resident External) or NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) bank account with Paytm. This allows them to make transactions in Indian Rupees without any foreign exchange conversion or international payment gateway fees.
- **Seamless Transactions:** With Paytm UPI, NRIs can send money to Indian UPI IDs and mobile numbers, pay merchants by scanning QR codes, and shop online on Indian platforms. The transactions are processed instantly and securely.

- **Additional Features:** Paytm offers features like downloadable UPI statements, automatic expense categorization, payment hiding options, and consolidated balance viewing across linked bank accounts. Users can also access an AI-generated spending summary feature called Paytm Playback.

HDFC Bank re-appoints Kaizad Bharucha as Deputy MD

- **Experience:** Kaizad Bharucha is a seasoned banker with over 35 years of experience in the industry. He has been associated with HDFC Bank since 1995 and has played a crucial role in shaping the bank's growth.
- **Responsibilities:** As Deputy Managing Director, Bharucha oversees key areas including Retail Asset Products, Wholesale Banking, and Inclusive Banking Initiative Group, which includes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) functions.
- **Previous Roles:** Before becoming Deputy MD, Bharucha served as Executive Director, overseeing Wholesale Banking, Corporate Banking, PSUs, Capital & Commodities Markets, and Financial Institutions. He has also worked on risk management, credit management, and business management.
- **Leadership:** Bharucha has represented HDFC Bank on external banking-related committees and has been on the boards of HDB Financial Services Limited and International Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt Ltd.
- **Career Background:** Prior to joining HDFC Bank, Bharucha worked at SBI Commercial and International Bank in various roles, including trade finance and corporate banking.

Foot notes:

About HDFC Bank-

- **CEO:** Sashidhar Jagdishan
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 1994

U.S.A, Singapore accounted for one-third of FDI during FY25

- **Top FDI Contributors:** The United States and Singapore together accounted for over one-third of India's FDI in FY25, with the US contributing 20% and Singapore 14.3% of the total FDI equity capital.
- **FDI Inflows:** India saw a significant surge in FDI, with inflows reaching a record \$81.04 billion in FY25, marking a 14% increase from the previous year.
- **Sector-wise FDI:** The manufacturing sector led FDI inflows, accounting for 48.4% of total FDI equity capital at market value, while the services sector ranked second, led by 'information and communication' and 'financial and insurance activities'.

- **Top Destinations for ODI:** Singapore and the US were also among the top destinations for India's overseas direct investment (ODI), with shares of 22.2% and 15.4%, respectively.
- **Growth in FDI:** The growth in FDI is attributed to India's investor-friendly policies, including liberalized FDI norms in sectors like defence, insurance, and pension, as well as increased FDI caps in various industries.

SPORTS NEWS

Gukesh & Divya Shine win Double Gold at European Chess Club Cup

- **Double Gold for India:** Both GMs clinched an Individual Gold Medal on their respective boards, a major highlight for Indian chess. Gukesh won Board #1 Gold in the Open section, and Divya Deshmukh won Board #2 Gold in the Women's section.
- **Gukesh's Stellar Performance Rating:** World Champion Gukesh, playing on the most competitive board, achieved a sensational Tournament Performance Rating (TPR) of 2927, the highest of the entire event. He scored 4/5 points.
- **Divya Deshmukh's Rating Breakthrough:** Divya Deshmukh, the Women's World Cup winner, posted a strong performance with a 2591 TPR and reportedly surpassed the 2500 Elo rating barrier during the tournament, further cementing her elite status. She scored 4.5/6 points.
- **Momentum for World Cup:** Their dominant performances, particularly Gukesh's return to peak form and Divya's continued ascent, provide a significant boost as they head into the upcoming Chess World Cup 2025 in Goa.

Priteesmita Bhoi Sets World Record, Wins Gold at Asian Youth Games

- **Event and Medal:** Priteesmita Bhoi won the Gold Medal in the girls' 44kg weightlifting category at the Asian Youth Games (often held in Manama, Bahrain). This marked India's first individual gold medal at the Games.
- **World Record Lift:** She set a new World Youth Record in the Clean & Jerk discipline by successfully lifting 92kg on her final attempt.
- **Total Weight:** Her total lift in the competition was 158kg, combining her 92kg Clean & Jerk with a 66kg Snatch (in which she also won a silver medal). This aggregate weight secured her the top spot overall.
- **Age and State:** The achievement was secured by the talented young athlete, who is 16 years old and hails from Odisha, India. Her performance highlights the strength of India's grassroots athlete development programs like Khelo India.
- **Continued Success:** This is her second major world record and gold in quick succession, as she previously set a Youth World Record (76kg C&J) and won gold at the 2024 IWF Youth World Championships in the lighter 40kg category.

