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NATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi inaugurates the construction of India's first PM MITRA Park in Madhya Pradesh.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the country's first Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park in Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh.
- It will be spread across approximately 2,158 acres and will be equipped with world-class facilities, such as 20 mega litres per day (MLD) of common effluent treatment plant, a 10 Megavolt-amperes (MVA) solar power plant, etc.
- The Centre launched the PM MITRA scheme to establish large-scale textile manufacturing hubs at seven places in Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra with world-class infrastructure and facilities.
- He also launched the 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar' and 'Rashtriya Poshan Maah' campaigns from Dhar in MP.

Ministry of Culture holds consultations regarding the multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List

- The Ministry of Culture organised a meeting at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, with senior diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Suriname, and the Netherlands to seek their cooperation for the multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the 2003 Convention.
- Chhath Mahaparva, dedicated to the Sun God and Goddess Chhathi Maiya, is one of India's oldest festivals, celebrated widely in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and across Diaspora communities in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, the UAE, and the Netherlands.
- It is celebrated for its ecological and egalitarian ethos, the festival fosters reverence for nature, sustainability, inclusivity, and a strong sense of community.

Key Points

Union Minister of Culture — Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

India's First Bamboo-Based Ethanol Plant

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first bamboo-based bio-refinery at Golaghat district, Assam.
- He additionally laid the foundation stone of a polypropylene unit at the refinery.
- He laid the foundation stones of Darrang Medical College, Nursing College, and GNM School in Darrang district.
- The PM also virtually launched the construction of a new bridge over the Brahmaputra River, connecting Guwahati's Narengi and Darrang's Kuruwa and the Guwahati Ring Road project from the same venue.

PM inaugurates Mizoram's first railway line

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Mizoram's first railway line and flagged off the state's maiden Rajdhani Express connecting Aizawl with Delhi.
- The ₹8,070-crore Bairabi-Sairang railway line, regarded as one of the most challenging projects in the history of Indian Railways, was sanctioned in 2008-09, with construction commencing in 2015.
- The line includes 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges and 87 minor bridges.
- Bridge No. 144, near Sairang, is taller than Qutub Minar at 114 metres. The direct rail connectivity between Mizoram and the rest of the country will provide the people of the region with more safer, efficient, and cost-effective travel options.

NCMRWF Signs MoU with NSIL to Establish Two Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet) Stations in India

- The National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, signed a MoU with New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Department of Space (DoS) in Prithvi Bhavan, New Delhi.
- This MoU aims to establish two Direct Broadcast Network (DBNet) stations — one in Delhi/NCR and the other in Chennai — as part of the Mission Mausam project of MoES.
- DBNet is a global operational framework designed for the real-time acquisition of satellite data from Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites.

- It plays a critical role in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) and supports a wide range of applications, including weather forecasting, cyclone monitoring, and climate research.
- The system enhances real-time responsiveness by directly receiving and processing satellite signals within minutes of their transmission, DBNet stations ensure rapid data availability, hence significantly improving the accuracy and timeliness of weather forecasts and related services.
- The proposed DBNet stations will be capable of receiving direct broadcast data from various existing Indian and international Earth Observing System (EOS) satellites, including Oceansat, NOAA, and MetOp. The system architecture is designed to be scalable, allowing future integration of next-generation EOS satellite data reception.

Supreme Court Upholds Bar on Anticipatory Bail in Caste Crimes

- The Supreme Court cancelled the anticipatory bail granted to an individual accused in a caste-based crime, upholding Section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The ruling was delivered by a bench led by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai.
- The ruling annulled a Bombay High Court decision that granted anticipatory bail in a caste crime case involving Kiran v/s Rajkumar Jivaraj Jain.

India's First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first overseas Atal Innovation Centre at the IIT Delhi-Abu Dhabi campus during his two-day official visit to the United Arab Emirates.
- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), under which the new centre has been established, is a flagship initiative to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- AIM serves as an umbrella framework to drive entrepreneurial policies, programme, and collaborative platforms across multiple sectors.

JNTBGRI developed a multifunctional wound-healing pad using the red ivy plant

- Researchers at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) in Kerala developed a multifunctional wound-healing pad using the red ivy plant (*Strobilanthes alternata*).

- It was the first time they had successfully separated the acetoside molecule from the red ivy plant.
- They created a multifunctional wound-healing pad that uses electro-spun nanofibres and other components to promote healing, absorb exudate, and prevent infection.

Delhi Forest Department Clarifies Legal Tree Definition

- The Delhi government has reminded its forest officials about the legal definition of a "tree", clarifying that branches cannot be counted as separate trees.
- The directive was given since it was frequently observed that a sprout growing out of the ground was once considered a separate tree.
- A "tree" is any woody plant, whose branches spring from and are supported upon a trunk or body, and whose trunk or body is not less than five centimetres in diameter at a height of thirty centimetres from the ground level and is not less than one metre in height from the ground level.

Manipur Signs Suspension Pact With Kuki-Zo Insurgents

- The central government has signed a tripartite agreement to renew the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with Kuki-Zo militant groups and convinced Kuki-Zo groups to open the highways that were blocked for Meitei people for the last two years.
- The terms and conditions of the agreement have been the subject of frequent discussions between the MHA and Kuki-Zo militant groups operating under the SoO throughout the past two years.
- Additionally, a tripartite meeting was held in New Delhi with members from the Manipur government, Kuki National Organisation (KNO), and the United People's Front (UPF).
- The meeting concluded with the signing of a tripartite Suspension of Operations (SoO) Agreement on re-negotiated terms and conditions (ground rules) to be effective from the day of signing of the Agreement for a period of one year.

The New Immigration Order Gives Foreigners Tribunals More Authority

- The Foreigners Tribunal (FTs) has been authorised by the Union Home Ministry to place a suspected foreign national in a detention facility.
- The Foreigners Tribunal, a quasi-judicial body that determines if an individual is an illegal immigrant or

a foreigner in Assam, has been given the power of detention of a suspected citizen in a designated camp, according to the order. So far, detention of an illegal immigrant was done through executive orders.

- This order replaces the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 and empowers foreigners tribunals to issue detention orders if a person, whose nationality has been contested fails to appear in person.

Key Points

Union Home Minister — Amit Shah

Indigenous Vikram 32-Bit Microprocessor

- India's first indigenously built Vikram-32 bit processor chip was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Semicon India 2025 by Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- The Vikram chip, created by the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) of the Indian Space Research Organisation, is the country's first entirely domestic 32-bit microprocessor that is specifically made to withstand the harsh conditions found on space launch vehicles.
- The initial lot of the Vikram 3201 device was successfully validated in space during the PSLV-C60 mission, demonstrating its reliability for future space missions.
- The Vikram-32 is a computer chip that can handle many different tasks. It works with numbers that have decimals (like 3.14) and is built using a 32-bit design, which means it processes data in chunks of 32 bits at a time, and is designed to withstand extreme temperatures and environments found in spaceflight.
- It can handle substantial memory and execute complex instructions needed for launching satellites and space vehicles.

India's First Port-Based Green Hydrogen Project

- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated India's first port-based green hydrogen pilot project at V.O. Chidambaranar (VOC) Port in Tuticorin, marking a significant milestone in the country's clean energy transition.
- At a cost of ₹3.87 crore, the 10 Nm³/hr facility would generate green hydrogen to power the port colony's streetlights and EV charging station.
- VOC Port is now India's first port to produce green hydrogen thanks to this project.

- He laid the foundation stone for a 750 m³ green methanol bunkering and refuelling facility at a cost of ₹35.34 crore.
- This initiative, aligned with the proposed coastal green shipping corridor between Kandla and Tuticorin, is set to establish VOC Port as a major green bunkering hub in South India.

Supreme Court Allows Aadhaar for Voter Identity Verification

- The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to treat the Aadhaar card as a 12th document, which can be produced as proof of identity for the purpose of inclusion in the revised voters' list of Bihar.
- This means that the Aadhaar card can be submitted as a stand-alone document for inclusion in the voters' list. In its ruling, the Court also made it clear that Aadhaar is not evidence of citizenship.
- The ECI officials will be entitled to verify the authenticity and genuineness of Aadhaar cards produced by the voters.

Key Points

Commissioner of India — Gyanesh Kumar

UNESCO has added seven Indian natural heritage sites to its tentative list of world heritage sites.

- In a moment of national pride, seven remarkable natural heritage sites from across the country have been successfully included in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, increasing India's count on the Tentative List from 62 to 69 properties.
- The first official step towards becoming a complete World Heritage Site is being added to the Tentative List.
- The inclusion demonstrates the scientific, geological, and ecological significance of the locations, shows the state and federal governments' dedication to improving conservation, and creates chances for travel, study, and international awareness.
- The seven sites are as follows:
 - I. Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra.
 - II. Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster, Karnataka.
 - III. Meghalayan Age Caves, Meghalaya.
 - IV. Naga Hill Ophiolite, Nagaland.

- V. Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills), Andhra Pradesh.
- VI. Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills, Andhra Pradesh.
- VII. Varkala Cliffs, Kerala.

PM Modi unveils the Tripura Sundari temple in Gomati, which has been renovated for 524 years.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped 524-year-old Tripura Sundari Temple Complex.
- It is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas, at Udaipur in Tripura's Gomati district, under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme.
- The renovated temple site features a three-story building with 6,784 square meters of ground floor space with lobbies, 86 stalls, multipurpose rooms, Prasad ghar, and 2317 square meters of first floor dormitories with living accommodations for monks and volunteers. The main temple, known as the "naatmandir," is located on the top floor of 7,355 square meters. Devotees congregate there to see rites and the five surrounding sources of water.
- The temple was founded in 1501 by Dhanya Manikya, the former Manikya emperor, and is shaped like a tortoise hump. Legend has it that Dhanya Manikya built the temple after getting divine command from 'Aadishakti' in his dream.
- In the temple, there are two idols — a five-foot idol of Goddess Tripurasundari (the main deity) and another Goddess known as 'ChhotiMa' or Goddess Chandi.

PM Modi lays the groundwork for more than ₹34,200 crore worth of development projects in Bhavnagar, Gujarat.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of development works worth ₹34,200 crores.
- The Mumbai International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock, a new container terminal at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata, a multi-cargo facility at Tuna Tekra, and coastal protection projects in Chennai and Car Nicobar were among the major announcements. These projects totalled more than ₹7,800 crore.
- He also laid the foundations for projects at Paradip and Kamarajar ports, along with ship repair hubs in Patna and Varanasi.
- He inaugurated projects valued at more than ₹26,000 crore, such as the HPLNG Regasification Terminal

at Chhara Port, major hospitals in Bhavnagar and Jamnagar are expanding, along with new renewable energy projects including a 600 MW green initiative and the full solarisation of Dhordo hamlet.

PM Modi Launches ₹5,100 Crore Infrastructure Projects In Arunachal Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra launched infrastructure projects worth over ₹5,100 crore rupees in Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the state's growing role in energy and regional development.
- He virtually laid the foundation stones for two major hydropower projects in the Shi Yomi district, and a convention centre in Tawang.
- The Prime Minister also rolled out projects worth over ₹1,290 crore across sectors, including road connectivity, healthcare, and fire safety.

News in Shorts

- The Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) route saw the Namo Bharat train reach a maximum speed of 160 km/h, making it India's fastest operating train.
- Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay inaugurated the newly constructed Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple at Rajgir in Bihar. It was inaugurated recently with traditional rituals and Buddhist customs. Rajgir holds immense significance in Buddhism as the location of Lord Buddha's penance.
- The Ahmednagar Railway Station in Maharashtra has been formally renamed "Ahilyanagar" in honour of Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar, one of India's most respected female queens, in a gesture rich in historical and cultural importance.
- IIM Ahmedabad opens its first international campus in Dubai with a global MBA programme, symbolising India-UAE educational cooperation.
- India has been elected as a member of the Interpol Asian Committee during the 25th Asian Regional Conference held in Singapore.
- The instructions issued by the Allahabad High Court in Mukesh Bansal vs. State of U.P. (2022) to stop the abuse of Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code (now Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) were supported by the Supreme Court of India in Shivangi Bansal vs. Sahib Bansal.

