



OCTOBER-2025

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AWARDS / MEDALS / HONOURS / PRIZES

- **International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025**
India received the ISSA Award 2025 for *Outstanding Achievement in Social Security* at the **World Social Security Forum, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)**. The award, presented once every three years, recognised India's expansion of social security coverage from **19% (2015)** to **64.3% (2025)**. India's use of digital platforms such as the **e-Shram portal** enabled integration of multiple schemes and coverage of over **940 million citizens**. Previous recipients include **Brazil (2013), China (2016), Rwanda (2019), and Iceland (2022)**.
- **INSPIRE Award–MANAK Scheme**
Uttar Pradesh secured the top position nationwide with **2.8 lakh nominations in 2024–25**, registering an increase of 70,000 over the previous year. Students from all **75 districts** participated. The scheme is jointly implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology** and the **National Innovation Foundation**.
- **WCPA–Kenton Miller Award**
Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve**, became



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the **first Indian** to receive this award for innovation in protected area management. The award was presented at the **IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi**. She was honoured alongside **Roque Simón Sevilla Larrea (Ecuador)**. Instituted in **2006**, the award is presented biennially by the **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)** of the IUCN.

- **FAO Global Technical Recognition – SAIME Model**

The **Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME)** model from the **Sundarbans, West Bengal**, received FAO recognition in **Rome**. The model integrates low-impact aquaculture with mangrove conservation, maintaining **5–30% mangrove cover** in ponds, reducing costs, increasing farmer income, and empowering local women.

- **British Academy Book Prize 2025**

Sunil Amrith, Indian-origin historian at Yale University, won the prize for his book *The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years*. The **£25,000 award** recognises his work on the long-term human impact on the global climate.

- **Global Tourism Award 2025**

The **Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department** won the award for implementing a new tourism policy, promoting eco-friendly and adventure tourism, attracting private investment through **103 MoUs**, and generating employment.

- **TANSA Award for Environmental Science**

Prof. R. Arthur James of **Bharathidasan University** received the **TANSA Award for Environmental Science (2022)** for contributions to sustainable marine research and environmental conservation. The award includes a **₹50,000 cash prize and citation**.

- **Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2026**

India ranked **second globally** in the number of universities featured, behind the U.S. The **Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru)** emerged as India's top institution (201–250 band). **University of Oxford** retained the global top rank for the **10th consecutive year**.

- **Ursula K. Le Guin Prize for Fiction 2025**

Vajra Chandrasekera (Sri Lanka) won the prize for his novel *Rakesfall*. Established in **2022**, the award honours a single work of imaginative fiction and carries a **\$25,000 prize**.

- **Knighthood Honour**

James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, was formally knighted by **Princess Anne at Windsor Castle**.

NOBEL PRIZES – 2025

- **Physics:** John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, John M. Martinis

For discoveries in macroscopic quantum tunnelling and energy quantisation in electric circuits.



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- **Chemistry:** Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, Omar M. Yaghi
For the development of metal–organic frameworks.
- **Physiology or Medicine:** Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, Shimon Sakaguchi
For discoveries related to peripheral immune tolerance.
- **Literature:** László Krasznahorkai
For a visionary literary body of work reaffirming the power of art amid existential crises.
- **Peace:** Maria Corina Machado
For her efforts to promote democratic rights and peaceful transition in Venezuela.
- **Economic Sciences:** Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt
For explaining innovation-driven economic growth.

OTHER MAJOR HONOURS

- **World Food Prize Foundation Honour**
Celebrity chef and Padma Shri awardee **Sanjeev Kapoor** was named a **Top Agri-Food Pioneer**.
- **70th Filmfare Awards (2025)**
 1. Best Actor: **Abhishek Bachchan** (*I Want To Talk*), **Kartik Aaryan** (*Chandu Champion*)
 2. Best Actress: **Alia Bhatt** (*Jigra*)
 3. Best Director: **Kiran Rao** (*Laapataa Ladies*)
 4. Best Film: **Laapataa Ladies**
- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025**
India's highest civilian honour in science, technology, and innovation.
 1. **Vigyan Ratna:** Prof. **Jayant Vishnu Narlikar** (Physics)
 2. **Vigyan Shri:** Eight scientists across agriculture, chemistry, biology, engineering, environment, mathematics, and space science
 3. **Vigyan Team Award:** **CSIR Aroma Mission Team**
- **Rajyotsava Award 2025**
Prof. Ravindra Korisetar, eminent archaeologist from Karnataka, received the state's highest civilian honour.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- **October 4 – World Animal Day** (100th Anniversary)
Theme: Save Animals, Save the Planet!
- **October 6 – World Habitat Day**
Theme: Urban Crisis Response
- **October 7 – World Cotton Day**



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- **October 10 – World Mental Health Day**
Theme: Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies
- **October 10 – National Post Day**
Theme: Post For People: Local Service, Global Reach
- **October 13 – International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**
- **October 14 – World Standards Day**
Theme: A Shared Vision for a Better World
- **October 24 – United Nations Day**
- **October 24 – World Polio Day**
Theme: End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere
- **October 28 – International Animation Day**
- **October 31 – National Unity Day**