India Clinches Two Golds at Badminton Asia U17 & U15 Championships

- **Historic Victory:** India won two gold medals in the girls' singles events at the Badminton Asia Under-17 and Under-15 Championships 2025, held in Chengdu, China. This marks the country's best-ever performance in the tournament.
- **Gold Medal Winners:** Shaina Manimuthu won the U15 girls' singles gold, defeating Japan's Chiharu Tomita 21-14, 22-20. Diksha Sudhakar won the U17 girls' singles gold, beating compatriot Lakshya Rajesh 21-16, 21-9.
- **Record-Breaking Performance:** This is the first time since 2013 that India has won two gold medals in the championship. The previous Indian winners of two gold medals were Siril Verma (U15 boys' singles) and Chirag Shetty and MR Arjun (U17 boys' doubles).
- **Medal Tally:** India ended the tournament with a total of five medals - two gold, one silver, and two bronze. The bronze medals were won by Jagsher Singh Khanggura in boys' singles and the mixed doubles pair of Jangjeet Singh Kajla and Jananika Ramesh.

India Wins Two Silvers as Hansika and Sarika Shine at U-23 World Wrestling Championships

- **Silver Medal Winners:** Hansika Lamba (53 kg) and Sarika (59 kg) won silver medals in their respective weight categories, losing to Japanese opponents in the finals. Hansika lost to Haruna Morikawa, while Sarika lost to Ruka Natami.
- **India's Dominant Performance:** The Indian women's team became the overall champion of the U-23 World Wrestling Championships, scoring 125 points, followed by the USA with 102 points, and Japan with 92 points. This achievement showcases India's growing strength in wrestling.
- **Olympic Aspirations:** The U-23 World Wrestling Championships served as a platform for Indian wrestlers to gain experience and qualify for senior-level competitions and the Olympics. Hansika and Sarika's performances indicate that India has potential Olympic medal contenders.
- **Talent Development:** The championships highlighted India's rising status in youth wrestling development, with a growing talent pool across weight classes.

Punjab's Namitbir Singh Walia Becomes International Master in Chess

- **IM Title Achievement:** Namitbir Singh Walia earned the prestigious title of International Master (IM), which is the second-highest honor in chess after Grandmaster, awarded by FIDE.
- **State Significance:** He is only the second player from Punjab to achieve the IM title, marking a significant milestone for chess development in the state, following Dushyant Sharma.

- **Qualifying Performance:** Walia secured his final IM norm at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France, where he finished with an impressive fourth overall position.
- **Hometown and Background:** He hails from Jalandhar, Punjab, and began playing chess at the age of six, showing early talent by becoming the state under-7 champion.
- **Current Status:** Namitbir is currently a student at Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) in Delhi and remains highly active in key international chess events, positioning himself as a strong contender for the Grandmaster (GM) title.

India's Sujeet Kalkal Wins Gold at U-23 World Wrestling Championships

- **Category and Final Result:** Sujeet Kalkal won the gold medal in the Men's Freestyle 65kg category. He clinched the final bout with a dominant victory by technical superiority (10-0) over Umidjon Jalolov of Uzbekistan.
- **A Rare Indian Gold:** His victory makes him only the fourth Indian wrestler to ever claim a gold medal at the U-23 World Wrestling Championships, joining an elite group that includes Aman Sehrawat, Reetika Hooda, and Chirag Chikkara.
- **India's Only Men's Gold Medal:** The gold was the only medal won by an Indian male wrestler at the championship this year, standing out from the nine-medal total where the women's team performed exceptionally, securing two silvers and five bronzes (and the overall team title).
- **Overcoming Top-Tier Competition:** Kalkal had a tough run, defeating formidable opponents like Bashir Magomedov (a two-time U23 world champion) in the quarter-final and pulling off a thrilling last-second win against two-time U20 world champion Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan in the semi-final.
- **Improving on Past Performance:** The gold medal is a significant career milestone for Kalkal, who had previously won a bronze medal at the same U-23 World Championships in the previous edition, successfully bettering the color of his medal this time.

Lando Norris Wins Mexico GP, Takes F1 Championship Lead

- **Championship Lead Reclaimed:** Lando Norris's victory catapulted him into the lead of the 2025 F1 Drivers' Championship. He now leads his McLaren teammate and former leader, Oscar Piastri, by just one point with four races remaining.
- **Dominant Performance:** Norris controlled the race from pole position to the chequered flag, securing a comfortable victory by a massive margin of over 30 seconds ahead of second-place Charles Leclerc. This was his sixth victory of the season.
- **Significance in Title Fight (Three-Way Battle):** This result solidifies the three-way battle for the World Championship. Norris leads with 357 points, Piastri has 356, and reigning champion Max Verstappen (who finished 3rd in Mexico) remains in contention with 321 points.