- Udaipur has been honoured the prestigious Wetland City accreditation by the Ramsar Convention during the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards and Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony 2025, organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- India became the third-largest producer of solar energy in the world, producing 1,08,494 GWh of solar electricity, more than Japan's 96,459 GWh. India's solar module manufacturing capacity jumped from 38 GW to 74 GW during FY 2024–25. India's installed power capacity of 484.82 GW is now 50.07% renewable, meeting the COP26 pledge five years before the 2030 objective.
- Despite veterinary care, Shankar, the only African elephant at Delhi Zoo, abruptly collapsed and passed away at the age of 29.
- The Chhattisgarh govt claimed that Balod district has emerged as the country's first to be officially declared free of child marriages under 'Child Marriage-Free India' campaign.
- The Supreme Court orders states and union territories to create regulations under the Anand Marriage Act that will make it easier for marriages performed by Anand Karaj to be registered.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is preparing to install a "corrected" plaque at Sarnath, a Buddhist site, near Varanasi, to credit the family of an erstwhile local ruler, Babu Jagat Singh, for its preservation, instead of the British.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has recently launched an AI-based mental health and wellness programme called "Never Alone" to tackle student suicides and improve mental health awareness. The app provides personalised and secure mental health screening for just 70 paise per student per day for institutions with 5 thousand students.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in collaboration with the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEandL), Ministry of Education, released the Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools. The guidelines highlight the importance of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) through integrated models of Anganwadi Centres and schools on the same campus. With more than 2.9 lakh Anganwadi Centres already located within school premises, the guidelines provide operational clarity and will enable States and Union Territories to scale up the model effectively.
- India is exploring the blending of isobutanol with diesel fuel after previous attempts to blend ethanol with diesel proved technically unsuitable. The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) is conducting a pilot project to test isobutanol-diesel blends for engine compatibility, fuel efficiency, and emission performance, with successful results potentially positioning India as the first country to commercialise this alternative fuel.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) wrote to the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) last month, requesting them to consider enumerating particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) separately in the upcoming Census. The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and other focused programs for PVTGs would be better implemented with the use of this information.
- Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off India's first fleet of 50 electric heavy trucks with swappable batteries at the Nhava Sheva Distribution Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPA) near Mumbai. With this launch, JNPA will have the largest EV truck fleet among Indian ports, boosting sustainable logistics.
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras) has been nominated as a UN Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI), capacity building and skilling by the Indian government.
- The Ministry of Ayush has inaugurated the first-of-its-kind Integrative Oncology Research and Care Centre (IORCC) at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa. It was founded in partnership with the Tata Memorial Center's Advanced Centre for Treatment, Research, and Education in Cancer (ACTREC).
- Assam hosted the opening of The Vulture Network, India's first Vulture Knowledge Portal which coincided with International Vulture Awareness Day. We Foundation India, in collaboration with the Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, developed the portal. It is a cloud-based hub to promote vulture conservation.
- The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$126.42 million loan agreement. The funds will support the Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism Development at Tehri Lake Area Project in Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs releases the Adi Vaani beta version.

- In a landmark initiative towards inclusive tribal empowerment and linguistic preservation, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs today launched the Beta Version of Adi Vaani, India's first AI-powered translation platform for tribal languages.
- It provides real-time text and speech translation between Hindi, English and tribal languages. It provides interactive language learning modules for students and early learners.
- Adi Vaani has been developed by a national consortium led by IIT Delhi, in collaboration with BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Nava Raipur, and the Tribal Research Institutes of Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya.
- At the Beta launch stage, it supports Santali (Odisha), Bhili (Madhya Pradesh), Mundari (Jharkhand), and Gondi (Chhattisgarh), with Kui and Garo under development.

A ₹1,500 crore incentive plan to encourage critical mineral recycling has been approved by the cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to develop recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.
- This scheme is a part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity of and supply chain resilience in critical minerals.
- The critical mineral value chain, comprising exploration, auction and mine operationalisation, and acquisition of foreign assets, has a gestation period before it can supply critical minerals to the Indian industry.
- The Scheme will have a tenure of six years from FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31.

Launch of Angikaar 2025.

- Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, launched "Angikaar 2025", a last-mile outreach campaign under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0).
- PMAY-U 2.0 will be implemented more quickly thanks to this communication campaign, which will raise national knowledge of the project.

- Additionally, the campaign aims to hasten the completion of PMAY-U-approved dwellings and expedite the verification of applications under the scheme.
- Angikaar 2025 will inform stakeholders about the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) scheme. The campaign will ensure last-mile delivery and holistic development outcomes through active community mobilisation, targeted engagement and convergence with other Government of India schemes.

Bima Sugam portal launched

- The largest online marketplace for insurance products and services in the world, Bima Sugam, was officially established by the Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF).
- Initially, the website will serve as an information and guidance hub, while full-fledged transactions will be enabled over the coming months as insurers and ecosystem partners complete necessary integrations.
- This approach will also offer the insurance ecosystem adequate time to adapt to the new system.

India Introduces Geothermal Energy's First National Policy

- The Government of India has notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025) to unlock India's untapped geothermal potential through research, innovation, ecosystem development, and public-private partnerships, while directly contributing to the Net Zero 2070 commitment.
- The new policy provides a comprehensive regulatory framework, placing stewardship responsibilities with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), which will oversee exploration and development.
- MNRE has approved five pilot projects and resource-assessment programs in various regions as part of the rollout.
- These projects will evaluate the viability and potential of geothermal sources in India before scaling up commercially.

Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0 launched

- On the occasion of the decade-long celebrations of "Make in India," the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, launched the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0 in New Delhi.

- IPRS was created by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The initiative aims to further strengthen India's industrial ecosystem and enhance the competitiveness of industrial infrastructure.
- Under IPRS 3.0, industrial parks will be benchmarked and categorised as Leaders, Challengers, and Aspirers based on their performance across key indicators. This will provide investors with transparent and credible information, foster healthy competition among States and Union Territories, and guide policymakers in designing targeted interventions.

Key Points

ADB President	— Masato Kanda
ADB headquarters	— Philippines

Adi Yuva Fellowship and Adi Karmayogi Volunteers Were Started to Strengthen Indian Tribal Youth

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations in India, launched the Adi Yuva Fellowship and the Adi Karmayogi Volunteers Programme under the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, a flagship initiative envisioned as the world's largest tribal grassroots leadership movement.
- The Adi Yuva Fellowship is a first-of-its-kind programme designed to empower tribal youth through structured learning, mentorship, and career development.
- The Adi Karmayogi Volunteers initiative, supported by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), will equip tribal youth to act as catalysts for grassroots change and strengthen last-mile service delivery in tribal regions.
- The Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 September 2025 as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh (15 Nov 2024 – 15 Nov 2025). It aims to directly engage 11 crore citizens across one lakh tribal-dominated villages in 550 districts of 30 States and Union Territories. Rooted in the principles of responsive, accountable, and citizen-centric governance, the Abhiyan seeks to transform governance into a people's movement and serve as a foundation for Viksit Bharat 2047.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA).

- It aimed at strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India, with a focus on improving access, quality care, and awareness.
- The Abhiyan is organising more than one lakh health camps, making this the largest ever health outreach for women and children in the country. These camps will be organised at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres, and other healthcare facilities and will actively promote nutrition, health awareness, and overall family well-being.

Election Commission Launches Aadhaar-Based E-Sign Verification

- The Election Commission of India has introduced a new E-sign authentication system for its ECINet portal app, aiming to address controversies over voter list deletions.
- As a result of this technological advancement, anyone wishing to register, remove, or amend their voter information must use an Aadhaar-linked cellphone number to confirm their identification.
- Previously, individuals could submit requests by entering a voter photo identity card number and any mobile number, without verification of true ownership.
- No longer will forms like Form 6 (new registration), Form 7 (deletions/objections), and Form 8 (corrections) be allowed until the E-sign process is finished.
- The portal instructs applicants to ensure that the name on their voter card matches their Aadhaar card and that their mobile number is properly linked to Aadhaar.

Key Points

Chief Election Commissioner	— Gyanesh Kumar of India
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BRO launches Project Vijayak

- As it begins its 16th year, Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 15th Raising Day on September 21, 2025, in Kargil, Ladakh, extending infrastructure projects valued at over ₹1,200 crore.
- The Project has constructed and maintained 80 significant bridges and more than 1,400 km of roads throughout Ladakh during the past 15 years including the record-setting reopening of the strategic Zojila Pass within just 31 days of its winter closure in April 2025, an unprecedented feat in high-altitude connectivity.
- The project acts as a lifeline for the Armed Forces and the local population alike.

Key Points

Director General, BRO — Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan
Headquarters — New Delhi

ESIC Launches SPREE-2025 and Amnesty Scheme

- In a significant step towards strengthening the social security framework and simplifying compliance for industries, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has launched two major initiatives — SPREE-2025 and the AMNESTY Scheme-2025.
- The SPREE-2025 (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees) will remain operational till 31st December 2025. Under this scheme, industries and employees who are not yet associated with ESIC can register through the ESI Portal, Shram Suvidha Portal and Company Affairs Portal without the demand for old dues.
- Employers registering under SPREE-2025 will be considered covered from the date of their registration or the date declared by them, and newly registered employees will start receiving ESI health and social security benefits from the date of registration itself.
- AMNESTY Scheme-2025 will be in effect from 1st October 2025 to 30th September 2026. This one-time dispute resolution initiative has been designed to settle issues related to damages, interest, and coverage under the ESI Act. The scheme seeks to provide employers with an opportunity to resolve pending disputes and strengthen compliance, thereby reducing the number of lawsuits and ensuring the smooth delivery of social security benefits to employees.

Key Points

Director General — Ashok Kumar Singh
Headquarters — New Delhi

The beta version of Adi Sanskriti was released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the beta version of "Adi Sanskriti", a digital learning platform aimed at preserving and promoting tribal artforms, while enabling livelihoods and connecting communities with the world.
- "Adi Sanskriti," dubbed the first digital university for tribal culture in the world, is envisioned as a one-stop shop for education, documentation, and market access.
- It consists of three major components — Adi Vishwavidyalaya, Adi Sampada and Adi Haat.

- The Adi Vishwavidyalaya offers 45 immersive courses covering dance, painting, crafts, music and folklore. Adi Sampada, the socio-cultural repository, already holds more than 5,000 curated documents across themes such as paintings, dance, textiles, artefacts and livelihood. Adi Haat, linked with TRIFED, is set to grow into a dedicated online marketplace for tribal artisans to sell their products directly.

APEDA Launches BHARATI To Boost Agri-Food Exports

- The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative, BHARATI, to boost India's agri-food exports.
- BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- It has been designed to support 100 agri-food startups, promote innovation and boost exports to 50 billion dollars by 2030.
- APEDA seeks to promote innovation, boost exports, and solidify India's place in the world's agri-food commerce in line with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat and Startup India agenda.

Key Points

Union Minister of Food — Chirag Paswan
Processing Industries

Bhubaneswar gets India's first Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan

- Bhubaneswar launched India's first Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan (IHCAP). It was developed by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and iFOREST in collaboration with the Singapore-ETH Centre.
- This plan provides a framework to address the city's rising temperatures, growing heat stress (extending to October), intensified Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect, and projected sevenfold increase in cooling demand by 2050.
- The key strategies include expanding green cover, restoring water bodies, enforcing green building codes, promoting efficient appliances, and establishing heat resilience measures like cooling shelters.

