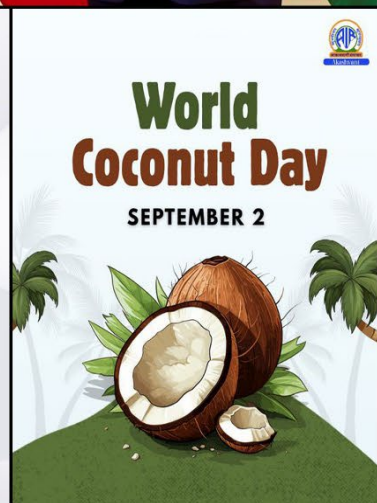
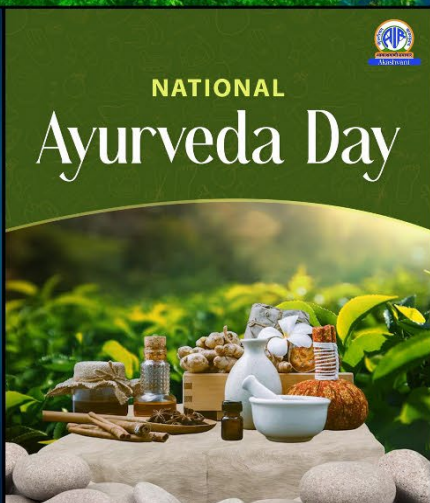
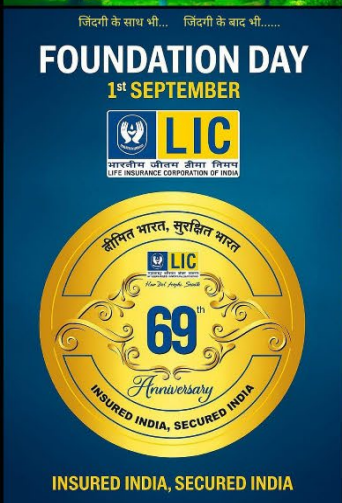




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NATIONAL NEWS

Bihar Government Approves Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- ★ The Bihar Government, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, approved the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana.
- ★ The scheme focuses on women empowerment and economic inclusion by promoting self-employment opportunities.
- ★ Under the scheme, ₹10,000 will be provided as initial financial assistance to one woman per family through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ★ Applications will open soon, and transfers are expected to begin in September 2025.
- ★ After six months of activity, a performance review will be conducted. Based on outcomes, women may receive additional support up to ₹2 lakh for scaling businesses.
- ★ Beneficiaries can choose activities such as small-scale manufacturing, handicrafts, dairy, poultry, agriculture-based ventures, retail, and services.
- ★ The Government will set up haat bazaars (local markets) in villages, towns, and cities to help women directly sell their products.
- ★ The scheme aims to generate employment for rural and semi-urban women, enhance family income, reduce migration, and promote local economic resilience.

Department of Posts Collaborates with MapmyIndia

- ★ The Department of Posts (DoP), under the Ministry of Communications, has signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MapmyIndia - Mappls to support the development and implementation of DIGIPIN.
- ★ The MoU was signed at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ★ MapmyIndia will provide base maps for the Know Your DIGIPIN application, which will help generate accurate DIGIPINs based on geographic location and enhance visibility.
- ★ DIGIPIN functionality will be integrated into the Mappls application, allowing users to search and navigate using a DIGIPIN.
- ★ MapmyIndia will also help in the allocation of DIGIPINs to pre-identified addresses, which will strengthen location-based services.
- ★ This integration is intended to help enterprises, government agencies, and developers use DIGIPIN, thereby promoting the Digital Address Code initiative and the Address as a Service (AaaS) framework in India.

Indian Highways Management Company Limited and ICICI Bank Signed Agreement

- ★ Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), promoted by NHAI, signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to implement India's first comprehensive Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system at Choryasi Fee Plaza, Gujarat (NH-48).
- ★ The agreement was signed in the presence of NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and senior officials of NHAI, IHMCL, and ICICI Bank at NHAI Headquarters, New Delhi.
- ★ Choryasi Fee Plaza will be the first barrier-free toll plaza in the country.
- ★ A similar agreement has also been signed with ICICI Bank for implementing MLFF at Gharaunda Fee Plaza, Haryana (NH-44).
- ★ NHAI plans to roll out MLFF-based tolling at 25 National Highway fee plazas during the current financial year.
- ★ Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) is a barrier-less tolling system that uses FASTag, Vehicle Registration Number (VRN), High Performance RFID Readers, and ANPR Cameras to enable toll transactions without stopping vehicles.
- ★ Benefits include seamless toll collection, reduced congestion, improved fuel efficiency, lower emissions, and better revenue collection.
- ★ This initiative is seen as a major milestone in modernizing tolling in India, promoting a technology-driven, transparent, and efficient highway network.

Odisha Emerges as Green Mobility Leader with Electric Bus Expansion

- ★ Odisha is emerging as a green mobility leader, ranking 5th in India in terms of electric bus adoption.
- ★ The state currently has 450 e-buses in operation and plans to more than double its fleet in the coming years as part of its clean transport initiative.
- ★ This move aligns with India's broader efforts to promote eco-friendly urban transport under Central Government support schemes.
- ★ As per official data, India currently operates 14,329 electric buses.
- ★ Top-performing states are Delhi (3,564), Maharashtra (3,296), Karnataka (2,236), Uttar Pradesh (850), and Odisha (450).
- ★ Odisha has surpassed its eastern neighbors including West Bengal (391), Andhra Pradesh (238), Chhattisgarh (215), and Jharkhand (46).
- ★ These figures highlight Odisha's leadership in Eastern India on sustainable mobility.
- ★ The Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) agency has spearheaded Odisha's e-mobility efforts, currently running e-buses in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, and Puri.
- ★ The state now plans to extend services to Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Berhampur, and Angul.
- ★ Odisha's target is to expand the fleet beyond 1,000 e-buses, making urban transit cleaner and more efficient.
- ★ To support the expanding fleet, the state is installing charging stations at depots and terminals.

- ★ Smart ticketing is being introduced, including QR-code payments, National Common Mobility Cards (NCMC), and app-based ticket booking.

National e-Governance Division Enables Pan-India Integration of e-Government Services on DigiLocker and e-District Platforms

- ★ The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) achieved a milestone by enabling Pan-India integration of e-Government services on DigiLocker and e-District platforms.
- ★ This initiative marks a major leap in the Digital India programme, promoting paperless and mobile governance, and contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ★ DigiLocker has emerged as a robust pillar of digital public infrastructure, solving challenges of interoperability, data security, and multi-stakeholder co-ordination.
- ★ Citizens benefit from ease of access, inclusivity, and trusted services through DigiLocker's resilient framework.
- ★ Maharashtra offers the highest number of services (254), followed by Delhi (123), Karnataka (113), Assam (102), and Uttar Pradesh (86).
- ★ Kerala and Jammu & Kashmir provide 77 services each, Andhra Pradesh (76), Gujarat (64), Tamil Nadu & Goa (63 each), Haryana (60), Himachal Pradesh (58).
- ★ NeGD plans to further expand by adopting AI-driven technologies, conducting training programmes and workshops at the State level to enhance inclusivity and last-mile service delivery.
- ★ This milestone reflects the Government's commitment to digital empowerment in line with PM Narendra Modi's vision of a digitally enabled India.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs Launches "Adi Vaani"

- ★ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the Beta Version of "Adi Vaani", India's first AI-powered translator for tribal languages, developed under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh.
- ★ The initiative aims to empower tribal communities and preserve India's linguistic diversity.
- ★ Adi Vaani is available on the Play Store, a web platform, and will soon be launched on iOS.
- ★ It is designed to bridge communication gaps between tribal and non-tribal communities while safeguarding endangered languages using Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ★ Adi Vaani serves as the foundation for a future large language model dedicated to tribal languages, combining AI with community-driven approaches.
- ★ India has 461 tribal languages spoken by Scheduled Tribes and 71 distinct mother tongues; among them, 81 are vulnerable and 42 critically endangered (Census 2011).
- ★ The project is developed by a national consortium led by IIT Delhi, with BITS Pilani, IIIT Hyderabad, IIIT Nava Raipur, and Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) in Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Meghalaya.

Coconut Development Board Celebrates World Coconut Day

- ★ The Coconut Development Board (CDB) celebrated World Coconut Day at the Adlux Convention Centre, Angamaly, Kerala, launching newly revised schemes and presenting the Export Excellence Awards.
- ★ Shri M. K. Raghavan, Member of Parliament (MP) and CDB Board Member, stressed the need for processing, product diversification, and productivity improvement in coconut farming.
- ★ Area Expansion Programme raised from ₹6,500 per hectare to ₹56,000 per hectare; Seedling production subsidy enhanced from ₹8 to ₹45.
- ★ **Export Excellence Awards 2025:**
 - **Best Coconut Shell-Based Product Exporter – Gold:** United Carbon Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur, Tamil Nadu; **Silver:** Nova Carbons India Pvt. Ltd., Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu; **Bronze:** Jacobi Carbons India Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
 - **Best Coconut Kernel-Based Product Exporter – Gold:** Marico Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra; **Silver:** Mezhukkattil Mills, Aluva, Kerala; **Bronze:** Fair Exports India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai, Maharashtra.
 - **Best Coconut Water-Based Product Exporter – Gold:** Sakthi Coco Products, Pollachi, Tamil Nadu.
 - **Best Women Exporter –** Carbure Activated Carbon Pvt. Ltd., Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
 - **Best Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) Exporter –** Global Coconut Farmers Producer Company Ltd., Tirupur, Tamil Nadu.

India Announces 1,000 e-Scholarships for Afghan Nationals for Academic Year 2025-26

- ★ Government of India has announced 1,000 e-Scholarships for Afghan nationals under the Special Scholarship Scheme for Afghan Nationals (SSSAN) for the academic year 2025-26.
- ★ The initiative will be implemented through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ★ The scholarships will enable Afghan students to pursue online undergraduate and postgraduate courses via the government's e-VidyaBharati (e-VB) i-Learn portal.
- ★ The announcement was extensively reported by Afghan media, highlighting India's continued commitment to the education of Afghan youths.
- ★ This follows similar scholarship grants extended by India in 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- ★ Afghan nationals aged 18 to 35 years can apply.
- ★ Universities offering programmes under the scheme include: Jamia Millia Islamia, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Anna University and Kurukshetra University.
- ★ The scheme provides Afghan students access to a wide range of online programmes, thereby promoting higher education and skill development.

Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Amendments to Labour Laws

- ★ The Maharashtra Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, approved amendments to labour laws to increase daily working hours for private sector employees.

- ★ The decision aligns Maharashtra with Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Tripura, which have already implemented similar reforms.
- ★ Under the Factories Act, 1948, daily work hours increased from 9 to 12 hours, rest breaks allowed after 6 hours (earlier 5), overtime cap raised from 115 to 144 hours per quarter with mandatory written consent, and weekly work hours extended from 10.5 to 12 hours.
- ★ Under the Maharashtra Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2017, daily work hours increased from 9 to 10 hours, overtime limit raised from 125 to 144 hours per quarter, emergency duty hours extended up to 12 hours, applicable to establishments with 20 or more workers, while small establishments with less than 20 workers only need to notify authorities instead of registration.
- ★ Workers' rights are safeguarded as overtime wages will be paid at double rates and written consent is mandatory for extended hours.
- ★ The move is expected to attract investment, generate employment, improve ease of doing business, and create a more inclusive work environment, particularly for women workers.

Chhattisgarh Achieves 30,000 Megawatt Power Capacity

- ★ Chhattisgarh, formed in 2000, has grown from 1,400 Megawatts (MW) to 30,000 MW of electricity in 2025, making it one of India's leading power hubs.
- ★ Upcoming investment commitments worth ₹3 lakh crore are expected to add another 30,000 MW, taking the capacity to 60,000 MW.
- ★ The state has become a key electricity supplier to neighbouring states, ensuring steady revenue and strengthening India's energy security.
- ★ A 1,320 MW power plant was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost power infrastructure.
- ★ A joint headquarters for state-run power companies is being constructed in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar to improve efficiency.
- ★ Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai visited Japan and South Korea to attract global investment and adopt best practices.
- ★ Under the new industrial policy, MoUs worth ₹3 lakh crore have been signed for renewable and thermal projects, creating jobs and industrial growth.
- ★ The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is expanding solar power access in rural and remote regions.

Meghalaya Unveils Autumn Calendar 2025

- ★ The State of Meghalaya unveiled its Autumn Calendar 2025, an initiative by the Department of Tourism to highlight cultural vibrancy and boost local livelihoods.
- ★ The calendar aims to position Meghalaya as a premier destination for tourism, culture, and entertainment with global artists, international sporting events, and daily music performances.
- ★ Major attractions include the Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project (daily showcase of local talent), Cherry Blossom Festival (featuring global headliners), International

Kayaking Events, Motorsport Competitions, and Literary Dialogues with Sustainable Tourism Showcases.

- ★ The calendar will provide a boost to the local economy through tourism, handicrafts, and hospitality services.
- ★ Grassroots music initiatives will promote local talent, giving young artists a platform to perform alongside global names.
- ★ Participation of international artists and athletes will provide global exposure, strengthening Meghalaya's image as a global cultural hub.
- ★ The calendar supports the state's vision to attract domestic and international tourists, showcase natural beauty, music, and traditions, and create a sustainable tourism model benefiting local communities while preserving the environment.

Union Public Service Commission to Establish Centre of Excellence

- ★ Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Chairman Dr. Ajay Kumar announced that the Commission will set up a Centre of Excellence to serve as a repository of best practices from the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commissions (State PSCs).
- ★ The announcement was made during a virtual meeting with Chairpersons and Members of 27 State Public Service Commissions.
- ★ The Centre of Excellence will act as a knowledge hub of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), innovations, and learnings, benefiting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), and other national recruitment bodies.
- ★ Dr. Kumar also highlighted the success of the Pratibha Setu portal, which provides opportunities to candidates who reached the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) interview stage but did not make the final list.

Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple Inaugurated at Rajgir, Bihar

- ★ The Royal Bhutan Buddhist Temple was inaugurated at Rajgir, Bihar with traditional rituals and Buddhist customs.
- ★ Rajgir is historically significant as the land of penance of Lord Buddha and holds great importance in Buddhism.
- ★ The inauguration was carried out in accordance with Bhutanese tradition by: Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay and Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju.
- ★ Representatives of both India and Bhutan.
- ★ The Prime Minister of Bhutan stated that this temple will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Bhutan.

Himachal Pradesh Declared Fully Literate State with 99.3% Literacy Rate

- ★ Himachal Pradesh has been declared a fully literate state with 99.3% literacy rate, announced by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu during Ullas Mela 2025 on International Literacy Day (8 September 2025) in Shimla.

- ★ The state started with only 7% literacy post-independence and has now surpassed the national benchmark of 95%, becoming one of the most educated regions of India.
- ★ Himachal ranks 1st in India in student-teacher ratio, achieved through strategic recruitment of qualified teachers, infrastructure expansion in government schools, curriculum modernization, and teacher training.
- ★ The government aims to transform government institutions into centres of excellence, integrate technology and innovation into classrooms, enhance digital infrastructure in rural schools, and boost vocational and life skills education.
- ★ Education Minister Rohit Thakur credited this achievement to decades of investment in universal primary education and literacy campaigns.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Unveils Unified RERA Portal

- ★ The 5th Central Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting under RERA was held in New Delhi, chaired by Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal.
- ★ The Unified RERA Portal (rera.mohua.gov.in) was launched to improve transparency, accountability, and best practice sharing among States/UTs.
- ★ 35 States/UTs have set up Real Estate Regulatory Authorities, 29 States/UTs established Appellate Tribunals, and 27 appointed Adjudicating Officers.
- ★ The Unified RERA Portal will provide a nationwide project database, integrate State websites, use AI to predict delays, and enable faster registration, compliance, and transparency.

India MedTech Expo 2025 Organised in New Delhi

- ★ The India MedTech Expo 2025 is being held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- ★ Shri Amit Agrawal, Secretary, DoP, called upon the MedTech industry to utilise growth opportunities and highlighted that India's share in the global MedTech market is 2% currently, projected to rise to 17% by 2047.
- ★ He also updated on the Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma (PRIP) scheme and chaired the CEO Roundtable with global and domestic industry leaders and start-ups.
- ★ Under the MedTech Mitra forum (a CDSCO-ICMR initiative), test licences are being issued to start-ups and innovators for product testing.
- ★ The Expo is witnessing participation from 150+ international buyers from over 30 countries.
- ★ It has strong industry backing from leading associations including AIMED, ADMI, MTAI, AMTZ, AMCHAM, APACMED, ADVAMED, APMEI, ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI, INVEST INDIA, PHDCCI, NATHEALTH, USIBC, and USISPF, making it a major platform to boost India's MedTech ecosystem.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Unveils Vedic Clock and Mobile App

- ★ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched the Vedic Clock and its mobile application, integrating the Hindu Panchang and traditional time calculation with modern technology.

- ★ The Vikramaditya Vedic Clock, the first clock based on traditional Indian timekeeping methods, was revived in Ujjain by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in February 2024.
- ★ The Vikramaditya Vedic Clock symbolizes Indian tradition, showcasing scientific and cultural heritage of Vedic time systems.
- ★ It is based on Indian Kaal Ganana, dividing the day into 30 muhurtas (each \approx 48 minutes) instead of the 24-hour format.
- ★ The mobile app covers 7,000 years of history, starting from 3179 BCE (birth of Lord Krishna) to the present, with references to the Mahabharata era.
- ★ The clock and app act as a cultural symbol, promoting the resurgence of India's timekeeping systems on the global stage.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs Approves Doubling of Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat Railway Line

- ★ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the doubling of Bhagalpur–Dumka–Rampurhat railway line (177 km) in Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
- ★ Total cost of the project is ₹3,169 crore (approx.)
- ★ The project will increase line capacity, reduce congestion, and improve mobility, efficiency, and reliability of Indian Railways.
- ★ It is planned under the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan to enhance multi-modal connectivity and logistics efficiency.
- ★ Project will expand the Indian Railways network by 177 km, covering five districts in three states.
- ★ It will provide connectivity to important pilgrimage and tourist sites like Deoghar (Baba Baidyanath Dham) and Tarapith (Shakti Peeth).
- ★ It benefits about 441 villages, a population of 28.72 lakh, and three Aspirational Districts – Banka, Godda, and Dumka.
- ★ It supports transportation of coal, cement, fertilizers, bricks, and stones, adding 15 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of freight capacity.
- ★ It will save 5 crore litres of oil, cut 24 crore kg of CO₂ emissions, equivalent to planting 1 crore trees.

Purple Fest 2025 Organized by ISLRTC and Amity University

- ★ The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), New Delhi in collaboration with Amity University, Uttar Pradesh (Noida) organized Purple Fest 2025.
- ★ The event was inaugurated by Ms. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), and Dr. Balvinder Shukla, Vice Chancellor, Amity University.
- ★ A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Ms. Gurdeep Kaur Vasu, the first deafblind Indian to secure a government job under the multiple disabled categories in the Commercial Tax Department, Madhya Pradesh.

★ **Highlights of Purple Fest 2025:**

- Art & Craft Exhibition showcasing works of Divyangjan.
- 22 Entrepreneurship Stalls by Divyangjan entrepreneurs.
- Cultural programmes and sports events demonstrating talent and inclusivity.
- Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) programmes with focus on Indian Sign Language (ISL).

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates APED's First Bihar Office

- ★ Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the first regional office of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in Patna.
- ★ The office will boost Bihar's agri-export potential and provide farmers, exporters, and entrepreneurs direct access to APEDA services, reducing dependence on the Varanasi office.
- ★ APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is responsible for promoting agricultural exports, certification, market intelligence, and infrastructure support.
- ★ The inauguration was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, Industries Minister Nitish Mishra, officials, FPOs, entrepreneurs, and farmer groups.
- ★ Bihar's GI-tagged products include Mithila Makhana, Shahi Litchi, Jardalu Mango, and Magahi Pan, along with traditional sweets like Tilkut.
- ★ APEDA's initiatives in Bihar over the past three years include capacity-building for farmers, training on global standards, and international buyer-seller meets.
- ★ The new office will empower farmers and FPOs, support women-led enterprises, enhance market access for high-value products, and strengthen Bihar's role in India's agri-export growth strategy.

Tirumala Hills and Erra Matti Dibbalu Enter UNESCO Tentative List

- ★ Andhra Pradesh's Tirumala Hills and Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Dunes) near Visakhapatnam have been added to the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.
- ★ This marks the first formal step toward full World Heritage recognition, highlighting their geological, ecological, and scientific significance.
- ★ **Tirumala Hills:** Home to the Eparchaeal Unconformity, a visible geological boundary where rocks over 1.6 billion years old meet younger sedimentary layers; considered one of the world's oldest unconformities.
- ★ **Erra Matti Dibbalu:** Spanning 1,500 acres, these red sand dunes were first documented in 1886 by geologist William King. It is declared a National Geo-heritage Monument (2016) by GSI.
- ★ Unique Features include distinct red colour from natural iron oxidation; provides evidence of late Quaternary sea-level changes and past climatic fluctuations.
- ★ It faces risks from unregulated tourism, filming activities, and weak conservation enforcement.
- ★ Inclusion in the UNESCO list boosts international recognition, research potential, and eco-tourism prospects, while strengthening the conservation mandate.

National Agricultural Conference-Rabi Abhiyan 2025 Begins in New Delhi

- ★ The National Agricultural Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025 began on 15 September 2025 in New Delhi, chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- ★ The two-day event (15–16 September 2025) is part of Phase 2 of the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, aimed at modernising Indian agriculture through technology, policy reforms, and farmer-centric strategies.
- ★ Participants included agricultural scientists, researchers, policymakers, state agriculture department officials, extension workers, and farmer representatives.
- ★ The conference focuses on formulating region-specific action plans for major Rabi crops like wheat, barley, mustard, chickpeas, and lentils.
- ★ Core objectives include: Promoting climate-resilient and water-efficient practices, Driving input efficiency in fertilizers, irrigation, and seeds, Strengthening farmer advisory systems and digital outreach and Ensuring alignment with national food security goals.
- ★ The programme highlights sustainable resource management, higher yields, and farmer income enhancement, supporting the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).
- ★ Under Phase 2 of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, the focus areas are: Enhancing state and district-level agronomic planning and Scaling up agricultural best practices.
- ★ This phase consolidates the gains of the Kharif season, while preparing for climate variability and market-linked farming during Rabi 2025–26.

India to Host 89th International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) General Meeting

- ★ India will host the 89th International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) General Meeting from 15 to 19 September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- ★ The event will bring together 2,000 global experts from 100 countries to deliberate on electrotechnical standards for a sustainable, all-electric, and connected future.
- ★ This is the fourth time India is hosting the IEC General Meeting, after 1960, 1997, and 2013.
- ★ The meeting will be inaugurated by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs and New & Renewable Energy, while Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, will open the IEC General Meeting Exhibition.
- ★ The exhibition (16–19 September) will feature 75 exhibitors showcasing smart lighting, electric mobility, electronics, and IT manufacturing, with free public entry through prior registration.
- ★ India has been designated the Global Secretariat for Standardisation in Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC), a key area for clean energy and pollution-free solutions.
- ★ Through the IEC Young Professionals Programme, 93 participants from across the world will join boot camps, workshops, and industry visits.
- ★ BIS will integrate standardisation into education via student chapters and internships, and will promote sustainability with a Digital Sustainability Pledge initiative, under which one sapling will be planted for each pledge.

- ★ Hosting this event enhances India's leadership in global standards, aligning with Make in India, Digital India, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Inaugurates National Conference on Women Empowerment in Tirupati

- ★ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the National Conference on the Empowerment of Women in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ The two-day event was organised by the Parliamentary and Legislative Committee on Empowerment of Women.
- ★ Om Birla emphasised that inclusive development requires active participation of women in every sphere of national life.
- ★ He highlighted the recent enactment of a law mandating 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, addressing their historic underrepresentation.
- ★ The conference featured the inauguration of an exhibition showcasing women's contributions and the release of a souvenir to mark the occasion.
- ★ Discussions focused on women's representation in legislatures, gender-sensitive policymaking, best practices from states and abroad, challenges faced by women legislators, and institutional support measures.
- ★ Sessions included expert panels, testimonies from women leaders, and deliberations on legal and policy tools to advance gender equality.

14th Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival Inaugurated in Manipur

- ★ The 14th Sirarakhong Hathei Chilli Festival began in Sirarakhong Village, Ukhrul district, Manipur, as a three-day celebration of the GI-tagged Hathei chilli, known for its bright red colour, medium pungency, strong aroma, and unique flavour.
- ★ The Geographical Indication (GI) tag has enhanced the chilli's recognition across India, symbolising Manipur's agricultural identity.
- ★ Major activities included ceremonial flag hoisting, cultural performances, buyer-seller meet to promote direct farmer access to markets, and a tree plantation drive under the nationwide campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'.
- ★ The festival aims to promote agri-tourism in Manipur, strengthen market linkages for farmers, celebrate local identity and biodiversity, and encourage environmental conservation.

16th Combined Commanders' Conference

- ★ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference in Kolkata at the Eastern Command headquarters (Fort William).
- ★ The Combined Commanders' Conference is the apex-level brainstorming forum of the Armed Forces, held once every two years, bringing together top civilian and military leadership.
- ★ The theme of the 16th Conference is "Year of Reforms – Transformation for the Future", aligned with the modernisation and transformation of the Armed Forces.

- ★ The Prime Minister complimented the Armed Forces for the success of Operation Sindoor, nation-building efforts, anti-piracy operations, evacuation of Indian citizens from conflict zones, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- ★ The Prime Minister reviewed reforms implemented in the last two years and the roadmap for the next two years.
- ★ The two-day conference will review structural, administrative, and operational matters, and develop a roadmap for defence preparedness amid global uncertainties.
- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also arrived in Kolkata to attend the Conference.
- ★ The Prime Minister's visit is part of his five-state tour covering Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, and Bihar.

MNRE Launches India's First National Geothermal Energy Policy

- ★ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has introduced the National Geothermal Energy Policy, India's first policy focused on harnessing geothermal energy, a renewable source from the Earth's internal heat.
- ★ The initiative supports India's Net Zero emissions 2070 goals, strengthens energy security, and promotes clean energy innovation.
- ★ Geothermal energy is available 24×7 and can be used for electricity generation, heating, cooling, greenhouse agriculture, and desalination.
- ★ The policy establishes MNRE as the central authority, promotes public-private participation, encourages inter-ministerial co-ordination and global partnerships, and supports technological development, including hybrid systems and repurposing abandoned oil wells.
- ★ It also incentivizes indigenous technologies, pilot projects, and academic-industry linkages.
- ★ India has mapped ten geothermal provinces with high thermal potential, including the Himalayas, Cambay Basin, Aravalli Range, Mahanadi Basin, Godavari Basin, Sohana, West Coast, Son-Narmada-Tapti, and South India Cratons, with an estimated capacity of around 10 Gigawatt (GW).