PERSONS IN NEWS / APPOINTMENTS

- **Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla** was appointed **Brand Ambassador for Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025**. As the **first Indian to reach the ISS (July 2025)**, he will inspire students from **1.5 lakh schools**. The Buildathon is organised by the **Ministry of Education, NITI Aayog, and Atal Innovation Mission**.
- **Vivek Menon**, Founder-Trustee of **Wildlife Trust of India**, was elected **Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (2025–2029)**, becoming the **first Asian** to hold the post.
- **Sanae Takaichi** was elected **Japan's first female Prime Minister**.
- **Khaled El-Enany** took oath as the **11th Director-General of UNESCO** at the **43rd General Conference in Samarkand**, succeeding **Audrey Azoulay**.
- **Prof. Eknath Vasant Chitnis**, Padma Bhushan awardee and veteran space scientist, passed away at **100**. He was a close associate of **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai** and played a key role in **INCOSPAR**, the precursor to ISRO.
- **Dan Katz** was appointed **First Deputy Managing Director of the IMF**, previously serving as **Chief of Staff at the US Treasury**.
- **Queen Mother Sirikit of Thailand** passed away at **93**; she was known for rural development and conservation efforts.
- **Neeraj Chopra** was conferred the **honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel** in the **Territorial Army**.
- **Satish Shah**, veteran actor, passed away at **74**.
- **Sonali Sen Gupta** was appointed **Executive Director of the RBI**.
- **Justice Surya Kant** was appointed the **53rd Chief Justice of India**, succeeding **Justice B.R. Gavai**, under **Article 124(2)**.



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- **Paul Biya**, aged **92**, was sworn in for an **8th term as President of Cameroon**.
- **Manuel Frederick**, Indian hockey legend and **1972 Olympic bronze medallist**, passed away at **78**.
- **Praveer Ranjan (IPS, AGMUT)** assumed charge as **Director General, CISF**.
- **Praveen Kumar (IPS, West Bengal cadre)** took charge as **Director General, ITBP**.
- **Chen-Ning Yang**, Nobel laureate physicist (1957), passed away in Beijing; co-author of **Yang–Mills theory**.
- **G.G. Parikh**, Gandhian and freedom fighter, founder of the **Yusuf Meherally Centre**, passed away.
- **Pandit Chhannulal Mishra**, Padma Bhushan awardee and Hindustani classical vocalist, passed away at **89**.
- **Dr. K. Mathangi Ramakrishnan**, pioneer of burn care in South India and Padma Shri awardee, passed away.
- **Pankaj Dheer**, noted actor known for *Mahabharat*, passed away at **68**.
- **Govardhan Asrani**, veteran actor known for *Sholay*, passed away.
- **Diane Keaton**, Oscar-winning actress, passed away at **79**.
- **Piyush Pandey**, advertising icon known as the *Father of Indian Advertising*, passed away.

NATIONAL NEWS:

- **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2025**
India is ranked **102nd out of 123 countries** with a score of **25.8**, placing it in the **“serious” hunger** category. The index is jointly released by **Concern Worldwide** and **Welthungerhilfe**. It is calculated using four indicators: **undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality**. Countries such as **Somalia, South Sudan, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Haiti** remain among the worst affected due to prolonged conflicts and humanitarian crises.
- **UPI Usage Intensity Study (RBI Bulletin)**
According to a paper published in the **Reserve Bank of India Bulletin**, **Telangana** recorded the highest per capita usage intensity of **UPI transactions** among Indian states. The study used **PhonePe transaction data** as a proxy. Other high-performing states include **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra**.
- **Henley Passport Index 2025**
India’s passport rank declined to **85th in 2025**, down from **80th in 2024**, allowing visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to **57 countries**. The drop is attributed to changing global mobility agreements and stricter border policies. **Singapore** ranked first, followed by **South Korea (2nd)** and **Japan (3rd)**.



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- **State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)**

Launched by the **Ministry of Mines**, the SMRI is India's first index to assess reforms and preparedness in the mining sector. It was developed in collaboration with **IIT (ISM) Dhanbad** and **Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)**.

1. **Category A (Mineral-rich states):** Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat
2. **Category B (Moderate resources):** Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Assam
3. **Category C (Low resources):** Punjab, Uttarakhand, Tripura

- **Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025**

Released by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the report ranks **India 9th globally** in total forest area, improving from 10th in the previous assessment. India retained its **3rd position** in annual net forest area gain and ranked **5th among global carbon sinks**, with forests absorbing **150 million tonnes of CO₂ annually (2021–2025)**. Global forest cover stands at **~4.14 billion hectares**, covering **32% of Earth's land area**, while net forest loss declined significantly over recent decades.

- **Global Firepower Index 2025**

The index ranked the **United States** as the world's most powerful military, followed by **Russia** and **China**. **India secured the 4th position**, with **South Korea** ranked 5th. Rankings are based on a **Power Index score** derived from over 60 indicators including manpower, logistics, air and naval strength, and defence finances.

- **IUCN World Heritage Outlook 4**

The report identifies **climate change** as the most severe threat to **natural World Heritage sites**, affecting **43%** of them worldwide.

- **PM-SETU Scheme**

The **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU)** is a **₹60,000-crore** initiative of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, launched in **October 2025**. It aims to modernise **1,000 ITIs** through a **hub-and-spoke model**, linking **200 hub ITIs** with **800 spoke ITIs** to create industry-aligned skill centres.

- **Vishwas Scheme**

Launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, the scheme seeks to reduce litigation by introducing **rationalised penal damages** under the **Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act**.

- **National Camel Sustainability Initiative (NCSI)**

Proposed by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** in consultation with **FAO**, the initiative aims to reverse the **75% decline in India's camel population**. It



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focuses on conservation, breeding, and livelihood support, particularly in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**.