National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025

- India launched its first national policy on geothermal energy, marking a strategic step towards diversifying its renewable energy mix.

- The policy, announced by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is designed to unlock the country's geothermal potential through incentives, international collaborations, and regulatory clarity.
- The new policy encourages joint ventures between geothermal developers and oil, gas, and mineral companies.
- It also introduces fiscal incentives such as tax holidays, import duty exemptions, and viability gap funding to attract investment.
- Projects will get funding for a maximum of 30 years, with potential extensions based on resource availability.
- Additionally, the policy promotes 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) and concessional loans, aiming to draw both domestic and global players into India's geothermal space.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches DIKSHA 2.0 (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)

- Union Education Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the 65th Foundation Day of NCERT and launched a host of initiatives, including DIKSHA 2.0.
- DIKSHA 2.0 is an upgraded digital platform that is fully responsive and compatible with multiple devices. It offers structured lessons, adaptive assessments, and AI-powered tools like Read Aloud and translation of text files in 12 Indian languages.
- NCERT was established on September 1, 1961. It functions under the Ministry of Education.
- NCERT is based in New Delhi and is led by Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani as of September 2025.

PRATUSH (Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen)

- The first-of-its-kind planned space payload, Pratush, was designed by a team from the Raman Research Institute (RRI), an independent organisation supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- In lunar orbit, this future radiometer will provide answers to queries regarding the formation of the universe's first stars.
- In keeping with space science's long-standing focus on low-mass, high-capability payloads, PRATUSH demonstrates, how a compact controller can shoulder precision radio measurements.

- This can help detect a faint radio signal emitted from hydrogen atoms (21-cm signal), which carries imprints of several events of the Cosmic Dawn. Capturing this signal is like hearing a whisper in a stadium full of noise because it is buried under interference, millions of times stronger than the signal itself.

Kapas Kisan App for Cotton Farmers launched

- Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh has recently launched the Kapas Kisan app to benefit cotton farmers across India.
- The app is designed to digitise procurement under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme, ensuring a transparent and farmer-friendly process.
- The app was developed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI).
- It enables farmers to self-register, book delivery slots, and track payments in real-time, promoting transparency and efficiency in cotton sales and safeguarding against distress sales.

Operation SWARNA for River and Nala Awareness has launched

- The Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) has launched Operation SWARNA (Swarnamukhi Waterbody Action for River and Nala Awareness) to restore and protect the Swarnamukhi River and its surrounding ecosystem.
- The operation aims to remove encroachments, revive the river's flow, and safeguard its environment.
- Under this operation, a drone survey will be conducted on the regular basis to map the river's boundaries and define protected zones. Strict legal action will be taken against offenders.

Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan

- The 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah and the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar" (SNSP) Abhiyaan were introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.
- In India, the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan is the biggest health outreach program ever for women and children.
- The program, which is co-led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), will involve organising more than 10 lakh health camps from 17th September to 2nd October at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Community Health Centres (CHCs), District Hospitals and other government health

facilities across the country to provide women-centric preventive, promotive, and curative health services at the community level.

- It will strengthen screening, early detection, and treatment linkages for non-communicable diseases, anaemia, tuberculosis, and sickle cell disease, while also promoting maternal, child, and adolescent health through antenatal care, immunisation, nutrition, menstrual hygiene, lifestyle and mental health awareness activities.

Bihar Rajya Jeevika Nidhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Bihar State Jeevika Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation Limited via video conferencing. He also transferred ₹105 crore to the institution's bank account.
- The purpose of establishing the Jeevika Fund is to provide easy access to funds at affordable interest rates to community members involved in Jeevika.
- All registered Jeevika cluster-level federations will become members of this organisation. Both the Bihar government and the central government will contribute funds for the organisation's operations.

News in Shorts

- In Bihar, jobless male and female graduates in the arts, sciences, and commerce streams would receive a monthly allowance of 1,000 rupees for a maximum of two years under the Mukhyamantri Nischay Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojan.
- PM Narendra Modi launched the Gyan Bharatam Portal - a dedicated digital platform to accelerate manuscript digitisation, preservation, and public access at the International Conference on Gyan Bharatam in New Delhi.

- Union Minister Manohar Lal launched the Unified RERA Portal rera.mohua.gov.in, providing a common platform for stakeholders, enhancing transparency and enabling sharing of best practices among States/UTs.
- PM Modi launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana, providing ₹10000 to 75 lakh women for self-employment. Based on their performance, the government will provide an additional ₹2 lakh after six months.
- The Karnataka Government launched the Local Economy Accelerator Program (LEAP), a ₹1,000 crore initiative aimed at transforming the state's innovation landscape beyond Bengaluru. Aimed at generating five lakh jobs and building startup ecosystems in tier-2 and tier-3 cities of Karnataka, LEAP will be implemented over five years.
- The world's first park made entirely of ceramic waste, "Anokhi Duniya," was unveiled by Uttar Pradesh in Khurja, Bulandshahr, India's ceramic capital. The park celebrates sustainable art and local craftsmanship.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Construction of a 4-lane greenfield access-controlled Mokama-Munger section of the Buxar-Bhagalpur High-Speed Corridor Bihar on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) with a total project length of 82.400 km and a Total Capital Cost of ₹4447.38 crores.
- Tamil Nadu launches India's first ID card programme for women Self-Help Groups (SHG) members, offering benefits in transport, retail, and state welfare schemes.
- The Gujarat government has disbursed over ₹1,000 crore to more than 10.49 lakh girl students under the Nammo Lakshmi Yojana. Under the Nammo Saraswati Vigyan Sadhana Yojana, more than 1.50 lakh students have received financial assistance amounting to over ₹161 crores.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Japan, South Korea, and the United States Begin Trilateral Exercise Freedom Edge

- South Korea, the United States and Japan have launched their five-day trilateral multi-domain exercise titled 'Freedom Edge'.
- The five-day drill began in the international waters to the east and south of Jeju, the southernmost island of South Korea.
- The ongoing exercise marks the third round of the trilateral drills, with the previous rounds of the

exercise conducted in June and November last year, respectively.

- This is the first such exercise to be held since President Lee Jae Myung and US President Donald Trump took office.

Brazil pledges \$1 billion to Global Tropical Forest Fund

- Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pledged USD 1 billion to the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).

- This makes Brazil, the host of this year's COP30, the first nation to make a donation to the global fund for forest conservation.
- The Tropical Forests Forever Facility is a proposed global fund to be financed by contributions from countries, private entities, public donations, and philanthropy.
- The facility's primary purpose is to incentivise forest conservation by compensating countries that protect their tropical forests rather than allowing deforestation or degradation to continue.
- The TFFF aims to generate a total of USD 125 billion, with the plan broken into stages.
- The first stage seeks to raise USD 25 billion through donations and philanthropic contributions, while the remaining USD 100 billion is contingent upon private sector participation.

Australia launches MQ-28A Ghost Bat

- Australia is investing 1.7 billion Australian dollars (1.1 billion US dollars) over five years in the development and production of "Ghost Shark" autonomous maritime vehicles (XL-AUV).
- These will be developed domestically by Anduril Australia in partnership with the Defence Science and Technology Group.
- The first fleet of these unmanned submarines is anticipated to go into service in early 2026, and they are now being constructed domestically.
- Ghost Shark is an extra-large autonomous submarine, bus-sized XL-AUV, capable of executing long-range, stealth missions without surfacing.
- They can be launched from surface ships or the coast and carry out intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and strike operations.

The world's first koala vaccine to protect koalas from chlamydia has been approved by Australia.

- Australia's veterinary regulator has approved the world's first single-dose koala vaccine, developed by the University of the Sunshine Coast, to protect koalas from chlamydia.
- The vaccine aims to combat a disease that causes infertility, blindness, and death in koalas, which is a major threat to the endangered species.
- It has been shown to lower chlamydia mortality and symptoms, and it is currently available for use in wildlife clinics, hospitals, and the field.

- Chlamydia is a major killer of koalas, causing infertility, blindness, and death, and is difficult to treat with antibiotics because they disrupt the koalas' gut bacteria needed for eucalyptus digestion.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan sign Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SMDA)

- Saudi Arabia and nuclear-armed Pakistan formally established their partnership and committed to mutual defence against aggression by signing a mutual defence pact.
- SMDA "states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both", and "aims to develop aspects of defense cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression."
- The strengthened defence relations coincide with Gulf Arab nations' growing scepticism over the United States' dependability as their traditional security guarantor. These worries were heightened by Israel's strike on Qatar.

Exercise Pacific Reach 2025

- The Republic of Singapore Navy hosted Exercise Pacific Reach (XPR-25) 2025 with a harbour phase in Singapore and a sea phase taking place in the South China Sea.
- It is hosted by the Navy of the Republic of Singapore and is a multilateral exercise. It saw a participation from more than 40 countries.
- Indian Navy's latest indigenously designed and constructed Diving Support Vessel (DSV) INS Nistar participated in this exercise.

NASA Discovers Possible Biosignatures on the Surface of Mars

- The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has found the strongest signs yet that some form of life may have existed on Mars in the past.
- The Perseverance rover collected a sample, called "Sapphire Canyon," from a rock named "Cheyava Falls", which contains organic matter and unique mineral patterns—like "leopard spots" and "poppy seeds"—that could be the result of biological activity.
- These features likely formed from chemical reactions between the organic matter and minerals in the ancient mud, a process on Earth typically driven by microbes.

Key Points

NASA's headquarters — Washington DC, US
 NASA's administrator (Acting) — Sean Duffy

Solar Orbiter Mission

- The European Space Agency (ESA's) Solar Orbiter mission has achieved a breakthrough by tracing Solar Energetic Electrons (SEEs) to their two distinct sources on the Sun: solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- This finding, which was made possible by previously unheard-of measurements near the Sun, settles a long-running controversy regarding the origin of these high-energy particles and is essential for comprehending and forecasting space weather, which has the potential to interfere with Earth's communications, power, and satellite systems.
- Scientists have finally established a direct connection between high-energy electrons and both big CMEs and violent solar flares.
- Solar flares produce fast, "impulsive" bursts of SEEs, while CMEs generate slower, "gradual" bursts.
- The Solar Orbiter observed particles directly in situ, combining these with data on solar surface activity to confirm the sources.

WHO Updates Essential Medicines List

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released updated editions of its Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) and Essential Medicines for Children (EMLc), adding new treatments for various types of cancer and for diabetes with associated comorbidities such as obesity.
- Medicines for cystic fibrosis, psoriasis, haemophilia and blood-related disorders are among the other additions.
- WHO EML and EMLc include medicines for the priority health needs of populations. They are adopted in over 150 countries, serving as a basis for public sector procurement, supply of medicines and health insurance, and reimbursement schemes.
- The WHO Model Lists was launched in 1977 largely to promote better access to medicines in developing countries. These lists have become a trusted global policy tool for decisions related to the selection and universal coverage of medicines within all health systems.

Key Points

WHO's headquarters	— Geneva, Switzerland
Director General	— Tedros Adhanom

Sagarmatha Friendship-2025

- Nepali Army and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) commenced the fifth edition of the Sagarmatha Friendship joint military exercise in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The drill focused on joint counter-terrorism operations, disaster management, and UN peacekeeping operations.

Albania Inducts World's First Artificial Intelligence (AI) Minister

- Albania has become the world's first country to appoint an 'AI minister' to oversee the growth and ethical use of artificial intelligence in the country.
- The AI minister named Diella, meaning 'sun' in Albanian, is not a person but a virtual member of the government.
- Prime Minister Edi Rama of Albania claims that it is composed of pixels and code and is entrusted with combating corruption.