EPFO Launches 'Passbook Lite' and Annexure K Download Facility

- ★ Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched 'Passbook Lite' on its member portal to simplify Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) account management.
- ★ Announced by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya as part of digital governance reforms.
- ★ Passbook Lite provides a snapshot view of contributions, withdrawals, and balance, accessible directly on the portal without separate login and with real-time access.
- ★ Members can now directly download Annexure K (PDF), a critical document for validating Provident Fund transfers and for Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) calculations.
- ★ New reforms allow online tracking of Provident Fund transfer applications, verification of updated service periods, and maintenance of permanent digital records.
- ★ These measures will benefit 27 crore+ EPFO subscribers by ensuring faster claim settlements, improved transparency, convenient document access, better grievance redressal, and reliable recordkeeping for retirement and pension planning.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin Launches 'Anbu Karangal' Scheme

- ★ Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M.K. Stalin launched the 'Anbu Karangal' (Hands of Love) scheme to provide monthly financial support of ₹2,000 to orphaned children.
- ★ The assistance will continue until the child turns 18 years or completes school education, whichever is earlier.
- ★ The scheme benefits children who have lost both parents and those with one surviving parent incapable of providing care.
- ★ In the first phase, 6,082 children across Tamil Nadu will receive direct financial support through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- ★ The initiative is implemented under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which mandates State Governments to safeguard orphaned and vulnerable children.
- ★ To support higher education, 1,340 students who lost both parents, cleared Class 12, and secured college admission were given laptops.
- ★ A mobile application was launched in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency for online applications, grievance redressal, real-time monitoring, and beneficiary tracking, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025 Launched by Ministry of Civil Aviation

- ★ The Ministry of Civil Aviation launched Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025 to ensure passenger-centric services across Indian airports, emphasizing dignity, comfort, inclusivity, and humane travel.
- ★ The initiative was inaugurated by Union Minister Rammohan Naidu at Hindon Airport, reflecting the Prime Minister's vision of public service in governance.
- ★ Activities included free medical check-ups for women travellers under Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, cultural programs, awareness drives, quiz competitions, tree plantation, and special outreach for taxi drivers, students, and senior citizens.
- ★ A major digital push was announced with all airports to become WiFi-enabled under the Digital India Mission, along with a focus on standardizing services across airports.
- ★ The initiative aims to address persistent issues such as lack of health facilities, cleanliness gaps, poor digital access, and inadequate services for women, elderly, and differently-abled passengers.
- ★ Yatri Sewa Diwas 2025 builds on past efforts like UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) but shifts the focus from flight volumes and infrastructure to passenger experience, service quality, and inclusivity.

Health Minister JP Nadda Unveils AIIMS Mobile App For Indoor Navigation

- ★ Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda launched a mobile app "AIIMS Disha" to help patients, visitors, and staff with real-time hospital navigation at AIIMS Delhi.
- ★ The app is based on Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) beacons and AI routing algorithms, enabling turn-by-turn navigation inside the hospital.
- ★ AIIMS Disha provides 2D digital maps with detailed floor plans and points of interest such as OPD, diagnostic centres, pharmacies, and billing counters.

- ★ The app offers customised wheelchair routes, voice and visual navigation (multilingual and accessibility-enabled), and multi-floor/multi-building routing.
- ★ Live heat maps allow crowd flow management, improving operational efficiency and reducing wait times.
- ★ Search features are available for doctors, labs, pharmacies, billing counters, and amenities.
- ★ The technology uses a BLE Beacon Network, ensuring room-level accuracy for navigation.
- ★ The app is accessible via Android and iOS kiosks installed within the hospital.

Oil India Limited and Hindustan Copper Limited Signed MoU

- ★ Oil India Limited (OIL) and Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly explore and develop critical and strategic minerals, especially copper and associated resources.
- ★ The partnership is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission, aimed at ensuring self-reliance in mineral supply chains and securing raw materials for energy, technology, and industry.
- ★ The MoU covers exploration, mining, beneficiation, and processing of copper and other critical minerals, combining OIL's resource exploration expertise with HCL's mining and refining capability.
- ★ Critical minerals like copper are vital for clean energy technologies (solar panels, wind turbines), electric vehicles (wiring, batteries), high-tech electronics, defence systems, and digital infrastructure.
- ★ Oil India Limited (OIL) is a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, now diversifying into mineral exploration, while Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) is a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Mines, and India's only vertically integrated copper producer.
- ★ The collaboration creates a comprehensive mineral value chain, reducing import dependency, boosting industrial resilience, and supporting India's energy transition goals.

Ahmednagar Railway Station in Maharashtra Renamed as 'Ahilyanagar'

- ★ The Ahmednagar Railway Station in Maharashtra has been officially renamed as Ahilyanagar Railway Station to honour Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–1795), the revered Maratha queen known for her benevolent rule, public welfare initiatives, and temple-building works.
- ★ The renaming aligns with the recent name change of Ahmednagar district to Ahilyanagar, reflecting public sentiment to preserve India's indigenous legacy.
- ★ The proposal was initiated by the Maharashtra Government, supported by local citizens and leaders. It was approved by the Union Home Ministry, following a request from Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- ★ The Railway Board issued a notification after approval, enabling implementation across the Indian Railways system.

Ministry of Ayush Celebrates 10th National Ayurveda Day

- ★ The Ministry of Ayush celebrated the 10th National Ayurveda Day at the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Goa.

- ★ Dignitaries included Governor of Goa Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant, Union MoS (I/C) for Ayush Shri Prataprao Jadhav, and Union MoS for Power & NRE Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.
- ★ Theme for the year 2025 is “Ayurveda for People and Planet” aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ★ Key initiatives launched include DRAVYA Portal – digitized platform for Ayurvedic substances and Desh ka Swasthya Parikshan Abhiyan – nationwide health assessment campaign; over 1.29 crore citizens participated, setting 5 Guinness World Records.
- ★ Integrative Oncology Unit inaugurated at AIIA Goa in collaboration with Tata Memorial Centre for holistic cancer care.
- ★ MoUs signed for academic exchanges, research in integrative oncology, and global collaborations.

Government of India Notifies National Policy on Geothermal Energy 2025

- ★ Government of India notified the National Policy on Geothermal Energy (2025) to boost renewable energy and achieve the 2070 Net Zero Goal.
- ★ Policy framework covers exploration, development, and utilization of geothermal energy.
- ★ Applications include power generation, district heating, agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, desalination, and space cooling/heating via Ground Source Heat Pumps (GSHPs).
- ★ It promotes research, inter-ministerial collaboration, global best practices, and technological innovation such as hybrid geothermal-solar plants, Enhanced/Advanced Geothermal Systems (EGS/AGS), and retrofitting oil wells.
- ★ Focus on local innovation, public-private partnerships, and repurposing existing oil/gas infrastructure.
- ★ It encourages collaboration with international geothermal bodies, pioneering nations, State Governments, oil & gas companies, and research institutions.
- ★ Ministry sanctioned 5 pilot and resource assessment projects as the first step in geothermal exploration.
- ★ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will monitor progress and provide a conducive environment for developers, industries, and researchers.

World Food India 2025 to be Held in New Delhi

- ★ Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India will organise the 4th edition of World Food India (WFI) 2025 from 25–28 September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ★ The event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.
- ★ Aim is to attract global investments, showcase India’s food diversity, and position India as the Food Basket of the World.
- ★ It provides a platform for farmers, processors, investors, startups, exporters, policymakers, and researchers to collaborate and build future-ready food systems.

Karnataka Government Launches LEAP Programme

- ★ Government of Karnataka launched the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP) with an outlay of ₹1,000 crore for 5 years.
- ★ Implemented by the Department of Electronics, IT and Biotechnology to spread innovation beyond Bengaluru.
- ★ It will create 5 lakh jobs, strengthen startup ecosystems, and promote regional tech clusters.
- ★ Clusters covered include Mysuru-Chamarajanagar, Mangaluru-Udupi, Hubballi-Belagavi-Dharwad, Tumkur, Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga.
- ★ Startup support measures: Entrepreneurship promotion in schools & colleges, Grants and funding for early-stage deep-tech startups, Infrastructure like incubators, accelerators, prototype & growth labs and Hackathons, bootcamps, and digital clinics to build skills.
- ★ Aim is to build globally competitive innovation hubs, ensure equitable development, reduce migration pressures, and diversify Karnataka's technology base.

Ministry of Labour and Employment Signs MoU with Zepto

- ★ The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zepto in New Delhi to enhance employment opportunities and youth employability through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal.
- ★ The MoU signing was attended by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports, and Ms. Vandana Gurnani, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ★ The partnership with Zepto will provide 10,000 job postings during the MoU period, creating structured urban employment opportunities for youth, women, and first-time job seekers.
- ★ Zepto will link its gig and full-time roles with the NCS portal, supporting formalization, upskilling, e-Shram registration, and social security coverage.
- ★ The collaboration is expected to expand dignified, tech-driven employment opportunities, contributing to India's economic growth.
- ★ Over the past year, the Ministry has signed MoUs with Amazon, Swiggy, Rapido, and Quikr Jobs, mobilizing nearly five lakh vacancies via the NCS portal.
- ★ This initiative integrates platform economy roles into India's formal employment ecosystem, enabling opportunities in gig, quick-commerce, and tech-driven sectors.

Tirumala Gets India's First AI-Based Command Centre to Monitor Pilgrims

- ★ Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, along with Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, inaugurated India's first Artificial Intelligence-powered Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Tirumala on 25 September 2025.
- ★ It is located at Vaikuntam Queue Complex-I, the centre integrates 6,000 AI-enabled cameras, 3D situational maps, live dashboards, and advanced monitoring systems.
- ★ The system processes 3,60,000 payloads per minute, 518 million events, and generates 2.5 billion inferences daily, enabling:

- ★ Real-time crowd prediction, Faster queue management, Cyber threat monitoring and Enhanced pilgrim safety.
- ★ It is constructed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with support from NRI philanthropists.
- ★ It predicts Sarva Darshanam wait-time right from Alipiri foothills.
- ★ It ensures strict vigilance at entry points to prevent liquor/prohibited items.

Prime Minister Launches Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana

- ★ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Bihar's Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana via video conferencing.
- ★ During the programme, ₹10,000 was directly transferred via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank accounts of 75 lakh women beneficiaries, amounting to ₹7,500 crore.
- ★ The scheme ensures one woman beneficiary per family with initial support of ₹10,000, expandable up to ₹2 lakh based on enterprise success.
- ★ Beneficiaries can start livelihood activities such as shops (groceries, utensils, cosmetics, toys, stationery), cattle rearing, poultry farming, tailoring, weaving, handicrafts, agriculture, and animal husbandry.
- ★ Training and support will be provided by Self Help Groups (SHGs) and community resource persons.
- ★ To aid marketing, Gramin Haat-Bazaars will be further developed across Bihar.
- ★ Bihar has a strong SHG ecosystem with 11 lakh groups functioning; the scheme will integrate with the recently launched Jeevika Nidhi Credit Cooperative Society.
- ★ The programme directly supports the Central Government's Lakhpati Didi campaign, targeting 3 crore Lakhpati Didis nationwide, of which over 2 crore are already achieved.
- ★ Bihar is projected to become the state with the highest number of Lakhpati Didis.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China Deploys Wukong AI Chatbot on Tiangong Space Station to Assist Taikonauts

- ★ China has introduced an AI chatbot named Wukong AI aboard the Tiangong Space Station to assist taikonauts.
- ★ Wukong AI is named after Sun Wukong (the Monkey King), symbolizing adaptability, endurance, and the pursuit of knowledge.
- ★ The chatbot was launched on July 15, 2025, and provided support to three taikonauts during a 6.5-hour spacewalk for space debris protection and inspections.
- ★ It is a Large Language Model (LLM) built on a domestic open-source AI platform.
- ★ The system operates in two modules: an onboard module for real-time crew support and an Earth module for deeper analysis.

- ★ This marks the first deployment of an LLM in China's space program, highlighting its ambition in the global space race.

Indian Prime Minister Receives Daruma Doll, Iconic Japanese Cultural Symbol

- ★ During Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's Japan visit, Rev Seishi Hirose, Chief Priest of Daruma-ji Temple, presented him with a Daruma Doll, a significant cultural symbol in Japan.
- ★ Daruma Dolls are considered lucky charms in Japan and vary in size. They are often used to set and achieve goals; the tradition is to fill in one eye when a goal is set and the other once it is accomplished.
- ★ The Daruma Doll, made of papier-mâché, is modeled after Bodhidharma, the 5th-century founder of Zen Buddhism.
- ★ Bodhidharma, an Indian monk from Kanchipuram, is known in Japan as Daruma Daishi.
- ★ Shorinzan Darumaji Temple, built in 1697 in Takasaki, Gunma, is regarded as the place of origin of Daruma.

Prime Minister Attends 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit

- ★ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 25th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit held in Tianjin, China from August 31 to September 1, 2025.
- ★ The Summit focused on the SCO Development Strategy, Global Governance Reform, Counter-Terrorism, Peace and Security, Economic and Financial Cooperation, and Sustainable Development.
- ★ PM Modi highlighted India's co-operation pillars under SCO: Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity.
- ★ The theme of the Summit was "Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move."
- ★ SCO represents 23% of global GDP and 42% of the world's population, expanding beyond its Central Asian roots.
- ★ The Summit concluded with the Tianjin Declaration, the adoption of the SCO Development Strategy (2026–2035), and the approval of a Cooperation Programme (2026–2030) to counter extremism.
- ★ SCO was granted observer status in the CIS, and Cholpon-Ata (Kyrgyz Republic) was named the SCO tourist and cultural capital (2025–2026).
- ★ A new SCO Development Bank was approved to finance infrastructure, promote growth, and support social development.
- ★ Institutional reform merged observer states and dialogue partners into one category: SCO Partners. Laos was granted partner status, expanding the SCO community to 25 nations (10 full members + 15 partners).

South Korea Passes Law Banning Mobile Phone Use in Schools from March 2026

- ★ South Korea has passed a bill that bans the use of mobile phones and smart devices during class hours in schools, with the law set to take effect in March 2026.

- ★ The legislation, a bi-partisan initiative, aims to address smartphone addiction, which research indicates has a negative impact on academic performance.
- ★ The bill was approved by 115 votes out of 163 in the country's parliament.
- ★ While most schools in South Korea already have some form of a phone ban, this new law makes the country one of the few to legally enshrine such a ban.
- ★ Similar bans exist in countries such as France, Finland, Italy, Netherlands, and China, although they are often limited to younger children or specific schools.
- ★ A 2024 government survey found that 43% of South Koreans aged 10–19 are excessively dependent on smartphones, which is nearly double the 25% of the overall population.

Nepal Government Bans 26 Unregistered Social Media Platforms

- ★ Government of Nepal banned 26 unregistered social media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, YouTube, and X (Twitter).
- ★ The move is based on the Directive for Regulation of Social Media Use, 2080, which is aimed at digital accountability and regulatory compliance.
- ★ To comply, platforms are required to register with the Ministry of Communications and IT (MoCIT), set up a local office, and appoint a Compliance Officer in Nepal.
- ★ The ban followed a 7-day ultimatum that was issued on August 28, 2025, after which the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) blocked access to non-compliant platforms.
- ★ TikTok is still operational as it registered in November 2024, fulfilling all regulatory requirements.
- ★ Telegram has remained banned since July 2025 due to its alleged role in fraud and money laundering.
- ★ The decision has legal backing from the Supreme Court of Nepal, which directed that no unregistered social media platform should operate.
- ★ The Cabinet approved the enforcement on August 25, 2025, leading to the present action.

28th Universal Postal Congress Held in Dubai

- ★ The 28th Universal Postal Congress (UPC), the supreme decision-making body of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), began in Dubai, UAE at the Dubai World Trade Centre and will continue until 19 September 2025.
- ★ The quadrennial event is being hosted in the UAE for the first time, with participation from 2,000 delegates representing 192 member countries.
- ★ India was represented by Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. India has been a member of UPU since 1874.
- ★ India will play a major role in shaping the UPU 2026–2029 roadmap, focusing on digital transformation, sustainability, and secure e-commerce services.
- ★ India has offered its candidature for the UPU's Council of Administration (CA) and Postal Operations Council (POC).

- ★ Bilateral meetings were held with Japan, Pan African Postal Union, Postal Union of the Americas, Spain, Portugal, and Caribbean Postal Union to expand co-operation in logistics and digital innovation.
- ★ India Post provides Passport Seva Kendras, supports Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), and uses advanced postal software and customer relationship management (CRM) tools to improve accountability.
- ★ India signed Letters of Intent with partners in the Caribbean, Latin America, and Africa, and secured a regional UPU office in New Delhi to amplify the Global South's voice.

India's First Overseas Atal Innovation Centre Launched in UAE

- ★ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's first overseas Atal Innovation Centre (AIC) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi–Abu Dhabi campus during his official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ★ The centre has been established under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to expand India's innovation ecosystem globally and foster collaboration in research, entrepreneurship, and knowledge exchange.
- ★ Academic Programs Launched in Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Energy and Sustainability, Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) in Chemical Engineering.
- ★ Partner Authority is Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK).
- ★ Expansion of Indian curriculum-based schools in UAE, establishment of Atal Innovation Labs, student and teacher exchange programs, mutual recognition of qualifications, and alignment with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ★ Marks the first overseas Atal Innovation Centre, extending AIM beyond India and strengthening India–UAE educational and innovation ties.

India's Seafood Exports Strengthened as European Union Approves 102 Additional Fishery Units

- ★ The European Union (EU) has approved 102 additional marine product units from India for exports, making a total of 604 Indian units eligible for EU supply.
- ★ This move is expected to boost India's seafood exports to the EU by about 20%, as the EU is the second-largest seafood export destination for India.
- ★ In 2023-24, India's seafood exports to the EU stood at \$1.1 billion.
- ★ The development will help diversify India's shrimp exports, which face a 50% tariff imposed by the US.
- ★ In 2024-25, India's shrimp exports were \$4.88 billion, accounting for 66% of total seafood exports.
- ★ The EU's approval reflects confidence in India's food safety and quality assurance systems.
- ★ The newly listed units will boost exports of aquaculture shrimps and Cephalopods (Squid, Cuttlefish, and Octopus) to EU markets.
- ★ This development will provide greater opportunities for exporters across Indian coastal states and UTs to strengthen trade relationships with the EU.

United States Senator Bernie Moreno Introduces Halting International Relocation of Employment Act to Restrict Outsourcing

- ★ United States (U.S.) Senator Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio) introduced the Halting International Relocation of Employment (HIRE) Act to curb outsourcing.
- ★ The bill proposes a 25% excise tax on outsourcing payments (payments by U.S. taxpayers/companies to foreign persons for services benefiting U.S. consumers).
- ★ The tax will apply to payments made after December 31, 2025, making outsourcing more expensive.
- ★ Companies must pay this 25% outsourcing tax on payments to foreign workers for services consumed in the U.S.
- ★ The Act proposes to tax earnings of foreign students under the OPT program, who are currently exempt from FICA taxes.
- ★ The HIRE Act amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, aimed at increasing costs for hiring overseas labor, thereby encouraging domestic hiring and reshoring jobs to the U.S.

India Votes in Favour of United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Palestine Two-State Solution

- ★ India voted in favour of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution endorsing the “New York Declaration” on the peaceful settlement of the Palestine issue through the two-state solution.
- ★ The resolution was adopted on 12 September 2025 with 142 countries supporting, 10 opposing, and 12 abstaining.
- ★ India’s support reaffirms its long-standing position, advocating the creation of a sovereign, independent, and viable State of Palestine coexisting peacefully with a secure State of Israel.
- ★ The resolution was backed by France and Saudi Arabia to reaffirm global commitment to the two-state solution.
- ★ India’s policy emphasizes: Support for a sovereign and independent Palestine, Recognition of Israel’s right to live in peace and security, Advocacy for negotiations within recognized borders and Balanced diplomacy with both Palestine and Israel.

India Unveils \$680 Million Economic Package for Mauritius Covering Health, Infrastructure and Maritime Security

- ★ India announced a \$680 million Special Economic Package for Mauritius, covering health, infrastructure, and maritime security.
- ★ The package includes \$215 million in direct grants for projects such as the Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam National Hospital, an AYUSH Centre of Excellence, a Veterinary School and Animal Hospital, and the supply of helicopters.
- ★ An additional \$440 million (MUR 20.1 billion) will be provided through a grant-cum-Line of Credit, supporting projects like an Air Traffic Control Tower, port equipment, and M4 motorway development.

- ★ India and Mauritius will establish a 17.5 MW Floating Solar PV Project at Tamarind Falls, with NTPC Limited. team visiting to finalize agreements.
- ★ The package also provides \$25 million in budgetary assistance for Mauritius in the current fiscal year.
- ★ Both nations will collaborate on the rehabilitation of Mauritius' port and Chagos Marine Protected Area
- ★ Seven bilateral agreements were signed between India and Mauritius in education, public administration, energy, hydrography, technology, and space co-operation.
- ★ Despite strong co-operation, the trade balance favors India, with Mauritius exporting \$45 million to India in 2024 while importing \$746 million from India.

Third Edition of Unmesha International Literature Festival

- ★ Unmesha is Asia's largest and most inclusive International Literature Festival.
- ★ The third edition is scheduled to be held from September 25–28, 2025, at the Samrat Ashok Convention Centre in Patna, Bihar.
- ★ It is organized by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the Government of Bihar.
- ★ The festival will feature more than 550 eminent writers, poets, scholars, translators, publishers, and distinguished personalities.
- ★ Participants will represent over 100 languages and 15 countries.
- ★ The event is planned to have 90 sessions over 4 days.
- ★ The previous editions were held in Shimla (2022) and Bhopal (2023).

Oman to Establish Middle East's First Green Ship Recycling Facility Under 2050 Net-Zero Plan

- ★ Oman will build the Middle East's first integrated green ship recycling facility as part of its 2050 net-zero emissions goals.
- ★ The facility will dismantle and recycle over 70 ships annually and produce 2 million tonnes of low-carbon steel in its first phase.
- ★ The project will comply with the EU Ship Recycling Regulation and the Hong Kong Convention on safe and sustainable ship recycling.
- ★ The plant will be established at Khatmat Malaha, North Batinah, in partnership with Green Wheel Recycling Middle East.
- ★ The project will supply millions of tonnes of low-carbon steel to Oman's iron and steel sector, boosting non-oil GDP.
- ★ Oman also aims to be the first Gulf country to provide electricity and green fuel to ships while docked, supporting sustainable maritime transport.

Albania Appoints Diella as World's First AI-Powered Cabinet Minister

- ★ Albania made history by appointing Diella, the world's first artificial intelligence (AI)-powered Cabinet Minister, launched by Prime Minister Edi Rama at the Socialist Party assembly in Tirana.
- ★ Diella is a virtual AI avatar integrated into Albania's digital governance portal (E-Albania), not a Human Minister.
- ★ The name "Diella" comes from the Albanian word for "sun."
- ★ Role of Diella is to oversee public procurement and tenders, ensuring transparency, fairness, and efficiency in the process.
- ★ It can process bureaucratic requests through voice commands; has already facilitated 36,600 digital documents and nearly 1,000 services.
- ★ Prime Minister Rama described Diella as "the first member not physically present but virtually created by artificial intelligence."
- ★ This marks the world's first AI cabinet-level position, symbolizing digital governance and setting a global precedent for the role of AI in policymaking.

44th Meeting of the Council of RATS

- ★ The 44th meeting of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held at Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic.
- ★ The meeting was organised under the Chairmanship of Kyrgyz Republic.
- ★ The Indian delegation was headed by Deputy NSA T.V. Ravichandran.
- ★ The RATS Council condemned the Pahalgam terror attack at its 44th meeting.
- ★ SCO-RATS is a permanent body of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- ★ SCO-RATS promotes co-ordination and interaction between member states in the fight against terrorism, extremism, and separatism.

India Re-elected to Councils of Universal Postal Union

- ★ India has been re-elected to the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) during the 28th Universal Postal Union Congress held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- ★ The Universal Postal Union, a specialised agency of the United Nations, is the global forum for co-operation among postal stakeholders.
- ★ The Council of Administration handles policy, regulatory, and governance matters.
- ★ The Postal Operations Council manages technical and operational functions, driving the modernisation of postal services.
- ★ India's re-election reflects international recognition of India Post's leadership, reforms, and digital innovations. India has been a member of the Universal Postal Union since 1876.

India, Canada Hold Pre-Foreign Office Talks To Revive Bilateral Dialogue Across Key Sectors

- ★ India and Canada held pre-Foreign Office consultations on 19 September 2025 to reignite bilateral dialogue across multiple strategic fronts.
- ★ The talks followed the understanding reached between PM Narendra Modi and PM Mark Carney during the G7 Summit in June 2025.
- ★ In the Trade & Economy domain, both nations agreed to restart stalled trade negotiations, explore market access and tariff relaxations, and address regulatory issues at missions and consulates.
- ★ Under Defence and Security, they will re-establish defence dialogues, enhance law enforcement and national security co-operation, and explore technology transfer and training exchanges.
- ★ In Critical Minerals and Energy, India and Canada will strengthen co-operation on lithium, cobalt, and rare earths supply chains, collaborate on civil nuclear energy programs, and conduct joint research in green energy.
- ★ Other strategic sectors of co-operation include space exploration, satellite technology, science and technology exchanges, agricultural innovations, and sustainable farming.

India has been elected as a member of the Interpol Asian Committee

- ★ India has been elected as a member of the Interpol Asian Committee during the 25th Interpol Asian Regional Conference held in Singapore.
- ★ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which functions as India's National Central Bureau (NCB) for Interpol matters, represented the country.
- ★ The Interpol Asian Committee is an advisory body that guides the Interpol Asian Regional Conference, meeting annually to address security threats such as organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism, human trafficking, and drug trafficking.
- ★ India's election was multi-stage and competitive, reflecting the confidence of Asian nations in India's policing and security capabilities.
- ★ The election comes amid rising digital crimes, terror financing, and transnational trafficking syndicates in Asia, making India's role crucial in shaping collaborative regional responses.
- ★ India can now push for standardised cybercrime frameworks, stronger extradition treaties, and capacity-building programs for smaller police forces across Asia.

India Hosts BIMSTEC Young Leaders' Summit 2025

- ★ India hosted the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Young Leaders' Summit from September 9–11, 2025 in Guwahati, Assam.
- ★ The summit highlighted the critical role of youth in the holistic development of the Bay of Bengal region.
- ★ The initiative is part of the 21-point action plan announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 6th BIMSTEC Summit.
- ★ The event was inaugurated by Assam Governor Laxman Prasad Acharya and organized in association with Bharat Scouts & Guides.

- ★ Over 80 young leaders from all BIMSTEC countries (India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal) participated.
- ★ It focuses on Leadership for the 21st century, entrepreneurship, design thinking, cross-cultural collaboration, and sustainable solutions.
- ★ The initiative aligns with India's Neighborhood First, Act East, and MAHASAGAR visions for regional co-operation.

China to Introduce K Visa from October 1, 2025

- ★ China will launch the K Visa on October 1, 2025, aimed at attracting global STEM professionals and researchers.
- ★ The K Visa eligibility requires applicants to be recent graduates or professionals in STEM fields with a Bachelor's degree or higher from recognized institutions.
- ★ The K Visa does not require an invitation letter or local sponsor/employer, unlike traditional Chinese work visas.
- ★ The visa permits activities like education, scientific research, technology innovation, cultural participation, and entrepreneurship/business ventures.
- ★ Key advantages of K Visa include multiple entries, longer validity, extended duration of stay, and a streamlined application process.
- ★ The initiative comes amid S. restrictions on H-1B visas, including a \$100,000 one-time application fee announced under President Donald Trump's administration.
- ★ The K Visa is positioned as an alternative route for global talent, especially for Indian IT professionals affected by U.S. visa tightening.