- **World's Highest Motorable Road – Mig La Pass**

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** constructed the world's highest motorable road at **Mig La Pass, Ladakh**, at an altitude of **19,400 feet**, surpassing Umling La. Built under **Project Himank** as part of the **Likaru–Mig La–Fukche alignment**, it enhances connectivity near the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** and boosts troop mobility and tourism.

- **IIT Palakkad – Ministry of Minority Affairs MoU**

IIT Palakkad signed an MoU with the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** under the **PMVIKAS scheme** to provide future-technology skill training to minority youth in Kerala. The programme will train around **400 beneficiaries**, fully funded by the Ministry, with stipends and placement support.

- **Bharat Taxi Initiative**

A government-backed **cooperative taxi service**, Bharat Taxi is scheduled for launch in **December 2025**. It aims to operate in **20 cities** initially and onboard **one lakh drivers by 2030**. The **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** under **MeitY** will provide advisory support to **Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd**.

- **National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS)**

On **World Mental Health Day 2025**, the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** introduced major upgrades to the Tele MANAS app, including availability in **10 regional languages**, accessibility features for the visually impaired, a chatbot named **"Asmi"**, and emergency response guidance.

- **"Fare Se Fursat" Initiative**

Launched by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, this pilot programme by **Alliance Air** offers a **single fixed airfare** irrespective of booking date. It aims to make air travel affordable and predictable while supporting the **UDAN** connectivity goals.

- **'We Rise' Initiative**

Launched by **NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)** in partnership with **DP World**, the initiative supports women entrepreneurs by making women-led **MSMEs export-ready** through trade facilitation, mentorship, and global market access.

- **Major Agricultural Initiatives Launched by PM Modi**

1. **Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission:** Targets expansion of pulse cultivation from **275 lakh ha to 310 lakh ha by 2030–31**, with productivity of **1,130 kg/ha** and enhanced rural employment.



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2. **Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana:** Covers **100 aspirational districts**, integrates **36 schemes from 11 ministries**, runs for **six years**, with an annual outlay of **₹24,000 crore**.

- **Bajrang Setu (Rishikesh)**

India's first **132-metre cable glass bridge** over the **Ganga River**, designed to replace **Lakshman Jhula**, combining modern engineering with spiritual architectural elements inspired by the **Kedarnath Temple**.

- **Koyla Shakti Initiative**

Launched by the **Ministry of Coal**, Koyla Shakti is a **Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard (SCAD)** that integrates real-time data from multiple stakeholders to enhance transparency, efficiency, and monitoring of the coal sector.

- **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum**

India's first **fully digital tribal freedom fighters' museum** was inaugurated at **Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh**. It commemorates **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh (1820–1857)**, the first tribal martyr of Chhattisgarh, who led resistance against British grain hoarding during the **1856–57 famine**.

- **Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted and operationalised the **Payments Regulatory Board (PRB)** under the **Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007**. The six-member board comprises **three RBI officials and three Central Government nominees** and is chaired by the **RBI Governor, Sanjay Malhotra**. It replaces the earlier **Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems (BPSS)**. The PRB regulates and supervises India's payment systems. Decisions are taken by majority vote, with the Chairperson having a casting vote. The **RBI Principal Legal Adviser** is a permanent invitee.

- **World Bank Growth Forecast**

The **World Bank** revised India's GDP growth forecast for **FY2026** upward to **6.5%** from **6.3%**, citing strong domestic demand, rural recovery, and positive effects of **GST reforms**.

- **RBI Global Hackathon – HaRBInger 2025**

The RBI launched **HaRBInger 2025 – Innovation for Transformation**, its fourth global hackathon, under the theme "**Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity**." The initiative focuses on leveraging emerging technologies to enhance customer identity protection and trust in digital finance.

- **Cryptocurrency as Property – Madras High Court**

The **Madras High Court** ruled that **cryptocurrency qualifies as "property" under Indian law**, capable of ownership, trust holding, and legal protection. The judgment arose from a



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cyberattack case involving the **WazirX exchange**, granting investors enforceable ownership rights.

- **Electric Truck Battery Swapping Infrastructure**

Union Minister **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated India's first commercial **electric truck battery swapping and charging station** at **Delhi International Cargo Terminal (Sonipat, Haryana)**. Developed by **Energy in Motion**, the facility enables battery replacement in about **seven minutes**. Stubble-based **bio-bitumen** is being used for road construction in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

- **Antarctic Research Station – Maitri II**

The **Ministry of Finance** approved the construction of **Maitri II**, India's new Antarctic research station, scheduled for completion by **January 2029**. Located in eastern Antarctica, it will replace the existing Maitri station and function as a **green facility** powered by solar and wind energy. The project is overseen by **NCPOR** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.

- **SBI Global Finance Awards**

State Bank of India (SBI) received the **“World's Best Consumer Bank 2025”** and **“Best Bank in India 2025”** awards from **Global Finance** magazine.

- **Godda Thermal Power Plant Grid Connectivity**

The **Ministry of Power** approved **Adani Power Ltd** to connect its **1,600 MW Godda thermal power plant (Jharkhand)** to the national grid, enabling domestic power sales alongside exports to Bangladesh.

- **Global Fintech Fest (GFF) – 2025**

The **6th Global Fintech Fest** will be held in **Mumbai** under the theme **“Empowering Finance for a Better World Powered by AI.”** A key attraction is the **Bharat AI Experience Zone**, jointly presented by **NPCI and NVIDIA**.