Israel Launches Ofek-19 Military Satellite

- Israel launched its latest spy satellite, Ofer 19, into space from an undisclosed site.
- The Ofek 19 satellite was constructed by Israel Aerospace Industries, a state-owned enterprise.
- SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) observation satellite Ofek 19 is a highly developed satellite with improved capabilities. Upon entering Earth's orbit, the satellite will undergo a series of designated tests to assess its integrity and performance.
- For military surveillance and intelligence collection, Israel has been launching Ofek observation satellites since 1988.

News in Shorts

- The Taliban government rejected the U.S. President's proposal to retake Bagram Air Base, four years after the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.
- President Donald Trump announced that his administration will impose a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa petitions. The new fee went into effect as of September 21, 2025, and will greatly impact employers' ability to secure the highly educated foreign workers who come to the United States on the H-1B visa.
- President Xi unveiled a new Global Governance Initiative (GGI) during the "SCO Plus" conference. This is the fourth of Xi's "global initiatives," joining the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilisation Initiative.

INDIA AND THE WORLD

In Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, the Prime Minister of Mauritius.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted his counterpart Navinchandra Ramgoolam in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- PM Modi announced a special economic package for Mauritius to support infrastructure, healthcare, and employment generation. The package will fund the construction of the new 500-bed Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam National Hospital, an AYUSH Centre of Excellence, a Veterinary School and Animal Hospital, and the provision of helicopters.
- The installation of a new ATC tower at SSR International Airport, the construction of Motorway M4 and Ring Road Phase II, and the purchase of contemporary port equipment are among the projects totalling an estimated \$440 million that will be carried out on a grant-cum-line-of-credit basis.
- The two countries also renewed their MoU in the field of hydrography and signed a landmark agreement on the establishment of a Telemetry, Tracking, and Telecommunications Station for satellites and launch vehicles, strengthening space research collaboration.

A Joint Credit Mechanism Between Japan and India Encourages Climate Action

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Government of Japan on the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The development demonstrates India's firm commitment to Climate Action and marks yet another milestone in the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- The MoC participates in "Green Energy Focus for a Better Future," a significant area of Indo-Japan cooperation.
- The current MoC aims to bolster the partnership between India and Japan on Climate Change Mitigation. The low-carbon technologies approved by the National Designated Agency for Implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (NDAIAPA), under Article 6.2, form an important component of India's long-term low-carbon development strategy to achieve Net Zero by 2070.

PM Lawrence Wong of Singapore met PM Modi in New Delhi.

- Prime Minister Modi met Prime Minister of Singapore Lawrence Wong in New Delhi to review the robust and multifaceted cooperation between the two nations.
- Prime Minister Wong's visit commemorates the 60th anniversary of India-Singapore diplomatic ties and underscores both nations' ongoing commitment to advancing this alliance.
- In a significant boost to India's maritime infrastructure, both the Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated Phase-II of the PSA Mumbai Terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPA), via virtual mode.

ICAR Launches Maitri 2.0 to Boost Bilateral Collaboration in Agritech with Brazil

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched the second edition of the Brazil-India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech (Maitri 2.0) in New Delhi.
- The programme is a two-way learning platform for co-creation between Indian and Brazilian innovators.
- Maitri 2.0 aims to strengthen incubator linkages, exchange best practices, promote co-incubation, and open new opportunities in sustainable agriculture, digital technologies, and value-chain development.

India supports Palestine's statehood by voting in favour of the UN's "New York Declaration."

- India voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution backing the 'New York Declaration' that calls for a peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue through the two-state solution.
- The resolution was introduced by France.
- The declaration, adopted at a high-level conference in July co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, urges collective action to end the war in Gaza. The leaders "agreed to take collective action to end the war in Gaza, to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the effective implementation of the two-state solution, and to build a better future for Palestinians, Israelis and all peoples of the region".
- India was one of the nations that supported the resolution entitled "Endorsement of the New York Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of the Question16 OSWAAL

Current Affairs of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution.” Those opposing included Israel, the United States, Argentina and Hungary.

The first anniversary of the UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB) was celebrated in September 2025.

- UKIIFB marked its first anniversary in September 2025, having been launched in September 2024. NITI Aayog and the City of London Corporation lead UKIIFB.
- It focuses on facilitating UK investment in Indian infrastructure by acting as a public-private platform to overcome regulatory barriers and de-risk projects.
- During its first anniversary, the UKIIFB released a report in London focusing on policy recommendations to attract capital for India’s sustainable infrastructure needs.

The Tianjin Declaration, adopted by SCO leaders, “strongly” denounces the Pahalgam incident.

- The SCO “strongly condemned” terrorism in all of its manifestations, including the attacks on the Jaffer Express and Khuzdar in Pakistan as well as the Pahalgam attack on April 22.
- The Tianjin Declaration, signed and adopted by all members, including India, Pakistan, and Russia, also called for an end to “cross-border movement” of terrorists.
- The declaration reaffirmed the bloc’s “firm commitment to fight against terrorism, separatism, and extremism”, and stressed the inadmissibility of attempts to use terrorist, separatist, and extremist groups for “mercenary purposes”.
- The opening statement of the summit, which centred on bolstering the Global South in the face of global trade uncertainties and a “fluid and chaotic global situation,” said that the world was going through “profound historical changes that affect all spheres of political, socio-economic, and social relations.”

India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) to come into effect

- India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) will come into effect on 1 October 2025.
- The agreement comprises of 14 chapters with main focus on market access related to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade remedies, sanitary and

phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment promotion, market access on services, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development and other legal and horizontal provisions.

- The EFTA’s market access offer under TEPA covers 100% of non-agri products and tariff concession on Processed Agricultural Products (PAP). Sensitivity related to PLI in sectors such as pharma, medical devices and processed food, etc., have been taken while extending offers.
- In addition to promoting goods and services, the agreement aims to boost foreign direct investments in India by USD 100 billion over the next 15 years and to make it easier for 1 million direct jobs to be created in India as a result of these investments.

US Sanctions On India’s Chabahar Port In Iran Take Effect

- The United States’ renewed sanctions on India’s Chabahar port project in Iran came into effect.
- This is a significant setback for India’s regional ambitions and its decades-long strategic engagement with Tehran.
- The move ends a rare exemption that had allowed Indian companies to continue developing the Chabahar port despite earlier US sanctions on Iran. The Trump administration granted permission for Indian companies to participate in the port in 2018 on the grounds of regional economic growth and Afghanistan rehabilitation. However, since then, the ground has drastically changed.
- The sanctions follow a return of wide-ranging UN measures on Iran, as Washington, European allies, and Israel continue to pressure Tehran over its nuclear programme.
- India has relied heavily on Chabahar in its attempts to get around Pakistan and reach Afghanistan and the larger Middle East.

India signs MoU with ILO to advance ‘International Reference Classification of Occupations’

- The government has inked an initial pact with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to advance the ‘International Reference Classification of Occupations’ and facilitate youth in availing global employment opportunities.
- Many nations are experiencing severe talent shortages as a result of digitalisation and demographic declines.

- The G20 leaders during India's 2023 Presidency pledged to strive towards providing well-managed, regular, and skills-based migration paths in order to close these skill gaps.
- They supported the creation of the International Reference Classification of Occupations based on skill and qualification requirements in order to achieve this.

Key Points

Union Labour & Employment — Mansukh Mandaviya
and Youth Affairs & Sports

ILO's headquarters — Geneva, Switzerland

Director General — Gilbert Hounbo

News in Shorts

- India and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on critical minerals, aiming to build resilient and diversified supply chains for resources essential to clean energy and technology, and economic security.
- India was re-elected to the governing Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) at the 28th UPU Congress in Dubai.
- India was elected as a member of the Interpol Asian Committee during the 25th Asian Regional Conference held in Singapore.

FINANCE, ECONOMY AND BANKING

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Reforms 2025

- GST has been shifted to a two-slab system of 5% and 18%, removing the earlier 12% and 28% rates.
- In addition, a 40% tax on upscale and sinful items including tobacco, pan masala, aerated beverages, luxury cars, yachts, and private planes guarantees equity and revenue balance.
- The GST reforms increase affordability by lowering taxes on home necessities like toothpaste, soaps, and Indian breads to 5% or zero percent.
- The Life-saving drugs, medicines reduced from 12% to Nil or 5% making healthcare affordable.
- Two-wheelers, small cars, TVs, ACs, and cement cut from 28% to 18% bringing relief to the middle-class.
- Farming expenses are decreased by 12% to 5% thanks to farm machinery and irrigation equipment.
- Additionally, the burden on businesses—particularly MSMEs and startups—has been lessened by the simplification of registration and return filing, the acceleration of refunds, and the reduction of compliance expenses.

Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launches Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)

- The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, formally launched the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi.
- It marks a major milestone in the evolution of the Goods and Services Tax regime and strengthens

the institutional framework for indirect tax dispute resolution in the country.

- It will provide a uniform, transparent, and reliable platform for the resolution of disputes. It will reduce ambiguity, bring uniformity across the country, and ensure that both large and small taxpayers do not have to wait long for justice.
- The Tribunal will provide a specialised, nationwide forum that can bring consistency in interpretation, predictability in outcomes, and credibility to the appellate process. This is vital for strengthening trust between taxpayers and tax administration.

Adani Power, Druk Green Power To Set Up 570 MW Hydro Power Project In Bhutan

- Adani Power has inked a pact with Bhutan's state-owned utility Druk Green Power to set up a 570MW hydro project entailing an investment of ₹6,000 crore in the Himalayan Kingdom.
- As per the pact, Adani Power and Druk Green Power Corp Ltd (DGPC), will initiate the peaking run-of-river Wangchhu hydroelectric project on a BOOT (Build, Own, Operate, Transfer) model.
- The construction work is expected to begin by the first half of 2026, and the completion is targeted within five years of groundbreaking.

Key Points

Prime Minister of Bhutan — Dasho Tshering Tobgay
Chairman — Gautam Adani

Indian Post Payments Bank Celebrated its 8th Foundation Day

- IPPB celebrated its 8th Foundation Day, known as IPPB Day on September 1, 2025, marking another milestone of transforming the banking landscape by delivering inclusive, accessible, and affordable services at the last mile.
- It was founded under the Ministry of Communication's Department of Posts, and the Indian government owns all of its equity.
- The fundamental mandate of India Post Payments Bank is to remove barriers for the unbanked and underbanked and reach the last mile leveraging the Postal network comprising ~1,65,000 Post Offices (~1,40,000 in rural areas) and ~3,00,000 Postal employees.

Key Points

MD & CEO, IPPB	—	R. Viswesvaran
Chairman, IPPB	—	Vandita Kaul

India Starts the UPI-UPU Cross-Border Payments Project

- Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, unveiled the Unified Payments Interface (UPI)–Universal Postal Union (UPU) Integration project at the 28th Universal Postal Congress in Dubai.
- It is a landmark initiative set to transform cross-border remittances for millions worldwide.
- The initiative, developed by the Department of Posts (DoP), NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), and the UPU, integrates India's UPI with the UPU Interconnection Platform (IP), combining the reach of the postal network with the speed and affordability of UPI.

The Advanced Logistics Data Bank is launched by Make In India.

- The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, launched Logistics Data Bank (LDB) 2.0, advancing India's journey toward a digitally empowered, investment-ready, and export-competitive economy.
- LDB 2.0 will provide critical insights into the availability of facilities and infrastructure across the logistics ecosystem.
- The system will enable real-time tracking and assessment of logistics performance, supporting better planning, higher efficiency, and cost reduction.

- The initiative will serve as an important tool for both industry and government to strengthen competitiveness, improve supply chain management, and make logistics in India more efficient and business-friendly.
- It was launched by NICDC Logistics Data Services (NLDSL).
- With the introduction of high-seas container tracking in LDB 2.0, exporters may monitor containers even after they leave Indian ports and travel across foreign waters, facilitating better coordination and boosting their reputation in international markets.