Ashok Leyland Signs 20-year pact with China's CALB Group

- ★ Ashok Leyland Limited., India's second-largest truck and bus maker, has signed a 20-year agreement with China's CALB Group Co., the third-largest battery maker in China, to strengthen its lithium-ion battery technology capabilities.
- ★ The company will initially import cells from CALB and assemble them into packs, while gradually building domestic design and manufacturing capability.
- ★ CEO Shenu Agarwal stated that India must reduce dependence on imports to be a true EV player, as currently 70% of EV components are imported.
- ★ As part of the partnership, Ashok Leyland plans to invest ₹50,000 crore (\$563 million) over 7–10 years to develop next-generation batteries for cars, buses, and grid applications.
- ★ Ashok Leyland, one of the world's largest bus manufacturers, is already importing battery packs from CALB.
- ★ The collaboration aligns with India's green energy and strategic self-reliance goals, while leveraging Chinese expertise in battery technology.
- ★ According to Bloomberg NEF, India is projected to become the third-largest battery market globally, with demand growing 19 times by 2035.

Pakistan to Host Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit 2027

- ★ Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that Pakistan will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in 2027 in Islamabad and directed authorities to begin preparations.
- ★ The next SCO Summit will be held in 2026 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ★ The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental regional organisation focusing on political, economic, and security co-operation in Eurasia.
- ★ Pakistan last hosted the SCO in 2024 for the Council of Heads of Government Summit.
- ★ The SCO was founded in June 2001 in Shanghai and has expanded from 6 founding members into a 26-nation family (10 members, 2 observers, 14 dialogue partners).
- ★ The SCO Headquarters is in Beijing, China, and its RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) is located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- ★ The 10 full members are China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus (latest).
- ★ The 2 observer states are Afghanistan and Mongolia, and there are 14 dialogue partners spanning Asia, Europe, and Africa.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to Develop Next-Generation 120m Rocket, Set To Be Among Tallest In The World

- ★ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is developing a next-generation launch vehicle that will be over 120 meters tall, making it one of the tallest rockets ever built.
- ★ Its purpose is to place a 75,000 kg (75-tonne) payload into low Earth orbit (LEO).
- ★ Elon Musk's SpaceX currently holds the record for the world's tallest rocket with its Starship, which is nearly 122 meters.
- ★ The Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission is in its advanced stages, and will send Indian astronauts into space for the first time.
- ★ The Bhartiya Anthariksha Station (BAS), a 52-tonne space station, is planned to be built by 2035, with its initial modules beginning as early as 2027.
- ★ ISRO is also working on the Venus Orbiter Mission (Shukrayaan) to study Venus.
- ★ The Technology Demonstration Satellite (TDS) and GSAT-7R, a military communication satellite for the Indian Navy, are planned for launch this year.
- ★ India's satellite count is 55 in orbit, with a plan to triple that number within the next 3-4 years.

Pixxel Space, Dhruva Space Satellites Successfully Launched Aboard SpaceX Falcon-9 from California

- ★ Pixxel Space and Dhruva Space successfully launched satellites onboard SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.
- ★ Pixxel launched three Firefly satellites, completing Phase 1 of its six-satellite hyperspectral constellation for high-resolution Earth observation.
- ★ Each Firefly satellite captures 135 spectral bands at 5-metre resolution across a 40 km swath, making it the most advanced commercial hyperspectral imaging system
- ★ Pixxel had earlier launched three Firefly satellites in January 2025; now it plans to launch Honeybee satellites using SWIR band.
- ★ Dhruva Space (Hyderabad-based) launched its first commercial satellite LEAP-01, carrying payloads from Australia's Akula Tech and Esper Satellites.
- ★ LEAP-01 is Dhruva Space's first hosted payload mission, featuring AI model optimisation technology by Akula Tech for efficient Geospatial AI/ML operations in space.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Grants First-Ever Safety Clearance to Air India SATS

- ★ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted safety clearance to Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) for the first time.
- ★ With this clearance, India has become the second country in Asia-Pacific after Malaysia to implement a comprehensive safety framework that is aligned with ICAO guidance.
- ★ This move strengthens Safety Management Systems (SMS) and enhances regulatory oversight in ground handling operations across India.
- ★ The safety certificate was officially handed over at the DGCA Headquarters, New Delhi, marking a milestone in the aviation safety ecosystem.
- ★ The DGCA is a statutory body under the Government of India that is responsible for regulating civil aviation in the country.

India and Japan Sign Pact to Jointly Explore Moon's South Pole Under Chandrayaan-5 Mission

- ★ India and Japan have signed an implementing arrangement to jointly explore the Moon's south pole as part of the Chandrayaan-5 mission.
- ★ The agreement was signed between the space agencies of both nations, ISRO and JAXA, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Japan.
- ★ The mission, also referred to as the Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) Mission, aims to study volatile materials, including water, on the lunar surface.
- ★ The launch will be carried out using JAXA's H3-24L rocket, which will carry an Indian-built lander and a Japan-made rover.
- ★ PM Modi emphasized the importance of G2G (Government-to-Government) collaboration, which fosters co-operation between industries and start-ups in the space sector.

- ★ Chandrayaan-5/LUPEX is a part of India's long-term lunar roadmap, which has a target of landing Indian astronauts on the Moon by 2040.

Raman Research Institute Proposes PRATUSH Mission

- ★ Scientists at Raman Research Institute (RRI) have proposed a pioneering mission, PRATUSH – Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen.
- ★ PRATUSH is a radio telescope planned to be sited on the moon's far side.
- ★ It is being developed by RRI, Bengaluru, with collaboration from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ★ The payload features a wideband frequency-independent antenna (30–250 MHz range), a self-calibratable analog receiver, and a digital correlator with high spectral resolution (100 kHz).
- ★ The observation strategy involves continuous monitoring of large sky regions, recording beam-averaged radio emission spectra.
- ★ The nominal lifetime of the mission is 2 years, ensuring a high signal-to-noise ratio and sufficient sky coverage.
- ★ The objective is to study the Cosmic Dawn, revealing how the first stars shaped the Universe and potentially uncovering new physics.

APEDA Launches New Initiative BHARATI to Boost Agri-Food Exports

- ★ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched a new initiative called BHARATI.
- ★ BHARATI stands for Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement.
- ★ The initiative aims to support 100 agri-food and agri-tech startups, boost innovation, and create new export opportunities.
- ★ It is aligned with APEDA's vision to achieve \$50 billion in agri-food exports of Scheduled Products by 2030.
- ★ The first pilot batch of 100 startups will be launched under BHARATI in September 2025.
- ★ Startups will include high-value agri-food producers, tech-driven service providers, and innovators.
- ★ Selected startups will undergo a three-month acceleration programme with a focus on product development, export readiness, regulatory compliance, market access, and collaborative solutions to address export challenges.

Sports Authority of India NCSSR and IIT Delhi Sign MoU

- ★ Under the guidance of Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Centre of Sports Science Research (NCSSR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi.
- ★ The MoU aims to strengthen co-operation in sports sciences, advanced technology, and indigenous innovation.

- ★ The initiative supports the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision and the campaign 'Garv se Swadeshi', focusing on minimizing dependence on imported sports tools and promoting home-grown solutions.
- ★ The MoU will facilitate high-quality research in Sports Science and Engineering.
- ★ It will promote innovation-driven projects for athlete performance enhancement.
- ★ The partnership enables knowledge sharing between experts and institutions.
- ★ It will contribute to injury prevention and athlete well-being.
- ★ Alongside the MoU, a new Biomechanics Laboratory at IIT Delhi was inaugurated by Shri Hari Ranjan Rao.
- ★ The lab is equipped to conduct advanced sports science assessments and biomechanical research, providing scientific insights into athlete movement, optimizing performance, and mitigating injury risks.
- ★ The laboratory aims to strengthen India's sports science infrastructure and support both able-bodied and para-athletes, promoting inclusivity.

ISRO Signs Agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

- ★ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a formal agreement with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on September 10, 2025, for the transfer of technology for the production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV).
- ★ The agreement marks the 100th technology transfer facilitated by IN-SPACe, promoting industry participation in the space sector.
- ★ The pact was inked in Bengaluru by ISRO, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), IN-SPACe, and HAL, which outbid a consortium led by Adani Group-backed Alpha Design Technologies.
- ★ The technology transfer process is expected to be completed within 24 months from the signing date.
- ★ During this period, ISRO will provide training and technical support to HAL for acquiring the know-how of SSLV.
- ★ The collaboration will focus on the preparedness-to-flight tangent of SSLVs, guiding deep-tech collaboration in India's space industry.
- ★ HAL will leverage its engineering and manufacturing strength, train workforce, and build a self-reliant ecosystem to offer cost-competitive small-satellite launches
- ★ The agreement reflects the Government of India's vision to empower the space industry and establish India as a global hub for reliable and affordable launch services.

IIT Palakkad Launches Nation's First AI-Powered Learning App 'Tutoz'

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Palakkad, Kerala, has launched India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered learning application named 'Tutoz'.
- ★ The AI-powered app 'Tutoz' is designed to help students prepare for national-level entrance exams like Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), and the Common Admission Test (CAT).

- ★ 'Tutoz' is a pioneering educational platform that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide a personalized and intelligent learning experience.

India's First Government Medical College to Train on da Vinci Robotic Surgery System

- ★ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, became the first government medical college in India to offer training on the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.
- ★ It is installed at AIIMS' Skills, E-Learning and Telemedicine (SET) Facility, marking a major advancement in medical education and surgical innovation.
- ★ The da Vinci Surgical Robot, developed by Intuitive Surgical, allows minimally invasive surgery, 3D visualization, and faster patient recovery.
- ★ It is widely used in urology, gynecology, general surgery, oncology, and head and neck surgery.
- ★ AIIMS SET Facility also houses the Hugo Robotic Trainer (Medtronic), making AIIMS the only institution in India with two robotic systems for training.
- ★ Training is offered to medical students, residents, faculty members, nurses, and healthcare professionals using simulators and manikins.
- ★ The initiative prepares the next generation of surgeons and strengthens India's healthcare sector.

Tata Consultancy Services and France's CEA Partner To Jointly Develop Physical AI Solutions

- ★ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) signed an agreement with France's public research body CEA to jointly develop Physical AI solutions.
- ★ Physical AI combines robotics, artificial intelligence, and intelligent systems to enable machines to interact with the physical world.
- ★ The collaboration will focus on manufacturing, logistics, and automation, deploying Physical AI-powered systems for real-world industrial applications.
- ★ TCS has been present in France since 1992, supporting 18 CAC40 companies.
- ★ TCS operates four delivery centers in Paris-Suresnes, Lille, Poitiers, and Toulouse, expanding its presence in France.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited to Manufacture Small Satellite Launch Vehicle

- ★ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) Technology Transfer Agreement in Bengaluru.
- ★ Under the contract, HAL will absorb the SSLV technology in the first 2 years, followed by a 10-year production phase.
- ★ The SSLV is a three-stage launch vehicle designed to place satellites under 500 kg into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

- ★ It can be launched from Sriharikota (inclined orbits) and the upcoming Kulasekarapattinam launch site (polar orbits).
- ★ The agreement grants HAL a non-exclusive, non-transferable license covering design, manufacturing, quality control, integration, launch operations, post-flight analysis, along with training and support.

AIIMS New Delhi Installs Advanced da Vinci Surgical Robot at SET Facility

- ★ The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has inaugurated the advanced da Vinci Surgical Robot at its Skills, E-Learning and Telemedicine (SET) Facility.
- ★ This is the first installation of the da Vinci system for training at a government medical college in India.
- ★ The robotic platform was provided by Intuitive Surgical under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ★ With this installation, AIIMS Delhi becomes the only institution in India to have two robotic systems dedicated solely to training.
- ★ The new robotic system will support skill development across specialties including urology, gynaecology, general surgery, surgical oncology, and head and neck surgery.

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad Showcases 6G Innovations

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad is spearheading research to make India a global leader in 6G technology by 2030.
- ★ The institute has demonstrated 6G prototypes in the 7 GHz band, advanced massive MIMO antenna arrays, and satellite-compliant systems for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Geostationary Orbit (GEO).
- ★ An indigenous low-power system-on-chip (SoC) has been developed to support terrestrial and satellite connectivity for civilian and defence applications.
- ★ 6G will integrate ubiquitous high-speed connectivity across urban and rural areas, land, oceans, and skies, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) at its core.
- ★ 6G applications will power instantaneous AR/VR experiences, AI-enabled devices, autonomous mobility, and large-scale IoT for agriculture, healthcare, and defence.
- ★ With decade-long indigenous R&D and a supportive policy framework, India plans to have its own technologies, products, companies, and ecosystem ready by 2030, aligning with Viksit Bharat 2047.

AIIMS Launches AI-Based 'Never Alone' Mental Health Initiative To Prevent Student Suicides

- ★ AIIMS Delhi has launched "Never Alone", an AI-powered mental health and wellness programme that provides 24×7 screening, counselling, intervention, and follow-up care through a secure web-based app accessible on WhatsApp.

- ★ The initiative was launched at AIIMS Delhi, AIIMS Bhubaneswar, and IHBAS Shahdara, with plans to expand across other AIIMS institutions via the Global Centre for Integrative Health (GCIH).
- ★ The “Never Alone” app is designed to break the stigma around mental health and provide immediate, anonymous support, linking students with counsellors, psychiatrists, and faculty members.
- ★ According to AIIMS data, 7,27,000 people die by suicide globally each year (one every 45 seconds).
- ★ As per NCRB estimates, India recorded 1.7 lakh suicides in 2022, the highest in 56 years, with youth between 18–30 years being the most vulnerable.

Agnikul Cosmos Commissions Advanced 3D Printing Facility For Rocket Systems In India

- ★ Agnikul Cosmos commissioned an advanced facility in Chennai for aerospace and rocket systems, integrating design, simulation, 3D printing, post-processing, and finishing, reducing production costs by 50%.
- ★ The facility enables 3D printing of rocket components up to one metre in height and has an indigenously designed de-powdering machine for space-grade quality finishes.
- ★ Agnikul holds a US patent for single-piece 3D-printed rocket engines; the new facility allows printing one-metre engines delivering 7x thrust of earlier designs.
- ★ Agnikul Cosmos successfully launched the Agnibaan-SOrTeD rocket in May 2024 from Sriharikota, marking the world’s first rocket launch with a single-piece 3D-printed engine and the first semi-cryogenic engine used in an Indian rocket.

India To Launch ‘Bodyguard Satellites’

- ★ India is planning “bodyguard satellites” after a close encounter in 2024, when a foreign satellite came within 1 km of an Indian satellite with military applications.
- ★ The initiative is part of PM Modi’s ₹27,000 crore (\$3 billion) programme to launch about 50 surveillance satellites, with the first launch expected in 2026.
- ★ India has over 100 satellites, compared to Pakistan’s 8 and China’s 930, and China’s growing military capabilities in space are viewed as a major threat.
- ★ India is partnering with startups to design satellite-protection technologies, including LiDAR satellites for early detection of threats.
- ★ LiDAR satellites will complement ground-based radars and telescopes, helping overcome India’s lack of round-the-clock space monitoring capability.

DRDO Successfully Test-Fires Agni-Prime Intermediate Range Missile

- ★ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), successfully launched the Intermediate Range Agni-Prime Missile on 24 September 2025.
- ★ The launch was conducted from a Rail-based Mobile Launcher system, a first-of-its-kind capability in India.

- ★ The Agni-Prime Missile has a range of up to 2000 km and is equipped with advanced features.
- ★ The Rail-based Mobile Launcher can move on the rail network without pre-conditions, provides cross-country mobility, enables short reaction time, and ensures reduced visibility.
- ★ The launcher is self-sustained with independent launch capability, state-of-the-art communication systems, and protection mechanisms.
- ★ The missile's trajectory was tracked by multiple ground stations, and the test was a textbook launch meeting all mission objectives.
- ★ This success paves the way for futuristic rail-based missile systems to be inducted into service.
- ★ The Road-Mobile Agni-P has already been inducted into the Indian armed forces after several successful trials.

India Nominates IIT-Madras as United Nations Artificial Intelligence CoE

- ★ India nominated the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras as a United Nations (UN) Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ★ The nomination was announced by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) at a high-level UN event in New York.
- ★ The recognition is under the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) initiative to build a global network of AI hubs.
- ★ IIT-Madras, an Institute of Eminence, has been at the forefront of AI research, skilling, and innovation in India.
- ★ As a CoE, IIT-Madras will address the AI skills gap, promote ethical AI governance, and enhance inclusive access to AI technologies globally, especially across the Global South.
- ★ India aims to share open-source AI models, collaborate on skilling programs, and support AI-driven innovations in healthcare, agriculture, education, and governance.
- ★ This move strengthens India's role in AI governance, capacity building, and inclusive digital development.

BANKING & FINANCE

Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Partners with Hitachi Payment Services

- ★ Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (SFB) has partnered with Hitachi Payment Services to upgrade its payment processing and debit card management.
- ★ This partnership aims to streamline the debit card lifecycle management for over 2.1 million cardholders.
- ★ The upgrade will make ATM, POS, and e-commerce transactions faster and more secure on a new platform.
- ★ The system now supports major payment networks, including NFS, RuPay, DFS, Mastercard, and JCB.

- ★ Utkarsh SFB focuses on providing financial services to underserved and unserved sections.

Punjab National Bank Opens First Startup-Focused Branch in New Delhi

- ★ Punjab National Bank (PNB) inaugurated its first startup-centric branch in New Delhi.
- ★ The branch is aligned with the Startup India initiative to promote entrepreneurship and support innovation with complete banking solutions.
- ★ An MoU was signed between PNB and STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) to extend financial support to eligible startups.
- ★ Under the collaboration, STPI will provide PNB with a curated list of incubated, onboarded, or graduated startups, bridging the gap between startups and financial institutions.

India Post and Association of Mutual Funds in India Ink Landmark MoU

- ★ The Department of Posts (DoP) and the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen financial inclusion.
- ★ This agreement allows India Post to act as a distributor for mutual fund investments through its vast postal network.
- ★ The MoU was signed by Manisha Bansal Badal (DoP) and Shri V.N. Chalasani (AMFI), in the presence of SEBI Chairman Shri Tuhin Kanta Pandey.
- ★ AMFI plans to train around 1 lakh postmen as mutual fund distributors to help double the investor base.
- ★ The initial focus will be on Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Meghalaya, with the goal of training 20,000 new distributors in the first year.
- ★ The MoU is valid for three years, from August 22, 2025, to August 21, 2028, with an option for renewal.

SEBI Clears Life Insurance Corporation of India's Reclassification

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the reclassification of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as a public shareholder in IDBI Bank, a move connected to the government's strategic disinvestment.
- ★ LIC's voting rights have been capped at 10%, even though it holds a 49.24% equity stake in IDBI Bank as of June 2025.
- ★ LIC will have no control over IDBI Bank, which means no board representation, special rights, or managerial positions.
- ★ LIC must reduce its stake in IDBI Bank to 15% or less within 2 years of the strategic sale, in compliance with RBI's promoter holding guidelines.
- ★ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had approved the strategic disinvestment of IDBI Bank in May 2021.
- ★ The Government of India holds 45.48% and LIC holds 49.24%. Together, they plan to sell a 60.7% stake.
- ★ LIC was previously classified as a promoter after acquiring control of IDBI Bank in 2019.

Government Selects Goldman Sachs As Advisor For Stake Divestment In Four Public Sector Banks

- ★ The Government of India has appointed Goldman Sachs as a transaction advisor for the divestment of its stake in four public sector banks: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Central Bank of India, UCO Bank, and Punjab & Sind Bank.
- ★ The Centre holds over a 90% stake in each of these banks.
- ★ Goldman Sachs's role includes identifying potential bidders and structuring deals to facilitate the sale.
- ★ State-run listed companies, including these banks, are exempt from the 25% minimum public shareholding (MPS) rule until August 1, 2026.

L&T Finance Partners With Google Pay

- ★ L&T Finance Limited. (LTF), a leading non-banking financial company (NBFC), has announced a collaboration with Google Pay to offer loan products directly through the payments app.
- ★ The partnership supports LTF's digital-first lending strategy and strengthens its product diversification efforts.
- ★ Through this tie-up, eligible Google Pay users can apply for and avail LTF's personal loans seamlessly within the app.
- ★ This collaboration follows LTF's partnerships with PhonePe, CRED, and Amazon Pay during FY25.

Power Finance Corporation Limited Signs €150 Million Loan Agreement with Germany's KfW

- ★ The Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) has signed a loan agreement of €150 million with Germany's KfW.
- ★ The loan will finance projects under the Government of India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
- ★ The agreement was signed by PFC Chairman and Managing Director Parminder Chopra and KfW CEO Stefan Wintels.
- ★ The loan proceeds will be used for projects aimed at improving the operational and financial efficiency of power distribution companies across the country.
- ★ The loan proceeds will be utilised to finance projects under the Government of India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), aimed at improving the operational and financial efficiency of power distribution companies across the country.
- ★ The RDSS scheme, launched in 2021, has an outlay of ₹3,03,758 crore.

Narayana Health Introduces Aira, an AI Tool

- ★ Narayana Health has launched Aira, an AI-powered documentation tool to help doctors reduce paperwork and improve patient care.
- ★ Aira is built on the company's own Electronic Medical Record (EMR) platform, Athma.

- ★ The tool uses advanced AI to analyze patient records (both digital and scanned) to create clinical timelines and smart tags, ensuring all critical details are captured.
- ★ It is designed to be scalable and can be adopted by hospitals of any size.
- ★ The healthcare sector in India is projected to grow significantly, from \$1.10 billion in 2022 to \$5.15 billion by 2030.

Flipkart and SBI Card Launched Co-Branded 'Flipkart SBI Credit Card'

- ★ SBI Card and Flipkart have jointly launched the 'Flipkart SBI Credit Card', a co-branded credit card.
- ★ The launch was attended by SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty and SBI MD Ashwini Kumar Tewari.
- ★ The card is designed to provide curated cashback benefits for a rewarding shopping experience.
- ★ Salila Pande, the MD and CEO of SBI Card, is associated with this initiative.
- ★ SBI Card, launched in 1998, is one of India's leading credit card issuers.
- ★ It was originally a joint venture between SBI and GE Capital. In 2017, GE exited, and the Carlyle Group became a stakeholder, with SBI retaining majority ownership.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Fall By \$4.38 Billion To \$690.72 Billion

- ★ According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's forex reserves fell by \$4.386 billion to \$690.72 billion for the week ended August 22, 2025.
- ★ In the previous week, reserves had increased by \$1.488 billion to \$695.106 billion.
- ★ Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), the largest component, declined by \$3.652 billion to \$582.251 billion.
- ★ Gold reserves decreased by \$665 million to \$85.003 billion.
- ★ Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) fell by \$46 million to \$18.736 billion.
- ★ India's reserve position with the IMF dropped by \$23 million to \$4.731 billion.
- ★ Changes in FCA also reflect the appreciation/depreciation of major currencies like the euro, pound, and yen.

IPPB Marks 8th Foundation Day

- ★ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) celebrated its 8th Foundation Day (IPPB Day), highlighting its role in inclusive, accessible, and affordable banking at the last mile.
- ★ IPPB is among the largest financial inclusion initiatives globally, leveraging the reach of 1.64 lakh Post Offices and 1.90 lakh Postmen & Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS).
- ★ The bank has over 12 crore customers, has processed billions of digital transactions, and provides doorstep banking in rural, semi-urban, and remote regions.
- ★ Its expanded services include DBT disbursements, pension payments, credit facilitation, and insurance and investment products through partnerships.

- ★ New offerings include DigiSmart (a Digital Savings Account), Premium Aarogya Savings Account (with healthcare benefits), and Aadhaar-based Face Authentication for customer convenience.
- ★ Other services such as the RuPay Virtual Debit Card, AePS (Aadhaar-enabled Payment Services), cross-border remittances, and Bharat BillPay integration make IPPB a comprehensive grassroots financial service provider.

Department of Posts Suspends Mail Booking Services to the United States of America

- ★ The Department of Posts has decided to completely suspend the booking of all categories of mail to the USA.
- ★ The suspension covers letters, documents, and gift items valued up to USD 100.
- ★ The reason for the suspension is the inability of carriers to transport U.S.-bound mail and the absence of defined regulatory mechanisms.
- ★ Customers who have already booked undelivered items can claim a refund of postage.
- ★ The Department is monitoring the situation and aims to restore services at the earliest.

RBI Fines Bandhan Bank ₹44.7 Lakh for Regulatory and Statutory Lapses

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹44.7 lakh on Bandhan Bank for statutory and regulatory compliance deficiencies.
- ★ This action was taken following supervisory findings of non-compliance with RBI directions.
- ★ The bank violated norms by paying remuneration in the form of commission to certain employees.
- ★ It also carried out manual interventions in account data through the back-end.
- ★ The bank did not properly capture audit trails/logs of access with specific user details in the system.

SEBI Tightens Intraday Derivatives Rules

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tightened rules for intraday positions in equity derivatives to curb excessive speculation and market manipulation, particularly on options expiry days.
- ★ Under the revised framework, the intraday net position limit for index options has been increased to ₹5,000 crore per entity from the earlier ₹1,500 crore, using the Futures-Equivalent (FutEq) methodology after offsetting long and short trades.
- ★ SEBI has directed stock exchanges to strengthen real-time surveillance and monitoring to detect large speculative positions.
- ★ Exchanges and clearing corporations have been instructed to publish a joint Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) within 15 days to provide guidance to market participants.

Unified Payments Interface Transactions Surpass 20 Billion in August 2025

- ★ Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions crossed 20 billion in August 2025, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- ★ The transaction value for August 2025 was ₹24.85 lakh crore, a slight decrease from ₹25.08 lakh crore in July 2025, with the highest ever value being ₹25.14 lakh crore in May 2025.
- ★ The previous highest transaction volume was 19.47 billion in July 2025.
- ★ The average daily transaction value in August 2025 was ₹80,177 crore, with an average daily count of 645 million transactions.
- ★ UPI currently lives in 7 countries – the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, and Mauritius, with France marking its first entry into Europe.

India's Goods and Services Tax Collections Jump 6.5% year-on-year

- ★ India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose 6.5% year-on-year to ₹1.86 lakh crore in August 2025, according to government data.
- ★ This marks the eighth consecutive month with revenues above ₹1.8 lakh crore, reflecting robust domestic consumption and steady economic activity.
- ★ GST revenues peaked at ₹2.37 lakh crore in April 2025, which is the highest collection since the implementation of GST.
- ★ The August GST data release precedes the GST Council meeting scheduled for September 3–4, 2025, in New Delhi, where rationalisation will be discussed.
- ★ The rationalisation proposal includes a two-slab rate structure (5% and 18%), with a 40% rate on sin goods such as tobacco, cigarettes, and sugary drinks.