- **IIT Campus in West Africa**

India and **Nigeria** are establishing the **first IIT campus in West Africa**, scheduled to begin operations in **Nigeria by 2026**.

DEFENCE NEWS / MILITARY EXERCISES

- **Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025**

The **fourth edition** of the India–Australia joint military exercise will be held in **Perth, Australia**. The Indian contingent is led by a **Gorkha Rifles battalion**.

- **JAIMEX-2025**

The **Japan–India Maritime Exercise** was conducted off the coast of **Kyushu, Japan**, with **INS Sahyadri** representing the Indian Navy.



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- **INS Androth**
The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Androth**, the second **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**, built by **GRSE, Kolkata**, with over **80% indigenous content**.
- **SAKSHAM Counter-UAS Grid**
The Indian Army launched **SAKSHAM**, an indigenous AI-powered counter-drone system developed with **BEL, Ghaziabad**. It integrates detection, jamming, and hard-kill options, securing airspace up to **3,000 metres**, and works alongside systems like **Akashteer**.
- **UNTCC Conclave**
India will host the **Conclave of Chiefs of UN Troop Contributing Countries** in **New Delhi**, with participation from **32 countries**.
- **Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plant**
Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurated a new advanced materials plant in **Lucknow** to support defence and aerospace self-reliance.
- **INS Sutlej Hydrographic Mission**
INS Sutlej completed its **18th Indo-Mauritian hydrographic mission**, surveying **35,000 sq nautical miles** in line with the **MAHASAGAR Vision**.
- **NATPOLREX-X**
The **Indian Coast Guard** will conduct the **10th National Pollution Response Exercise** off the coast of **Chennai** under the **NOSDCP framework**.
- **Exercise Pacific Reach (XPR-25)**
Hosted by **Singapore**, the exercise saw India successfully demonstrate global submarine rescue capability using **DSRV Tiger X**, marking the first such operation outside the Indian Ocean Region.
- **ICGS Akshar**
Commissioned at **Karaikal**, **ICGS Akshar** is the second **Adamy-class Fast Patrol Vessel**, built by **Goa Shipyard Ltd** with over **60% indigenous content**.
- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**
A **DRDO-led initiative** to develop a **multi-layered indigenous air and missile defence shield** by **2035**, inspired by systems like Israel's Iron Dome.
- **Exercise KONKAN-2025**
An **India-UK maritime exercise** held off India's western coast, featuring harbour and sea phases with **INS Vikrant**.
- **INS Sahyadri – Malaysia Port Call**
INS Sahyadri visited **Kemaman Port, Malaysia**, during its Indo-Pacific deployment. It is a **Shivalik-class stealth frigate**, commissioned in **2012**.



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- **Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) 1.0**
Launched by **DRDO** with the Tri-Services, IRSA is India's first national software standard for **Software Defined Radios**, enabling interoperability.
- **Hwasong-20 ICBM**
North Korea unveiled its most powerful **ICBM Hwasong-20**, believed capable of targeting the US mainland.
- **IN-RoKN Exercise**
India and South Korea conducted their **first bilateral naval exercise** at **Busan**, with **INS Sahyadri** participating.
- **7th NSG Hub – Ayodhya**
The Government approved a new **NSG hub in Ayodhya**, enhancing rapid counter-terror deployment capacity.
- **Operation Chakra-V**
Conducted by **CBI**, the operation targeted a large cyber-enabled fraud network across southern India.
- **Astra Mk-2 Missile**
The **Astra Mk-2 BVR air-to-air missile**, developed by **DRDO**, will have a range exceeding **200 km**, with plans to induct **~700 missiles** into the IAF.
- **Samudra Shakti-2025**
The **5th India-Indonesia maritime exercise** was hosted by India at **Visakhapatnam**, with **INS Kavaratti** participating.
- **Akash Missile Export Offer**
India formally offered the **Akash air defence system** to **Brazil** to strengthen defence cooperation.
- **Indian Army Modernisation Units**
New formations include **Rudra Brigades, Bhairav Battalions, Divyastra Batteries**, and **Shaktibaan air defence units**, supported by AI-driven systems like the **Kaala Bhairava drone**.
- **INS Mahe (ASW-SWC)**
Cochin Shipyard Ltd delivered the first of eight indigenously built ASW shallow water crafts, with over **80% indigenous content**.
- **Exercise Ocean Sky 2025**
The **Indian Air Force** became the **first non-NATO participant** in this high-intensity air combat exercise hosted by **Spain**.