- **Piastrì's Setback:** The championship momentum shifted due to the contrasting performances of the McLaren drivers. While Norris dominated, Piastrì struggled from the start and finished 5th, surrendering the championship lead he had held for a significant portion of the season.

Dhinidhi Desinghu Sets National Swimming Record in 400m Freestyle at Asian Youth Games

- **New National Record:** Dhinidhi Desinghu set a new national record in the 400m freestyle event with a time of 4 minutes and 21.86 seconds, bettering her own record of 4 minutes and 24.60 seconds.
- **Asian Youth Games 2025:** This achievement came at the Asian Youth Games 2025 in Bahrain, where Dhinidhi finished fifth in the final.
- **Impressive Performance:** Dhinidhi's record-breaking performance showcases her exceptional skill and dedication to swimming, making her a promising prospect for future competitions.
- **Other Notable Performances:** In the same event, Aditi Satish Hegde finished seventh with a time of 4 minutes and 32 seconds. Other Indian swimmers, like Nitishsai Harinath and Dhakshan Shashikumar, also participated in various events, with Nitishsai finishing fifth in the 50m freestyle and Dhakshan finishing seventh in the 400m freestyle.
- **Rising Star:** Dhinidhi's recent performances have been impressive, including her dominance at the National Games 2025, where she bagged nine medals, including seven golds, at just 14 years old.

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.
- **Impact:** His achievement has drawn praise from chess legends like Viswanathan Anand and state leaders, highlighting Tamil Nadu's dominance in Indian chess with over a third of the country's Grandmasters.

FIDE Chess World Cup Trophy Renamed Viswanathan Anand Cup

- **Trophy Name:** The FIDE World Cup 2025 trophy has been officially renamed the Viswanathan Anand Cup, in honor of the five-time World Champion and Indian chess legend.
- **Trophy Design:** The trophy features a peacock in a frozen dance pose, symbolizing grace, wisdom, and India's cultural heritage. It's crafted with artistic detail and plated with gold to last a lifetime.
- **Significance:** The renaming is a tribute to Viswanathan Anand's remarkable achievements and legacy, which have transformed India into a chess powerhouse. The trophy will be passed on to future champions of the FIDE World Cup.
- **Tournament Details:** The 2025 Chess World Cup takes place from November 1-26 in Goa, India, featuring 206 top players from 82 countries. The top three finishers will earn direct qualification for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.
- **Prize Pool:** The tournament has a total prize pool of \$2 million, with the champion earning \$120,000, the runner-up \$85,000, and the third-place finisher \$60,000.

AWARD NEWS

Shri Jayan N awarded for his outstanding contribution to Space Science and Technology

- **Award Category:** Shri Jayan N was conferred with the Vigyan Shri Puraskar for 2025. This award is one of the four categories under the newly instituted Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), which is modelled on the lines of the Padma Awards and is the highest recognition for scientific contributions in India.
- **Field of Contribution:** He was specifically honoured for his outstanding contributions to Space Science and Technology. This recognition highlights his pivotal role in strengthening India's self-reliance in space exploration.
- **Role in ISRO:** He is a prominent scientist working in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). His current position is the Project Director for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- **Key Technological Achievements:** His contribution centers on liquid propulsion systems. He played a pivotal role in the design and development of India's first indigenous cryogenic engine used in the GSLV program.
- **Professional Background:** Prior to his current role, he served as a Deputy Director at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

Prasanna Kumar Motupalli Honoured with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Recipient's Current Position:** Shri Prasanna Kumar Motupalli is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NLC India Limited (NLCIL), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India.

- **Name of the Award:** He was honoured with the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by ACT NOW, a reputed voluntary organization, as part of the Dr. Kalam Birth Anniversary Celebrations.
- **Core Reason for the Honour:** The award recognizes his visionary leadership, exemplary service, innovation, and unwavering commitment to national growth, particularly in the energy and mining sectors, reflecting the values of Dr. Kalam.
- **Alignment with Dr. Kalam's Vision:** The award specifically praises his efforts in areas that parallel Dr. Kalam's ideals, such as nation-building, innovation, and environmental stewardship.