BoB Unveils bob Digi Udyam

- ★ Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched bob Digi Udyam, a digital, collateral-free lending platform for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- ★ The platform provides working capital loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh.
- ★ This initiative is aligned with the Union Budget 2024–25 announcement for in-house MSME credit assessment by public sector banks.
- ★ It uses the digital footprint of MSEs for a faster credit assessment.
- ★ The platform offers Cash Credit and Overdraft facilities with a 12-month tenure.
- ★ No collateral is required for these loans, as they are covered under the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Karnataka Grameena Bank Adopts Common Logo for 11 Amalgamated Regional Rural Banks

- ★ Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB), headquartered in Ballari, has adopted a common logo designed for all 11 amalgamated Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India.
- ★ The new logo was unveiled by KGB Chairman Shreekant M. Bhandiwad in Ballari.
- ★ Under the 'One State, One RRB' concept, two RRBs in Karnataka were amalgamated to form KGB, effective May 1, 2025.
- ★ KGB operates 1,750 branches and manages business worth ₹1,03,451 crore.

- ★ The logo symbolizes progress, growth, nurturing, and care.
- ★ Dark blue in the logo represents finance and trust, while dark green represents life and growth.

NSE and BSE Penalise Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

- ★ Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), a state-run telecom firm, was penalised by NSE and BSE for non-compliance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board composition norms.
- ★ Both exchanges imposed a fine of ₹6.73 lakh each on the company.
- ★ The non-compliance included the improper constitution of the Nomination & Remuneration Committee, Stakeholder Relationship Committee, and Risk Management Committee.
- ★ MTNL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), headquartered in New Delhi.

BharatPe, Collaborated with Unity Small Finance Bank

- ★ BharatPe has launched the Unity Bank BharatPe Credit Card in partnership with Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity Bank).
- ★ The credit card provides flexible EMI options of up to 12 months for managing big-ticket purchases.
- ★ Offered on the NPCI RuPay network, the card can be linked to UPI for secure and convenient merchant payments.
- ★ Unity Small Finance Bank (SFB) began its operations on November 1, 2021, after receiving its RBI license in October 2021.
- ★ Unity Bank is the 12th Small Finance Bank in India.

PhonePe Introduces Loans Against Mutual Funds in Collaboration with DSP Finance

- ★ PhonePe, a fintech major, has launched Loans against Mutual Funds (LAMF) in partnership with DSP Finance, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) backed by the DSP Group.
- ★ The product provides a secured credit limit up to ₹2 crore by pledging mutual fund units as collateral.
- ★ Unlike traditional loans, no EMIs or monthly principal repayments are required; users only pay interest on the withdrawn amounts.
- ★ PhonePe has a large user base with 640 million registered users and 45 million registered merchants.

Tata Capital to Launch \$2 Billion Initial Public Offering in September 2025

- ★ Tata Capital is set to launch a USD 2 billion (₹17,200 crore) Initial Public Offering (IPO) in the week beginning September 22, 2025.
- ★ Promoter Tata Sons will divest 23 crore shares, while International Finance Corporation (IFC) will offload 3.58 crore shares.

- ★ The shareholding pattern before the IPO is: Tata Sons holds 88.6%, and IFC holds 1.8% in Tata Capital.
- ★ The IPO is in line with the RBI mandate requiring upper-layer NBFCs to go public within 3 years of classification; Tata Capital was classified in September 2022.
- ★ If successful, this IPO is expected to be the largest public issue in India's financial sector.
- ★ This will be the Tata Group's second public listing in recent years, following the Tata Technologies IPO in November 2023.

BoB Labels Reliance Communications and Anil Ambani's Loan Accounts as Fraudulent

- ★ Bank of Baroda (BoB) has classified the loan account of Reliance Communications (RCom) and its former promoter Anil Ambani as fraud, making it the third lender after State Bank of India (SBI) and Bank of India (BoI).
- ★ BoB has an outstanding loan of ₹1,656 crore against a sanctioned limit of ₹2,462 crore to RCom.
- ★ RCom's loan account was first classified as non-performing (NPA) in June 2017.
- ★ The decision was based on a forensic audit by BDO India LLP, followed by multiple show-cause notices (January 2024 and August 2025) and a personal hearing in July 2025, where Anil Ambani failed to rebut charges.

Indian Bank Shifts Corporate Website to '.bank.in' Domain

- ★ Indian Bank has migrated its corporate website to indianbank.bank.in in line with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directive.
- ★ The move is aimed at providing stronger safeguards against fraud and enhancing public confidence in digital banking solutions.
- ★ The initiative was taken up under the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), which is the exclusive registrar for the .bank.in domain.
- ★ The .bank.in domain is reserved exclusively for banks, helping to strengthen cybersecurity, combat fraud, and build trust in digital transactions.

Securities and Exchange Board of India Approves Bandhan AMC

- ★ Bandhan AMC Limited has received Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approval to launch Specialised Investment Funds (SIFs).
- ★ This marks Bandhan AMC's entry into sophisticated investment strategies beyond traditional mutual funds.
- ★ The new products will be offered under the "Arudha SIF" platform, covering equity, debt, and hybrid strategies, including unhedged short derivatives.
- ★ The SIF framework provides greater portfolio flexibility and enables non-traditional strategies aligned with evolving investor needs.
- ★ Bandhan AMC, established in 2000, operates in 100 cities, serves investors in 790 locations, and manages over 4 million folios.

Fifth Cohort of Regulatory Sandbox Adopts 'Theme Neutral' Approach with Five Entities Selected for Testing

- ★ The Fifth Cohort of the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) was 'Theme Neutral', with five entities shortlisted for testing.
- ★ The products that completed the Test Phase were assessed based on agreed test scenarios and outcomes.
- ★ IBDIC Private. Limited., in partnership with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Yes Bank, and Aditya Birla Capital, created a blockchain-based deep-tier financing solution for MSMEs.
- ★ This solution works by tokenising Tier-1 supplier invoices, which allows lower-tier MSMEs to get affordable credit access through digital funding against tokens.
- ★ The product was found to be viable under the RS, and IBDIC has successfully exited the Fifth Cohort.
- ★ Since April 9, 2025, applications for the Regulatory Sandbox are now 'On-Tap' for Theme Neutral testing via the PRAVAAH portal, in line with the updated Sandbox Framework (February 28, 2024).

Punjab National Bank Signs MoU with Rajasthan Government

- ★ Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of Rajasthan to support the state's socio-economic development.
- ★ Under the agreement, PNB pledged ₹21,000 crore investment through the state's 'Rising Rajasthan' initiative.
- ★ In August' 2025, Punjab National Bank (PNB) inaugurated its first startup-centric branch in New Delhi.

State Bank of India Organises First-Ever "Dream2Demo"

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI), through its Start-up Branch, hosted its first-ever Start-up Pitch Fest – Dream2Demo.
- ★ The event provided a platform for entrepreneurs to present ideas directly to leading investors.
- ★ SBI showcased customized financial products for start-ups, including equity-linked funding solutions.
- ★ SBI highlighted its collaborations with Startup TN and IIT Madras Incubation Cell.
- ★ The initiative reaffirms SBI's commitment to supporting innovators and aims to guide start-ups from grassroots to global stage.

Axis Max Life Partnered with India Post Payments Bank

- ★ Axis Max Life Insurance Limited and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) announced a partnership to deliver affordable life insurance solutions in rural and regional India beyond Tier 1 cities.
- ★ The partnership will use IPPB's network of 650 banking outlets and over 64 lakh access points through post offices to expand reach.

- ★ Customers in Tier 3, Tier 4, and rural markets will gain access to a comprehensive suite of need-based life insurance products.
- ★ The initiative supports the Government's financial inclusion objectives.
- ★ It also aligns with IRDAI's vision of "Insurance for All by 2047."

Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and AquaExchange Collaborated

- ★ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Bank (APGB), in partnership with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and AquaExchange Agritech Private. Limited., has launched collateral-free shrimp crop loans for aquaculture farmers.
- ★ The official launch was held at AquaExchange's Veeravalli premises, located near Hanuman Junction in Krishna district.
- ★ As part of the NABARD–AquaExchange MoU, a Shrimp Farming Rating Score (FRS) will be developed to serve as a benchmark for creditworthiness in aquaculture financing.
- ★ The APGB–AquaExchange agreement will see the disbursement of ₹25 crore worth of collateral-free crop loans to approximately 100 shrimp farmers over the next 3–6 months.
- ★ The first installment of ₹1.2 crore was sanctioned to five farmers from different regions.
- ★ AquaExchange plans to scale up the disbursements to ₹100 crore in FY 2025 and ₹250 crore in the next financial year.
- ★ Under this program, APGB will provide low-cost, collateral-free working capital loans, while AquaExchange will offer crop disease insurance to the farmers.

Financial Stability and Development Council Sub-Committee Meeting

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra chaired the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC-SC), which discussed global and domestic macroeconomic and financial sector developments and their implications for financial stability.
- ★ The panel also reviewed the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025–30.
- ★ The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is an apex-level forum constituted by the Government of India in December 2010.
- ★ FSDC is not a statutory body and no separate funds are allocated for its activities.
- ★ FSDC is chaired by the Union Finance Minister of India.
- ★ Members of FSDC include the heads of RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA, FMC, along with the Finance Secretary/Secretary DEA, Secretary DFS, and Chief Economic Adviser.
- ★ A Sub-Committee of FSDC, chaired by the RBI Governor, handles financial sector development, stability, and inter-regulatory co-ordination.

Suryoday Small Finance Bank Introduces RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum Secured Credit Cards Backed by Fixed Deposits

- ★ Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) has launched two secured credit cards – RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum, backed by fixed deposits (FDs) as collateral.

- ★ These cards are UPI-integrated, issued instantly in virtual form, and are targeted at first-time credit users, homemakers, and retirees to promote responsible credit habits.
- ★ The RuPay Platinum Card requires a minimum FD of ₹1,000, while the RuPay Select Card requires an FD of ₹1,11,500.
- ★ Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd, incorporated in 2008, began offering Small Finance Bank (SFB) services in 2017.

SBI Completes \$500 Million Senior Unsecured Fixed Rate Notes Issue

- ★ The State Bank of India (SBI) has concluded the issue of \$500 million senior unsecured fixed rate notes.
- ★ These bonds have a maturity of 5 years and carry a coupon rate of 4.50%.
- ★ The bonds will be issued through SBI's London branch on 9th September 2025.
- ★ They will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and the NSE-IX Exchange, GIFT City.
- ★ The bond sale by SBI is the first investment grade issuance from India after the S&P sovereign rating upgrade.
- ★ S&P upgraded India's sovereign rating from BBB- to BBB (firm investment grade).

India and Israel Sign Bilateral Investment Agreement in New Delhi

- ★ India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) in New Delhi, marking a historic milestone in their bilateral relations.
- ★ The Agreement was signed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich.
- ★ The BIA aims to boost investments, trade, and mutual co-operation by ensuring greater certainty and protection for investors.
- ★ The Agreement provides independent dispute resolution through arbitration, safeguards against expropriation, transparency in procedures, and smooth transfers with compensation for losses.
- ★ The BIA balances investor protection with State's regulatory rights, preserving policy space for sovereign governance.
- ★ Current bilateral investments stand at USD 800 million, and the Agreement is expected to increase mutual investments significantly.
- ★ Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted India's economic reforms over the last 10 years, making India the fastest growing economy and an investment-friendly destination.
- ★ The Israeli Finance Minister stressed collaboration in cybersecurity, defense, innovation, and high-technology sectors.
- ★ Both sides agreed to advance co-operation in fintech innovation, infrastructure development, financial regulation, and digital payment connectivity.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Marks 69th Anniversary

- ★ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) celebrated its 69th anniversary on September 1, 2025, showcasing its leadership and digital transformation.
- ★ LIC retained 83% market share in policies and 57.05% in first-year premium income during FY25.
- ★ LIC offers a diverse portfolio of 35 individual products, 12 group products, 7 individual riders, and 1 group rider, covering endowment, term insurance, annuity, child, health, micro-insurance, and ULIPs.
- ★ In FY 2024–25, LIC advanced in digital transformation with 4 crore registered users on its customer portal and digital app.
- ★ Key digital initiatives include the LIC Digital NRI App, QR-based collections, and WhatsApp-based payment and alerts.

Association of Mutual Funds in India Proposes Mutual Fund–Voluntary Retirement Account Scheme

- ★ The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has proposed a Mutual Fund–Voluntary Retirement Account (MF-VRA) scheme.
- ★ The scheme is designed as a voluntary, employer-linked retirement product managed by mutual funds, similar to the US 401(k) plan.
- ★ Key features include: voluntary participation, employer-sponsored options, management by mutual funds, tax incentives, portability, and flexibility.
- ★ AMFI acts as a nodal association of mutual funds in India, providing knowledge and insights on mutual fund investments.
- ★ AMFI is an Indian trade association for all the asset management companies of SEBI registered mutual funds in India.

Edelweiss Mutual Fund Gets Nod to Launch First Specialised Investment Fund

- ★ Edelweiss Mutual Fund has received approval for its first Specialised Investment Fund (SIF) and plans to launch it by September 2025.
- ★ Nearly 10 fund houses have secured SIF licences, but none have launched a product yet.
- ★ Quant Mutual Fund is also preparing to launch its first SIF in the equity category this month.
- ★ Edelweiss's product, the Altiva Hybrid Long-Short Fund, will be the first hybrid SIF in India.
- ★ The fund will follow an absolute return strategy with allocation in fixed income, equity arbitrage, special situations, and low-risk derivatives.
- ★ SIFs were introduced by SEBI in April 2025, allowing MFs to offer complex strategies like long-short equity and debt.
- ★ The minimum investment in SIFs is ₹10 lakh per investor.

India's Foreign direct investment Rises 15% to USD 18.62 Billion in April–June Quarter

- ★ According to a government data release, Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India rose 15% to USD 18.62 billion during April-June this fiscal year.
- ★ Total FDI inflows (equity, reinvested earnings, other capital) increased to USD 25.2 billion in Q1 FY26, up from USD 22.5 billion in Q1 FY25.
- ★ The United States emerged as the largest FDI source, with inflows of USD 5.61 billion, nearly tripling from USD 1.50 billion in the same quarter of FY25, despite tariff issues.
- ★ Other major FDI sources were Singapore (USD 4.59 billion), Mauritius (USD 2.08 billion), Cyprus (USD 1.1 billion), UAE (USD 1 billion), Cayman Islands (USD 676 million), Netherlands (USD 667 million), Japan (USD 551 million), and Germany (USD 191 million).
- ★ Karnataka received the highest FDI inflow of USD 5.69 billion during the quarter.
- ★ It was followed by Maharashtra (USD 5.36 billion), Tamil Nadu (USD 2.67 billion), Gujarat (USD 1.2 billion), Haryana (USD 1.03 billion), Delhi (USD 1 billion), and Telangana (USD 395 million).

India and Asian Development Bank Ink \$126.4 Million Loan Deal

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India (GoI) signed a \$126.42 million loan agreement to promote rural development through sustainable and climate-resilient tourism in the Tehri Lake region, Uttarakhand.
- ★ The project is named Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism Development at Tehri Lake Area Project.
- ★ The signatories of the agreement were Juhi Mukherjee (Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, India) and Mr. Kai Wei Yeo (Officer-in-Charge, India Resident Mission, ADB).
- ★ The ADB loan supports the Government of Uttarakhand's policy to make the state a diversified, all-weather tourism destination, with Tehri Lake as a priority area for development.
- ★ The project targets the Tehri Garhwal District, one of Uttarakhand's most climate-vulnerable and economically disadvantaged regions.
- ★ It aims to benefit over 87,000 residents and 2.7 million annual visitors through improved tourism planning, upgraded infrastructure, enhanced sanitation and waste management, and disaster preparedness.

Jio Financial Services Limited and Germany's Allianz form 50:50 joint venture Allianz

- ★ Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) and Allianz (Germany) have formed a 50:50 joint venture (JV) named Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited (AJRL) to operate in the reinsurance sector in India.
- ★ The JV received its Certificate of Incorporation on September 8, 2025, after approval from IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).
- ★ The JV has an initial investment of ₹2.50 lakh, with each partner subscribing to 25,000 equity shares of ₹10.

- ★ AJRL will leverage Allianz Re and Allianz Commercial portfolios in India, supported by the global pricing, risk selection, and portfolio management expertise of Allianz.
- ★ Allianz Re has been reinsuring risks in India for over 25 years, providing a strong foundation for the new venture.

SEBI Eases Employee Stock Options Rules

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a major relaxation for startup founders preparing for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).
- ★ Promoters are now allowed to retain Employee Stock Options (ESOPs), Stock Appreciation Rights (SARs), or other share-based benefits, if they were granted at least one year before filing draft IPO papers.
- ★ Under the revised guidelines, promoters can continue holding ESOPs and similar benefits issued less than 1 year before draft IPO filing.
- ★ Earlier rule was promoters were barred from holding or being granted such benefits.

Telecommunications Consultants India Limited Signed MoU with PNB

- ★ Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), a Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Communications, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Punjab National Bank (PNB), a leading public sector bank in New Delhi.
- ★ The MoU aims to strengthen PNB's IT infrastructure and accelerate its technology transformation journey, enabling faster, secure, and customer-centric digital banking services.
- ★ TCIL will provide IT consultancy, project management, and turnkey execution of complex technology initiatives for PNB.
- ★ Collaboration will ensure robust, secure, and regulatory-compliant solutions to strengthen PNB's digital backbone and improve operational resilience.
- ★ Key areas of support include Request for Proposal (RFP) lifecycle management, System Integration, IT Infrastructure Rollout, and Regulatory-Compliant Technology deployment.
- ★ TCIL will act as Project Management Consultant (PMC) or Project Implementing Agency (PIA) as per project requirements.
- ★ The collaboration supports the Government of India's Digital India vision, promoting trust in technology-driven financial services and strengthening the digital banking landscape of India.

IFC Commits \$60 Million Loan to Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation

- ★ International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has committed a loan of \$60 million (₹498 crore) to the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC).
- ★ The loan tenure is 15 years at a floating interest rate of 8.15%, to be repaid from GVMC's own resources.
- ★ A formal agreement was signed at the AP Secretariat, Amaravati, marking the first-ever direct municipal financing by IFC in India.

- ★ This is also the first instance of a development finance institution lending to an Indian city without a sovereign guarantee.
- ★ The loan will fund the Madhurawada Sewage System Project in Visakhapatnam, improving sanitation infrastructure in a rapidly urbanizing region.
- ★ The project will help protect the coastline, create jobs, and promote resilient, low-carbon growth.

Insurance Surety Bonds For NHAI Projects Surpass ₹10,000 Crore Milestone

- ★ Insurance Surety Bonds (ISB) issued by insurance companies for NHAI contracts have crossed the ₹10,000 crore milestone (₹10,369 crore till July 2025).
- ★ Around 1,600 ISBs were issued as Bid Security and 207 ISBs as Performance Security.
- ★ 12 insurance companies have participated in issuing ISBs for NHAI contracts.
- ★ NHAI is encouraging wider adoption of ISBs and Electronic Bank Guarantees (eBGs) as alternatives to traditional Bank Guarantees (BGs).
- ★ A workshop in New Delhi, chaired by R.V.V.M.K Rajendra Kumar (Member, Finance, NHAI) and Nilesh Sathe (Former IRDA Member), was organized to promote ISB and eBG adoption.
- ★ ISBs are instruments where insurance companies act as Surety and provide a financial guarantee that contractors will fulfill obligations.
- ★ The Ministry of Finance has recognized eBGs and ISBs at par with BGs for all Government procurements.
- ★ ISBs are cost-effective and provide adequate security for infrastructure projects.
- ★ India's Bank Guarantee requirement in infrastructure is expected to grow by 6–8% annually, making Surety Bonds a viable alternative.

SEBI Unveils Special Framework for Voluntary Delisting of Public Sector

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced special measures for voluntary delisting of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) where the government owns 90% or more stake, in a move aimed at streamlining the exit process.
- ★ The measures relax the two-thirds public shareholder approval requirement and allow delisting at a fixed price, at least 15% above the floor price, regardless of trading frequency.
- ★ SEBI said the rule is applicable for PSUs – excluding banks, Non-banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and insurance companies – where the state ownership is 90% or more.
- ★ Under the previous delisting rules, a PSU could be delisted only if promoter shareholding reached 90%.
- ★ For PSUs delisted under these special provisions, if they undergo voluntary strike-off within 30 days after one year of delisting, the unpaid dues of public shareholders (who did not tender shares) will be transferred to a designated stock exchange account.
- ★ The stock exchange will hold these funds for 7 years, and investors can claim their dues anytime during this period.

Securities and Exchange Board of India permits co-investment window within AIFs

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended rules to permit Category I and II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to offer Co-Investment Opportunities (CIV schemes) directly to accredited investors, in addition to the existing Portfolio Management Services (PMS) route.
- ★ Co-investment allows investors to invest alongside AIFs in unlisted securities of investee companies, giving them greater participation in fund investments.
- ★ SEBI has clarified that co-investment through the CIV scheme will be managed by the AIF Manager and will remain subject to specific conditions.
- ★ CIV schemes will not be allowed to borrow funds or engage in any form of leverage.
- ★ Investors will be permitted to invest up to three times their contribution through the AIF scheme in an investee company.

World Bank Sanctions \$212.64 Million Loan to Support Coastal Communities

- ★ The World Bank has approved a \$212.64 million loan for coastal communities in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ★ The loan is part of the Strengthening Coastal Resilience and the Economy (SHORE) Programme.
- ★ The financing is under the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ★ The project will support ecosystem conservation, plastic waste reduction, and job creation.
- ★ The loan has a maturity of 23 years and a grace period of 6.5 years.
- ★ The project will help the two states implement their coastal zone management plans.

India's External Debt Jumps Over 10% to \$736.3 Billion in FY25, Fastest Growth in 7 Years

- ★ India's external debt rose over 10% to \$736.3 billion at the end of FY2024-25, marking the fastest expansion in seven years in dollar terms compared to \$668.8 billion in FY2023-24.
- ★ The debt-to-GDP ratio increased to 19.1% at end-March 2025, up from 18.5% at end-March 2024, though the government termed the position "modest."
- ★ India's external debt sustainability is better than most Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs).
- ★ Long-term debt formed 81.7% of total debt, while short-term debt accounted for 18.3%, with trade credits financing imports making up 96.8% of short-term debt.
- ★ Non-financial corporations were the largest borrowers with \$261.7 billion outstanding external debt at end-March 2025.
- ★ Debt access came mainly from loans (34%), followed by currency & deposits (22.8%), trade credits (17.8%), and debt securities (17.7%).
- ★ Commercial lenders were the largest creditors (39.6%), followed by NRI depositors (22.4%).
- ★ In terms of currency denomination, the US Dollar was the largest component with 54.2% share, followed by the Indian Rupee (31.1%), yen (6.2%), SDR (4.6%), and euro (3.2%).

NABARD to Build Centralised Digital Lending Platform

- ★ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is developing a centralised digital lending platform for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to strengthen their competitiveness against non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- ★ The initiative follows the One State-One RRB Policy, effective from 1 May 2025, which consolidated 43 RRBs into 28 banks.
- ★ The Centralised Digital Credit Infrastructure (CDCI) will digitise, automate, and streamline credit processing for various loan products.
- ★ RRBs were established in 1975 under an Ordinance (26 Sept 1975) and later formalised by the RRBs Act, 1976, to support the rural economy and supplement the Cooperative Credit Structure.
- ★ The shareholding pattern of RRBs is as follows: Government of India – 50%, State Government – 15%, and Sponsor Bank (PSB) – 35%.
- ★ Currently, 28 RRBs operate through 22,158 branches across 26 States and 3 Union Territories (Puducherry, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh).

ICICI Bank Extends Amazon Pay Co-Branded Credit Card Partnership for 7 More Years

- ★ ICICI Bank has renewed its partnership with Amazon Pay for the co-branded “Amazon Pay ICICI Credit Card” for another seven years.
- ★ The Amazon Pay ICICI Credit Card has over 5 million users, making it the largest co-branded credit card offering in India.
- ★ The partnership between ICICI Bank and Amazon Pay for this card was first launched in 2018.
- ★ As of July 2025, ICICI Bank has over 18 million credit cards in force, according to RBI data.
- ★ ICICI Bank is the third-largest credit card issuer in India after HDFC Bank and State Bank of India (SBI).
- ★ Axis Bank, the fourth-largest issuer, has a co-branded credit card partnership with Flipkart.

EPFO Officer Picked for Prestigious World Bank–Milken Institute Program

- ★ Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), one of the world’s largest social security institutions with a corpus of over ₹25 lakh crore, announced the selection of Shri Vivekanand Gupta, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, for the Public Financial Asset Management (PFAM) Program 2025–26.
- ★ The PFAM Program is a prestigious global initiative jointly organised by the World Bank and the Milken Institute, hosted at Bayes Business School, City, University of London.
- ★ Shri Vivekanand Gupta is the sole participant from India and the first-ever representative from EPFO to be selected for the PFAM cohort.
- ★ The 2025–26 PFAM cohort has 16 participants from 13 countries, including 11 from Central Banks, 3 from Sovereign Wealth Funds, and 2 from Pension Funds.

- ★ PDUNASS (Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Academy of Social Security) identified and recommended Shri Gupta, marking a milestone in EPFO's global recognition and strategic partnerships.
- ★ The program focuses on capital markets, investment governance, long-term asset management, and public financial policy to strengthen global financial capacity building.
- ★ This engagement enhances EPFO's global outlook, enabling adoption of international best practices to optimize returns, improve retirement savings management, and align with globally benchmarked governance standards.

NPCI Approves Viyona Fintech as Third-Party Application Provider

- ★ Viyona Fintech, a Hyderabad-based digital payment platform, has received National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) approval to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP).
- ★ The approval covers two applications: GraamPay and Viyona Pay, enabling them to support UPI-based transactions.
- ★ The NPCI nod will boost digital payment access in Tier II, Tier III cities and rural areas.
- ★ GraamPay, the flagship platform of Viyona, is designed for rural India, offering farmers, shopkeepers, and households tools for UPI transactions, digital collections, and payouts.

RBI Approves Amendments to Yes Bank's Articles of Association on Nominee Director Appointments

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved amendments to Yes Bank's Articles of Association (AoA) concerning the appointment of nominee Directors.
- ★ The amendments are linked to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) of Japan acquiring a 20% stake in Yes Bank.
- ★ After the stake transfer, SMBC will nominate two Directors and SBI will nominate one Director to Yes Bank's board.
- ★ The 20% stake acquisition includes 19% from SBI and 6.81% from Axis Bank, Bandhan Bank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDFC First Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- ★ The deal has also received clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- ★ The RBI clarified that SMBC will not be considered a promoter of Yes Bank.
- ★ Following the transaction, SBI's holding will reduce from 24% to slightly over 10%.
- ★ For Q4 FY25, Yes Bank's standalone net profit rose by 63% to ₹738 crore.

RBI Unveils Microsite Showcasing Banknote Design and Security Elements

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a new microsite on Indian currency to educate the public about banknotes in an engaging and interactive
- ★ The microsite is accessible at <https://indiancurrency.rbi.org.in> and serves as a one-stop destination for reliable information on banknotes.
- ★ It provides detailed insights into the design and security features of banknotes, including a 360-degree view to help differentiate genuine notes from counterfeit notes.