News in Shorts

- Morgan Stanley has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.7% (from 6.2%).
- Global rating agency Fitch has revised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal year upward, from 6.5% to 6.9%.
- India's GDP growth was maintained at 6.5% for FY26 by SandP Global Ratings, citing robust domestic demand, a mild monsoon, and government expenditures as drivers.

The RBI is expected to lower rates by 25 basis points this fiscal year, according to the agency, which also lowered inflation down to 3.2%.

- Japanese credit rating agency, Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (RandI), upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' from 'BBB', while retaining the "Stable" Outlook for the Indian economy. This is the third such upgrade by a sovereign credit rating agency this year, following SandP's upgrade to 'BBB' (from BBB-) in August 2025 and Morningstar DBRS' upgrade to 'BBB' (from BBB (low)) in May 2025, reaffirming India's position as one of the most dynamic and resilient major economies in the world.
- RBI cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) for Datta Finance and Trading Pvt Ltd due to violations in its digital lending operations. The company was found to have outsourced core functions like customer sourcing, KYC, loan disbursement, and recovery, violating guidelines on fair practices and digital lending.
- Myntra and Sourav Ganguly have teamed together to introduce "Souragya," a line of high-end ethnic clothing that draws inspiration from Bengal's rich cultural legacy.

DEFENCE NEWS

India to set up first-ever triservices military stations

- In a move to bring greater jointness and integration among the Armed Forces, India's top military hierarchy decided to form three joint military stations for the first time in the country. The military stations are dedicated geographical areas housing equipment and personnel, and their families, where they live and train.
- Additionally, they decided to create a unified tri-service Education Corps by combining the education divisions of the three defence services. The education branches of the forces have generally been entrusted with the responsibility of enhancing the educational standard of the troops, and its cadre is posted at subareas (garrisons), headquarters, training centres, units, establishments, sainik schools, military schools, colleges, and selection centres.
- Under the Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s Department of Military Affairs (DMA), HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) works as a point organisation for jointmanship in the MoD, which integrates policy, doctrine, war fighting, and procurement of arms and equipment.
- India's war-fighting machinery and organisations are being reorganised to meet the needs of technology-led modern warfare. To enumerate reorganisation from the top, the three services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) will eventually be reset into Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs).

SPARSH Streamlines defence pension administration

- The System for Pension Administration-Raksha (SPARSH) has protected the rights of defence pensioners by resolving legacy issues in up to 5.60 lakh out of 6.43 lakh cases (87%) so far.
- Additionally, it has improved grievance redressal, reducing the average disposal time from 56 days in April 2025 to just 20 days now.
- SPARSH is the world's largest pension system for defence personnel. It stands as a transparent, inclusive and efficient model of governance—transforming pension administration from fragmentation to integration and from delay to dignity.

DRDO carries out the successful launch of the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile

- DRDO, in collaboration with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), carried out the successful launch of

the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile from a rail-based Mobile launcher system.

- This next-generation missile is designed to cover a range of up to 2000 kilometres and is equipped with various advanced features.
- The first-of-its-kind launch carried out from a specially designed rail-based Mobile Launcher, which can move on the Rail network without any preconditions that allowing the user to have cross-country mobility and launch within a short reaction time with reduced visibility.
- It has all the qualities of an independent launch capability, including cutting-edge protection and communication systems, and it is self-sufficient.

Key Points

DRDO chief	—	Samir V. Kamat
Headquarters	—	New Delhi

IAF bids adieu to Iconic MiG-21 Fighter jet

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) on September 26, 2025, bid farewell to its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets. MiG-21 was the country's first supersonic fighter and interceptor aircraft.
- In Chandigarh, the No 23 (Panthers) and No 3 (Cobras), the last two MiG-21 squadrons, which together fly about 36 jets, decommissioned during a decommissioning ceremony.
- MIG was inducted into the Air Force in 1963, with Dilbag Singh leading the squadron at the Chandigarh Air Force Station.
- The supersonic jet of Soviet origin provided India a clear advantage in the sky for more than 60 years, from the 1965 and 1971 wars to the Kargil conflict in 1999 and the Balakot attacks in 2019.

Key Points

Chief of Defence Staff	—	General Anil Chauhan
Chief of Air Staff	—	Amar Preet Singh

BSF launches AI, GIS-powered command centre

- The Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a new AI and GIS-enabled Command and Control centre called the Decision Support System (DSS) at its headquarters to strengthen India's border security along Pakistan and Bangladesh.

- The DSS is designed to enhance the decision-making ability of BSF commanders at all levels by offering role-based access via customised dashboards.
- The platform offers a Complete Operating Picture (COP) through the integration of cutting-edge machine learning, artificial intelligence, and geographic information systems (GIS). This enables operational planning, execution, and real-time coordination based on insights supported by data.
- One of the key features is the system's ability to conduct predictive trend analysis. Using AI/ML models, the DSS can forecast smuggling hotspots, infiltration routes, and vulnerable stretches of the border. Historical and real-time data feeds will enable the BSF to allocate resources more effectively, improve surveillance efficiency, and refine tactical deployment to counter emerging threats.
- BSF guards over 6,000 km-long border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Key Points

BSF Director General — Daljit Singh Chawdhary

Indian army celebrates 199th Gunners Day

- The Indian Army celebrated its 199th Gunners Day on September 28, 2025.
- In the history of the Regiment of Artillery, it holds particular significance since on this day in 1827, 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery was established. As it has been in uninterrupted service since raising, its Raising Day is celebrated as Gunners Day every year.
- On behalf of all ranks of the Regiment of Artillery, the Director General of Artillery and Senior Colonel Commandant Lieutenant General Adosh Kumar, along with active duty members and veterans, paid their respects to the Bravehearts during a wreath-laying ceremony held at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

The Indian army used SAMBHAV during Operation Sindoor

- During Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army used its indigenous M-Sigma app on SAMBHAV (Secure Army Mobile Bharat Version) smartphones for secure communication. SAMBHAV replaced foreign apps like WhatsApp to prevent external surveillance.
- With its cutting-edge 5G technology anticipated 2023 launch, it marked a significant breakthrough in India's defense capabilities.

- SAMBHAV addresses the vulnerability of mobile networks to eavesdropping, ensuring the security of sensitive information. This end-to-end secure mobile ecosystem is designed to offer instant and secure communication while on the move.

Key Points

Army Chief — General Upendra Dwivedi

Indian Navy conducts seminar at INS Rajali, Arakkonam

- The Indian Navy hosted a two-day seminar at INS Rajali, Arakkonam, from September on the theme "Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) Platforms: Strengthening Indian Maritime Prowess in an Expanding Area of Responsibility".
- The seminar was organised by the Eastern Naval Command.
- INS Rajali was commissioned on March 11, 1992. It is the most modern and largest Naval Air Station, with a garrison strength of 4,700 personnel. It has the longest military runway in Asia.

The Indian Navy commissioned INS Aravali

- The Indian Navy commissioned its latest Naval Base, INS Aravali, at Gurugram marking a major boost to its information and communication infrastructure.
- It is named after the steadfast Aravali Range, and the base will support command, control and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) operations.
- Its crest, which depicts mountains and the rising sun, stands for alertness, fortitude, and the emergence of cutting-edge technology.
- INS Aravali is guided by the motto "Maritime Security through Collaboration," and it is expected to play a key role in strengthening the Navy's operational readiness and maritime security framework.

Key Points

Chief of the Naval Staff — Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi

The Indian Coast Guard commissions a fast patrol vessel (FPV) of the Adamya class.

- Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Adamya, the first of eight vessels in the Adamya-class fast patrol vessels (FPVs), was commissioned at Paradip Port, Odisha.

- It is 51-metre-long and has been designed and built indigenously by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited. With more than 60% indigenous content, the ship strengthens India's maritime might under the government's 'Make in India' initiative.
- Adanya weighs approximately 320 tonnes and is powered by two 3000 KW diesel engines, enabling a top speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 1500 nautical miles at economical speed.
- It is the first ICG ship to be fitted with indigenously developed controllable pitch propellers (CPP) and gearboxes, providing superior manoeuvrability and enhanced operational performance.
- The vessel is armed with a 30 mm CRN91 gun and two 12.7 mm stabilised remote-controlled (SRCG) machine guns, supported by advanced fire-control systems.
- It has modern navigation and operational systems such as the integrated bridge system (IBS), integrated platform management system (IPMS), and automated power management system (APMS).

Key Points

Headquarters ICG	—	New Delhi
Director General	—	Paramesh Sivamani

India's first indigenous 3D naval radar is introduced by the Indian Navy.

- Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), in collaboration with Spanish defence firm Indra, has manufactured and commissioned an advanced naval air surveillance radar, Lanza-N, aboard an Indian Navy warship, marking a significant milestone in India's defence manufacturing capabilities.
- Lanza-N is the 3D Air Surveillance Radar (3D-ASR). TASL is the first Indian company to demonstrate the ability to build and integrate next-generation naval surveillance radar systems.
- The radar has been seamlessly integrated with all onboard systems and underwent rigorous sea trials to test performance across various naval and aerial platforms.
- TASL has established a specialised radar assembly, integration, and testing facility in Karnataka to facilitate continued manufacturing.

The first-ever tri-service all-women circumnavigation, "Samudra Pradakshina," has been flagged off.

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually flagged off a historic Tri-services all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition Samudra Pradakshina, the first ever in the world, from the Gateway of India in Mumbai.
- Over the next nine months, 10 women officers will sail onboard the indigenously-built Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni on an easterly route covering approximately 26,000 nautical miles.
- They will travel around the three main Capes—Leauwin, Horn, and Good Hope—and cross the Equator twice. They will also pass through all of the major oceans and some of the most hazardous areas, such as the Drake Passage and the Southern Ocean.
- The team will also make four international port calls before returning to Mumbai in May 2026.

Tata Group arm sets up India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit in Africa

- Tata Group's defence arm, Tata Advanced Systems, has established a new armoured vehicle production facility as India's first overseas defence manufacturing unit in Morocco, Africa.
- The facility at Berrechid will manufacture the Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP) 8x8, marking the first Indian defence plant in the African continent.
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath inaugurated the facility Singh during his two-day visit to Morocco.

India, Morocco Sign MoU on Defence Cooperation

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudiyi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation in Rabat.
- The MoU provides for a robust institutional framework for the growing partnership and paves the way for collaboration in the defence industry, joint exercises, military training and capacity building.
- In addition to agreeing on a comprehensive plan encompassing counterterrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, and expert exchange, both presidents made the decision to further up defence industry engagement.