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- **Ghost Jellyfish Drone**
China developed a transparent **jellyfish-shaped underwater drone** using hydrogel and AI for stealth surveillance.
- **Exercise Trishul 2025**
A **tri-service exercise** involving Army, Navy, Air Force, and support forces across land, sea, air, cyber, and electronic warfare domains.
- **Survey Vessel Ikshak**
The Indian Navy commissioned **SVL Ikshak at Kochi**, boosting hydrographic survey and HADR capabilities.
- **SJ-100 Passenger Jet Collaboration**
HAL and Russia's UAC signed an MoU to jointly manufacture the **SJ-100 aircraft** in India under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
- **INS Gomati – Naval Shaurya Museum**
The decommissioned **INS Gomati** will anchor **Lucknow's Naval Shaurya Museum**, showcasing India's naval heritage.
- **Withdrawal of Animal-Based Biostimulants**
The Government of India has withdrawn approval for **11 animal protein-based biostimulants** following religious and dietary objections raised by **Hindu and Jain communities**. These biostimulants, derived from sources such as **chicken feathers, pig tissue, bovine hide, and cod scales**, were used to enhance crop growth and are distinct from fertilizers. The products were removed from **Schedule VI of the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), 1985**.
- **Cyclone Shakti**
Cyclone Shakti was classified as a **Severe Cyclonic Storm (SCS)** by the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** after forming over the **Arabian Sea**. The name was given by **Sri Lanka**, meaning "*power*" or "*energy*", in accordance with guidelines of the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** and the **ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones**.
- **Baratang Mud Volcano Eruption**
The **Baratang mud volcano** in the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** erupted after more than two decades, with its last major eruption recorded in **2005**. The eruption produced a loud explosive sound and formed a new mound **3–4 metres high**, spreading mud over nearly **1,000 square metres**. Mud volcanoes are caused by gases, primarily **methane**, forcing mud to the surface from deep underground.
- **India's First Cooperative CBG Plant and Potash Project**
India's first **cooperative compressed biogas (CBG) plant** and **Potash Granule Project** was launched at **Kopergaon, Maharashtra**, at the **Sahakar Maharshi Shankarrao Kolhe**



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Cooperative Sugar Factory. Using a multi-feed approach with inputs such as **jaggery and molasses**, the facility produces **12 tonnes of CBG** and **75 tonnes of potash daily**, supporting circular economy principles and energy security.

- **Wildlife Week 2025 – MoEF&CC Initiatives**

During **Wildlife Week (October 2025)**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** launched five national-level conservation and conflict management projects:

1. **Project Dolphin – Phase II**
2. **Project Sloth Bear**
3. **Project Gharial**
4. **Centre of Excellence for Human–Wildlife Conflict Management (CoE-HWC)**
5. **Tigers Outside Tiger Reserves**

Additionally, four national-level action plans and field guides were released:

6. **Second Cycle of Population Estimation of River Dolphins and Other Cetaceans**
7. **All India Tiger Estimation – Cycle 6**
8. **Second Cycle of Snow Leopard Population Estimation Action Plan**
9. **Population Estimation Progress Report of Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican**

- **MSC Certification for Marine Fish Species**

India aims to secure its **first Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification** for a marine fish species by **2026**. Around **10 species**, including **shrimp, squid, and tuna**, are under evaluation. MSC certification promotes sustainable fishing practices and is expected to increase fisheries exports and sector revenue by up to **30%**. The initiative is supported under the **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**.

- **Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project Protests**

Protests erupted in **Daporijo, Upper Subansiri district (Arunachal Pradesh)** against the proposed **2,000 MW Subansiri Upper Hydroelectric Project**, managed by **NHPC Ltd**. Local communities and environmental groups raised concerns over ecological and livelihood impacts. The project is planned on the **Subansiri River**, a major tributary of the **Brahmaputra**.

- **Green Sea Turtle Conservation Status**

The **IUCN** upgraded the global status of the **Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas)** to **“Least Concern”** from **“Endangered”**, citing a nearly **28% increase** in global population since the 1970s. Conservation measures include nesting site protection, marine protected areas, and reduced bycatch. In India, it is listed under **Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.



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- **Green Hydrogen Hubs**

The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** designated **Deendayal Port Authority (Gujarat)**, **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Tamil Nadu)**, and **Paradip Port Authority (Odisha)** as **Green Hydrogen Hubs** under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. The initiative aims to develop integrated ecosystems for hydrogen production, storage, and export.

- **Indian Wolf Reclassification**

The **IUCN** identified the **Indian wolf (Canis lupus pallipes)** as a potential distinct species due to its ancient lineage and unique genetic profile. The population is estimated at around **3,000 individuals** across India and Pakistan. The species is classified as **"Vulnerable"** on the IUCN Red List and listed under **Schedule I** of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

- **Prussian Blue Capsules**

India supplied **Prussian Blue capsules** to **Indonesia** to address a **Cesium-137 contamination scare** detected in marine products. Officially known as **potassium ferric hexacyanoferrate**, the capsules are effective in treating **cesium and thallium poisoning**.

- **Cyclone Montha**

Cyclone Montha, a **Severe Cyclonic Storm**, made landfall along the **Andhra Pradesh coast** on the **Bay of Bengal**, causing heavy rainfall and strong winds. The name was assigned by **Thailand**, where "Montha" means *"beautiful"* or *"fragrant flower"*, following **WMO-ESCAP** naming protocols.

- **BPCL-OIL Greenfield Refinery MoU**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and **Oil India Limited (OIL)** signed a non-binding MoU to explore collaboration on a **₹1 lakh crore greenfield refinery and petrochemical complex** near **Ramayapatnam Port, Andhra Pradesh**. The proposed refinery capacity is **9-12 MTPA**, with OIL expected to hold a minority equity stake.

- **Expansion of Wildlife Sanctuaries in Ladakh**

Ladakh proposed redrawing boundaries of the **Karakoram** and **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuaries** based on updated mapping and local requirements. The revised areas increase sanctuary coverage to **16,550 sq km (Karakoram)** and **9,695 sq km (Changthang)**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

- **Coral Larvae Cryobank – Philippines**

The **Philippines** is establishing **Southeast Asia's first Coral Larvae Cryobank** in the **Coral Triangle** to preserve and restore coral species using advanced **cryogenic preservation techniques**.