Sanjeev Kapoor Honoured as Top Agri-Food Pioneer by World Food Prize Foundation

- **Award Recognition:** Sanjeev Kapoor, a renowned Indian chef, author, and Padma Shri recipient, has been recognized as a Top Agri-Food Pioneer by the World Food Prize Foundation for his transformative impact on global food systems.
- **Contribution to Food Sustainability:** Kapoor's initiatives have made significant strides in improving access to healthy food across India, promoting sustainable eating, and supporting Indian agriculture. He has served millions of nutritious meals, especially to children, educators, and farmers.
- **"Farm to Finger" Philosophy:** Kapoor champions the "farm to finger" philosophy, celebrating India's cultural tradition of eating with hands to create a personal and mindful food experience. This approach connects farmers, producers, and consumers, inspiring millions to adopt nutritious and sustainable eating habits.
- **Partnerships and Initiatives:** Kapoor has collaborated with organizations like HarvestPlus Solutions to drive innovative food initiatives that combine traditional Indian flavors with modern nutrition science.

Vajra Chandrasekera Wins 2025 Le Guin Fiction Prize

- **Winner and Book:** The recipient is Vajra Chandrasekera, a Sri Lankan author, who won the prize for his speculative novel, Rakesfall.
- **Prize Value and Focus:** The award is a prestigious \$25,000 prize given annually to a single work of imaginative fiction that explores critical themes like power, freedom, equity, and non-violence, in line with the legacy of Ursula K. Le Guin.
- **The Novel's Core Theme:** Rakesfall is described by the author and judges as a novel primarily about power, specifically critiquing the "arrogance and undeserved self-belief of the powerful" and the "late capitalism's death drive" in its pursuit of extreme wealth and control.
- **Genre and Acclaim:** The novel is hailed by the judging panel as an "extraordinary achievement in science fiction" and a work that demonstrates "moral clarity and strength," cementing Chandrasekera's position as a powerful new voice in global speculative fiction.

- **Uplifting Global Voices:** Established in 2022, the prize is administered by the Ursula K. Le Guin Foundation and is open to writers globally, specifically aiming to uplift voices outside dominant literary institutions, which Chandrasekera's win as a Sri Lankan author reflects.

Vivek Oberoi to receive Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award

- **Award Category:** Vivek Oberoi won the Best Supporting Actor (Male) award for his performance in the web series "Indian Police Force" at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2025.
- **Role:** He portrayed IPS Vikram Bakshi in the action-packed web series "Indian Police Force" on Amazon Prime Video, which received widespread praise from critics and viewers for his powerful performance.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony was held on October 30, 2025, at the Dome, SVP Stadium, Worli, Mumbai, celebrating excellence in Indian cinema and entertainment.
- **Notable Works:** Vivek Oberoi has showcased his versatility with memorable roles in films like "Company", "Saathiya", "Omkaara", "Krrish 3", and "Inside Edge".
- **Upcoming Projects:** His upcoming projects include the comedy film "Masti 4", Sandeep Reddy Vanga's "Spirit", and the epic "Ramayan", promising another exciting chapter in his acting journey.

GDRFA Dubai wins Global Award for AI Governance

- **Award Recognition:** GDRFA Dubai won the "Best Artificial Intelligence Governance Strategy of 2025" award from the AI Awards Series, recognizing its commitment to developing responsible AI frameworks that enhance efficiency and transparency in digital transformation.
- **Key Focus Areas:** The department's AI governance strategy focuses on strong data privacy and security, transparent and ethical AI usage, future-driven smart services, enhanced customer confidence and satisfaction, and support for the UAE's national digital transformation objectives.
- **Governance Framework:** GDRFA Dubai has established a comprehensive AI governance framework that prioritizes transparency, fairness, and accountability, ensuring that every AI-driven process supports fairness and human oversight while improving the overall experience for residents, visitors, and businesses in Dubai.
- **Benefits:** The award highlights the benefits of GDRFA Dubai's AI governance strategy, including faster and more accurate services, transparency and trust, operational excellence, and improved satisfaction for residents, travelers, and investors.

Prakash Raj to get Karnataka Rajyotsava Award

- **Award Details:** The Karnataka Rajyotsava Award is one of the highest civilian honors in Karnataka, recognizing outstanding contributions to society. Prakash Raj, a renowned actor, is among the 70 individuals selected for this prestigious award.
- **Selection Process:** The selection process emphasized social justice and regional balance, with the government ensuring representation from all districts. A total of 2,114 applications were received, and 70 deserving personalities were chosen.
- **Award Ceremony:** The award ceremony will be held on November 1 at Ravindra Kalakshetra, Bengaluru, where the awardees will receive a 25-gram gold medal and a cash prize of ₹5 lakh.
- **Diverse Recipients:** The award recognizes contributions across various fields, including cinema, literature, and public service. Prakash Raj is recognized for his work in the cinema industry, while other recipients include notable figures like IAS officer Siddayya and Veena artist Penn Obalayya.
- **Government's Emphasis:** The Karnataka government has emphasized social equity and inclusivity in selecting the awardees, with 12 women recipients this year.