- ★ The platform uses multimedia tools like videos, audio guides, animations, and interactive games to make learning engaging for all age groups.
- ★ A special section explains procedures for exchange of banknotes, covering old, damaged, or withdrawn notes at banks and RBI counters.
- ★ This initiative strengthens public awareness, financial literacy, and trust in the Indian currency system.
- ★ It is designed to be a valuable resource for students, educators, and the general public.

Canara HSBC Life Insurance Gets SEBI Nod for Upcoming Initial Public Offering Launch

- ★ Canara Bank subsidiary Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company has received an observation letter from Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to launch its Initial Public Offering (IPO) and file its Updated Red Herring Prospectus (UDRHP).
- ★ Canara HSBC Life Insurance is a private life insurance company, with HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings Limited as another promoter.
- ★ The company was incorporated in 2007 and has grown into a prominent bank-led private player in the Indian life insurance sector.
- ★ It ranks second among public sector bank-led life insurers in India based on the number of lives covered in Fiscal 2024.
- ★ Canara HSBC Life Insurance is a three-way venture promoted by Canara Bank, HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings (part of the HSBC Group), and Punjab National Bank (PNB).

Reserve Bank of India Fines PhonePe

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹21 lakh on PhonePe, a fintech company, for non-compliance with certain Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) norms.
- ★ A Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) allows customers to load funds first and spend from the balance instead of directly using their bank account.
- ★ The penalty was based on a statutory inspection of PhonePe's operations conducted between October 2023 and December 2024.
- ★ PhonePe, owned by Walmart, is preparing for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) later in 2025.
- ★ The IPO will be managed by Kotak Mahindra Capital, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, and Morgan Stanley.

SEBI Reintroduces B-30 Incentives for Mutual Funds, Caps Payout at ₹2,000

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced the reintroduction of incentives for mutual fund (MF) distributors to enhance MF penetration in smaller towns and villages.
- ★ Fund houses can now incentivise distributors for bringing in new investors from beyond the top 30 cities (B-30 regions).
- ★ For lumpsum investments, the incentive will be 1% of the first investment made by the investor.

- ★ For Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) investors, the incentive will be 1% of total investments in the first year, subject to a ceiling of ₹2,000.
- ★ The incentive framework will also cover distributors bringing in first-time women investors from top cities.
- ★ This new framework replaces the earlier incentive structure, which was valid until March 2023.
- ★ Under the previous system, MFs could charge up to 30 basis points (bps) over and above the expense ratio if a portion of their assets came from B-30 regions.

NPCI Raises Unified Payments Interface Merchant Transaction Limit

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has revised the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) limits for Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions, effective 15 September 2025.
- ★ Users can now make UPI merchant transactions up to ₹10 lakh per day in selected verified categories.
- ★ The UPI limit for Person-to-Person (P2P) transfers remains unchanged at ₹1 lakh per day.
- ★ The single transaction limit for P2M transactions has been raised to ₹5 lakh in specified categories.
- ★ For capital markets and insurance, the per-transaction limit has increased from ₹2 lakh to ₹5 lakh, with a maximum of ₹10 lakh per day.
- ★ On the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), including tax payments and earnest money deposits, the limit has been raised from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per transaction.
- ★ Credit card bill payments can now be made up to ₹5 lakh per transaction, with a daily cap of ₹6 lakh.
- ★ UPI accounts for 85% of all digital transactions in India, highlighting its dominance in the digital payments ecosystem.

SEBI Unveils SWAGAT-FI Framework

- ★ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched a new framework called SWAGAT-FI (Simplified Wrapper Framework for Facilitating Access to GIFT-IFSC for Foreign Investors) on 16 September 2025.
- ★ The initiative aims to make India a more attractive investment destination by easing entry for low-risk foreign investors such as sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and long-term institutional investors.
- ★ Under SWAGAT-FI, eligible foreign investors can register for a 10-year period instead of the earlier 3-year cycle, ensuring long-term stability and reduced administrative burden.
- ★ A digital portal has been introduced to enable faster onboarding, cutting processing time from months to about a week.
- ★ Investors can operate with a single demat account, simplifying investment management across instruments.
- ★ The framework is integrated with the GIFT City IFSC ecosystem, enhancing global investor convenience.

- ★ SWAGAT-FI also improves disclosure and transparency standards for IPOs and market data, ensuring a predictable and regulated environment.
- ★ The policy aims to attract “patient capital” (long-term investments), thereby reducing market volatility and strengthening the depth and resilience of Indian capital markets.
- ★ By simplifying processes, India seeks to compete with global hubs like Singapore, Dubai, and London in attracting foreign institutional investment (FII).

NPCI Seeks Approval For UPI Cash Withdrawals Up To ₹10,000

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to permit cash withdrawals via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at over 2 million Business Correspondent (BC) outlets across India.
- ★ At present, UPI cash withdrawals are available only at select ATMs/merchants, with a cap of ₹1,000 in cities/towns and ₹2,000 in rural areas.
- ★ Under the new proposal, Business Correspondents (BCs) will be allowed to disburse up to ₹10,000 per transaction.
- ★ Business Correspondents are local agents (such as shopkeepers, NGOs, or individuals) who provide basic banking services in areas with limited branch and ATM presence.
- ★ BCs can be shopkeepers, non-profits, or even individuals.
- ★ UPI contributes 85% of India’s digital payments and accounts for nearly half of global real-time digital transactions.
- ★ In July 2025, UPI processed 19.5 billion transactions worth ₹25 trillion, with daily volumes peaking at 707 million on 2 August 2025.
- ★ The proposal for BC-enabled UPI withdrawals is still under RBI review and remains at the planning stage.

RBI Issues New Guidelines For Payment Aggregators And Standards For Payment Gateways

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued regulatory guidelines for Payment Aggregators (PAs) and baseline technology standards for Payment Gateways (PGs) to enhance safety, transparency, and resilience in digital payments.
- ★ Payment Aggregators (PAs), being entities that handle funds, will be directly regulated, while Payment Gateways (PGs) as technology providers are encouraged to voluntarily follow RBI’s security recommendations.
- ★ Non-bank PAs must obtain RBI authorisation under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, be incorporated in India, and maintain a minimum net worth of ₹15 crore at application, to be increased to ₹25 crore by the third financial year, and maintained thereafter.
- ★ PAs must be professionally managed and comply with fit and proper criteria for promoters and directors, with any change in management reported to RBI within 15 days.
- ★ Customer funds collected by PAs must be kept in an escrow account with a scheduled commercial bank.

- ★ Banks are exempt from RBI authorisation to act as PAs, but non-bank entities must apply via RBI's online portal, while entities regulated by other financial regulators must provide a No Objection Certificate (NOC) within 45 days.
- ★ PAs are barred from using ATM PIN as an authentication factor for card-not-present transactions. They cannot place transaction limits on payment modes or engage in marketplace business.
- ★ A PA holding a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) from RBI and already operating as PA-P must inform RBI for issuance of a revised CoA.

SMFG India Credit Partners with PhonePe

- ★ Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) firm SMFG India Credit (SMICC) has partnered with PhonePe to provide collateral-free credit to merchants.
- ★ The partnership will offer Merchant Cash Advance (MCA) loans to registered merchants on the PhonePe platform.
- ★ The scheme primarily targets merchants in Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns, supporting small businesses in semi-urban and rural India.
- ★ The collaboration helps SMFG India Credit (SMICC) strengthen its role as a leading lender in the MCA space.

Paytm Rolls Out UPI Credit Line 'Paytm Postpaid' In Collaboration With Suryoday Small Finance Bank

- ★ Paytm has launched a credit line on UPI called Paytm Postpaid, in partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank.
- ★ The facility offers short-term, interest-free credit for up to 30 days, repayable the following month.
- ★ Users can use Paytm Postpaid for online shopping, UPI-based payments, bill payments, recharges, and bookings on the Paytm app.
- ★ The initiative is powered by NPCI and leverages Paytm's UPI payment infrastructure.

Reserve Bank Of India Gives Phonepe Final Nod To Function As A Payment Aggregator

- ★ PhonePe, a fintech major, has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator.
- ★ The approval came over two years after PhonePe first received in-principle clearance from RBI.
- ★ A Payment Aggregator (PA), also known as a merchant aggregator, is a third-party service provider that enables merchants to accept payments from customers by integrating payment services into their websites or apps.
- ★ A Payment Aggregator in India is incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ★ In 2025, other companies that received the payment aggregator licence include Pine Labs Online, Easebuzz, BharatPe, and PayU, among others.
- ★ With this approval, PhonePe joins a list of over 50 firms that have obtained a full RBI licence as payment aggregators.

- ★ PhonePe has 650 million registered users and a digital payments acceptance network across 45 million merchants.
- ★ The company processes more than 360 million transactions daily, with an annualised total payment value (TPV) exceeding ₹150 trillion.

Bima Sugam India Federation Launches Official Website Of IRDAI-Backed Electronic Insurance Marketplace Bima Sugam

- ★ The Bima Sugam India Federation (BSIF) has launched Bima Sugam, envisioned as the world's largest integrated online insurance marketplace.
- ★ Bima Sugam is a unified digital marketplace for life, health, motor, travel, property, agricultural, and general insurance products, where users can buy, renew, manage, and claim policies on a single platform.
- ★ The platform will securely store policy documents and function similar to UPI, creating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for insurance.
- ★ It will cover life insurance products, including term plans, savings products, annuity and pension plans, and ULIPs.
- ★ Bima Sugam is part of IRDAI's Bima Trinity initiative—Bima Vistaar, Bima Vahak, and Bima Sugam. It is launched to enhance insurance penetration by focusing on availability, affordability, and accessibility.
- ★ The initiative is backed by the Life Insurance Council and the General Insurance Council (GIC).
- ★ Ajay Seth, Chairman of IRDAI, unveiled the website and emphasized security, compliance, and phased rollout of services.
- ★ The phased rollout will start as an information hub and later enable real-time transactions, renewals, and claims once insurer integrations are completed.
- ★ The objective of Bima Sugam is to empower policyholders, deepen insurance penetration, ensure transparency, reduce friction in policy servicing, and lower costs.

Government clears UCO Bank to handle Trade Payments for Nayara Energy

- ★ UCO Bank has received government approval to handle trade payments for Nayara Energy Limited., nearly two months after the company was sanctioned by the EU in July 2025.
- ★ Nayara Energy, which is 49% owned by Russia's Rosneft, faced reduced operations and diversion of ships due to the EU sanctions.
- ★ UCO Bank, with limited offshore presence and past experience in facilitating Iran oil trades, was directed to lead Nayara's transactions.
- ★ SBI and other large lenders halted Nayara's trade and FX transactions due to caution over Western sanctions.
- ★ Nayara Energy contributes around 8% of India's refining capacity and 7% of its retail-fuel network, highlighting its strategic importance.
- ★ Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund To Merge Banking and PSU Bond Fund Into Short Duration Fund.

- ★ Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund has announced the merger of two debt funds – Banking and PSU Bond Fund (merging scheme) with Short Duration Fund (surviving scheme).
- ★ The merger will be effective from October 17, 2025.
- ★ The merger is considered a change in fundamental attributes under Regulation 18(15A) of SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations, 1996.
- ★ SEBI has given a no-objection for the merger of the merging scheme into the surviving scheme.
- ★ Unitholders are given 30 days' notice (from September 17 to October 16, 2025) with an option to exit without exit load during this period.

India, Asian Development Bank Ink \$125 Million Loan Pact To Boost Urban Infrastructure And Resilience In Assam

- ★ The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125 million loan agreement for the Assam Urban Sector Development Project.
- ★ The project will benefit 360,000 residents of Assam by ensuring continuous metered water supply and upgraded stormwater management systems.
- ★ Six district headquarters (Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhubri, Goalpara, Golaghat, Nalbari) will get six water treatment plants with a combined 72 MLD capacity and 800 km of distribution pipelines.
- ★ A real-time monitoring system will be deployed to keep non-revenue water below 20%.
- ★ In Guwahati, stormwater management in the Bahini Basin will be improved through flood diversion channels, upgraded drainage, and a nature-based retention pond.
- ★ The project will establish the Assam State Institute for Urban Development in collaboration with IIT Guwahati.
- ★ Urban governance reforms include a GIS-based property tax database, digital water billing systems, and a volumetric water tariff structure for financial sustainability.

RBI Permits Standalone Primary Dealers To Trade In Indian Rupee Non-Deliverable Derivatives

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs) to participate in non-deliverable derivative contracts (NDDCs) involving the Indian rupee.
- ★ Earlier, only Authorised Dealer Category-I (AD Cat-I) banks and International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Units could transact in such instruments with users, other AD Cat-I banks, and overseas banks.
- ★ With the amendment to the Master Direction on Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings, SPDs can now offer NDDCs to both residents and non-residents.
- ★ Non-deliverable Rupee derivative contracts (NDDCs) are financial instruments like forwards, options, and swaps, where settlement occurs in a freely convertible foreign currency (e.g., USD) rather than in Indian Rupees.
- ★ NDDCs are important for hedging against Rupee volatility, especially for entities unable to access onshore markets directly.

- ★ The directions are issued under Section 45W of the RBI Act, 1934 and Sections 10(4), 11(1), and 11(2) of FEMA, 1999.

UIDAI Launches New Aadhaar Authentication Framework

- ★ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a new Aadhaar-based authentication framework to strengthen the role of co-operative banks in digital and financial inclusion.
- ★ The initiative was launched as part of the International Year of Cooperatives and aims to simplify Aadhaar adoption for 380 co-operative banks nationwide.
- ★ The framework was developed after consultations with the Ministry of Cooperation, NABARD, NPCI, and co-operative banks.
- ★ It will cover 34 State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and 352 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) across India.
- ★ Under the new framework, only State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) will be registered with UIDAI as Authentication User Agencies (AUA) and eKYC User Agencies (KUA).
- ★ The initiative was announced under the leadership of UIDAI CEO Bhuvnesh Kumar.

RBI Revokes Registration of Datta Finance and Trading Private Limited Over Irregular Lending Practices

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) of New Delhi-based Datta Finance and Trading Private Limited due to irregular lending practices.
- ★ The RBI cancelled the CoR as the NBFC violated guidelines on code of conduct in outsourcing of financial services in its digital lending operations.
- ★ The company was associated with KinCash app and DoLoan app (operated by Zest Top One Technology Pvt Ltd) and its in-house ZestCash app as service providers.
- ★ After the cancellation of the CoR, the company shall no longer transact the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution (NBFI).

Jio Payments Bank Launches 'Savings Pro'

- ★ Jio Payments Bank Limited, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services Limited, has launched an industry-first facility 'Savings Pro' to provide higher returns on surplus funds in savings accounts.
- ★ Customers can set a threshold starting from ₹5,000, and any balance above this threshold is automatically invested in Overnight Mutual Funds with low risk.
- ★ The expected returns are up to 6.5% per annum, higher than normal savings account interest rates.
- ★ The daily investment limit is ₹1,50,000 per customer, ensuring flexibility for account holders.
- ★ Customers can get instant redemption of up to 90% of investments (maximum ₹50,000), while the remaining balance is redeemable within 1–2 working days.

- ★ The feature has no entry or exit loads, no hidden charges, and no lock-in period, providing complete transparency.
- ★ The entire process is fully digital through the JioFinance app, where customers can track returns, modify thresholds, and view eligible mutual funds.
- ★ The product leverages annualized 2-year returns data of Overnight Mutual Funds to maximize returns on idle balances.

Indigo And SBI Card Unveil Co-Branded Premium Credit Card For Customers

- ★ IndiGo launched a co-branded premium credit card in collaboration with SBI Card on September 25, 2025.
- ★ The card is available in two variants – IndiGo SBI Card and IndiGo SBI Card ELITE – under the IndiGo BluChip loyalty program.
- ★ Cardholders can earn rewards on spends within IndiGo's ecosystem, as well as on hotel and travel bookings and other categories.
- ★ The card will bring value, convenience, and benefits to frequent flyers by turning everyday spending into rewarding travel experiences.

VinFast Auto India Inks MoU with Central Bank of India

- ★ VinFast Auto India, a subsidiary of global EV manufacturer VinFast, signed an memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Central Bank of India (CBI) to provide retail car financing through its exclusive dealer network.
- ★ The collaboration will make EV ownership more accessible by offering attractive interest rates, flexible repayment plans, zero processing charges, exclusive offers, and priority services.
- ★ Dedicated CBI representatives will be present at VinFast showrooms to provide on-site support for prospective buyers.
- ★ CBI's network of 4,552 branches and 21,000+ touchpoints will extend VinFast's reach to both metropolitan hubs and emerging markets.
- ★ This initiative supports VinFast's vision to accelerate adoption of sustainable mobility in India, a fast-growing EV market globally.
- ★ The MoU comes ahead of VinFast's VF 6 and VF 7 model launches in India and the inauguration of its EV assembly plant in Tamil Nadu.
- ★ VinFast (NASDAQ: VFS) is a subsidiary of Vingroup JSC, producing EVs, e-scooters, and e-buses, with expansion in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Nine EU Banks Collaborate To Introduce Mica-Compliant Euro Stablecoin

- ★ Nine European Banks, including ING, Banca Sella, KBC, Danske Bank, UniCredit, CaixaBank, and SEB, are collaborating to launch a Euro-backed stablecoin.
- ★ The initiative aims to provide an EU-native alternative to US Dollar-backed stablecoins.
- ★ A Netherlands-based entity has been created to oversee the project, seeking a Dutch Central Bank e-money institution license.

- ★ The stablecoin will be MiCA-compliant (Markets in Crypto-Assets regulation), with a target launch in the second half of 2026.
- ★ The consortium plans to appoint a CEO for the new company and expand by adding more banking partners.
- ★ EU regulations on crypto have tightened since MiCA 2023, especially for stablecoin transactions.
- ★ The move follows the GENIUS Act in the US (July 2025), which accelerated the EU's plans for a digital Euro.
- ★ Currently, USDC dominates the EU stablecoin market, while USDT faced delistings due to non-compliance with EU rules.
- ★ The new Euro-backed stablecoin aims to level the playing field against USD stablecoins, ensuring a fully compliant digital currency option in Europe.

Reserve Bank of India Issues Revised Guidelines for Settlement of Claims of Deceased Bank Customers

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised norms for settlement of claims on deceased customers' accounts and lockers, requiring settlement within 15 calendar days.
- ★ The revised rules are titled "Reserve Bank of India (Settlement of Claims in respect of Deceased Customers of Banks) Directions, 2025" and must be implemented no later than March 31, 2026.
- ★ The directions cover deposit accounts, safe deposit lockers, and articles in safe custody of deceased customers.
- ★ In nominated accounts or accounts with survivorship clauses, payment to nominee(s)/survivor(s) shall be treated as a valid discharge of the bank's liability.
- ★ For accounts without nominee/survivorship clause, banks must follow a simplified procedure if the aggregate claim is below the threshold limit.
- ★ The threshold limit is ₹5 lakh for co-operative banks and ₹15 lakh for other banks (or higher if fixed by the bank).
- ★ If the claim is above the threshold limit, banks may seek additional documents such as a succession certificate or legal heir certificate.
- ★ For safe deposit lockers/articles in safe custody, banks must process claims and fix a date for inventory within 15 calendar days of receiving documents.
- ★ If claims are not settled within 15 days, banks must communicate reasons for delay to claimants.
- ★ **Compensation norms:**
 - For deposit accounts: Bank must pay interest at Bank Rate + 4% per annum on delayed settlement.
 - For lockers/articles: Bank must pay ₹5,000 per day of delay beyond the stipulated timeline.

New Development Bank to Launch Debut Rupee Bond in India

- ★ The New Development Bank (NDB), backed by BRICS countries, plans to issue its first Indian rupee-denominated bond in the domestic market before March 2026.
- ★ NDB aims to raise \$400–500 million through 3–5 year bonds in the first tranche.

- ★ The bond issuance is in advanced discussions with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with final approvals pending.
- ★ NDB had earlier planned a rupee bond issue two years ago, but it was delayed due to lack of approvals from the Government and RBI.
- ★ NDB has previously raised funds in Chinese yuan and South African rand, but this is its debut rupee issuance.
- ★ The move aligns with China and India's push for greater international acceptance of their currencies and supports the de-dollarisation trend.
- ★ The onshore Indian bond market has greater depth and will help in better price discovery and liquidity diversification.
- ★ Multilateral agencies like the World Bank's IFC have earlier issued rupee-denominated bonds, attracting strong investor interest.
- ★ NDB's five-year strategy (2022–26) targets 30% of total financing in national currencies of member countries.
- ★ The issuance supports rupee internationalisation, despite the recent weakness in the rupee due to US trade and tariff pressures.

Government Of India Floating Rate Bond 2033 Sets Interest Rate At 6.82%

- ★ The rate of interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2033 (GOI FRB 2033) for the period September 22, 2025 to March 21, 2026 is 6.82% per annum.
- ★ GOI FRB 2033 carries a coupon linked to the average of the Weighted Average Yield (WAY) of the last three auctions (from the rate fixing day).
- ★ Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) are RBI-issued bonds with a dynamic interest rate that changes every six months.
- ★ The interest rate on FRB 2033 is 0.35% higher than the current rate on National Savings Certificates (NSC).
- ★ These bonds have a lock-in period of seven years.
- ★ The minimum investment in FRBs is ₹1,000, and investments can be made in multiples of ₹1,000.
- ★ The new interest rate on FRBs is announced every July and January.

ECONOMY

Fitch Raises India's FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 6.9% on Strong Domestic Demand

- ★ Fitch Ratings has upgraded India's GDP growth outlook for FY26 to 6.9% (earlier 6.5%), citing strong domestic demand and robust consumer spending.
- ★ The government's announced GST reform is expected to boost consumer spending, while the RBI is projected to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points by the end of 2025, and then raise rates again in 2027.

- ★ Inflation is expected to average 3.2% by end-2025 and 4.1% by end-2026.
- ★ India's Q1 FY26 GDP grew 7.8%, a five-quarter high, surpassing the RBI's forecast of 6.5%.
- ★ The services sector grew by 9.3%, while manufacturing (7.7%) and construction (7.6%) also posted strong growth.
- ★ Risks flagged include rising trade tensions with the US, after a 50% tariff on Indian imports in August 2025, which could weigh on investment sentiment.
- ★ For the medium term, GDP growth is projected at 6.3% in FY27 and 6.2% in FY28, with domestic demand as the main driver but with weaker momentum compared to early FY26.

India's Sovereign Credit Rating Raised to BBB+ (Stable) by Japan's Rating and Investment Agency

- ★ The Government of India welcomed the decision by Japanese credit rating agency Rating and Investment Information (R&I) to upgrade India's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'BBB+' from 'BBB', with a "Stable" Outlook.
- ★ This marks the third sovereign credit rating upgrade in 2025, following S&P's upgrade to 'BBB' (from BBB-) in August 2025 and Morningstar DBRS' upgrade to 'BBB' (from BBB (low)) in May 2025.
- ★ R&I's India sovereign rating review (Sept 19, 2025) cites support for India's position as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, driven by demographic dividend, robust domestic demand, and sound government policies.
- ★ R&I recognised progress in fiscal consolidation, supported by buoyant tax revenues, rationalisation of subsidies, and manageable debt levels along with high growth.
- ★ The report also highlighted strengthened external stability, reflected in modest current account deficit, stable surpluses in services and remittances, low external debt-to-GDP ratio, and sufficient forex reserves.

AGREEMENTS & MoUs

Indian Railways and State Bank of India Sign MoU

- ★ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Indian Railways (IR), one of the largest rail networks in the world, and the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank.
- ★ Under the MoU, insurance coverage for Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with SBI has been significantly enhanced.
- ★ In case of accidental death, the insurance benefit has been raised to ₹1 crore, compared to the current ₹1.20 lakh, ₹60,000, and ₹30,000 for Group A, Group B, and Group C employees respectively covered under the Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS).

- ★ All Railway employees holding only a salary account with State Bank of India (SBI) will now be eligible for natural death insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh, without premium payment or medical examination.
- ★ Nearly 7 lakh Railway employees maintaining salary accounts with State Bank of India (SBI) will benefit from this agreement, reflecting a major welfare initiative for railway staff.
- ★ Complimentary insurance covers under the MoU include:
 - Air Accident Insurance (Death) Cover of ₹1.60 crore plus an additional up to ₹1.00 crore on RuPay Debit Card.
 - Personal Accident (Permanent Total Disablement) Cover of ₹1.00 crore.
 - Personal Accident (Permanent Partial Disability) Cover of up to ₹80 lakh.
- ★ The agreement is employee-centric and compassionate, designed to bring exclusive benefits to frontline railway personnel, especially those in Group C and other categories.

Department of Posts Signs MoU with ESRI India

- ★ The Department of Posts (DoP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) India Technologies Private Limited, a leading Geographic Information System (GIS) software and solutions provider.
- ★ Under this MoU, the Department of Posts will use ESRI India's high-resolution imagery and street basemaps for its Digital Pincode (DIGIPIN) portal.
- ★ The collaboration will enable the integration of the Digital Pincode (DIGIPIN) with ESRI India's Living Atlas portal, making it accessible to the wider Geographic Information System (GIS) community.
- ★ Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) India will provide technical support to the Department of Posts for seamless integration of its services with the Digital Pincode (DIGIPIN).
- ★ The partnership aims to make the Digital Pincode (DIGIPIN) system more robust, accurate, and citizen-friendly, thereby supporting efficient service delivery.
- ★ The MoU was signed at Dak Bhawan, New Delhi, by designated representatives of the Department of Posts and Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) India.
- ★ This MoU represents a major step towards ground-level implementation of the Digital Pincode (DIGIPIN) initiative by integrating the Department of Posts' nationwide postal network with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) India's mapping capabilities.

DEFENCE

700+ Armed Forces Personnel Set to Join 'Exercise Bright Star 2025'

- ★ Exercise BRIGHT STAR 2025 is a multilateral military exercise taking place from August 28 to September 10, 2025.
- ★ More than 700 personnel from the Indian Armed Forces and Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff are participating.

- ★ It is a tri-service exercise involving the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force, which will conduct live-firing exercises and Command Post Exercises to improve joint operations.
- ★ The exercise is biennial and has been hosted by Egypt in conjunction with the United States since 1980.
- ★ It is considered one of the largest multilateral exercises in the region.
- ★ India's participation highlights its commitment to regional peace and enhances interoperability and co-operation with other nations.
- ★ The exercise is biennial, with the last edition held in 2023.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth Launches MILMEDICON-2025

- ★ Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth inaugurated MILMEDICON-2025 on August 28, 2025, at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- ★ It was organised by DGMS (Army), the conference focuses on innovations, challenges and reforms in military medicine.
- ★ The conference's theme is "International Conference on Physical and Mental Trauma in Military Settings", and it was organized by the Directorate General of Medical Services (Army).
- ★ The two-day conference focuses on innovations, challenges, and reforms in military medicine, aligning with the Indian Army's Year of Reforms.
- ★ MILMEDICON-2025 also commemorates the Centenary (100 years) of the Military Nursing Service, celebrating Nari Shakti in combat medical care.
- ★ Key topics of discussion include Advanced Combat Trauma Care, AI integration in Military Healthcare, Emergency and Battlefield Medical Response, and Women in Combat and Leadership Roles.
- ★ The conference saw participation from over 15 foreign countries, along with the Indian Armed Forces, international delegations, civilian healthcare experts, and academia.