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- **India Re-elected to ICAO Council**

India has been re-elected to the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council** for the **2025–2028** term during the **42nd ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada**. India received its **highest-ever mandate**, recognising its contributions to aviation safety, security, and sustainability.

- **Poland and NATO Pipeline System (NPS)**

Poland will join the **NATO Pipeline System**, nearly **25 years after joining NATO in 1999**, to strengthen fuel logistics and military infrastructure. The project will integrate Poland's national fuel network with NATO's trans-European system.

- **Iran Currency Reform**

Iran's parliament approved a plan to **remove four zeros from the rial**, replacing **10,000 old rials with one new rial**, to simplify transactions amid **over 35% inflation**.

- **US Supply of AMRAAM Missiles to Pakistan**

The **United States** confirmed supplying **AIM-120 AMRAAM** missiles to **Pakistan** under an expanded contract with **Raytheon**. The deal includes advanced **C-8 and D-3 variants**, with completion expected by **May 2030**. The missile is a **beyond-visual-range, fire-and-forget** air-to-air system.

- **Armenia Joins IUCN**

Armenia became a State Member of the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** during the **World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi**. IUCN, founded in **1948**, is headquartered in **Gland, Switzerland**, and publishes the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.

- **South China Sea Tensions**

Tensions escalated after a collision between a **Chinese Coast Guard vessel** and a **Philippine government ship** near the **Spratly Islands**. Despite a **2016 international ruling in favour of the Philippines**, China continues to assert expansive territorial claims.

- **Political Unrest in Madagascar**

Madagascar's President **Andry Rajoelina** appointed **General Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo** as Prime Minister amid youth-led protests under the **Gen Z Mada movement**. The move followed the dismissal of former PM **Christian Ntsay** and the cabinet.

- **Sharm El-Sheikh Gaza Peace Summit 2025**

Held in **Egypt**, the summit was co-hosted by **President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** and **US President Donald Trump**, with participation from over **20 world leaders**. India supported the peace initiative and acknowledged the roles of **Egypt and Qatar**.

- **Hamas–Doghmush Conflict 2025**

Violent clashes erupted between **Hamas** and the **Doghmush clan** in Gaza, marking one of



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the most severe internal Palestinian conflicts in recent years. Fighting was concentrated in **Tel al-Hawa and Sabra** areas of Gaza City.

- **Maldives – Triple Elimination**

The **Maldives** became the **first country** to achieve **triple elimination** of mother-to-child transmission of **HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B**, validated by the **WHO**. Over **95% of pregnant women** receive antenatal care.

- **India Elected to UN Human Rights Council**

India was elected **unopposed** to the **UN Human Rights Council** for the **2026–2028** term, marking its **seventh term**, beginning **1 January 2026**.

- **Uruguay Legalises Euthanasia**

Uruguay became the first Latin American country to legalise euthanasia through the **“Dignified Death” law**, allowing mentally competent adults with irreversible suffering to request assisted death.

- **Tuvalu Joins IUCN**

Tuvalu became the **90th State Member** of the IUCN, a significant step for a low-lying island nation threatened by **sea-level rise and climate change**.

- **Saudi Arabia Abolishes Kafala System**

Saudi Arabia replaced the **Kafala sponsorship system** with a **contract-based employment model**, allowing migrant workers greater freedom to change jobs, travel, and seek legal remedies. The reform aligns with **Vision 2030**.

- **Poseidon Underwater Drone – Russia**

Russia successfully tested **Poseidon**, a **nuclear-powered, nuclear-capable autonomous underwater vehicle**, reportedly having **virtually unlimited operational range**.

- **Iran Ratifies Terror Financing Convention**

Iran ratified the **UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism**, a key step toward complying with **FATF** requirements. Iran earlier ratified the **Palermo Convention**.

- **Japan’s Yen-Pegged Stablecoin**

Japan launched the world’s first **yen-pegged stablecoin, JPYC**, fully backed by domestic savings and government bonds. It aims to promote faster digital transactions and financial innovation.

- **Sevilla Forum on Debt**

Launched at **UNCTAD-16 in Geneva**, the forum is led by **Spain** with support from **UNCTAD and UN DESA**, focusing on global debt sustainability and management.



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- **Burevestnik Cruise Missile – Russia**

Russia successfully tested the **nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile**, which reportedly flew **14,000 km over 15 hours**, showcasing extended-range strike capability.

- **Hyunmoo-5 Missile – South Korea**

South Korea plans to deploy the **Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile** by **end-2025** as a non-nuclear deterrent to North Korea.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) Mission**

The **IMAP mission**, launched by **NASA**, aims to study the **heliosphere**, the protective bubble surrounding the solar system. Positioned at the **Sun–Earth Lagrange Point L1**, the mission will map heliospheric boundaries using **energetic neutral atoms (ENAs)**, study interactions between solar wind and interstellar space, analyse interstellar dust, and provide **near real-time space weather warnings**.

- **India's First Private Helicopter Final Assembly Line**

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and **Airbus** inaugurated India's first private helicopter **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** at **Vemagal, Karnataka**, for manufacturing **Airbus H125 helicopters**. The facility is expected to deliver its first *Made-in-India* helicopter by **early 2027** and will serve domestic as well as South Asian export markets for civil, parapublic, and defence requirements.