NIFT director conferred the Ashoka Award 2025

- **Award Type:** The Ashoka Award is India's highest peacetime military decoration, awarded for valor, courageous action, or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.
- **Eligibility:** The award is open to military and civilian personnel, including officers, men and women of all ranks of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as civilians in all walks of life.
- **Award Details:** The Ashoka Chakra medal is circular, gold-gilt, and 1-3/8 inches in diameter, featuring the Chakra (Wheel) of Ashoka surrounded by a lotus wreath with an ornate edge.
- **Significance:** The Ashoka Award is considered the peacetime equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest military honor, and is awarded for conspicuous bravery or some act of daring or pre-eminent act of valor or self-sacrifice.
- **Recipients:** As of 2021, a total of 86 individuals have received the Ashoka Award, with 68 awards given posthumously.

Foot notes:

About NIFT-

- **Director:** Tanu Kashyap
- **Established:** 1986

Dharwad's Veteran Archaeologist Ravindra Korisettar Chosen for Rajyotsava Award

- **Renowned Archaeologist:** Professor Ravindra Korisettar is a UGC Emeritus Fellow in the Department of History and Archaeology at Karnatak University, Dharwad, with over 40 years of experience in archaeology, research, and education.

- **Academic Background:** Born in 1951, Korisettar studied Archaeology and Quaternary Studies at Poona University and received further training at INQUA (International Union for Quaternary Research) in Beijing, China. He has held international fellowships, including the Charles Wallace–AIIT Fellowship at the University of Cambridge and Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.
- **Research Contributions:** Korisettar has led and contributed to numerous national and international research projects, such as the Multidisciplinary Kashmir Palaeoclimate Project and the Computer Application in Archaeology Project. His work has improved understanding of India's prehistoric past, ancient environments, and human evolution.
- **Awards and Recognition:** The Rajyotsava Award is a testament to Korisettar's dedication to archaeology and education. He has collaborated with prestigious institutions like the ASI and the UGC, and has been associated with international organizations like the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association.

The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak for 2025 to 1,466 personnel

- **Award Details:** The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak is awarded to 1,466 police personnel from various states, union territories, central armed police forces, and central police organizations for their exceptional work in fields like special operations, investigation, intelligence, and forensic science.
- **Award Institution:** The Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak was instituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs in February 2024, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- **Award Announcement:** The award is announced annually on October 31, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, to recognize outstanding contributions and boost morale among police personnel.
- **Notable Recipients:** Some notable recipients include 40 officers from Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF who played a crucial role in eliminating terrorists involved in the Pahalgam incident. IG V K Birdi and SSP G V Sundeep Chakraborty were honored for Operation Mahadev.

APPOINTMENT & PERSON IN NEWS

Shri Pulak Kumar Mukhopadhyay assumed charge as Executive Director, SJVN

- **Appointment Details:** Shri Pulak Kumar Mukhopadhyay was among the seven officials promoted to Executive Director positions at SJVN, effective October 14, 2025. The appointments are co-terminus with their superannuation date or until further orders.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Pulak Kumar Mukhopadhyay brings extensive experience in design engineering, project construction, renewable energy development, and thermal power operations, contributing to SJVN's growth and development.

- **SJVN's Leadership Team:** The company is led by Chairman and Managing Director, Bhupender Gupta, along with other functional directors, including Director (Personnel), Director (Finance), and Director (Projects).
- **SJVN's Performance:** SJVN has been making strides in the power sector, including achieving commercial operation of 128.88 MW capacity at its 1,000 MW Bikaner Solar Power Project, marking a significant milestone in renewable energy development.
- **Company Overview:** SJVN Limited is a power generation company with a market capitalization of ₹34,967.30 Cr, focusing on hydroelectric power generation and exploring renewable energy sources, with a strong presence in the Indian power sector.