Name of the exercise	Venue	Organisations/ Countries involved
Yudh Abhyas 2025	Fort Wainwright, Alaska, US	India-US
Exercise MAITREE	Umroi, Meghalaya	India-Thailand
ZAPAD 2025	Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, Russia	Russia, Belarus, and India
AMOGH FURY	Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Thar desert, Rajasthan	Sapta Shakti Command of the Indian Army
Cold Start exercise (Test unmanned systems and counter-drone technologies)		Tri-service drone warfare exercise involving the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force
Exercise Siyom Prahar (Validate integration of drones into tactical operations under realistic battlefield conditions)	Arunachal Pradesh	Indian Army
Yudh Kaushal 3.0	Kameng region, Arunachal Pradesh	Indian Army
Maiden India–Greece Bilateral Maritime Exercise	Mediterranean Sea	Indian Navy and Hellenic Navy (Greece)

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Designation
Chandrapuram Ponnusami (C.P) Radhakrishnan	15th Vice-President of India
Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam	Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR)
Srinivas Injeti	Chairperson of NSE Governing Board
Alia Bhatt	Global brand ambassador of Levi's
Harshavardhan Chitale	CEO of Hero MotoCorp
Anand Piramal	Chairman of Piramal Finance
Bhupender Gupta	CMD of NHPC Amid Green Push
Dr. Deepak Mittal	India's New Envoy to UAE
Rajit Punhani	CEO of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
T.C.A. Kalyani	29th Controller General of Accounts
Kaustubh Kulkarni	Co-head of investment banking, Citibank for Asia-Pacific
Mohammed Siraj	Brand Ambassador of Skechers
Sanjiv Ghuratia	Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) at the Indian Air Force Headquarters
Justice Shree Chandrashekhar	Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

Dr. Sima Bahou	Executive Director of UN Women
Vandana Gupta	Controller General of Communication Accounts
Gourangalal Das	India's New Ambassador to South Korea
Shashank Srowthy	CFO, Procter and Gamble Health
Amit Khare	Secretary to the Vice President of India
Carlos Felipe Jaramillo	Vice President for East Asia and Pacific, World Bank
Professor Pradeep Kumar	Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)
Gaurav Banerjee	MD and CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India
Rajeev Verma	Chief Secretary of Delhi
Mithun Manhas	37th BCCI President
R Venkataramani	Attorney General of India
Acharya Devvrat	Additional Charge as Maharashtra Governor
Justice M Sundar	Chief Justice of Manipur High Court
Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri	Chief Justice of Patna High Court
Kanad Das	Director of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI)
Shailesh Chandra	MD and CEO of Tata Motors
Sudhanshu Vats	President of Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), Subramanyeswar Vice Chair
Anutin Charnvirakul	Prime Minister of Thailand
Irfaan Ali	President, Guyana
David Lammy	Deputy Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
Demography, Representation, Delimitation	Ravi K Mishra
Rocket Dreams	Christian Davenport
But No Less	Anupam Kher
The Academy: A Novel	Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham
Why the Constitution Matters	Former CJI DY Chandrachud
Mother Mary Come To Me	Arundhati Roy
Dapaan	Ipsita Chakravarty
The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath	Amish Tripathi

OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
D.D. Lapang	Foamier Meghalaya Chief Minister and Politician
Njattiyela Sreedharan	Indian lexicographer
Sarada Hoffman	Bharatanatyam exponent
Dr. S. L. Bhyrappa	Renowned Kannada Novelist

OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation
Giorgio Armani	Designer and founder of the Armani Group
Myint Swe	Acting President of Myanmar
Dickie Bird	Cricket Umpire
Hiromasa Urakawa	Japanese boxer
Robert Redford	Actor and Director
Marian Burros	American author
Bernie Parent	Canadian professional ice hockey goaltender
John Stapleton	British television presenter

DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
September 1-7	National Nutrition Week	Eat Right for a Better Life
September 2	World Coconut Day	Uncovering Coconut's. Power, Inspiring Global Action
September 3	Skyscraper Day	
September 5	International Day of Charity	
September 5	Teacher's Day (India)	Inspiring the Next Generation of Learners
September 7	International Vulture Awareness Day	
September 7	International Day of Police Cooperation	Information Communication Technologies (ICT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Policing
September 8	International Literacy Day	Promoting literacy in the digital era
September 8	World Physiotherapy Day	Healthy Ageing
September 9	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	Challenging Narratives, Reshaping Action
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	Changing the Narrative on Suicide
September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day	Remembering Martyrs, Protecting Forests
September 11	Digvijay Diwas	

September 14	World First Aid day	First Aid and Climate Change
September 14	Hindi Diwas	Hindi: The Strength of National Unity and Global Identity
September 15	National Engineer Day	Deep Tech and Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Techade
September 15	International Day of Democracy	Achieving gender equality, action by action
September 16	International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South	
September 16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	From science to global action
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Safe care for every newborn and every child
September 18	World Bamboo Day	Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design
September 18	International Equal Pay Day	Achieving Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value
September 19	International Talk Like a Pirate Day	
September 20 (Third Saturday)	International Red Panda Day	
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Ask About Dementia. Ask About Alzheimer's
September 21	International Day of Peace	Act Now for a Peaceful World
September 22	World Rhino Day	
September 22	World River Day	
September 23	Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for People and Planet
September 23	International Day of Sign Languages	No Human Rights Without Sign Language Rights
September 24	World Gorilla Day	
September 25	European Day of Languages	Languages open hearts and minds!
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	
September 26	World Contraception Day	A choice for all – agency, intention, access
September 26	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	Clean Air, Healthy People
September 27	World Tourism Day	Tourism and Sustainable Transformation
September 28	World Rabies Day	Act now: You, Me, Community
September 28	International Day for Universal Access to Information	Ensuring Access to Environmental Information in the Digital Age
September 29	World Heart Day	Don't miss a beat
September 30	International Translation Day	Translation, an art worth protecting: Moral and Material rights for Indigenous Languages

REPORTS, RANKINGS AND INDEX

World Trade Report 2025

- The World Trade Report is an annual publication by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that analyses key issues in international trade, trade policies, and the multilateral trading system, providing in-depth insights into global trade trends and future prospects.
- The 2025 edition highlights the disruptive nature of the last 80 years of trade but also points to the potential of artificial intelligence to boost global trade significantly.
- The report identifies potential solutions for fostering inclusive growth and development, particularly by embracing and effectively managing artificial intelligence.

Global Innovation Index 2025

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) projects that R&D growth would decline to 2.3% in 2025 after dropping to 2.9% in 2024.
- This marks a sharp decline from a 4.4% increase in the previous year, the lowest growth since the 2010 financial crisis.
- Overall, India has made a steady climb from 48 in 2020 to 38 in 2025, and importantly, holds the first spot among lower-middle-income economies and in the Central and Southern Asia region. India performs best in Knowledge and Technology Outputs (22) and Market Sophistication (38), while its weakest rankings are in Business Sophistication (64), Infrastructure (61), and Institutions (58).
- Europe leads as the most innovative region, with 15 countries in the global top 25, including six in the top 10—led by Switzerland at 1, followed by Sweden at 2.
- With the United States at number three and Canada at number seventeen, North America is still dominant.
- Meanwhile, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania (SEAO) continue to emerge as global innovation hubs, with six economies in the top 25.
- Notably, China ranks 10th in the global top 10, overtaking Switzerland in knowledge and technology outputs, leading in patent filings, standing at 2 in RandD expenditure, and hosting several of the world's top innovation clusters.
- World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) releases the index, which evaluates 139 economies on over 80 indicators that measure innovation inputs and outputs.

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025

- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, launched the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 in New Delhi.
- LEADS 2025 represents a significant milestone in benchmarking logistics performance across States and Union Territories, supporting India's vision of a globally competitive and future-ready logistics ecosystem.
- This year, LEADS introduces two major features: performance assessment of 5–7 key corridors based on journey time, truck speed, and waiting periods, and API-enabled evaluation of section-wise speeds on major road corridors. These actions will give States and Union Territories more precise information to help them improve the effectiveness of their logistics.
- LEADS 2025 will contribute to building a cost-efficient and sustainable logistics system, supporting the broader goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

NIRF Rankings 2025

- The Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025, which annually lists the top-performing universities, colleges, and institutes in India.
- IIT-Madras has once again secured the top position as the best engineering college in India and continues to lead in the overall category. IIT-Madras has also gained the number one rank in the newly introduced SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) category.
- In the architecture and planning category, IIT Roorkee was placed at the top. Under innovation, IIT Bombay topped, and Hindu College was the best college. IIM Ahmedabad topped in the management category, followed by IIM Bangalore and IIM Kozhikode in the second and third places, respectively.
- New Delhi's Jamia Hamdard is the leading pharmacy in the category. The top law school in India is the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), located in Bengaluru.
- The top universities in India include Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), located in New Delhi, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), located in Bengaluru.
- Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is the nation's top research university.
- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, is the best medical college in India.

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, is the top agricultural Institute of India.
- Symbiosis Skills and Professional University, Pune, is the best skills university in India.
- Tamil Nadu is at the forefront with the highest number of colleges in the Top 100.

Global Peace Index 2025

- India was ranked 115th in the Global Peace Index 2025.
- Iceland continues to hold the top spot, followed by Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Austria, and Switzerland. Iceland has held the top spot since 2008. Singapore remains the only Asian country in the top ten.
- Russia, Ukraine, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Yemen are the least peaceful nations.
- The index states that global peacefulness has decreased by 0.36%, the largest drop since the end of World War II.
- GPI is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace, ranks countries based on 23 indicators, including militarisation, external conflicts, homicide, and terrorism. The GPI 2025 analysed 163 countries, representing 99.7% of the world's population.

Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) Report

- The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) has released the latest AQLI report.
- According to the study, poisonous air causes Indians to lose almost twice as many years as maternal and childhood malnutrition, and it has an effect that is more than five times greater than that of unsafe water, poor sanitation, and improper handwashing.
- According to the AQLI 2025 update, all of India lives in areas where the annual average particulate pollution level (PM2.5) exceeds the WHO annual average limit of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- Delhi-NCR is the worst hit, with residents facing a loss of 8.2 years in life expectancy (based on WHO's standard). Even by India's PM2.5 standard of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, Delhi-NCR residents would still lose 4.74 years of life expectancy.
- The report notes that 46% of Indians live in areas that exceed even India's own PM2.5 standards.
- If pollution levels were reduced to meet this national benchmark, Indians could gain an average of 1.5 years of life expectancy. Meeting the WHO's 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ guideline could add up to 9.4 months even in cleaner regions.

- The AQLI report underlines that South Asia is the most polluted region globally, with PM2.5 concentrations rising 2.8% in 2023 after a brief dip in 2022.

National Annual Report and Index (NARI) on Women's Safety 2025

- According to the NARI 2025 report, Kohima, Visakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Mumbai have emerged as the safest cities in the country for women, while Patna, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Srinagar and Ranchi were ranked the lowest.
- Based on a poll of 12,770 women in 31 cities, the index assigns a national safety score of 65% and classifies places as "much above," "above," "below," or "much below" this standard.
- Although 91% of women said they felt safe, half were unsure if their place of employment had a POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) policy. Those who did, however, said the rules were typically successful.
- Only one-fourth of women said they trusted authorities to act effectively on safety complaints. While 69% said current safety efforts were somewhat adequate, over 30% noted significant gaps or failures; only 65% perceived real improvement over the years 2023-20.
- 7% of women experienced harassment in public spaces in 2024, with the figure doubling to 14% among those under 24.
- Public transit (29%) and neighbourhoods (38%) were most frequently identified as hotspots for harassment. However, just one out of every three victims reported the incidents.
- The NARI index has been conceived by Pvalue Analytics, The NorthCap University and Jindal Global Law School and is published by the Group of Intellectuals and Academicians (GIA).

Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report

- According to the latest Sample Registration Survey Statistical Report for 2023, India's Crude Birth Rate (CBR), the number of children born per 1,000 people in the population in a year, has declined by 0.7 points from 19.1 in 2022 to 18.4 in 2023.
- Bihar had the highest CBR at 25.8, while Tamil Nadu had the lowest at 12.
- The country's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen for the first time in two years to 1.9 in 2023.
- In 2021 and 2022, India's TFR remained constant at 2.0.
- Bihar reported the highest TFR (2.8) among the bigger States and Union Territories (UTs), and Delhi reported the lowest (1.2)

- The report pointed out that 18 States and UTs had reported a TFR of below the replacement level TFR of 2.1. Replacement level TFR denotes the average number of children each woman needs to give birth for one generation to replace the other.
- The country's Crude Death Rate was at 6.4 in 2023, a 0.4-point decline from 2022. The national infant mortality rate decreased by one point from 2022, while the national sex ratio at birth increased by three points over the 2020–2022 and 2021–2023 periods.
- The Office of the Registrar General of India published the report.

News in Short

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released statistics showing that over one billion individuals worldwide suffer from mental health issues. This underscores a mounting crisis with profound consequences for families, communities and economies. WHO described mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression, as the second leading cause of long-term disability worldwide.