India and Thailand To Hold 14th Edition Of Exercise Maitree At Umroi

- ★ The 14th edition of Exercise Maitree, a bilateral military exercise between India and Thailand, is scheduled to take place at Umroi, Meghalaya, from September 1 to 14, 2025.
- ★ The main objective is to enhance operational skills for both armies in conducting joint counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban areas.
- ★ The exercise will focus on developing tactical and technical skills for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorist operations under a UN mandate, covering both rural and urban environments.
- ★ The 13th edition of Exercise Maitree was held in Tak Province, Thailand, from 1st to 15th July 2024 with each country deploying 76 soldiers.
- ★ India's representation was the Ladakh Scouts, while Thailand's was the 1st Battalion of the 14th Infantry Regiment.

Indian Army Holds First-Ever Exercise Aarogya Setu In Assam's Tinsukia District

- ★ The Indian Army organized the maiden Exercise Aarogya Setu at Rupai, Doomdooma, Tinsukia district, Assam.
- ★ This was the first-ever civil-military medical fusion exercise in the region.
- ★ The exercise aimed to strengthen co-operation between the Army Medical Corps, senior civil doctors from reputed hospitals, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of Tinsukia, and the Northern Frontier Railway Hospital, Tinsukia.
- ★ A key highlight was the introduction of the train ambulance concept by a doctor from the Northern Frontier Railway Hospital, showcasing a life-saving facility.

Indian Navy's INS Kadmatt Arrives In Port Moresby For Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Day Celebrations

- ★ INS Kadmatt (ASW Corvette) of the Indian Navy has arrived at Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea (PNG), to participate in the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations.
- ★ The visit includes participation in the Independence Day Parade and cultural events, highlighting the shared democratic values and heritage of both nations.
- ★ The PNG Chief of Defence Forces will be hosted aboard INS Kadmatt to showcase the Indian Navy's 'Aatma Nirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence.
- ★ This visit reinforces the India-Papua New Guinea maritime partnership and promotes 'Bridges of Friendship' through naval diplomacy.

Indian Army Troops Leave for India-US Joint Military Drill Yudh Abhyas 2025

- ★ An Indian Army contingent has departed for Fort Wainwright, Alaska, United States of America (USA), to participate in the 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025, which is scheduled from September 1 to 14, 2025.
- ★ The Indian contingent includes personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment.
- ★ They will train alongside the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment "Bobcats", which is part of the Arctic Wolves Brigade Combat Team, 11th Airborne Division (USA).
- ★ Training will cover a wide range of tactical drills, including heliborne operations, employment of surveillance resources, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), rock craft, mountain warfare, casualty evacuation, combat medical aid, and the integrated use of Artillery, Aviation, and Electronic Warfare systems.
- ★ Subject-matter experts from both armies will lead working groups on critical domains such as UAS & Counter-UAS operations, information warfare, communications, and logistics.
- ★ The exercise will culminate in jointly planned tactical maneuvers, including live-fire drills and high-altitude warfare scenarios.
- ★ The primary focus is on enhancing UN peacekeeping capabilities and multi-domain operational preparedness.

Indian Army Conducts Combat Readiness Exercise In Arunachal Pradesh

- ★ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Yudh Kaushal 3.0 in the Kameng region, Arunachal Pradesh, to test preparedness for next-generation warfare in high-altitude Himalayan conditions.
- ★ The exercise, observed by the General Officer Commanding, Gajraj Corps, involved drone surveillance, precision strikes, real-time target acquisition, air-littoral operations, and synchronized battlefield tactics.
- ★ A key highlight was the operational debut of ASHNI platoons, which integrate advanced technology with traditional combat skills for a battlefield advantage.
- ★ The exercise showcased the active participation of the Indian defence industry, reinforcing the vision of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliance) in defence.
- ★ Yudh Kaushal 3.0 validated combat effectiveness in harsh terrain and highlighted the Army's shift towards multi-domain operations and the use of emerging technologies.

14th Edition of India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XIV

- ★ The 14th edition of Exercise MAITREE-XIV between India and Thailand commenced on September 1, 2025, at Joint Training Node (JTN), Umroi, Meghalaya, and will conclude on September 14, 2025.
- ★ The exercise is a component of the military-to-military exchange program aimed at enhancing co-operation, interoperability, and mutual understanding between the Indian Army and the Royal Thai Army.
- ★ The Indian Army contingent consists of 120 personnel from a Battalion of the Madras Regiment.
- ★ The Royal Thai Army contingent is represented by 53 personnel from the 1st Infantry Battalion, 14th Infantry Brigade.
- ★ The primary focus is on company-level counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain as outlined under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- ★ The activities include tactical drills, joint planning, special arms skills, physical fitness, raiding operations, and a culminating 48-hour validation exercise that simulates realistic operational scenarios.
- ★ Exercise MAITREE was first instituted in 2006 and is one of the key bilateral defence co-operation exercises between the two countries.
- ★ This current edition emphasizes the shared commitment to peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

INS Trikand Docks at Alexandria, Egypt

- ★ INS Trikand, an Indian Naval stealth frigate, called at Alexandria, Egypt on September 1, 2025, during its deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.
- ★ The ship will participate in Exercise Bright Star 2025, which is being hosted by Egypt from September 1 to 10, 2025.
- ★ Bright Star 2025 is a multilateral exercise conducted under the US Central Command, covering air, land, and sea domains to strengthen regional security and co-operation.

- ★ Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingents will also participate in the exercise, making it a tri-service event for India.
- ★ Apart from India, USA, and Egypt, other participating countries include Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Greece, Cyprus, and Italy.

DRDO Develops Naval Flare for Kalvari-Class Submarines

- ★ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed a naval flare for Kalvari-class submarines of the Indian Navy, aimed at strengthening underwater warfare capabilities.
- ★ The naval flare has been developed by the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), a DRDO lab engaged in basic and applied research in high-energy materials.
- ★ The developed system, named the Signal Star Naval Flare, is a specially designed underwater signaling device to meet the demanding operational needs of submarines.
- ★ This development will enhance the operational readiness of the Indian Navy and boost indigenous defence capabilities.

Indian Armed Forces Leave for Multilateral Exercise ZAPAD 2025 In Russia

- ★ An Indian Armed Forces contingent of 65 personnel departed for the Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, Russia to participate in Exercise ZAPAD 2025 from September 10–16, 2025.
- ★ The contingent includes 57 Indian Army personnel, 7 Indian Air Force personnel, and 1 Indian Navy personnel.
- ★ The Indian Army contingent is led by a battalion of the KUMAON Regiment, along with troops from other arms and services.
- ★ Exercise ZAPAD 2025 is a multilateral joint military exercise aimed at enhancing military co-operation, interoperability, and sharing of tactics, techniques, and procedures in conventional warfare and counter-terrorism operations.
- ★ The exercise will focus on joint company-level operations in open and plain terrain, including joint planning, tactical drills, and special arms skills.
- ★ The exercise will provide opportunities to hone joint operational capabilities, integrate emerging technologies, and operate in a multinational combat environment.
- ★ Participation will strengthen India–Russia defence co-operation and promote camaraderie, collaboration, and mutual trust.

India Launches First Indigenous Medium Altitude Long Endurance Autonomous Combat Aircraft in Bengaluru

- ★ India unveiled its first indigenous MALE (Medium Altitude Long Endurance) Autonomous Combat Aircraft in Bengaluru under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- ★ The AI-powered platform 'FWD Kaal Bhairava' marks a major milestone in self-reliance in military technology.
- ★ FWD Kaal Bhairava, developed by Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace (FWDA), has received a \$30 million export order, showcasing global confidence in India's defense capabilities.

- ★ The drone is capable of 30-hour continuous flight with a 3,000 km operational range, making it suitable for long-range surveillance, precision strikes, and swarm warfare.
- ★ The combat drone is fully designed and manufactured in India, reinforcing indigenous defense production.

India Joins 4th Coast Guard Global Summit in Rome

- ★ The 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) was held in Rome, Italy from September 11–12, 2025, with participation from 115 countries and international organizations.
- ★ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) reaffirmed India's commitment to global maritime governance and showcased its role as a partner in ensuring safer, cleaner, and secure seas.
- ★ The Indian delegation, led by Director General ICG Paramesh Sivamani, delivered a lecture titled "Guardians Against the Blaze: ICG's Tactical Response to Fire Emergencies."
- ★ The ICG announced its intent to bid for the Presidency of the 5th CGGS, planned to be hosted in India in 2027.
- ★ The summit was co-chaired by Italy and Japan, and it focused on Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, Pollution Response, Natural Disasters, Maritime Accidents, and Maritime Security.
- ★ Key discussions included countering transnational maritime crimes, using advanced technologies, promoting capacity building, and strengthening inter-regional and international co-operation.
- ★ The CGGS was first convened in 2017 by the Japan Coast Guard and Nippon Foundation as a platform for dialogue and confidence-building.
- ★ Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni (Italy) and Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba (Japan, virtually) highlighted the importance of Coast Guard collaboration in Marine Pollution Response, Maritime Search and Rescue, and Law Enforcement.

INS Trikanth, Indian Navy Stealth Frigate, Arrives at Salamis Bay, Greece During Mediterranean Deployment

- ★ INS Trikanth, a stealth frigate of the Indian Navy, called at Salamis Bay, Greece on 13 September 2025 during its deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.
- ★ The visit includes the maiden bilateral maritime exercise between India and Greece, aimed at enhancing interoperability, refining tactical skills, and strengthening operational synergy.
- ★ During the port call, activities include interactions with senior military officials, planning discussions, cross deck visits, and cultural exchanges to boost bilateral and multilateral co-operation and people-to-people connect.
- ★ The visit will be followed by the sea phase of the exercise.
- ★ After completion of the bilateral exercise, INS Trikanth will proceed to the next phase of deployment in the region.

Indian Navy Launches Third Diving Support Craft 'DSC A 22' in Kolkata

- ★ The Indian Navy launched 'DSC A 22', the third ship of the 05 x Diving Support Craft (DSC) project, on 12 September 2025 at Titagarh, Kolkata (West Bengal).
- ★ The DSC project is being built by M/s Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL), Kolkata for the Indian Navy.
- ★ The contract for building 05 × DSCs was signed between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and TRSL on 12 February 2021.
- ★ These DSC ships are designed to undertake diving operations in coastal waters and are fitted with state-of-the-art diving equipment.
- ★ The ships are catamaran hull vessels with a displacement of approximately 380 tons.
- ★ They are indigenously designed and built under the Naval Rules and Regulations of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- ★ Hydrodynamic analysis/model testing was carried out at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam during the design stage.
- ★ The DSC ships are flag bearers of the Make in India initiative of the Government of India (GoI)/Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Indian Navy Receives 'Androth'

- ★ 'Androth', the second of eight ASW SWCs (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 13 Sept 2025 by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ★ The ASW SWC ships are indigenously designed and constructed as per the Classification Rules of Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).
- ★ These ships strengthen the Navy's anti-submarine warfare, coastal surveillance, and mine-laying capabilities.
- ★ The name 'Androth' is derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago, symbolizing India's commitment to maritime security.
- ★ The ships are approx 77 m long and are the largest Indian Naval warships powered by a Diesel Engine–Waterjet combination.
- ★ It is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, indigenous ASW rockets, and advanced shallow water SONAR, enabling effective submarine detection and engagement in littoral waters.
- ★ Over 80% indigenous content in the ship showcases the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, reducing import dependency and boosting domestic shipbuilding capabilities.

Indian Naval Ship Kadmatt Arrives in Fiji

- ★ Indian Naval Ship Kadmatt, an indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, arrived in Suva, Fiji on 15 Sep 2025, for a goodwill visit as part of her three-month deployment.

- ★ The port call reflects the deep-rooted historical, cultural and people-to-people ties between India and Fiji, and reaffirms India's commitment to strengthen maritime co-operation and bilateral relations.
- ★ During the visit, INS Kadmatt will host senior officials from the Republic of Fiji Navy for professional exchanges.
- ★ The ship's crew will also participate in community outreach programmes, sporting events, and cultural exchanges.
- ★ The visit highlights India's vision of 'MAHASAGAR' (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Region) and underscores the Indian Navy's role as a preferred secured partner in the Indian Ocean Region.

United States, South Korea, and Japan Begin Freedom Edge Joint Military Drill

- ★ On 15 September 2025, the United States, South Korea, and Japan launched the joint air and naval exercise "Freedom Edge" near Jeju Island, South Korea.
- ★ The Freedom Edge exercise is a multi-domain drill covering sea, air, and cyberspace operations.
- ★ The exercise includes ballistic missile and air-defence training, medical evacuation drills, maritime operations, and cyber co-ordination.
- ★ The exercise will continue until 19 September 2025 and is considered the most advanced trilateral exercise yet by the US Indo-Pacific Command.
- ★ North Korea also criticized the overlapping Iron Mace tabletop exercise, which integrates US nuclear assets with South Korea's conventional capabilities.
- ★ The drill holds strategic significance in three areas: countering North Korea's missile and nuclear arsenal, strengthening trilateral security alignment under the Camp David summit commitments, and addressing great power rivalries amid North Korea's growing ties with Russia and China.

Indian Defence Service of Engineers Commemorates 76th Raising Day

- ★ The Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE), a Group 'A' cadre under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), celebrated its 76th Raising Day on 17 September 2025 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.
- ★ Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh was the Chief Guest and Commended IDSE Officers for strengthening national defence preparedness through world-class infrastructure.
- ★ The IDSE was formally established on 17 September 1949, marking a historic milestone in India's defence engineering landscape.
- ★ IDSE Officers are responsible for construction and maintenance of defence infrastructure, including married accommodations, technical and administrative buildings, airfields, hangars, naval jetties, hospitals, and specialised facilities for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and DRDO.

India And Greece Conclude First-Ever Bilateral Naval Exercise

- ★ The maiden bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Hellenic Navy concluded on 18 September 2025 in the Mediterranean Sea.

- ★ The exercise was conducted in two phases: a harbour phase (13–17 September 2025 at Salmis Naval Base) and a sea phase (17–18 September 2025).
- ★ The Indian Navy was represented by the guided missile stealth frigate INS Trikanth.
- ★ During the harbour phase, activities included cross-deck visits, professional interactions, a pre-sail conference, and a cultural exchange showcasing India's traditions.
- ★ The sea phase involved complex drills such as night VBSS operations, replenishment-at-sea, joint Anti-Submarine Warfare, co-ordinated gun firing, and cross-deck helicopter operations.
- ★ The exercise enhanced interoperability, professional rapport, and validated the operational skills of both navies.
- ★ The exercise highlights the growing convergence between India and Greece on maritime security and the freedom of navigation in the global commons.

Border Roads Organisation's Project Vijayak Marks 15th Raising Day in Kargil

- ★ Project Vijayak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 15th Raising Day at Kargil, Ladakh on September 21, 2025, marking expansion of infrastructure projects worth over ₹1,200 crore.
- ★ In 15 years, Project Vijayak has built and maintained more than 1,400 km of roads and 80 major bridges across Ladakh.
- ★ Project Vijayak achieved the record-setting reopening of Zojila Pass in just 31 days of its winter closure in April 2025, an unprecedented high-altitude connectivity feat.
- ★ Project Vijayak was raised in 2010 with the aim of linking remote valleys of Ladakh and fulfilling operational requirements of the Armed Forces.
- ★ The 15th Raising Day celebrations included Sainik Sammelan, cultural programmes, Vijayak Memorial inauguration, bike rally to Drass War Memorial, painting competitions, Pagal Gymkhana, and Barakhana.
- ★ Future plans worth ₹1,200 crore include widening of roads, construction of tunnels and bridges, use of geotextiles, advanced surfacing, slope stabilisation, digital monitoring, and eco-friendly construction practices.
- ★ Project Vijayak is a symbol of resilience and lifeline for Armed Forces and locals in Ladakh, embodying BRO's motto of connectivity in toughest terrains.

Indian Coast Guard Ship Adamya, First Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessel, Commissioned at Paradip Port

- ★ Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Adamya was commissioned at Paradip Port, Odisha.
- ★ ICGS Adamya is the first ship of the Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) in the series of eight.
- ★ The 51-metre FPV has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited with over 60% indigenous content, reflecting Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ★ 'Adamya' means 'indomitable', symbolising ICG's commitment to safe, secure, and clean seas.
- ★ Crew strength includes 5 officers and 34 personnel.

- ★ The vessel displaces 320 tons and is propelled by two 3000 KW diesel engines, attaining a maximum speed of 28 knots with an endurance of 1500 nautical miles.
- ★ ICGS Adamya is the first ship fitted with indigenously developed Controllable Pitch Propellers and gearboxes, providing superior manoeuvrability and operational flexibility.
- ★ Armament includes a 30 mm CRN 91 gun and two 12.7 mm stabilized remote-controlled machine guns supported by fire control systems.

Indian Navy to Commission Second ASW Shallow Water Craft 'Androth' at Visakhapatnam

- ★ The Indian Navy will commission its second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) named Androth at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on 06 October 2025.
- ★ The commissioning ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- ★ Androth is the second of sixteen ASW-SWC ships to be inducted into the Indian Navy.
- ★ The ship has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd., Kolkata, with over 80% indigenous components, showcasing Aatmanirbharta in defence production.
- ★ The vessel was handed over to the Indian Navy on 13 September 2025 under the supervision of the Directorate of Ship Production and the Warship Overseeing Team, Kolkata.
- ★ The name 'Androth' is derived from Androth Island in the Lakshadweep archipelago, symbolizing India's commitment to protecting its maritime territories.
- ★ The previous INS Androth (P69) served the Navy for over 27 years before being decommissioned.

Russia to Finish Supplying S-400 Missile Systems to India by 2026

- ★ India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia in 2018 for five S-400 Triumf (Triumph) air defence systems, and deliveries will be completed in 2026.
- ★ Four S-400 systems have already been delivered, and the fifth system will be delivered next year.
- ★ The deal worth ₹40,000 crore was signed on October 5, 2018, despite the risk of US CAATSA sanctions.
- ★ In March 2021, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin warned India that the S-400 purchase could trigger CAATSA sanctions.
- ★ The US has not yet imposed sanctions under CAATSA, since the deal is not fully completed.
- ★ S-400 air defence missiles were successfully used in Operation Sindoor in May 2025, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ★ During Operation Sindoor (May 7, 2025), India retaliated for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.
- ★ India and Pakistan agreed on May 10, 2025 to end the conflict after four days of drone and missile strikes.

Ministry Of Defence Inks ₹62,370 Crore Contract with HAL

- ★ The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure 97 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at a cost of over ₹62,370 crore (excluding taxes).
- ★ The order includes 68 fighter jets and 29 twin-seaters, along with associated equipment.
- ★ Deliveries of the aircraft will commence in 2027-28 and be completed over a six-year period.
- ★ The Tejas Mk1A has more than 64% indigenous content and incorporates 67 new items compared to the 2021 contract.
- ★ Advanced systems integrated include UTTAM Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Swayam Raksha Kavach, and indigenous control surface actuators, reinforcing Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- ★ The programme is supported by a supply chain of around 105 Indian companies and is expected to generate approximately 11,750 direct and indirect jobs annually.
- ★ The acquisition falls under the 'Buy (India-IDDMM)' category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, highlighting the emphasis on indigenisation and self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- ★ The Tejas Mk1A is the most advanced variant of India's indigenously designed fighter aircraft and will enhance the IAF's operational capability.
- ★ LCA Mk1A is the most advanced variant of indigenously designed and manufactured fighter aircraft, meeting the operational needs of IAF.

Defence Ministry Launches Updated Manual To Simplify Revenue Procurement

- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) 2025, replacing the 2009 manual, to govern revenue procurements (spares, ammunition).
- ★ The manual focuses on self-reliance, innovation, and indigenisation in defence procurement.
- ★ It encourages in-house design and development through collaboration with public/private industries, academia, IITs, IISc, and other institutions, leveraging young talent.
- ★ A 15% upfront growth provision introduced to minimise downtime and maintain advanced naval and aerial platforms.
- ★ For specialised goods with limited suppliers, limited tendering up to ₹50 lakh is permitted, with flexibility in exceptional cases.

RANKS, INDICES & REPORTS

Global Peace Index (GPI) 2025

- ★ The Global Peace Index (GPI) is released annually by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).
- ★ It evaluates 163 countries based on 23 indicators across three categories: Societal safety and security, Ongoing Domestic and International Conflict and Degree of Militarisation.
- ★ Lower GPI scores indicate higher peace levels.

- ★ Iceland topped the global list with a score of 1.095, followed by Ireland (2nd) and New Zealand (3rd).
- ★ Japan (1.440) and Malaysia (1.469) ranked 2nd and 3rd in Asia after Singapore.
- ★ Singapore ranked 6th globally and retained its position as Asia's safest country with a score of 1.357.
- ★ Singapore slipped one spot from 2024 (5th to 6th), but its overall peace score improved (from 1.339 to 1.357).
- ★ India ranked 115th (score 2.229) out of 163 countries, with no change from 2024.

Insurance Ombudsman Report 2023-24 Highlights Concentration of Complaints Among Few Insurers

- ★ The Insurance Ombudsman Annual Report 2023-24 indicates that a few insurance companies received the maximum number of complaints.
- ★ Star Health and Allied Insurance topped the list with 13,308 complaints, with over 10,000 of those complaints being related to claim rejections.
- ★ CARE Health had the second-highest number of complaints with 3,718, followed by Niva Bupa Health Insurance in third place with 2,511.
- ★ The only public sector insurers in the top five were National Insurance Co. Ltd (2,196) and The New India Assurance Co. Ltd (1,602).
- ★ The top three companies that received the most complaints were all stand-alone health insurers.
- ★ IRDAI has mandated that each insurance company establish an Internal Insurance Ombudsman (IO) to handle complaints up to ₹50 lakh.
- ★ This Internal Ombudsman will be responsible for reviewing complaints that remain unresolved after 30 days or those that were partially or completely rejected and are being appealed by the policyholder.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 Released

- ★ The 10th edition of NIRF Rankings 2025 was released by the Ministry of Education in New Delhi.
- ★ Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-Madras) secured 1st position in the Overall category for the 7th consecutive year, followed by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru (2nd) and IIT-Mumbai (3rd).
- ★ IIT-Madras also ranked 1st in Innovation and 1st in Engineering, with IIT-Delhi placed second.
- ★ IISc Bengaluru was adjudged the Best University and the Best Research Institution, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi (2nd) and Manipal Academy of Higher Education (3rd).
- ★ National Law School of India, Bengaluru emerged as the Best Law College.
- ★ AIIMS, Delhi ranked as the Best Medical and Dental College.
- ★ Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Delhi ranked as the Best Agriculture Institute.

- ★ Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad ranked 1st in Management, followed by IIM-Bangalore (2nd) and IIM-Kozhikode (3rd).
- ★ Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi was the Best in Pharmacy, followed by BITS Pilani (2nd) and Punjab University, Chandigarh (3rd).
- ★ IIT-Roorkee topped in Architecture and Planning, followed by NIT Kozhikode (2nd) and IIT-Kharagpur (3rd).
- ★ Top Colleges: Hindu College (1st), Miranda House (2nd), Hansraj College (3rd).
- ★ State Public Universities: Jadavpur University, Kolkata (1st), Anna University, Chennai (2nd).
- ★ Open Universities: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi.
- ★ Skill Universities: Symbiosis Skills and Professional University.
- ★ New Category – Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): IIT-Madras ranked 1st.

SBI Tops Customer Complaint List Among Banks in FY25, Says BRSR Report

- ★ As per the FY25 Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR), State Bank of India (SBI) received the highest number of customer complaints among all banks.
- ★ SBI recorded 6.87 lakh complaints in FY25 (with 1.05 lakh pending as of March-end), primarily related to unauthorised electronic debits.
- ★ SBI also reported 12,502 complaints for delays in delivery of essential services in FY25, an increase from 7,223 in FY24.
- ★ Among private sector lenders, Axis Bank received the most complaints, pointing to service delivery challenges.
- ★ Axis Bank recorded 4.97 lakh complaints in FY25 related to delays in essential services, with 8,782 unresolved cases by year-end.
- ★ Overall, FY25 highlighted rising customer grievances, with SBI (public sector) and Axis Bank (private sector) leading in the number of complaints.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ★ Educate Girls (Foundation to Educate Girls Globally) became the first Indian organisation to win the Ramon Magsaysay Award, one of Asia's most prestigious honours.
- ★ The award recognises the NGO's efforts in transforming education for out-of-school girls in India's remotest regions.
- ★ It was founded in 2007 by Safeena Husain, a London School of Economics graduate, who left her corporate career in San Francisco to work for girls' education in India.
- ★ In 2015, Educate Girls launched the world's first Development Impact Bond (DIB) in education, linking investor funds to measurable outcomes.

- ★ Pragati programme (for 15–29-year-old learners) helps adolescent girls and young women re-enter education. It grew from 300 participants to over 31,500 learners.
- ★ It was recognised for addressing cultural stereotyping, liberating girls from illiteracy, and empowering them with skills, courage, and agency.

National Teachers' Awards 2025 Announced by Ministry of Education

- ★ The Ministry of Education has announced the winners of the National Teachers' Awards 2025.
- ★ A total of 45 teachers from across India have been selected for their remarkable contribution to school education.
- ★ The awards will be presented on September 5, 2025, observed as Teachers' Day in India.
- ★ Total Awardees: 45 Teachers.
- ★ Representation: 27 States, 7 Union Territories, and 6 National-Level Organizations.
- ★ States with the Highest Representation: Uttar Pradesh (2), Maharashtra (2), Madhya Pradesh (2), Bihar (2), Gujarat (2).
- ★ The award ceremony will be organized by the Ministry of Education as part of Teachers' Day celebrations.

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

- ★ Anand V. Patil, renowned for his contributions to children's literature (Bal Sahitya), will be conferred with the Prof. V.K. Gokak Award on 07 September 2025 in Bengaluru.
- ★ The award is named after Prof. Vinayaka Krishna Gokak, one of India's most influential literary figures and a Jnanpith Awardee.
- ★ The event is hosted by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and the Vinayaka Gokak Vangmaya Trust.
- ★ Anand V. Patil has previously received the Kendra Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Award for his impactful work in children's literature.
- ★ His recognition with this award highlights his role in preserving linguistic heritage and cultivating literary values among young readers.
- ★ The award serves not just as an individual honour but also as encouragement for writers in the children's literature space.
- ★ The award is considered a living tribute to Prof. Gokak's ideals and influence in literature and education.

Anuparna Roy Wins Best Director Award at 82nd Venice Film Festival

- ★ Anuparna Roy won the Best Director award in the Orizzonti section at the 82nd Venice Film Festival (2025).
- ★ She won for her film Songs of Forgotten Trees, which portrays the lives of two migrant women in Mumbai.
- ★ The award was presented by Julia Ducournau, acclaimed French filmmaker and President of the Orizzonti Jury.