Foot notes:**About SJVN-**

- **Chairman & MD:** Bhupendra Gupta
- **Headquarters:** Shimla
- **Founded:** 1988

Manoj Kumar Das appointed as Chief Secretary of Gujarat

- **New Chief Secretary:** Manoj Kumar Das (IAS, 1990 batch) was appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) to the Government of Gujarat, succeeding Pankaj Joshi, who superannuated on October 31.
- **Previous Key Roles:** Before his elevation, Das was serving as the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) to the Chief Minister and was also holding the additional charge of ACS, Home Department. His close association with the Chief Minister's Office was a key factor in his selection.
- **Technocrat Background:** He is a technocrat administrator, holding a B.Tech (Hons.) in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Kharagpur. This technical background is seen as a strategic advantage for guiding Gujarat's infrastructure and modernization efforts.
- **Extensive Urban & Industrial Experience:** Das has a distinguished career of over 30 years, notably serving as the Municipal Commissioner for cities like Surat and Vadodara, where he earned multiple national awards for urban governance.

IAS Sandeep Kumar given additional charge as DSSSB Chairman

- **Additional Charge:** IAS Sandeep Kumar has been entrusted with the additional charge of Chairman, Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB), along with Prashant Goyal, who has been given the additional charge of Director, UTCS.
- **Administrative Reshuffle:** This appointment is part of a recent administrative reshuffle in the Delhi Government, aimed at strengthening administrative efficiency and improving coordination across key departments.

- **Background:** Sandeep Kumar is a senior IAS officer, and his current designation is Principal Secretary (Vigilance) with additional charge of Principal Secretary (Environment & Forests) and Principal Secretary (AR).
- **Previous DSSSB Chairman:** The previous Chairman of DSSSB was Shurbir Singh IAS, who was transferred and appointed as Secretary – Power, with additional charge of Secretary – Finance.
- **Simultaneous Appointments:** This appointment is one of several made by the Delhi Government, with other IAS officers also being given additional charges and responsibilities.

IIFL Home Finance appoints Girish Kousgi as Managing Director and CEO

- **Appointment Details:** Girish Kousgi has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of IIFL Home Finance, effective October 30, 2025. He will oversee the company's entire business operations, including home loans, non-home loan segments, MSME loans, and construction finance.
- **Experience:** Kousgi brings nearly three decades of experience in banking and financial services, having previously served as MD and CEO of PNB Housing Finance Limited and Can Fin Homes. He's also held senior roles at Tata Capital Financial Services, IDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank.
- **Strategic Focus:** With this appointment, IIFL Home Finance aims to strengthen its leadership position in the affordable housing finance segment and accelerate growth across business verticals. Kousgi's expertise in mortgages, SME and agricultural finance, retail lending, and deposit products will be crucial in driving this strategy.
- **Industry Context:** The appointment comes at a time when large home finance companies are facing heightened competition from banks in the premium lending segment. However, the affordable housing market has emerged as an attractive growth avenue for home financiers, offering higher yields due to limited competition from major banks.

S Narayan selected for the post of CMD, CEL

- **Selection by PESB:** S Narayan has been recommended for the post of CMD, CEL by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) on October 29, 2025.
- **Company Overview:** CEL is a Mini Ratna Category-I CPSE under the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, operating in defense, railways, solar photovoltaics, and integrated solutions.
- **Key Responsibilities:** As CMD, S Narayan will be responsible for steering the company's corporate strategy, technological innovation, and operational excellence, building on CEL's legacy of indigenous technology development.

- **CEL's Achievements:** The company has achieved significant milestones, including a turnover of ₹390 crore and a 27% rise in profits in FY 2024-25, demonstrating its commitment to performance-driven growth.
- **Future Plans:** Under S Narayan's leadership, CEL is expected to continue aligning itself with national missions like Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Digital India, driving technological innovation and nation-building.

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.
- **Department's Functions:** DARPG is responsible for formulating policies, promoting good governance practices, and ensuring timely resolution of public grievances through mechanisms like the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS).
- **Key Objectives:** The department aims to simplify procedures, modernize processes, and implement e-Governance initiatives, fostering innovation and citizen-centric governance.

Raj Kumar Arora Takes Charge as Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

- **Appointment Details:** Raj Kumar Arora, an IDAS officer of the 1990 batch, has taken charge as Financial Advisor (Defence Services) in the Ministry of Defence. Although the exact date of assumption isn't specified for this role, he previously assumed charge as Special Controller General of Defence Accounts on April 2, 2025.
- **Background:** As a seasoned IDAS officer, Arora has held significant positions, including Member (Finance) of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in Kolkata, for a period of three years.
- **Role and Responsibilities:** As Financial Advisor (Defence Services), Arora will be responsible for ensuring efficient financial management and oversight in defence expenditure. He will play a crucial role in formulating and implementing financial policies related to defence.
- **Key Functions:** His office prepares the Defence Budget and civil estimates for civilian establishments of the Ministry of Defence. It also provides financial advice and scrutiny of proposals involving expenditure from public funds.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage celebrated on 27th October

