

Weekly One Liners 17th November to 23rd of November 2025

Terms of Reference Approved: What's Next for the 8th Central Pay Commission?

On 28 October 2025, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC). This decision marks a major administrative step toward revising the pay structure and service conditions of Central Government employees. The 8th CPC will assess the present emolument system and recommend changes keeping in view India's economic conditions and fiscal sustainability.

Composition and Tenure

The 8th Central Pay Commission will function as a temporary body with the following composition,

- Chairperson
- One Member (Part-Time)
- One Member-Secretary
- It is mandated to submit its recommendations within 18 months from the date of constitution.
- Additionally, the Commission may submit interim reports on specific issues whenever required.

Key Considerations for Recommendations

While formulating its recommendations, the Commission will take into account several vital aspects,

- **Economic Conditions and Fiscal Prudence** – Ensuring recommendations align with the nation's financial health.
- **Resource Allocation for Development** – Balancing employee welfare with funds needed for development and welfare programs.
- **Unfunded Pension Liabilities** – Evaluating the financial burden of non-contributory pension schemes.
- **Impact on State Finances** – Considering how recommendations affect State Governments, which often adopt similar pay structures.
- **Comparison with Other Sectors** – Assessing the emolument structure and benefits in Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and the private sector.

Background and Significance

- The Central Pay Commissions are periodically established to review and rationalize the salary structure, retirement benefits, and service conditions of Central Government employees.
- Traditionally, a Pay Commission is set up every ten years, with its recommendations implemented subsequently.
- The 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations were implemented in 2016.
- Following this trend, the 8th CPC's recommendations are expected to take effect from 1 January 2026.
- The Government announced the formation of the 8th CPC in January 2025 to ensure a smooth transition to the next pay revision cycle.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 Winners Announced

On October 26, 2025, the Indian government announced the recipients of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025, the nation's highest civilian honour for contributions to science, technology, and innovation. Instituted to celebrate excellence across diverse scientific fields, these awards aim to foster a culture of research and innovation in India.

Award Categories

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is conferred in four major categories,

- Vigyan Ratna – For lifetime achievements in science
- Vigyan Shri – For exceptional individual contributions
- Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar – For young scientists (under 45 years)
- Vigyan Team Award – For collaborative research efforts

2025 Honourees

Vigyan Ratna (Posthumous)

- **Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar** – Awarded posthumously for his outstanding contribution to Physics.

Vigyan Shri Awardees

Recognised across multiple disciplines,

- Dr. Gyanendra Pratap Singh – Agricultural Science
- Dr. Yusuf Mohammad Seikh – Atomic Energy
- Dr. K. Thangaraj – Biological Sciences
- Prof. Pradeep Thalappil – Chemistry
- Prof. Aniruddha Bhalchandra Pandit – Engineering Sciences
- Dr. S. Venkata Mohan – Environmental Science
- Prof. Mahan Mj – Mathematics and Computer Science
- Shri Jayan N – Space Science and Technology

Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award

Awarded to young and emerging scientists,

- Dr. Jagdis Gupta Kapuganti, Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, Shri Debarka Sengupta, Dr. Deepa Agashe, Dr. Dibyendu Das, Dr. Waliur Rahaman, Prof. Arkaprava Basu, Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Prof. Shweta Prem Agrawal, Dr. Suresh Kumar, Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal, Prof. Surhud Shrikant More, Shri Ankur Garg, Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam

Vigyan Team Award

- CSIR Aroma Mission Team – Recognised for their exceptional work in agricultural science.

Award Scope and Significance

The awards span 13 scientific domains,

- Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences
- Mathematics & Computer Science
- Medicine, Engineering
- Agricultural & Environmental Sciences
- Atomic Energy, Space Science
- Technology and Innovation

- Nominations for the 2025 awards were accepted via the National Awards Portal from October 4 to November 17, 2024.

This recognition underscores India's commitment to encouraging scientific excellence and innovation-driven growth. The award ceremony details are to be announced soon.