- ★ Songs of Forgotten Trees highlights themes of memory, identity, and survival, focusing on marginalized voices with a minimalistic and layered storytelling style.
- ★ The Orizzonti section showcases new trends and emerging talent in world cinema.
- ★ Roy's recognition marks a major international breakthrough for Indian independent cinema, especially women filmmakers.
- ★ **Other winners at Venice 2025 included:**
 - Golden Lion (Best Film): Father Mother Sister Brother by Jim Jarmusch.
 - Silver Lion (Runner-up): The Voice of Hind Rajab by Kaouther Ben Hania.
 - Best Actor: Toni Servillo for La Grazia.
 - Best Actress: Xin Zhilei for The Sun Rises On Us All.
 - Best Director (Main Competition): Benny Safdie for The Smashing Machine.
 - Special Jury Prize: Gianfranco Rosi for Below the Clouds.
- ★ Roy's achievement highlights the growing global recognition of women-led and non-mainstream Indian cinema.

Younus Ahamed Honoured with Camel International Award 2025

- ★ Younus Ahamed, Non-Resident Indian entrepreneur and Executive Director of Dotspace Coworking (Middle East), received the Camel International Award 2025 for his contributions in global business leadership.
- ★ The award was presented in Dubai during a ceremony in late August 2025.
- ★ It was conferred by Arabian World Records and presented by Sheikh Matar Bin Huwaiden Al Ketbi, Chairman of Sharjah Camel Racing Club.
- ★ The award recognises exceptional business acumen, leadership, and impact at the international level.
- ★ This recognition highlights Ahamed's exemplary role in the coworking sector in the Middle East and his contributions as an influential Non-Resident Indian professional.

PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics

- ★ Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was posthumously honoured with the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Award for Economics.
- ★ The award was presented by Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, and accepted by Gursharan Kaur on behalf of Dr. Singh.
- ★ The honour recognizes his pivotal role in India's 1991 economic reforms, which steered the nation out of a financial crisis and initiated liberalisation.
- ★ As Finance Minister under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, Dr. Singh introduced reforms such as: De-licensing of industries, Reduction of import tariffs, Market-driven exchange rates, Encouragement of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Restructuring of the public sector
- ★ These measures laid the foundation for India's economic liberalisation and long-term growth.
- ★ The award was instituted by the Hyderabad-based PV Narasimha Rao Memorial Foundation (PVNMF) to honour transformational contributions to India's economic development.

Inspire Award 2025

- ★ Muzaffarpur district (Bihar) ranked 1st in India in the Inspire Award 2025, with 7,403 student submissions of innovative ideas.
- ★ It outperformed Bengaluru (7,306), Bagalkot (6,826), Jaipur (6,311), and Lucknow (6,182).
- ★ The rankings were released on 13 September 2025 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.
- ★ The Inspire Award – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) scheme promotes innovation among students of classes 6 to 10.
- ★ Vaishali district secured 6th place with 5,805 ideas, making Bihar the only state with two districts in the top 10.

Baba Kalyani Receives ASME Holley Medal for Engineering Innovation

- ★ Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Forge, was awarded the Holley Medal by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) on 15 September 2025 for outstanding engineering leadership benefiting the public and strengthening global supply chains.
- ★ The Holley Medal, established in 1924, is among ASME's oldest awards and is given for unique engineering achievements that provide significant public benefit and address major societal needs.
- ★ The award recognises Kalyani's role in engineering-led value creation, localisation of advanced manufacturing, building resilient supply chains amid trade disruptions, and enhancing industrial competitiveness.
- ★ Under his leadership, Bharat Forge has become a global leader in forging and precision engineering, a key supplier to the defence, automotive, and aerospace sectors, and a pioneer in digital manufacturing, green energy components, and lightweight technologies.
- ★ The recognition also reflects the company's contributions to technology transfer, workforce upskilling, and ecosystem development in India and abroad.
- ★ The award holds strategic relevance amid global trade tensions and US tariffs, showcasing how Bharat Forge's innovations support localisation, reduced import dependency, self-reliance, and strategic autonomy.

71st National Film Awards 2023

- ★ The 71st National Film Awards (2023) were presented at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by President Droupadi Murmu.
- ★ Mohanlal was conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2023) for his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema.
- ★ **Best Feature Film** – 12th Fail (Dir. Vidhu Vinod Chopra)
- ★ **Best Hindi Film** – Kathal – A Jackfruit Mystery
- ★ **Best Actor (tie)** – Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan), Vikrant Massey (12th Fail)
- ★ **Best Actress** – Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway)

- ★ **Best Actress (Supporting Role)** – Urvashi (Ullozhukku), Janki Bodiwala (Vash)
- ★ **Best Actor (Supporting Role)** – Vijayaraghavan (Pookalam), Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar (Parking)

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer Receives 'Living Bridge' Honour

- ★ British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was awarded the 'Living Bridge' Honour for successfully concluding the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- ★ Award presented at the House of Lords, London; accepted by Seema Malhotra, UK's Minister for the Indo-Pacific.
- ★ It was organised by the India Business Group (IBG). The award recognises individuals/organisations strengthening India-UK relations.
- ★ Other 2025 awardees include GMR Group (India), GP Hinduja (British Indian businessman), Bina Mehta (Chair, KPMG UK) and University of Southampton
- ★ The FTA is expected to strengthen bilateral economic ties, aligning with UK's post-Brexit Indo-Pacific strategy and India's global trade ambitions.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Non-Executive Chairman of J&K Bank

- ★ The board of J&K Bank has approved the appointment of Krishnan as its Non-Executive Chairman until March 26, 2028.
- ★ His appointment is contingent on RBI approval, as noted in the bank's regulatory filing.
- ★ The decision was made during a board meeting on August 25, 2025.
- ★ Krishnan currently serves as an Independent Director for the Srinagar-headquartered J&K Bank.
- ★ He has previously held the position of MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank.
- ★ Following his retirement, he became the MD & CEO of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank in September 2022, with RBI approval.
- ★ Krishnan is a veteran banker with over four decades of experience.
- ★ He holds a postgraduate degree in Commerce and is a qualified Cost Accountant.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Railway Board

- ★ The Government of India has reappointed Satish Kumar as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board for a one-year term, effective September 1, 2025.
- ★ This is the first extension for this post in five years.
- ★ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his re-employment on a contract basis under existing terms.

- ★ Satish Kumar took charge in September 2024, becoming the first Dalit (SC/ST) to lead the Railway Board.
- ★ He is from the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers (IRSME) and started his career in 1986.
- ★ He will now oversee the completion and rollout of Vande Bharat sleeper trains.
- ★ His career postings include the Jhansi Division (Central Railway), Diesel Locomotive Works (Varanasi), North Eastern Railway (Gorakhpur), and Patiala Locomotive Works.

T.C.A. Kalyani Takes Over as Controller General of Accounts

- ★ T.C.A. Kalyani, a 1991-batch ICAS Officer, has taken charge as the 29th Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ★ She has over 34 years of service with expertise in public financial management, accounting, governance, and administration.
- ★ She has served in multiple ministries, including Defence, Telecom, Fertilizers, Finance, Social Justice & Empowerment, Information & Broadcasting, and Home.
- ★ She played a key role in the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for farmers for fertilizer subsidy.
- ★ At MTNL, she led digital transformation through online bill payments and payment kiosks.
- ★ She contributed to the revival of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL).

Executive Director of International Monetary Fund

- ★ The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has appointed former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Urjit Patel as Executive Director (ED) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a period of three years or until further orders.
- ★ Urjit Patel will replace K.V. Subramanian, whose tenure was cut short by the government due to alleged impropriety over book promotion.
- ★ The IMF Executive Board has 25 Directors, and India is part of a four-country constituency along with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.
- ★ Urjit Patel had earlier served as the 24th RBI Governor (2016–2018), succeeding Raghuram Rajan, but resigned citing personal reasons.
- ★ During his RBI tenure, Patel often clashed with the Government of India over high interest rates despite falling inflation (below 1.5%).
- ★ Patel holds a PhD in Economics from Yale University and has served in roles such as Deputy Governor of RBI, Chairman of NIPFP (2020), and Vice President (Investment Operations) at AIIB.
- ★ He has also worked with the Ministry of Finance (1998–2001) and in the private sector, including Reliance Industries, IDFC Ltd, MCX Ltd, and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation.

Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia AVSM VSM Takes Charge as Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance

- ★ Air Marshal Sanjiv Ghuratia AVSM VSM assumed charge as Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance (AOM) at Indian Air Force (IAF) Headquarters on September 1, 2025.
- ★ He was commissioned into the Aeronautical Engineering stream of the IAF in September 1988.
- ★ Throughout his 37 years of distinguished service, he has held key command and staff appointments in the IAF and a UN Mission abroad.
- ★ Prior to his current role, he served as the Senior Maintenance Staff Officer at HQ Maintenance Command.
- ★ His notable awards and honors include the Vishisht Seva Medal (2016) and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2025), awarded by the President of India.
- ★ He was also commended by the Force Commander of the UN Mission in Congo for his service.

Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

- ★ Rajit Punhani has taken charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ★ He is a 1991-batch IAS Officer of the Bihar cadre.
- ★ Previously, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ★ He also worked as Secretary, Rajya Sabha, CEO of Sansad TV, and Principal Secretary in the Government of Bihar.
- ★ At FSSAI, he succeeded Ganji Kamala V. Rao, whose tenure ended on August 31, 2025.

Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

- ★ Ajay Seth, former Finance Secretary, has assumed charge as Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ★ He is a 1987-batch IAS Officer of the Karnataka cadre, who retired in June 2025 as Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, after a four-year tenure.
- ★ His appointment was cleared on July 25, 2025, for a three-year term or until he turns 65 years of age.
- ★ He succeeds Debasish Panda, whose term ended on March 13, 2025.

Chairman and Managing Director of NHPC

- ★ Bhupender Gupta has assumed the role of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NHPC, India's leading hydro power producer, effective September 4, 2025.
- ★ Prior to this appointment, he was Director (Technical) of THDC India Limited.
- ★ Gupta also holds the additional charge as CMD of SJVN, where he began his public sector career in 1995.

- ★ At SJVN, he was responsible for planning, erection, commissioning, and O&M of electromechanical equipment at the 1500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Plant – India's largest operational hydroelectric project.
- ★ He served on deputation in Bhutan from 2002 to 2005 at the 1020 MW Tala Hydroelectric Power Project.
- ★ With a 34-year career (31 years in Power CPSUs), he has contributed across the hydro, thermal, renewable energy, transmission, and distribution

Piyush Goyal Assumes Office as Secretary, Ministry of Mines

- ★ Shri Piyush Goyal, a 1994-batch IAS Officer of the Nagaland cadre, has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Mines.
- ★ Prior to this role, Piyush Goyal served as CEO of NATGRID under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ★ He succeeds Shri V.L. Kantha Rao, a 1992-batch IAS Officer, who is now Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Part-time Chairman of Yes Bank

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as Part-time Chairman of Yes Bank.
- ★ His new term will run from September 20, 2025, to May 13, 2027.
- ★ Gandhi has 37 years of experience as a central banker, having served as Deputy Governor of the RBI from 2014 to 2017.
- ★ He also previously held the position of Director, Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), Hyderabad.
- ★ Gandhi was initially appointed as Part-time Chairman of Yes Bank in September 2022 for a three-year term.

Citibank Appoints Kaustubh Kulkarni as Co-Head of Investment Banking in Asia-Pacific

- ★ Citibank has appointed Kaustubh Kulkarni as Co-Head of Investment Banking Coverage for Japan, Asia North and Australia, and Asia South.
- ★ He will be serving alongside Jan Metzger, who is the Head of Asia Pacific Banking, Capital Markets and Advisory (BCMA).
- ★ Kulkarni is scheduled to join in December 2025, pending regulatory approvals, and will be based in Singapore.
- ★ He previously worked at JP Morgan as the Senior Country Officer for India and Vice Chair, Asia Pacific region.
- ★ He began his career at JP Morgan in 1997, where he was responsible for major debt, and equity transactions across Asia and India.

New Associate Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration

- ★ Indian American Amit Kshatriya has been appointed as Associate Administrator, the highest-ranking civil service post at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- ★ The appointment was announced by Acting NASA Administrator Sean P. Duffy on September 3, 2025.
- ★ Amit Kshatriya joined NASA in 2003.
- ★ He is a recipient of the Silver Snoopy Award for his role as lead Robotics Officer during the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services Dragon demonstration mission.
- ★ Kshatriya, a 20-year NASA veteran, was most recently the deputy in charge of the Moon to Mars Programme in the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) at the NASA headquarters in Washington.
- ★ In his new role, he will lead NASA's 10 Centre Directors, act as Chief Operating Officer, and guide missions under the Artemis campaign to return humans to the Moon and prepare for Mars exploration.

New Prime Minister of Thailand

- ★ Anutin Charnvirakul has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Thailand, succeeding Paetongtarn Shinawatra of the Pheu Thai Party.
- ★ Anutin (aged 58) is Thailand's third PM in two years, after Srettha Thavisin and Paetongtarn Shinawatra were removed from their posts.
- ★ He earlier served as Deputy PM and Interior Minister but resigned after a leaked phone call scandal.
- ★ Anutin is best known for decriminalising cannabis in Thailand, a policy later restricted to medical use.
- ★ He previously served as Health Minister during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research

- ★ Dr. Geetha Vani Rayasam assumed charge as the new Director of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR).
- ★ She emphasized that India's science, technology and innovation (STI) policy must adopt agile and flexible models to stay relevant in the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), digital platforms, and global challenges.
- ★ She highlighted the theme of "Connecting the Unconnected", positioning NIScPR as a role model for the Global South and beyond.
- ★ Focus areas include aligning science communication with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting high-quality Indian journals, digital platforms, citizen science initiatives, and science-art collaborations.
- ★ Partnerships were underlined, suggesting collaborations of SMCC and SVASTIK with the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Education, science museums, and other stakeholders.

- ★ She also recommended joint projects with global bodies like WHO, World Bank, UN, OECD, and industry bodies to enhance NIScPR's global footprint.

Vice President of India

- ★ National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominee C.P. Radhakrishnan has been elected as the Vice President of India, defeating INDIA bloc candidate Justice B. Sudershan Reddy.
- ★ P. Radhakrishnan is the 15th individual to hold the office but is officially counted as the 17th Vice President of India.
- ★ In the election, Radhakrishnan secured 452 first preference votes, while Justice Reddy received 300 votes, and 15 votes were declared invalid.
- ★ The election turnout was 98.20%, with 767 MPs voting out of 781, while 13 MPs abstained (7 from BJD, 4 from BRS, 1 from SAD, and 1 Independent MP).
- ★ The Vice President's office was vacant since July 21, 2025, after the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar due to health reasons.
- ★ P. Radhakrishnan was born on October 20, 1957, in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, and served as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 2024 before becoming Vice President.
- ★ He has earlier served as the Governor of Jharkhand and also held additional charge of Telangana and Puducherry.

Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere Wins Second Consecutive Term

- ★ In the parliamentary election held on September 8, 2025, Norway's Labour Party, led by Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere, won a second consecutive term, securing a narrow majority with 87 seats, just above the majority threshold of 85.
- ★ Despite the win, the Labour Party faces a fragmented parliament and will rely on a coalition of five left-leaning parties to pass major legislation.
- ★ Key challenges for Prime Minister Stoere include oil and gas investments, climate policy, taxation, and foreign investment regulations.
- ★ Norway's sovereign wealth fund, valued at over \$2 trillion, may face pressure to divest from Israeli companies due to the Gaza conflict.
- ★ The right-wing Progress Party, led by Sylvi Listhaug, made a historic surge, winning 48 seats, more than double its previous tally, marking its best-ever performance.

Chairman of National Stock Exchange Governing Board

- ★ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has appointed Injeti Srinivas as the new Chairman of its governing board.
- ★ Srinivas is the former Chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and was the founding head of the authority.
- ★ The NSE had been without a Chairman since Girish Chandra Chaturvedi's term ended in July 2024.
- ★ SEBI had flagged the delay in appointment as a concern in relation to NSE's upcoming IPO.

- ★ Srinivas has previously served as Corporate Affairs Secretary, on the boards of SEBI and LIC, and was a member of the Financial Stability and Development Council (2017–2023).

Prime Minister of France

- ★ French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Sébastien Lecornu as the new Prime Minister of France, replacing François Bayrou.
- ★ Sébastien Lecornu (39 years old) was France's youngest Defence Minister and the architect of the €413 billion Defence Expansion Plan (2024–2030), shaped by the Russia–Ukraine war.
- ★ He became France's fourth Prime Minister within a year, tasked with securing a budget deal and addressing nationwide protests led by the “Block Everything” movement.
- ★ To manage unrest, 80,000 police have been deployed across France.

Sushila Karki Takes Oath as Nepal's First Female Prime Minister

- ★ Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel has dissolved the House of Representatives on the recommendation of newly appointed interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki.
- ★ Fresh parliamentary elections have been scheduled for March 21, 2026.
- ★ Sushila Karki, a former Chief Justice, took oath as the first woman Prime Minister of Nepal.
- ★ The oath was administered by President Paudel at the Presidential Palace in Kathmandu in the presence of Vice President Rambaran Yadav and other dignitaries.
- ★ Her appointment came after deadly violence by Gen Z demonstrators protesting against a social media ban and corruption, which led to the resignation of PM KP Sharma Oli.
- ★ Sushila Karki was chosen after intensive discussions at Sheetal Niwas, aligning with the demands of Gen Z protesters for an interim government free from corrupt leaders.
- ★ Karki is also Nepal's first female Chief Justice, recognized for her integrity and independence.

Next Managing Director of State Bank of India

- ★ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Ravi Ranjan for the position of Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI).
- ★ Ravi Ranjan, currently Deputy Managing Director, will replace Vinay M Tonse, whose term ends on November 30, 2025.
- ★ FSIB interviewed 9 candidates on September 11, 2025, for the SBI MD position.
- ★ The final decision on the recommendation will be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ★ The SBI board is headed by the Chairman, assisted by four Managing Directors.

Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi

- ★ Professor Pradeep Kumar Prajapati has formally assumed charge as the Director of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi.

- ★ He was earlier the Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurved University, Jodhpur.
- ★ He has had a long association with Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, contributing to research and academics.
- ★ He began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur.
- ★ His appointment as Director of AIIA was approved by the Union Cabinet, and he will serve for five years or until superannuation, whichever is earlier.
- ★ Prajapati holds a BAMS degree from Gurukul Kangri University and completed MD and PhD from Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- ★ Immediately after assuming charge, he participated in the valedictory session of a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program at AIIA.

L. Satya Srinivas as India's Executive Director of Asian Development Bank

- ★ The Government of India appointed L. Satya Srinivas as Executive Director (ED), India at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ★ Satya Srinivas is a 1991-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) Officer and currently serves as Special Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce.
- ★ He will succeed senior bureaucrat Vikas Sheel as India's ED at ADB.
- ★ His appointment is for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ★ Srinivas will continue on a contract basis after his retirement in February 2026.
- ★ As India's ED, he will also represent Bangladesh, Bhutan, Laos, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan on the ADB Board of Directors.
- ★ India is the fourth-largest shareholder of ADB, after Japan, the US, and China.
- ★ As of April 2025, the ADB committed \$59.5 billion in sovereign lending and \$9.1 billion in non-sovereign investments to India.

Vice President for East Asia and Pacific Region by World Bank

- ★ The World Bank Group appointed Carlos Felipe Jaramillo as Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) Region, effective September 15, 2025.
- ★ He will oversee partnerships with 23 countries and manage an active portfolio exceeding US\$32 billion.
- ★ Singapore will serve as the new regional hub for the EAP region, aligning with the World Bank's decentralization strategy.
- ★ Jaramillo previously served as Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean (2020–2025), managing a portfolio of US\$41.5 billion across 31 countries.
- ★ Earlier, as Division Director for East Africa, he managed 80+ projects worth over US\$12 billion (Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda).
- ★ He also led the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice at the Bank.

- ★ Prior to joining the Bank, Jaramillo held senior roles in the Government of Colombia.

Justice M Sundar Sworn in as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court

- ★ Justice M Sundar was sworn in as the 10th Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court on September 15, 2025.
- ★ The oath of office was administered by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan.
- ★ Justice Sundar was appointed as Chief Justice on September 13, 2025, after the superannuation of Justice Kempaiah Somashekar.
- ★ The swearing-in ceremony was attended by political leaders, high court judges, senior state officials, and bar association representatives.
- ★ Before this appointment, Justice Sundar served as a judge of the Madras High Court.

Amit Khare Named Secretary to Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan

- ★ The Government of India appointed Amit Khare as Secretary to Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on 14 September 2025.
- ★ Amit Khare has been serving as Advisor to the Prime Minister since 12 October 2021, focusing on social sector matters in the PMO.
- ★ He was part of the core team that formulated and implemented the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
- ★ Khare is a 1985-batch IAS Officer (Jharkhand cadre), graduate of Stephen's College, Delhi, and holds a postgraduate degree in Business Administration from IIM Ahmedabad.
- ★ He is widely known for exposing the Bihar 'fodder scam'.
- ★ He also served as Secretary, Information & Broadcasting, and Secretary, Higher Education.
- ★ His appointment as Secretary to VP is for three years from the date of assuming charge.

New Chief Financial Officer Of P&G Health

- ★ Procter & Gamble (P&G) Health has appointed Shashank Srowthy as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective October 1, 2025.
- ★ He will succeed Lokesh Chandak, who will move to a new role as Senior Director – Finance & Accounting, Feminine Care, P&G Asia, Middle East & Africa.
- ★ Shashank Srowthy has 14+ years of experience in finance roles at P&G, having joined in 2011 in India.
- ★ He has worked across India, Dubai, and Singapore, delivering results in multiple P&G businesses.
- ★ He is currently serving as Director – Finance, Haircare, P&G Asia, Middle East & Africa.

Executive Director of Punjab National Bank

- ★ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of M. Paramasivam as Executive Director (ED) of Punjab National Bank (PNB), effective from December 1, 2022, for a three-year term.
- ★ M Paramasivam is an agriculture graduate who started his career as an Agricultural Extension Officer at Canara Bank in 1990.
- ★ He served Canara Bank for 32 years in various capacities such as Branch Head of VLBs, Regional Head, Circle Head, and Head of Priority Credit Wing at the Head Office.
- ★ During his tenure as Wing Head of Priority Credit Wing at Canara Bank, the FRUITS Portal was launched in co-ordination with NABARD and the Karnataka State Government.
- ★ He has also undertaken the Leadership Development Strategy Programme organized by the Banks Board Bureau and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Capital

- ★ Aditya Birla Capital (AB Capital) has elevated Vishakha Mulye as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for a five-year term starting 1 September 2025.
- ★ Vishakha Mulye has been leading AB Capital since 2022, driving a digital-first transformation.
- ★ She introduced the “One ABC, One P&L” model, integrating products, customer experience, and internal teams.
- ★ Under her leadership, AB Capital launched the ABCD omnichannel app and Udyog Plus, a B2B lending marketplace.
- ★ She has also pushed forward the merger of Aditya Birla Finance with AB Capital to consolidate value creation and synergies.
- ★ Her reappointment reflects AB Capital's confidence in her ability to balance scale and innovation amid India's financial sector transformation.

Dr. Sima Sami Bahous Reappointed as UN Women Executive Director

- ★ On 11 September 2025, Dr. Sima Sami Bahous was reappointed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres for a second term as Executive Director of UN Women.
- ★ Her reappointment aligns with the launch of UN Women's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, focusing on gender equality and women's rights.
- ★ Bahous, a Jordanian diplomat, previously advanced gender equality in global policy, improved transparency, and prioritized results-driven programs in humanitarian contexts.
- ★ During her first term, she emphasized integrating women's voices in crisis response and peacebuilding strategies.
- ★ The Strategic Plan 2026–2029 aims to make gender equality central to SDGs, enhance women's economic participation, and eliminate violence against women and girls.

Deputy Election Commissioner in Election Commission of India

- ★ Senior IAS Officer Pawan Kumar Sharma has been appointed as Deputy Election Commissioner (DEC) in the Election Commission of India (ECI), with the rank of Additional Secretary.
- ★ Pawan Kumar Sharma is a 1999-batch IAS Officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- ★ IAS Officer V. Lalithalakshmi, a 2008-Batch Officer of the West Bengal cadre, has been appointed as Joint Secretary in the Vice President's Secretariat.
- ★ The Deputy Election Commissioner (DEC) is a senior official in the ECI, which is responsible for conducting and administering elections across India.

IndusInd Bank Appoints Viral Damania As New Chief Financial Officer

- ★ IndusInd Bank appointed Viral Damania as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Key Managerial Personnel (KMP), effective 22 September 2025.
- ★ With this appointment, the additional responsibilities of Santosh Kumar as Special Officer-Finance & Accounts (KMP) will cease immediately, but he will continue as Deputy CFO.
- ★ Viral Damania has 27 years of banking experience, having served as CFO of Bank of America India and worked with Citibank North America, BofA Securities India, Citibank N.A. (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka) and PwC.
- ★ In August 2025, Rajeev Anand took charge as Managing Director & CEO (MD&CEO) for 3 years, after Sumant Kathpalia resigned in April 2025 over accounting lapses.
- ★ Former Deputy CEO Arun Khuran also resigned in April 2025 due to the same issue.

New Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer IARC

- ★ International Asset Reconstruction Company (IARC) has appointed Abhishek Maheshwari as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ★ Abhishek Maheshwari was earlier a Partner at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), where he developed a debt collections and recovery practice for the Asia-Pacific region.
- ★ He also co-founded and served as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company, one of India's first retail-focused ARCs.
- ★ IARC, founded in 2002 after the enactment of the SARFAESI Act, is a leading Asset Reconstruction Company in India with offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai.

Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA)

- ★ Vandana Gupta has officially taken charge as the Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA) in New Delhi under the Ministry of Communications.
- ★ Her elevation was part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, marking her rise to the Apex Grade.
- ★ Gupta is a 1990 Batch Officer of the Indian Post & Telecommunication Accounts and Finance Service (IP&TAFS).
- ★ She has held important positions across Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat telecom circles, as well as in DoT headquarters and the Department of Posts (DoP).

- ★ She served as Principal Director at the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board (GASAB) under the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in Delhi.
- ★ She worked as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and the National Commission for Women (NCW).
- ★ Gupta also served as Controller of Finance at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU).

Government Extends General Anil Chauhan's Tenure as Chief of Defence Staff

- ★ General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) has been extended till May 30, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ★ He has been serving as CDS and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) since September 30, 2022.
- ★ General Anil Chauhan is the second CDS of India, succeeding General Bipin Rawat.
- ★ The extension ensures leadership continuity in implementing defence reforms and theatre commands.
- ★ As CDS, he plays a key role in strengthening jointness among the Army, Navy, and Air Force through tri-service integration.
- ★ His extended tenure will accelerate the joint operations doctrine and boost India's military effectiveness.
- ★ Under his leadership, DMA has pushed Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance), procurement reforms, and defence modernization.