- **Habitability of Enceladus**

Recent scientific studies indicate that **Enceladus**, a moon of **Saturn**, contains key ingredients necessary for life, including **liquid water, energy sources, phosphorus**, and **complex organic molecules**. These findings suggest the presence of a potentially habitable **subsurface ocean**, though no direct evidence of life has been confirmed.

- **Dhvani Missile**

Dhvani is a **hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV)** under development by **DRDO**, capable of speeds exceeding **Mach 6 (over 7,400 km/h)**. Its operational induction is expected by **2029–30**, marking India's entry into advanced hypersonic weapon technology alongside the **US, Russia, and China**.

- **Vyommitra – ISRO's AI Robot**

Vyommitra is ISRO's first **AI-enabled semi-humanoid robot**, developed for the **Gaganyaan mission**. It can communicate in **Hindi and English**, operate control panels, monitor cabin conditions, and assist astronauts. A leg-less version will fly aboard the **first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in December 2025**. The name *Vyommitra* means "**friend in space**" in Sanskrit.



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- **Mission Drishti**

Mission Drishti, developed by Bengaluru-based startup **GalaxEye**, will be India's first **privately built multi-sensor Earth observation satellite**, scheduled for launch in **Q1 2026**. It integrates **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** and high-resolution optical sensors to provide **all-weather, day-night imagery** with a resolution of approximately **1.5 metres**, supporting defence, disaster management, and agricultural applications.

- **Biotech Incubation Centre – IIT Dharwad**

An incubation centre established under the **dhaRti Foundation at IIT Dharwad**, supported by **BIRAC** under the **Department of Biotechnology**, aims to nurture startups in **biotechnology, deep tech, and healthcare** by providing laboratory infrastructure, mentoring, regulatory support, and funding access.

- **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2025**

IISF 2025 will be held in **Chandigarh from 6–9 December 2025** under the theme **“Vigyan Se Samruddhi: For Aatmanirbhar Bharat.”** The festival is jointly organised by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, DST, Department of Space, Department of Biotechnology, CSIR, and DAE**, and will include a new framework for delivering **climate data to local communities (Panchayats)**.

- **Asteroid 2025 PN7**

2025 PN7 is a newly identified **quasi-moon of Earth**, belonging to the **Arjuna asteroid group**. It shares Earth's orbit around the Sun but is not gravitationally bound to the planet. The asteroid is expected to remain in its quasi-satellite orbit until around **2083**, after which it will gradually drift away.

- **Grokipedia**

Grokipedia is an AI-driven online encyclopedia launched by **Elon Musk's company xAI**. Currently in **version 0.1**, it uses the **Grok language model** to generate and fact-check articles, positioning itself as an alternative to human-edited platforms like Wikipedia.

- **CALIBRE Centre**

The **Centre for Artificial Learning and Intelligence for Biological Research and Education (CALIBRE)** has been jointly established by **NCBS and ICTS in Bengaluru**. The centre focuses on integrating **artificial intelligence with biological research** to address India-specific scientific and environmental challenges.

- **Nafithromycin**

India's first indigenous **macrolide antibiotic, Nafithromycin**, was launched in **November 2024** under the brand name **“Miqnaf.”** Developed by **Wockhardt** with support from **BIRAC**, it is effective against **Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP)** and drug-resistant bacteria.



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SPORTS:

- **World Para Athletics Championships 2025 – New Delhi**
India finished **10th** with a record **22 medals** (6 gold, 9 silver, 7 bronze), its **best-ever performance** at the championships. **Shailesh Kumar** won India's first gold medal at the event.
- **World Para Powerlifting Championships – Cairo**
The **11th edition** was hosted for the **first time in Egypt and Africa**. **China** topped the medal table, winning its **sixth overall and fifth consecutive title**.
- **Sachin Tendulkar – Sportswear Brand**
Sachin Tendulkar launched his sportswear and athleisure brand **"TEN x YOU"** to promote fitness and sports participation.
- **Asian Aquatics Championships – Ahmedabad**
India hosted the **11th Asian Aquatics Championships** for the first time at **Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Ahmedabad**. India secured **13 medals** (4 silver, 9 bronze).
 1. **Srihari Nataraj** won **7 medals**
 2. **Bhavya Sachdeva** won India's **first women's medal** (bronze, 400m freestyle)
The event served as a **qualifier for the 2026 Asian Games (Japan)**.
- **World Weightlifting Championships 2025**
Mirabai Chanu won a **silver medal** in the **48 kg category** at the championships held in **Forde, Norway**.
- **Ariarne Titmus Retirement**
Australian Olympic champion **Ariarne Titmus** retired from competitive swimming at **age 25**, citing loss of motivation and health challenges faced before the **Paris Olympics**.
- **Asia Cup Cricket**
India defeated Pakistan by five wickets to win their **ninth Asia Cup** at **Dubai International Cricket Stadium**.
 1. **Man of the Match:** Tilak Verma
 2. **Player of the Tournament:** Abhisek Sharma
- **62nd National Chess Championship**
GrandMaster P. Iniyan (Tamil Nadu) won the championship in **Guntur, Andhra Pradesh**, remaining unbeaten over **11 rounds** (7 wins, 4 draws). Prize money: **₹6 lakh**.
- **2030 Commonwealth Games**
The **Commonwealth Sport Executive Board** recommended **Ahmedabad** as the host city for the **2030 Commonwealth Games**, subject to final approval. The 2030 edition marks the **100th anniversary** of the Games. India previously hosted the Games in **New Delhi (2010)**.