- **Purpose:** The day aims to raise general awareness of the importance of audiovisual documents (films, sound, radio, television recordings) and the urgent need to preserve them as part of the world's collective memory and cultural identity.
- **Date Significance:** October 27th commemorates the date in 1980 when UNESCO's General Conference adopted the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, which was the first international instrument to recognize the cultural and historical value of film and television.
- **Core Threat:** Audiovisual materials are inherently vulnerable to neglect, natural decay, and technological obsolescence. Older formats (like film reels and magnetic tape) require highly specialized and costly conservation efforts to prevent irreversible loss.
- **Role in Heritage:** Audiovisual archives serve as a unique and irreplaceable testimony to the economic, political, social, and cultural developments of the 20th and 21st centuries. They are a valuable source of knowledge, reflecting the cultural, social, and linguistic diversity of communities worldwide.
- **Sponsor and Promotion:** The day was proclaimed by the UNESCO General Conference in 2005 and is promoted globally in cooperation with the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations.

International Animation Day observed on 28th October 2025

- **Date and History:** International Animation Day is celebrated on October 28, commemorating the first public screening of animated images by Charles-Émile Reynaud at the Musée Grévin in Paris on October 28, 1892.
- **Purpose and Significance:** The day honors the art of animation, recognizing its cultural, technological, and artistic impact worldwide. It's a celebration of the inventive, expressive, and ever-evolving medium that brings characters and stories to life.
- **Global Celebrations:** International Animation Day is observed in over 50 countries, with events such as film screenings, workshops, exhibitions, and panel discussions showcasing animation techniques, styles, and history. Cultural institutions, animation schools, and studios participate in the celebrations.
- **ASIFA's Role:** The International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) coordinates the global celebration, commissioning a notable animator to create an original poster each year. The poster is adapted and used worldwide to promote the event.

National Unity Day observed on 31st October 2025

- **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas:** In India, National Unity Day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key figure in the country's struggle for independence and its unification.

- **Sardar Patel's Legacy:** Patel played a crucial role in integrating over 560 princely states into a single, unified nation, earning him the title of "Iron Man of India".
- **Observance:** The day is marked by various events and programs across the country, including pledge-taking ceremonies, runs, and other activities promoting unity and integrity.
- **Importance:** National Unity Day aims to promote unity, integrity, and security among the citizens of India, fostering a sense of national identity and responsibility.
- **Government Initiatives:** The government often uses this occasion to launch initiatives and programs promoting national unity, social cohesion, and community engagement.

OBITUARY NEWS

Veteran Actor Satish Shah passed away

- **Iconic Television Patriarch (Indravadan Sarabhai):** His most famous role was the witty, sarcastic, and mischievous patriarch Indravadan Sarabhai in the cult-classic sitcom 'Sarabhai Vs Sarabhai' (2004–2006; 2017), which earned him multiple Best Actor in a Comic Role awards and cemented his status as a beloved Indian television star.
- **Cult-Classic Film Breakthrough (D'Mello's Corpse):** He achieved cult status early in his career with the 1983 satirical film 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro', where he delivered one of Indian cinema's most iconic comic performances as the corrupt Municipal Commissioner D'Mello, spending much of the film hilariously playing a corpse.
- **The Versatile '55 Characters' TV Star:** In the 1980s, he gained widespread recognition as a versatile comedic actor in the popular Doordarshan sitcom 'Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi' (1984–1986), where he famously portrayed 55 different characters across the show's 55 episodes.
- **The Face of Mainstream Blockbusters:** Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, he was a fixture in major Bollywood hits, lending his unique comic timing to films like 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!' (1994), 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (1995), 'Kal Ho Naa Ho' (2003), and his highly memorable role as Professor Rasai in 'Main Hoon Na' (2004).
- **FTII Alumnus and Prolific Career:** An alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), he had a prolific career spanning over four decades, appearing in more than 250 films and numerous television series, showcasing his mastery over both subtle and broad comedy.

Piyush Pandey, advertising legend and Padma Shri recipient passed away

- **Legendary Advertising Career:** Piyush Pandey was a renowned advertising professional who served as the Chief Creative Officer Worldwide and Executive Chairman India of Ogilvy. He joined Ogilvy in 1982 and played a crucial role in shaping the agency's creative vision.