EVENTS

Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival

- The 14th Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival was inaugurated recently at Sirarakhong village, Ukhrul district, Manipur.
- In order to support agricultural heritage, environmental sustainability, and national development objectives, farmers, community leaders, and dignitaries came together for this lively celebration of the world-famous Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli, which is famed for its distinct flavour and perfume.
- The festival promotes cultural heritage, environmental sustainability, and knowledge of important national initiatives while providing a forum for the celebration of the area's agricultural pride.

SCO summit 2025

- Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the port city of Tianjin.
- The 10 SCO members—Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—were joined by numerous partners from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East, as well as the UN secretary-general.

The Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC)

- The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) has stopped supporting and funding ESTIC, which is being organised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The three-day colloquium will take place at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from November 3–5, 2025.

- It aims to foster strategic dialogue and collaboration among scientists, technologists, innovators, policymakers, and the private sector to accelerate India's journey in Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) and align with the vision of a developed India by 2047.

Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025

- The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, has launched the Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025, a nationwide innovation movement set to engage students from schools having classes 6–12.
- This would be India's largest-ever student innovation initiative and an important step towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.
- During the Buildathon, students in Grades 6–12 are encouraged to collaborate in groups, exercise creativity, and create concepts and prototypes that tackle real-world problems.

Tirupati Resolution

- The first national conference of Parliamentary and Legislative committees on women's empowerment concluded in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, with the adoption of the "Tirupati Resolution".
- The resolution laid down a clear roadmap for advancing women's empowerment. It emphasised applying a gender lens across all Ministries and Departments, enhancing allocations for health, education, skills, and entrepreneurship, institutionalising gender responsive budgeting, and strengthening technical capacity at national and state levels.
- The two-day event was jointly hosted by the Parliament of India and the Andhra Pradesh Legislature.

National Conference on E-Governance

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), in collaboration with the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, are organising the 28th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) 2025 in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This year's conference has "Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation" as its topic.

News in Shorts

- India will host the fifth Coast Guard Global Summit (CCGS) in Chennai in 2027, coinciding with the golden jubilee celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard.

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show 2025 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It emphasises India's growth trajectory, reforms, and the need for self-reliance in research, manufacturing, and trade.
- Arunachal Pradesh will host its first five-day 'Sun Rise Festival' at Dong village in the Anjaw district from December 29, 2025, to January 2, 2026, to promote tourism and highlight the village's status as the country's easternmost point to witness the sunrise.
- The International Conference on Gyan Bharatam was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi under the theme "Reclaiming India's Knowledge Legacy through Manuscript Heritage".

AWARDS

Educate Girls Wins 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Award

- An Indian non-profit organisation, 'Foundation to Educate Girls Globally', dedicated to mobilising community and government resources for girls' education in rural and educationally disadvantaged areas of India, has been named a 2025 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee.
- The Foundation, widely known as Educate Girls, is the first Indian organisation to receive the prestigious award, which is considered Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize. The Foundation, started in Rajasthan, was founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain.
- Shaahina Ali of the Maldives for her environmental efforts and Flaviano Antonio L. Villanueva of the Philippines are two other 2025 recipients.

UNEP Young Champions of the Earth 2025

- Three young entrepreneurs from India, Kenya and the United States have been named winners of the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2025 Young Champions of the Earth award.
- Banofi Leather was founded by Jinali Mody (28, India), who uses the refuse from banana crops to make leather substitutes.
- Joseph Nguthiru (27, Kenya), whose company HyaPak transforms the invasive water hyacinth in Lake Naivasha into biodegradable packaging bags and seedling wrappers, replacing single-use plastics.

- Noemi Florea (24, US) is the creator of Cycleau, a small greywater reuse system that uses a lot less energy than current systems and retrofits beneath sinks, showers, and laundry units to turn wastewater into drinking water.
- The yearly award honours people under 30 who have developed innovative answers to the most important environmental problems facing the globe. Each winner receives \$20,000 in seed funding, mentoring and access to a global platform to scale their ideas.

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards and Wetland Cities Recognition Ceremony 2025.
- Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is a stringent, multi-tiered assessment system that is based on thorough due diligence as part of the National Clean Air Program.
- Under NCAP, 130 cities participate in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan every year to encourage healthy competition among them to act quickly to improve air quality.
- The winners are as follows:
 - I. In Category-1 (population of over 10 lakh population): Indore
 - II. In Category – 2 (population between 3 and 10 lakh): Amravati
 - III. In Category- 3 (population under 3 lakh): Dewas

- Under the Ramsar Convention's Wetland City Accreditation Scheme, two Indian cities were granted international recognition.

- I. Indore – For exceptional urban wetland management
- II. Udaipur – For protecting lakes and promoting eco-tourism

Emmy Awards 2025

- The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, organised by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (ATAS), were held at the Peacock Theater in Downtown Los Angeles, California, US.
- It was hosted by comedian Nate Bargatze. The awardees are as follows:
 - I. Best Drama Series- The Pitt
 - II. Best Comedy Series- The Studio
 - III. Best Limited or Anthology Series- Adolescence
 - IV. Lead Actor in a drama series- Noah Wyle, The Pitt
 - V. Lead Actress in a drama series- Britt Lower, Severance
 - VI. Supporting Actor in a drama series- Tramell Tillman, Severance
 - VII. Supporting Actress in a drama series- Katherine LaNasa, The Pitt
 - VIII. Lead actor in a comedy series- Seth Rogen, The Studio
 - IX. Lead actress in a comedy series- Jean Smart, Hacks
 - X. Directing for a comedy series- Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, "The Studio"
 - XI. Writing for a comedy series- Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Peter Huyck, Alex Gregory and Frida Perez, "The Studio"
 - XII. Limited series, anthology series or movie- Adolescence
 - XIII. Actor in a limited series, anthology series or movie- Stephen Graham, "Adolescence"
 - XIV. Actress in a limited series, anthology series or movie- Cristin Milioti, "The Penguin"
 - XV. Variety special- SNL 50: The Anniversary Special
 - XVI. Writing for a variety series- Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
 - XVII. Talk series- The Late Show with Stephen Colbert
 - XVIII. Reality competition programme- The Traitors

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) Introduces NECA 2025 Awards For Content Creators And Influencers

- BEE has introduced a new category under the National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025 called

National Energy Conservation Awards for Content Creators and Influencers.

- It aims to engage content creators and influencers in promoting energy-efficient behaviour and encouraging citizens to adopt simple, actionable measures in their daily lives.
- Since 1991, the National Energy Conservation Awards have been honoured.
- The awards have evolved into one of the most prestigious platforms for recognising excellence in energy conservation across industries, establishments, buildings, and institutions.

Muzaffarpur Tops Inspire Award 2025 For Student Innovation

- Muzaffarpur topped the National Innovation Rankings under the INSPIRE Award-MANAK scheme in 2025, submitting 7,403 innovative student ideas, more than any other district in India.
- Karnataka's Bagalkot (6826 ideas) came in third, while Bengaluru Urban (7306 ideas) held onto second place.
- The scheme, organised by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), supports students in classes 6-10 by providing ₹10,000 to develop innovative models for real-world problems.

Gram Panchayats Win National E-Governance Awards 2025 For Digital Innovation

- In a significant move marking a pioneering step in grassroots digital governance, Gram Panchayats were conferred with the National Awards for e-Governance (NAeG) 2025 under a newly instituted category dedicated to grassroots-level initiatives in digital service delivery.
- The awardees are as following:
 - I. Gold Award: Rohini Gram Panchayat, Dhule District, Maharashtra – Sarpanch Dr. Anandrao Pawara
 - II. Silver Award: West Majlishpur Gram Panchayat, West Tripura District, Tripura – Sarpanch Smt. Anita Deb Das
 - III. Jury Award: Palsana Gram Panchayat, Surat District, Gujarat – Sarpanch Shri Pravinbhai Parshottambhai Ahir
 - IV. Jury Award: Suakati Gram Panchayat, Kendujhar District, Odisha – Sarpanch Smt. Kautuka Naik

National Geoscience Awards 2024

- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Geoscience Awards-2024 for outstanding contributions in the field of Geoscience at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, Delhi.
- The awards were instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India in 1966.
- These recognise individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences, such as mineral discovery and exploration, fundamental/ applied geosciences, mining and allied areas.
- The National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement 2024 was conferred on Prof. Shyam Sundar Rai, Senior Scientist, INSA and Visiting Professor, IISER Pune, for his outstanding contributions to Solid Earth and Exploration Geophysics, including pathbreaking seismological research across Peninsular India, the western Himalayas, and Ladakh.
- The National Young Geoscientist Award 2024 was presented to Shri Susobhan Neogi, Senior Geologist, Geological Survey of India, for his pioneering work on the tectonic evolution of mobile and thrust belts of Meghalaya and Jharkhand, Bundelkhand craton, etc., advancing knowledge of supercontinent assembly and mineral genesis.
- Twelve awards were given to 20 distinguished geoscientists this year in three categories: the National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement (one award), the National Young Geoscientist Award (one award), and the National Geoscience Awards (10 prizes in various geoscientific subjects).
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role- Urvashi for Ullozhukku (Malayalam) and Janki Bodiwala for Vash (Gujarati)
- Best Male Playback Singer- PVN S Rohit for Baby (Premisthunna) (Telugu)
- Best Female Playback Singer- Shilpa Rao for Jawan (Chaliya) (Hindi)
- Best Cinematography - Prasantanu Mohapatra for the Kerala Story (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film- 12th Fail (Hindi)
- Best Debut Film of a Director- Aatmapamphlet (Marathi)
- Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)
- Best Feature Film Promoting National, Social, and Environmental Values- Sam Bahadur (Hindi)
- Best Children's Film- Naal 2 (Marathi)
- Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comic)- Hanu-Man (Telugu)
- Best Direction- The Kerala Story (Hindi)
- Best Non-Feature Film- Flowering Man
- Best Documentary- God Vulture and Human
- Best Assamese Film- Rongatapu 1982
- Best Bengali Film- Deep Fridge
- Best Gujarati Film- Vash
- Best Hindi Film-Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery
- Best Kannada Film- Kandeelu - The Ray of Hope
- Best Malayalam Film -Ullozhukku (Undercurrent)
- Best Marathi Film- Shyamchi Aai
- Best Odia Film- Pushkara
- Best Punjabi Film- Godday Godday Chaa
- Best Tamil Film- Parking
- Best Telugu Film- Bhagavanth Kesari (I Don't Care)
- Best Garo Film- Rimdogittanga
- Best Tai Phake Film- Pai Tang

71st National Film Awards Ceremony

- The Honourable President of India, Droupadi Murmu, conferred honours on the finest talents of Indian cinema during the 71st National Film Awards ceremony being held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The awards saw 332 entries in the feature film category, 115 in non-feature films, 27 books, and 16 critics' submissions.
- Best Actor in a Leading Role- Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- Best Actress in a Leading Role- Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role- Veteran actor Vijayaraghavan for Pookkaalam (Malayalam) and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar for Parking (Tamil)
- Legendary actor Mohanlal was conferred with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2023.
- The legendary actor, director, and producer is being honoured for his iconic contribution to Indian Cinema.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke award commemorates Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema, who directed India's first full-length feature film, Raja

Mohanlal Honoured With 2023 Dadasaheb Phalke Award

Harishchandra in 1913. It is the highest award in the field of cinema. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹10 lakh.