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- **Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2025**

The **5th KIUG** will be held in **Rajasthan** from **24 November to 5 December 2025**.

1. **24 sports** (23 medal + 1 demonstration)
2. New additions: **Beach Volleyball, Canoeing & Kayaking, Cycling (competitive)**
3. **Kho-Kho** included as a **demonstration sport**
4. Mascots: **"Khamma" and "Ghani"**, inspired by the **camel**

- **Asian Youth Games – Bahrain**

Preetismita Bhoi (Odisha) won **gold** in the **44 kg category**, setting a **Youth World Record** with a **92 kg clean and jerk**.

- **Milano Cortina 2026 Olympics**

India's first individual Olympic gold medallist **Abhinav Bindra** was appointed a **torchbearer** for the **Winter Olympics torch relay**.

- **ODI Records – Rohit Sharma**

Rohit Sharma became India's **third-highest ODI run-scorer** with **11,249 runs**, surpassing **Sourav Ganguly**, behind only **Sachin Tendulkar** and **Virat Kohli**.

- **BWF World Junior Championships – Guwahati**

The championships return to India after **17 years**. Events include:

1. **Suhandinata Cup** (mixed team; 36 teams)
2. **Eye-Level Cup** (individual events)

India has won **11 individual medals** historically. India becomes the **fourth Asian country** to host the event twice.

- **Sultan of Johor Cup 2025**

India won **silver** in hockey after losing **2–1 to Australia** in the final held in **Malaysia**.

- **World Archery Para Championships 2025**

Sheetal Devi won **gold** in the **Women's Compound Open** in **Gwangju, South Korea**.

She also secured:

1. **Silver** (Women's Compound Team)
2. **Bronze** (Compound Mixed Team)

- **FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 – Goa**

Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant launched the **official logo and anthem** of the event. The anthem was sung by **Daler Mehndi**.

- **Formula 1 – US Grand Prix 2025**

Max Verstappen won the **United States Grand Prix**, reducing the championship points gap with leader **Oscar Piastri** to **40 points**.



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PLACES IN NEWS – SUMMITS / CONFERENCES

- **National Conference on Land Administration & Disaster Management**
Held at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)**, organised by the **Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **World Green Economy Summit 2025 (11th Edition)**
Held in **Dubai, UAE**, co-located with **WETEX 2025**.
Theme: Innovating for Impact: Accelerating the Future of the Green Economy
- **68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference**
Held in **Barbados**; Indian delegation led by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla**.
- **IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025**
Held in **Abu Dhabi**. India launched its **National Red List Roadmap (2025–2030)** through **MoEF&CC**, in collaboration with **ZSI, BSI, and IUCN-India**.
- **8th International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly**
Held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
Theme: One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)
- **ARISE Cities Forum 2025**
Held in **New Delhi**, resulted in the **Delhi Declaration** ahead of **COP30 (Brazil)**.
- **20th East Asia Summit**
Held in **Kuala Lumpur**, adopted the **Kuala Lumpur Declaration**.
- **UN Convention against Cybercrime Signing (2025)**
Signed by **72 nations** in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

STATES IN NEWS

- **Assam**: Separate census code assigned to **Bathou religion** of the Bodo community.
- **Kerala**: Became India's **first state to eradicate extreme poverty**.
- **Bihar**: Hosted **Unmesha International Literature Festival** in Patna.
- **Chhattisgarh**: **Balod district** declared India's **first child-marriage-free district**.
- **Rajasthan**: Inaugurated **Namo Biodiversity Park (Namo Van)** at Alwar.
- **Goa**: Launched **Majhe Ghar Housing Regularisation Scheme**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh**: Launched first commercial coal mine at **Namchik-Namphuk**.
- **Uttar Pradesh**:
 1. Launched India's **first ABC Training Centre** (Lucknow).
 2. Set **Guinness World Record** by lighting **26.17 lakh diyas** at Ayodhya.
- **Nagaland**: Proposed **Dzükou Valley** as a global tourism destination.
- **Kerala**: Building India's **first underwater road tunnel** (Vypin–Fort Kochi).



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- **Maharashtra:** Five beaches received **Blue Flag certification**.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Launched **Real-Time Flood Forecasting & SDSS** for Chennai.
- **Manipur:** Celebrated **Mera Hou Chongba** and **Ningol Chakouba** festivals.
- **Madhya Pradesh:** Approved MSP procurement of **Kodo and Kutki millets**.
- **Uttarakhand:** Hosted **AI Impact Summit 2025** in Dehradun.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- *The Burning Earth* – **Sunil Amrith**
- *They Will Shoot You, Madam* – **Harinder Baweja**
- *Ready, Relevant and Resurgent II* – **Gen. Anil Chauhan**
- *Mahatma Gandhi and the Environment* – **T.N. Khoshoo**
- *Civil-Military Fusion as a Metric of National Power* – **Lt Gen Raj Shukla**
- *Sivam Subham* – **B.K. Harinarayanan**

MISCELLANEOUS

- President **Droupadi Murmu** interacted with the **Siddi community** in Gujarat.
- **Thirumalapuram excavations (TN)** confirmed Iron Age culture.
- **Kutiyattam, Mudiyetu, Ramman, and Ramlila** recognised as **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage**.
- **Ramanujan Junior Researchers Programme** launched by **India–UK** for young physicists and mathematicians.