- **Iconic Campaigns:** Pandey created some of India's most iconic ad campaigns, including Fevicol's "Fevicol Bus" and "Fevicol Fish," Cadbury's "Kuch Khaas Hai," and Asian Paints' "Har Ghar Kuch Kehta Hai." His work continues to inspire generations of advertisers.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Pandey received numerous awards and accolades, including the Padma Shri in 2016, the Cannes Lions' Lion of St Mark lifetime achievement award, and being named the most influential man in Indian advertising for eight consecutive years by The Economic Times.
- **Impact Beyond Advertising:** Pandey's work extended beyond advertising, with notable contributions to social causes, such as leading the creative charge for the campaign to end polio in India with UNICEF. His efforts helped make India polio-free in 2014.

Thailand's Queen Mother Sirikit passed away

- **Date and Age of Passing:** Queen Mother Sirikit, the Queen Consort of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX), passed away on October 24, 2025, at the age of 93. She had been largely out of the public eye since suffering a stroke in 2012.
- **Significance and Title:** She was the Queen Consort for over 66 years, one of the longest-serving in history, and upon her son's accession (King Maha Vajiralongkorn, Rama X), she was formally bestowed the title Queen Mother. Her birthday, August 12, is a national holiday in Thailand, celebrated as Mother's Day.
- **Legacy of Philanthropy and Development:** She was widely revered for her extensive royal projects focusing on rural welfare, poverty alleviation, and the preservation of Thai traditional arts. She founded the SUPPORT Foundation to train villagers in crafts like silk-weaving, helping to revitalize the Thai silk industry.
- **Environmental Champion:** Queen Sirikit was affectionately dubbed the "Green Queen" for her dedicated work in environmental conservation and wildlife protection. Her initiatives included projects to save endangered sea turtles and to demonstrate the economic benefits of preserving forest cover.

Eminent Surgeon Mathangi Ramakrishnan passed away

- Dr. Mathangi Ramakrishnan passed away on October 27, 2025, at the age of 91, due to age-related complications in Chennai.
- She was a pioneer in burn care and plastic surgery, establishing the first government-run comprehensive burns unit in South India at Government Kilpauk Medical College (KMC), Chennai.
- Dr. Mathangi received numerous accolades for her exemplary service, including the Padma Shri (2002), Dr. B.C. Roy National Award, Avvaiyar Award (2014), Sushruta Gold Medal, and the G. Whitaker International Burns Prize (2009).
- She mentored multiple generations of plastic surgeons in India and published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed medical journals. Her collaborative research with the

Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) led to the development of a collagen membrane used as a burn wound cover.

- Dr. Mathangi served as Emeritus Professor of Plastic Surgery at the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University and as Emeritus Scientist at the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai.

Olympic Bronze Medallist Manuel Frederick passed away

- **Former Indian Men's Hockey Team Goalkeeper:** Manuel Frederick, a renowned goalkeeper from India's men's hockey team, passed away on October 31, 2025, in Bengaluru at the age of 78.
- **Munich Olympics Bronze Medalist:** Frederick was part of the Indian team that won the bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, marking a significant achievement in his illustrious career.
- **Kerala's First Olympic Medalist:** He was a pioneering athlete from Kerala, making history as the state's first Olympic medalist and leaving a lasting legacy in Indian sports.
- **Awards and Recognition:** Frederick received the Major Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games in 2019, highlighting his significant impact on Indian sports.
- **Health Issues:** He had been battling prostate cancer for the past 10 months and struggled with depression after the loss of his wife, Sheetala, last year.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with white text and a white smartphone graphic on the right. The text on the left reads: "India's No.1 App for Bank | SSC | Railways Competitive Exams". Below this, a list of features is shown: "• Job Alerts", "• Daily Quiz • Free PDF's", and "• Videos • Test Series • Current Affairs". The smartphone graphic displays the "Make My Exam" logo (a red book icon with "MY" inside) and the text "Download Now" at the top and "Powered by IBT" at the bottom.

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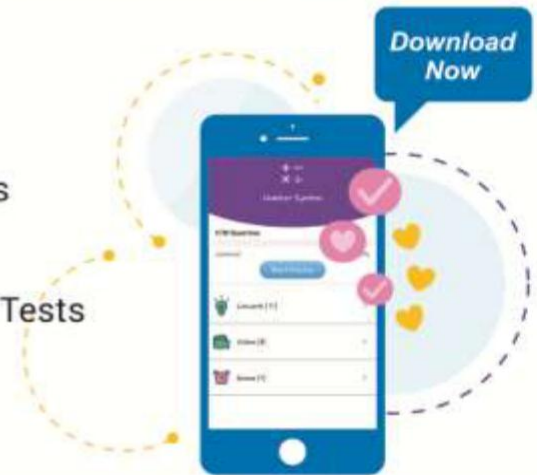
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