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- Anuparna Roy became the first Indian director to win Best Director in the Orizzonti section at the Venice Film Festival for her debut film 'Songs of Forgotten Trees.'
- Anand V. Patil received the Prof. V.K. Gokak Award for his contributions to Kannada literature. The award ceremony was jointly organised by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and the Vinayaka Gokak Vangmaya Trust.
- Senior journalist from Mysuru, Amshi Prasannakumar, has been chosen for the 'Hombale Samhita Harinikumar Alumni Krishi Media Award – 2025'. The award honours journalists in print and electronic media for their contribution to agricultural reporting and for creating awareness among farmers.
- Diljit Dosanjh earned a prestigious International Emmy Award nomination for Best Actor in 2025 for his role in Imtiaz Ali's biopic "Amar Singh Chamkila".
- Neeraj Ghaywan's Hindi film Homebound has been officially selected as India's entry to the 2026 Academy Awards in the Best International Feature Film category.
- Non-resident Indian businessman Younus Ahamed won Camel International Award 2025 for business leadership, honored by Arabian World Records.
- Late former Prime Minister and renowned economist Dr Manmohan Singh has been posthumously conferred the P V Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics for his contributions to India's economic transformation and nation-building.
- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer received the Living Bridge Award for promoting closer India-UK relations and securing the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- At a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu presented the National Teachers' Awards to forty-five outstanding educators. The awards were presented on Teachers' Day, which commemorates the birth anniversary of India's second President, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.
- Bharat Forge Chairman and Managing Director, Baba Kalyani, has been conferred with the Holley Medal by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), a global recognition for engineering innovation with public benefit.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) won the Changemaker of the Year Award for its role during Operation Sindoor in neutralising enemy assets and securing India's borders.

SPORTS NEWS

India Creates Unique Reference Content for Improved Sports Anti-Doping Testing

- In a significant step towards strengthening anti-doping efforts in sports, the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Guwahati, under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, in collaboration with the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), New Delhi, has successfully developed a rare and high-purity Reference Material (RM) – Methandienone Long-Term Metabolite (LTM).
- As of now, Methandienone LTM is not commercially available globally.
- The use of this new reference material, "Methandienone LTM" will help in enforcing transparency and integrity in sports by protecting clean athletes and acting as a deterrent for the use of prohibited substances.
- This reference material may be shared with all 30 WADA-accredited laboratories worldwide as India's contribution to the world anti-doping community.

Indian Cricket Team Won 9th Asia Cup Title 2025

- In the Asia Cup 2025 final, India defeated Pakistan by five wickets to win their ninth Asia Cup championship.
- Surya Kumar Yadav led the Indian team, and the Indian side chose to field first.
- Abhishek Sharma was named the Man of the Tournament.
- BCCI has announced a cash award of ₹21 crore in favour of the players and the support staff who are part of the Indian team in the Asia Cup.

Ballon D'or 2025

- The France Football organised the 2025 Ballon d'Or ceremony and it was hosted at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, France.
- The Ballon d'Or is the highest individual prize in world football, and for the first time, the 2025 tournament featured a star-studded awards ceremony with an equal

number of accolades for both men's and women's football.

- Ousmane Dembele was crowned the Men's Ballon d'Or 2025 winner. He is the sixth French to win this prize.
- Aitana Bonmatí made history of her own, becoming the first player to win three consecutive Ballon d'Or Awards.

Speed Skating World Championships

- Twenty athletes from India (four senior men, four senior women, five junior men, and seven junior women) competed in the competition, which included 42 events in the senior and junior divisions and more than 40 nations.
- India won five medals—three gold and two bronze—and took fifth place. It is the most medals India has ever won at the Worlds.
- Indian skater Anandkumar Velkumar made history by becoming the first Indian to win a Senior medal, striking two Golds (1000m Sprint and 42,195m Marathon) and adding a Bronze (500m Sprint).
- In the junior competition, Krish Sharma secured a 1,000 m sprint gold medal.
- Anish Raj (17) secured a Bronze in the Junior Men's One Lap Sprint.

Vaishali Win 2025 Fide Grand Swiss Titles

- Grandmaster Rameshbabu Vaishali scripted history by becoming the first Indian to defend the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss title successfully.
- She secured the leadership of the event and completed her victory by tying Tan Zhongyi, the former Women's World Champion, in the last round.
- Vaishali also secured a place in the Candidates Tournament for the next year with this triumph. Along with World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy, who had already qualified, India will now have three representatives in the women's division.

Anish Giri won the FIDE grand Swiss title

- Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri booked his spot in the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 after clinching the FIDE Grand Swiss in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- The Candidates 2026, which takes place from March 25 to May 1, will pit eight players against D Gukesh, the current World Cup champion, in a double roundrobin style.

Smriti Mandhana Breaks Virat Kohli's Record For Fastest Indian Century In ODIs

- Smriti Mandhana scripted history, breaking Virat Kohli's record as she became the Indian to score the fastest century in ODI cricket.
- Kohli had achieved the feat in 52 balls, smacking seven sixes and eight fours. Meanwhile, Mandhana reached her ton in 50 deliveries against Australia in the third ODI in New Delhi.
- She also broke her own record of the fastest ton for an Indian in Women's ODIs. She had earlier reached a century in 70 deliveries.

India Beats Switzerland, Qualifies For 2026 Davis Cup

- India scripted a historic victory in Biel, defeating Switzerland 3-1 in their Davis Cup World Group I tie to secure a place in next year's Qualifiers.
- Sumit Nagal secured the tie for India with a win over 18-year-old Henry Bernet in the decisive fourth rubber. Earlier, Nagal had also won his opening singles match to give India a 2-0 lead after debutant Dhakshinewar Suresh upset Swiss No.1 Jerome Kym.
- This was India's first Davis Cup victory away from home against a European country in thirty-two years; their last victory came in 1993 against France.

Arshdeep Singh is the first Indian player to score 100 T20 wickets.

- Arshdeep Singh made history by becoming the first Indian bowler to take 100 T20I wickets, achieving the milestone during the Asia Cup match against Oman.
- In his 64th T20, he achieved the milestone by dismissing Vinayak Shukla of Oman.
- Globally, he is the fourth-fastest bowler to reach this feat, joining an elite club of bowlers with over 100 wickets in T20 Internationals.
- He made his debut in 2022 against New Zealand.

ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 New Delhi

- India finished the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 New Delhi on top of the standings with 26 medals - eight gold, 10 silver and eight bronze. They won six gold, eight silver and five bronze in the Olympic shooting events.
- The 11th edition of the ISSF Junior World Cup, and the first ever hosted in India, featured 208 shooters from 19 federations across 15 Olympic medal events and three non-Olympic medal events.

International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) Launch 'Promise To Children' Campaign

- ICC and UNICEF launched the Promise to Children digital campaign during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, urging cricket fans, players and audiences to commit to equal opportunities for all children, particularly the most vulnerable.
- The campaign, supported by UNICEF National Ambassador and Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana and Indian women's cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, aims to harness the unifying power of cricket to champion children's rights, including access to quality education, healthcare, nutrition, safe water, sanitation and protection from violence, according to a statement issued by UNICEF.

Uttarakhand hosts Asian Cadet Cup India 2025

- The Asian Cadet Cup India-2025, an international fencing tournament, is being held in Haldwani, Uttarakhand. It is taking place at the Indira Gandhi International Sports Stadium.
- State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Asian Cadet Cup.
- The event marks a historic milestone, being the first international fencing competition held in India.

World Boxing 2025

- India won their campaign at the World Boxing Championships 2025 in Liverpool with four medals, including two golds.
- I. Minakshi Hooda - gold medal - women's 48kg
 - II. Jaismine Lamboria - gold medal - women's 57kg
 - III. Nupur Sheoran - silver medal - women's 80 + kg
 - IV. Pooja Rani - bronze medal - women's 80kg

CAFA Nations Cup 2025

- India won the CAFA Nations Cup 2025 after defeating Oman. India's historic campaign finale also marked the first time they had ever lost to Oman in an international football match.
- The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) was established in 2014 and is affiliated with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

Asia Cup 2025

- The Indian men's hockey team were crowned Asia Cup 2025 champions after they beat the Republic of

Korea 4-1 in the final at the Rajgir Sports Complex in Bihar.

- India won hockey at the Asia Cup for the fourth time. Their most recent victory occurred in Dhaka in 2017.
- India earned a spot in the Netherlands and Belgium for the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026 with this victory.

Aryna Sabalenka defends US Open title

- To retain her US Open title, world number one Aryna Sabalenka defeated Amanda Anisimova.
- She defeated her American rival in straight sets to clinch the fourth Grand Slam title of her career.

2025 SAFF U-17 Championships

- India's U-17 football team lifted their 7th SAFF U-17 Championship title in Colombo, and with this India have become the most successful team in the history of the competition.
- The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) was founded in 1997 with its headquarters in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Abhimanyu Mishra: Youngest Grandmaster Who Defeated World Champion Gukesh

- Abhimanyu Mishra, an American chess grandmaster and the youngest ever to achieve the title, made history by defeating reigning World Champion D. Gukesh in the FIDE Grand Swiss tournament in Samarkand.
- In the fifth round of the event, Mishra broke the previous record of being the youngest player to defeat a world champion in a classical game, at the age of 16.

News in Shorts

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated the top Chinese, Liang Weikeng-Wang Chang, at the World Championship. They also secured a medal, their second after the bronze in 2022.
- The new jersey sponsor, Apollo Tyres, has inked a ₹579 crore contract with the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India).
- The Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships 2026 will be held in New Delhi. It will be India's second time hosting the Badminton World Championships after 2009, when it was held at Hyderabad's Gachibowli Indoor Stadium.
- Oscar Piastri won the 2025 Dutch Grand Prix, extending his F1 lead as teammate Lando Norris retired late in the race.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has partnered with Google to promote women's cricket, aiming to increase engagement, accessibility, and visibility for the sport using Google's technology, including Android, Gemini, and Google Pay.
- India will host the 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in Bhubaneswar from October 11 to 15, 2025.
- In a top-notch final, Central Zone defeated South Zone by six wickets to win the 2025 Duleep Trophy.
- Ravichandran Ashwin became the first male player from India to join a Big Bash League franchise as the Sydney Thunder.
- Mariam Fatima from Bihar has achieved a remarkable milestone by becoming the state's first Woman FIDE Master (WFM).
- Samuel Umtiti, the 31-year-old 2018 World Cup-winning French defender, has officially retired from professional football due to persistent knee injuries that plagued the later years of his career.
- The 12th World Para Athletics Championship 2025 has begun at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The nine-day championship will feature a total of 186 medal events. These include 101 for men, 84 for women, and one mixed event, covering sprint finishes to endurance races.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended the ICC membership status of USA Cricket. The decision was taken after USA Cricket's repeated and continued breaches of its obligations as an ICC Member under its Constitution.
- The 2025 World Archery Championships took place in the Republic of Korea's Gwangju. Aman Saini, Prathamesh Fuge, and Rishabh Yadav's Indian men's compound team won the gold medal.
- ICC launched the official event song titled 'Bring it Home' for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. The song was performed by acclaimed Indian singer Shreya Ghoshal.
- India to host Badminton World Championships in 2026 after 17 years, showcasing excellence and grandeur in Delhi.
- Sergio Busquets, a former midfielder for Barcelona and Spain, declared his retirement from professional sports.
- Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone made a dramatic transition from the one-lap hurdles by running the fastest women's 400-meter event in 40 years, winning gold at the world championship in 47.78 seconds.
- Bayern Munich legend and 2014 Germany World Cup winner Jérôme Boateng has officially announced his retirement from professional football after a decorated career that included two Champions League titles, nine Bundesliga titles, and over 350 appearances for Bayern Munich.
- Indian leg-spinner Amit Mishra has retired from professional cricket after a 25-year career, announcing his decision due to recurring injuries and a desire to make way for younger players.
- Carlos Alcaraz defeated Jannik Sinner To Win his Second Us Open Title. He now owns six Grand Slam trophies, becoming the first player since 1978 to win multiple majors on all three surfaces before turning 23.