Managing Director of IIFCL

- ★ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Rohit Rishi, Executive Director of Bank of Maharashtra, as the next Managing Director (MD) of IIFCL, succeeding P.R. Jaishankar.
- ★ P.R. Jaishankar completed a five-year tenure and demitted office in May 2025.
- ★ FSIB also recommended Manikumar Sivaramakrishnan, CGM at NABARD, as Deputy MD of IFCI Ltd.
- ★ India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. (IIFCL) was set up in 2006, is a wholly owned Government of India company, and since 2013 is registered with RBI as an NBFC-ND-IFC.
- ★ IIFCL has a paid-up capital of ₹9,999.92 crore as of 31 March 2025.
- ★ The final appointment will be decided by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- ★ FSIB is headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

Irfaan Ali Re-elected as President of Guyana for Second Term

- ★ President Irfaan Ali has been re-elected for a second term in Guyana's general election held on 1 September 2025.

- ★ His party, the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C), won 36 out of 65 seats in the National Assembly, securing a parliamentary majority and a stronger mandate.
- ★ The newly launched We Invest in Nationhood (WIN) party, led by Azruddin Mohamed, won 16 seats, becoming the main opposition.
- ★ The A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) coalition, led by Aubrey Norton, fell to 12 seats, marking a significant decline.
- ★ Guyana's economy is being transformed by its offshore oil production, which has generated over \$7.5 billion in revenues since 2019.

Anand Piramal Named Chairman of Piramal Finance following Piramal Enterprises merger

- ★ Anand Piramal has been appointed as Chairman of Piramal Finance, succeeding his father Ajay Piramal after the merger of Piramal Enterprises.
- ★ The leadership change was ratified during the first board meeting post-merger, approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on September 10.
- ★ Ajay Piramal resigned as Non-Executive Chairman of Piramal Finance but remains Chairman of Piramal Group.
- ★ Swati A. Piramal resigned as Non-Executive Director, while Jairam Sridharan was appointed MD & CEO of Piramal Finance.
- ★ New board appointments (pending shareholder approval) include Shikha Sharma as Non-Executive Director and Rajiv Mehrishi, Asheet Mehta, Anjali Bansal as Independent Directors for a 5-year term.
- ★ The transition marks a generational leadership shift and aligns with the group's vision of digital-first financial services and innovation-driven growth in the NBFC sector.

SPORTS

Neeraj Chopra Secures 2nd Place at Zurich Diamond League Final 2025

- ★ Neeraj Chopra, Olympic and World Champion, finished 2nd place at the Zurich Diamond League Final 2025 with a final throw of 85.01 m.
- ★ This marked his 26th consecutive top-two finish in international javelin competitions.
- ★ Chopra's throw sequence: 84.35m (1st), 82.00m (2nd), 3rd–5th fouls, 85.01m (6th, secured 2nd position).
- ★ Germany's Julian Weber clinched gold with a world-leading throw of 91.51m (2nd attempt, personal best).
- ★ Keshorn Walcott (Trinidad & Tobago) secured 3rd place with 84.95m.
- ★ Neeraj overtook Walcott in the final round, showing composure under pressure.

- ★ Neeraj's consistency makes him one of the most reliable and consistent athletes in world athletics, maintaining podium finishes since Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ★ He now focuses on defending his World Championship title at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo starting 13th September 2025.

International Cricket Council (ICC) Partners with Google

- ★ International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a landmark partnership with Google as its second major women's-only global partner, after Unilever earlier 2025.
- ★ The collaboration aims to leverage Google's advanced technology and commitment to women's sports to enhance fan engagement and accessibility.
- ★ The partnership comes at a crucial time with two major upcoming events: ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 in India and Sri Lanka and ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England.
- ★ The partnership will span multiple Google products including: Android, Google Gemini, Google Pay and Google Pixel.
- ★ This ecosystem will help fans discover match highlights, engage with players, celebrate wins, and enjoy a more dynamic fan journey.

BWF World Championships 2025

- ★ India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the bronze medal at the 2025 BWF Badminton World Championships after losing in the men's doubles semifinal to China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in Paris.
- ★ The Indian pair lost the semifinal 19-21, 21-18, 12-21 in a match that lasted 1 hour and 7 minutes at the Adidas Arena.
- ★ This was the duo's second World Championships medal, after winning their first bronze in 2022 (Japan).
- ★ This was the second meeting between the pairs; earlier, Satwik-Chirag had defeated the Chinese duo in the 2024 Thailand Open final in straight games.
- ★ In the semifinal, the Indians led 11-5 in the first game but the Chinese recovered to win 21-19.
- ★ The Indians bounced back to win the second game 21-18, pushing the match into a decider.
- ★ In the third game, Satwik-Chirag trailed early, losing 9 consecutive points and went down 12-21.
- ★ With this win, the Chinese pair advanced to the final to face South Korea's Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae.

India to Host 28th Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in October 2025

- ★ The 28th ITTF-ATTU Asian Table Tennis Team Championships will be held from October 11-15, 2025, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ★ The event is organized by the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).
- ★ It will serve as a qualifier for the 2026 ITTF World Team Championships.
- ★ The top 13 men's and women's teams will secure direct qualification.

- ★ This is the first Asian-level table tennis championship in Odisha.
- ★ Bhubaneswar has earlier hosted the 2019 Commonwealth TT Championships, FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, Khelo India University Games, and the SAFF Championship.
- ★ Top nations including China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore will participate.
- ★ India's men's and women's teams will aim to use home advantage to qualify.

Carlos Alcaraz Wins US Open 2025 Men's Singles

- ★ Carlos Alcaraz (Spain), age 22, won the US Open 2025 Men's Singles title, defeating Jannik Sinner (Italy) in the final at Flushing Meadows, New York.
- ★ With this victory, Alcaraz claimed his 6th career Grand Slam title and 2nd US Open crown.
- ★ He also reclaimed the ATP World No. 1 ranking, ending Sinner's 65-week reign at the top.
- ★ This was the pair's 15th career meeting and third consecutive Grand Slam final.
- ★ Alcaraz has now won 7 of their last 8 encounters, including 5 of their last 6 finals.
- ★ Historical milestone: Became the second youngest male player to win six Grand Slam titles.
- ★ Joined Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, and Mats Wilander as the only men to win multiple majors on all three surfaces (Hard – 2, Clay – 2, Grass – 2).

Central Asian Football Association Nations Cup 2025

- ★ India defeated Oman in a penalty shootout to win the bronze medal at the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) Nations Cup 2025.
- ★ This was India's first-ever international victory over Oman.
- ★ The third-place playoff was held at the Hisor Central Stadium, Tajikistan.
- ★ The match ended 1-1 in regulation time, with Udanta Singh scoring the equaliser for India.
- ★ In the penalty shootout, India won 3-2 after Oman missed their first two spot kicks.
- ★ Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu saved the final penalty to secure the win.
- ★ This was India's first medal finish at the CAFA Nations Cup.
- ★ The victory is considered a major morale boost for Indian football on the Asian stage.

US Open Titles 2025

- ★ Aryna Sabalenka defended her US Open title in 2025, becoming the first woman since Serena Williams (2014) to win back-to-back championships in New York.
- ★ She defeated Amanda Anisimova in the final with a score of 6–3, 7–6 (7–3) at Arthur Ashe Stadium.
- ★ This was Sabalenka's 4th Grand Slam title – Australian Open (2023, 2024) and US Open (2024, 2025).
- ★ The victory also marked her 100th Grand Slam match win.
- ★ Sabalenka's US Open record: 28–2 when winning the first set.

- ★ 2025 had been a tough season for Sabalenka, as she lost in the Australian Open and French Open finals, but she redeemed herself with this title.
- ★ Amanda Anisimova, despite the loss, had a strong tournament and is projected to enter the WTA Top 5 for the first time.

Shri Amit Shah Inaugurates India's Largest Sports Complex in Ahmedabad

- ★ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated India's largest and most advanced sports complex at Naranpura, Ahmedabad.
- ★ Built at a cost of ₹825 crore, the complex includes an international aquatic arena, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, athlete training infrastructure, and residential amenities.
- ★ The facility is designed to global sporting standards and may host major international tournaments like the Commonwealth Games.
- ★ Amit Shah stated it is "the world's most modern sports complex", aligning with the vision of making India a top sports nation by 2047.
- ★ India's sports budget rose from ₹1,643 crore in 2014 to ₹5,300 crore in 2025, showing strong government investment in sports infrastructure and athlete development.
- ★ Ahmedabad, already home to the Narendra Modi Stadium, is projected to become Asia's sports capital, boosting its global sports profile.
- ★ The complex will strengthen initiatives like Khelo India and Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), supporting grassroots to elite-level athletes.
- ★ It also reflects a broader shift in policy focusing on early talent identification, scientific training, public-private partnerships, and athlete welfare.

2025 FIDE Grand Swiss

- ★ The 2025 FIDE Grand Swiss and Women's Grand Swiss were held, 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- ★ Anish Giri (Netherlands) won the Open section with 8/11, defeating GM Hans Niemann in the final round, remaining undefeated, and claiming the \$90,000 prize.
- ★ He qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.
- ★ Matthias Bluebaum (Germany) also secured a Candidates spot with 7.5/11, finishing ahead of GM Alireza Firouzja and Vincent Keymer on tiebreaks.
- ★ Vaishali Rameshbabu (India) won her second consecutive Women's Grand Swiss title with 8/11, drawing with GM Tan Zhongyi in the final round, and securing a place in the 2026 Women's Candidates Tournament with a \$40,000 prize.
- ★ Kateryna Lagno (Russia) finished second, unbeaten with 5 wins, and also qualified for the Candidates.

Marium Fatima Becomes Bihar's First Woman FIDE Master

- ★ Marium Fatima, a young chess player from Muzaffarpur, Bihar, has become the first Woman FIDE Master (WFM) from the state, marking a historic achievement.

- ★ The Woman FIDE Master title is awarded by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) based on a player's rating performance and achievements in recognized tournaments.
- ★ This title is ranked below Woman International Master (WIM) and Woman Grandmaster (WGM) and generally requires a FIDE rating of 2100+.
- ★ Marium has consistently shown exceptional skill and earned accolades at state and national levels, showcasing her strategic acumen in competitive chess.
- ★ With this achievement, she joins the ranks of elite Indian women chess players, inspiring upcoming talents across Bihar and India.
- ★ Ravindran Shankaran, Director General of Bihar State Sports Authority, congratulated her, emphasizing institutional support for chess development in Bihar.

World Athletics Championships 2025

- ★ American sprinter Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won the women's 400 metres gold at the World Athletics Championships 2025 in Tokyo.
- ★ She clocked 47.78 seconds, the fastest women's 400m time since 1985, marking her successful transition from 400m hurdles to flat 400m.
- ★ McLaughlin-Levrone's 47.78s is the second-fastest women's 400m time in history.
- ★ The world record of 47.60s was set by Marita Koch (East Germany) in 1985 during the era of state-sponsored doping.
- ★ She also set a new American record, surpassing her 48.29s semifinal performance.
- ★ With this performance, she is in contention to break the longest-standing track world record.

Ahmedabad to Host 11th Asian Aquatics Championship 2025

- ★ Ahmedabad, Gujarat will host the 11th Asian Aquatics Championship from September 28 to October 11, 2025, marking India's debut as host for this prestigious continental event.
- ★ The venue is the newly inaugurated Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Narangpura, an international-standard sports facility.
- ★ The event is organized under the aegis of Asia Aquatics, with the Swimming Federation of India managing operations and support from the Sports Authority of Gujarat.
- ★ Competitions will be held in Swimming, Diving, Artistic Swimming, and Water Polo.
- ★ More than 900 athletes from 29 Asian countries are expected to participate.
- ★ The championship will also act as a qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games, giving Indian athletes the advantage of competing at home.
- ★ This is the first time India is hosting the Asian Aquatics Championship.
- ★ The event strengthens India's aspirations to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and bid for the 2036 Olympic Games.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Amish Tripathi Launches The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath

- ★ Amish Tripathi, India's bestselling mytho-fiction author, launched his latest novel The Chola Tigers: Avengers of Somnath at Crossword Bookstores, Kemps Corner in September 2025.
- ★ The book is the second in his Indic Chronicles series, after Legend of Suheldev.
- ★ The launch was attended by readers, fans, and celebrities including Ravi Dubey, Sargun Mehta, and Jimmy Shergill, making it a vibrant literary event.
- ★ The novel focuses on the Chola dynasty's retaliation for the sacking of the Somnath temple, a historic event etched in Indian memory.
- ★ Themes include valor, identity, civilizational pride, and Southern India's contribution to resisting invasions.
- ★ The narrative blends historical facts with mythological imagination, offering a fast-paced retelling of medieval Indian history.
- ★ Amish's Indic Chronicles series aims to reinterpret 1,300 years of Indian history, challenging colonial-era interpretations.
- ★ Amish has previously authored the Shiva Trilogy, Ram Chandra Series, and Legend of Suheldev, selling over 8 million copies worldwide.
- ★ His works have revived interest in India's ancient and medieval history, popularized mytho-fiction, and inspired debates on cultural memory and identity.
- ★ The launch was described as a celebration of literature, legacy, and India's historical narratives.

Arundhati Roy Publishes Memoir Mother Mary Comes to Me

- ★ Arundhati Roy, author of the Booker Prize-winning novel The God of Small Things, released her memoir Mother Mary Comes to Me.
- ★ The memoir is a 374-page narrative published by Penguin Hamish Hamilton.
- ★ It focuses on her relationship with her mother, Mary Roy, a renowned educator and women's rights activist.
- ★ The book explores themes of childhood trauma, emotional complexity, creativity, grief, and literary formation.
- ★ Roy began writing the memoir after the death of Mary Roy on September 1, 2022.
- ★ It combines personal reflection with literary depth, portraying Mary Roy as both inspiring and oppressive.
- ★ The memoir is considered a significant addition to Indian literary nonfiction and showcases Roy's introspective and poetic writing style.

Anupam Kher Announces Fourth Book Different But No Less

- ★ Veteran actor and motivational speaker Anupam Kher has announced his fourth book, *Different But No Less*, inspired by his real-life challenges and the making of his upcoming film *Tanvi The Great*.
- ★ The announcement was made on June 2, 2025, through Instagram.
- ★ It was published by Penguin Random House.
- ★ The book is connected to his upcoming film *Tanvi The Great*, highlighting emotional, creative, and logistical struggles in its making.
- ★ It focuses on self-belief, resilience, optimism, and mental strength during life's challenges.
- ★ Kher describes it as a guide to sailing through storms without letting others feel the turbulence.
- ★ It aims to provide motivation for those facing personal setbacks, academic hurdles, or professional uncertainty.

Dapaan: Tales from Kashmir's Conflict by Ipsita Chakravarty

- ★ *Dapaan: Tales from Kashmir's Conflict* is authored by Ipsita Chakravarty, an award-winning journalist, and published in July 2025.
- ★ The word "Dapaan" means "It is said" in Kashmiri, framing the book as a collection of oral memories and whispered truths.
- ★ The book explores Kashmir's everyday survival, folklore, humor, and resistance, presenting perspectives beyond official state narratives.
- ★ Central theme revolves around "Haalaat" (the situation), referring to the worsening political and military conditions since the rise of militancy in 1989.
- ★ It uses hidden cassettes, folklore, satire, and ghost stories to depict loss, surveillance, and cultural endurance.
- ★ Key chapters include "Zulm" (oppression), "Crackdown Paether" (folk theater satire), and "You May Be Turned Into a Cat", showcasing humor and coded language as tools against oppression.
- ★ The book documents bhand paether (folk theater) mocking kings and soldiers even under curfew, with jokes like Gun Kak and euphemisms like Gun Saeb (gentleman with a gun).

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Sports Day

- ★ National Sports Day 2025 will be celebrated across India from August 29 to 31 under the leadership of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The three-day nationwide campaign, organised under the Fit India Mission, will honour hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- ★ The day is observed annually on August 29, marking Dhyan Chand's birth anniversary. It has been nationally recognised since 2012 and was also the launch platform for the Fit India Movement in 2019.

- ★ The theme for 2025 is “Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main”, encouraging citizens to dedicate at least 60 minutes daily to physical activity to fight lifestyle diseases.
- ★ The campaign will also promote Olympic values (Excellence, Friendship, Respect) and Paralympic values (Courage, Determination, Inspiration, Equality).
- ★ Over 35 crore participants are expected, including students, youth clubs, volunteers, RWAs, panchayats, urban local bodies, corporates, PSUs, and sports organisations such as the Indian Olympic Association, Paralympic Committee of India, National Sports Federations, and Sports Authority of India.
- ★ Medal-winning athletes like Pranav Soorma, Sumit Antil, Shreyasi Singh, Bhavani Devi, and Vishnu Saravanan will join virtually from their hometowns or training bases.
- ★ Public representatives, MPs, and CMs are actively monitoring preparations under the motto “Har Gali, Har Maidan, Khele Saara Hindustan.”
- ★ States like Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands have already begun awareness drives and sporting activities.

National Nutrition Week

- ★ National Nutrition Week is observed from September 1 to September 7 every year.
- ★ The theme for the National Nutrition Week (celebrated September 1-7) is "Eat Right for a Better Life".
- ★ The need to spread awareness this National Nutrition Week is because a large population of India especially children and women don't get food supply due to poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness.
- ★ The objective is to intensify awareness generation on the importance of nutrition for health which has an impact on development, productivity, economic growth, and ultimately national development.
- ★ National Nutrition Week was established in 1975 by the members of the American Dietetic Association (ADA), now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- ★ This week was set aside to raise awareness among the general public of the value of good nutrition and the need for an active lifestyle.

World Coconut Day

- ★ World Coconut Day is celebrated on September 2 every year.
- ★ World Coconut Day 2025 is celebrated to highlight and raise awareness about the importance and benefits of coconut.
- ★ The theme for World Coconut Day 2025 is “Uncovering Coconut's Power, Inspiring Global Action.”
- ★ Coconuts are food that humans have found sustenance in for at least 2,000 years. Probably native to Indonesia, the name coconut translates to walnut from India”.
- ★ In 1998, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community declared World Coconut Day to bring awareness to the powerful nutrients and versatility of this superfood.

- ★ It is likely that coconuts were introduced to Europeans through the Maritime Silk Road, which connected the East with the West. Marco Polo may have been one of the many travellers and explorers who would have brought coconuts back with them.
- ★ World Coconut Day is observed around the World to understand the benefits of the fruit and to raise awareness about how it can be grown and preserved.

Skyscraper Day

- ★ Skyscraper Day is celebrated on September 3 every year.
- ★ Skyscrapers Day is celebrated every year on September 3, on the birth anniversary of Louis H. Sullivan, often called the 'father of modern skyscrapers'.
- ★ Celebrate this unofficial holiday by climbing or taking the elevator/lift up a skyscraper and by acknowledging the architectural and engineering feats that make such buildings possible.
- ★ Tall buildings are called skyscrapers because their tops seem to scrape the sky. The term was first applied to buildings in the 19th century and was used to describe buildings over 10 stories tall.
- ★ In cities such as New York, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, and Detroit, tall buildings were erected during the middle of the 19th century, but the first steel-frame skyscraper wasn't built until 1885.
- ★ The world's first skyscraper came up in Chicago in 1885.
- ★ Skyscraper Day can be observed by simply taking the time to visit a local skyscraper and take a trip up it.

National Teachers Day

- ★ In India, every year 5th of September is celebrated as National Teachers Day to contribute to our teachers.
- ★ Fifth September is the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarevepalli Radhakrishnan, the former President of India who was a well-known Teacher, Scholar, and Philosopher.
- ★ In India, the President, Dr. Sarevepalli Radhakrishnan's birthday is celebrated as Teacher's Day. He was one of the greatest teachers and very popular among the students.
- ★ On his birthday his students and friends asked to celebrate it grandly. For that, he replied instead of celebrating in a grand manner he wanted to observe his birthday as a Teachers day.
- ★ Since 1962 every year 5th of September is celebrated as National Teachers Day in India.
- ★ As the common adage goes, the future of a country lies in the hands of its children, and teachers, as mentors, can mould students into future leaders who shape the destiny of India.

International Day of Charity

- ★ In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Day of Charity was observed on the 5th of September.
- ★ They declared September 5 as an International Day of Charity in order to remember the death anniversary of Mother Theresa who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1979.

- ★ This day was constructed by a Hungarian civil society with the support of the Hungarian Government.
- ★ On 17 December 2012, the UN General Assembly declared the 5th of September as the International Day of Charity.
- ★ To honour the tireless work of Mother Theresa for charity, her death anniversary is celebrated as the International Day of Charity.

World Literacy Day

- ★ World Literacy Day or International Literacy Day is observed each year on the 8th of September.
- ★ International Literacy Day is observed in order to create awareness about literacy.
- ★ In 1966, UNESCO declared the 8th of September as World Literacy Day to remind the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights for people.
- ★ This day was declared by The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation or UNESCO on 26th October 1966.
- ★ UNESCO encourages International Literacy Day in partnership with governments, local communities, charities, and experts in the field worldwide.
- ★ International Literacy Day was first coined in the “World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy” held in Tehran, Iran in 1965.
- ★ According to UNESCO “Literacy is the best remedy” which is a right for all to an education.

World Physical Therapy Day

- ★ Every year 8th of September is observed as World Physical Therapy Day.
- ★ World Physical Therapy Day got recognized by the World Confederation for Physical Therapy in the year of 1996.
- ★ In ancient times, the first report of physical therapy came from Hippocrates. From then physiotherapy has progressed from a simple massage to a complex portfolio of therapies with a worldwide range.
- ★ In 1813, the Father of Swedish Gymnastics (Per Henrik Ling) constructed the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics (RCIG) to produce medical benefits for the athlete.
- ★ Sweden’s National Board of Health and Welfare granted physical therapists official registration in 1887.
- ★ In India, physiotherapy was first started in the year of 1952.
- ★ The first physiotherapy centre was started in Mumbai with the support of the Government and the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

World Suicide Prevention Day

- ★ World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on September 10 of every year.
- ★ World Suicide Prevention Day 2024 is organized to create awareness against suicide.

- ★ The international theme of World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) on 10th September 2025 is 'Changing the Narrative on Suicide'.
- ★ World Suicide Prevention Day was observed on 10 September 2003.
- ★ This day was first announced by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ★ In 1960 the IASP was established by the late Professor Erwin Ringel and Dr. Norman Faberlow in Vienna.
- ★ This organization is a non-governmental which is concerned with suicide prevention.
- ★ The first World Suicide Report was released in 2014 “Preventing Suicide: A Global Imperative”, It is focused on suicide prevention and makes it a high priority on the global public agenda.

World Ozone Day

- ★ Every year World Ozone Day is observed on 16 September.
- ★ In 1913, the French Physicists, Charles Fabry and Henri Buisson discovered the Ozone Layer.
- ★ The theme for World Ozone Day 2025 is "From science to global action".
- ★ In 1985, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was adopted and signed by 28 countries.
- ★ On 16th September 1987 the Montreal Protocol, on the substance that depletes the ozone layer was signed by the United Nations and Other Nations.
- ★ The Montreal Protocol was first implemented on 1 January 1989.
- ★ The purpose of the Montreal Protocol is to reduce the production of a substance that causes the depletion of the ozone layer.
- ★ In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided to organize World Ozone Day on the 16th of September.

World Patient Safety Day

- ★ Every year September 17 is observed as World Patient Safety Day.
- ★ The person who is ill or injured and in need of treatment by a doctor or any other health care provider is referred to as a patient.
- ★ The World Patient Safety Day 2025 theme is "Safe care for every newborn and every child,"
- ★ In the year of 2019, the World Health Assembly established World Patient Safety Day with a resolution on patient safety at the international level.
- ★ The World Health Assembly adopted the resolution WHA 72.6 on “Global action on patient safety” which was built on a series of Annual Global Ministerial summits in 2016.
- ★ Though this day was established in 2019, this day was first observed in the year 2021.

World Bamboo Day

- ★ Every year 18th of September is celebrated as World Bamboo Day.

- ★ Bamboo is an evergreen plant that belongs to the Poaceae grass family. Bamboo is versatile and strong and can be easily grown.
- ★ World Bamboo Day was recognized by the World Bamboo Organization in the year of 2009.
- ★ World Bamboo Day was founded by Kamesh Salam who was the former President of the World Bamboo Organization.
- ★ The World Bamboo Organization Headquarters was located in Antwerp, Belgium.
- ★ The 8th World Bamboo Congress was held in Bangkok on 18 September 2009.
- ★ So on this day, the World Bamboo Organization declared that every year the 18th of September is observed as World Bamboo Day.
- ★ The World Bamboo Congress organized this day in order to achieve the protection of natural resources and to promote new cultivation of Bamboo for new industries in regions around the world.

World Pharmacists Day

- ★ World Pharmacists Day is celebrated on 25th September of every year in order to appreciate the efforts of pharmacists as healthcare workers.
- ★ This day is observed in order to create awareness about pharmacists.
- ★ The theme for World Pharmacists Day in 2025 is "Think Health, Think Pharmacist".
- ★ In 2009, at Turkey's Istanbul, The International Pharmaceutical Federation Council announced that World Pharmacists Day would be celebrated on 25th September.
- ★ In the year of 1912, the International Pharmaceutical Federation was established on September 25.
- ★ So the Turkish members council put forward the 25th of September as World Pharmacists Day.
- ★ The International Pharmaceutical Federation is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.

World Environmental Health Day

- ★ World Environmental Health Day is observed on the 26th of September of every year.
- ★ This day is observed in order to spread awareness about environmental health worldwide.
- ★ **2025 theme:** "Clean Air, Healthy People."
- ★ World Environmental Health Day was established by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) on 26th September 2011.
- ★ This day was established by IFEH in order to increase awareness of different issues surrounding environmental health.
- ★ The IFEH has been working for more than 32 years to improve the health issues which threaten human well-being.
- ★ We must keep our environment clean and healthy in order to keep ourselves healthy.

World Rabies Day

- ★ World Rabies Day is celebrated on 28th September of every year.
- ★ Rabies is a deadly virus that spreads to people from the saliva of infected animals.
- ★ The 2025 theme for World Rabies Day “Act Now: You, Me, Community,”
- ★ The Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) established World Rabies Day in 2007. This day was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ★ They chose the date 28th September to observe World Rabies Day in order to remember the French Scientist Louis Pasteur.
- ★ In 1895, the French Scientist Louis Pasteur passed away on this day (28th September) created the vaccination for rabies
- ★ World Rabies Day is observed in order to raise awareness about the impact of rabies on animals and humans.

OBITUARY NEWS

Kalakshetra Stalwart Alladi Sarada

- ★ Sarada Hoffman (Alladi Sarada), also known as Chinna Sarada or Sarada teacher, passed away on 14 September 2025 in California at the age of 96.
- ★ She was born on 15 June 1929 at the Theosophical Society campus, Adyar (Chennai).
- ★ She was a renowned Bharatanatyam exponent and a pillar of the Kalakshetra Foundation.
- ★ She played a key role in codifying and standardising the Kalakshetra style of Bharatanatyam under the guidance of Rukmini Devi Arundale.
- ★ Some of her prominent disciples include Yamini Krishnamurthy, C.V. Chandrasekhar, V.P. Dhananjayan & Shanta Dhananjayan, and later alumni like Narendra, Sheejit Krishna, P.T. Narendran, Shijit Nambiar/Parvathi.
- ★ She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1996 (one of India’s highest honours in the arts).
- ★ She was the first recipient of the Rukmini Devi Medal for Excellence in the Arts, instituted by the Centre for Contemporary Culture, New Delhi.