Key Highlights from Mann Ki Baat – October 2025

On 26 October 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the 127th episode of his radio program Mann Ki Baat. This edition reflected on India's cultural vibrancy during festivals, environmental innovation, indigenous heritage, and the role of youth in reviving Sanskrit and national values. The PM also called for mass participation in the 150th anniversary celebrations of Vande Mataram.

Festivals, Unity, and Vocal for Local

The PM opened with greetings on Diwali and Chhath Puja, calling these celebrations a symbol of India's social unity. He commended women's dedication during Chhath Vrat and urged everyone, including those abroad, to experience the festival.

The PM also highlighted,

- Rising enthusiasm for indigenous products during the GST Bachat Utsav.
- Positive public response to his call for reducing edible oil consumption by 10%.
- These appeals support the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision and promote mindful consumption.

Environment and Local Innovation

Plastic-Waste Meals in Ambikapur

- In Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur, Garbage Cafés exchange meals for plastic waste, 1 kg = lunch/dinner, 0.5 kg = breakfast — a civic initiative tackling pollution and hunger simultaneously.

Lake Revival in Bengaluru

- Engineer Kapil Sharma has rejuvenated 40 wells and 6 lakes, engaging citizens and corporates.
- His work in Bengaluru reflects effective community-driven conservation.



Mangroves in Gujarat

- The Gujarat Forest Department has planted mangroves over 3,500 hectares in Dholera, reviving biodiversity — including dolphins, crabs, and migratory birds.
- A Mangrove Learning Centre has also been established at Kori Creek, Kutch.
- The PM quoted ancient texts praising trees, reinforcing the importance of tree plantation and campaigns like Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam.

Indian Dog Breeds in National Security

The PM reviewed progress since his earlier appeal to promote indigenous dog breeds,

- BSF's Tekanpur Centre trains Rampur Hounds and Mudhol Hounds.
- CRPF's Bengaluru school trains Mongrels, Kombai, Mudhol, and Pandikona breeds.
- Ria, a Mudhol Hound, won top honours at the All India Police Duty Meet (Lucknow).
- CRPF dogs helped detect explosives in Maoist-affected Chhattisgarh.
- BSF now assigns Indian names to its dogs — symbolising pride in local breeds.

150 Years of "Vande Mataram"

- The PM highlighted the upcoming 150th year of the patriotic song "Vande Mataram", composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and first sung by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896.
- He urged citizens to participate in year-long programs and send ideas using #VandeMatram150. The song continues to inspire unity and national pride.

Sanskrit's Social Media Revival

Young content creators are giving Sanskrit a modern voice,

- Yash Salunke mixes cricket with Sanskrit in reels.
- Kamala and Janhavi share spiritual content.
- Sanskrit Chhatroham, Samashti, and Bhavesh Bhimnathani use Sanskrit for humour, music, and philosophy.
- This revival highlights how youth are modernising tradition and reconnecting with ancient culture.

Honouring Tribal Freedom Fighters

Komaram Bheem

- The PM narrated the heroic tale of Komaram Bheem, a 20th-century tribal rebel who defied the Nizam's tyranny and was martyred in 1940.
- His legacy continues to inspire resistance and justice.

Bhagwan Birsa Munda

- The PM paid tribute to Birsa Munda, ahead of Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas on 15 November, marking his birth anniversary.
- He recalled his visit to Ulihatu village, Birsa's birthplace, symbolising deep respect for tribal heritage.

World's 10 Most Valuable Companies in 2025

Despite global economic uncertainty, trade tensions, and fluctuating markets, the world's leading technology giants have continued to grow in value. In October 2025, **NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Apple** emerged as the only companies to enter the **\$4 trillion market capitalisation club**, reaffirming the dominance of the U.S. tech sector.

Key Highlights

- **NVIDIA**, led by CEO **Jensen Huang**, became the **first company** ever to cross the **\$4 trillion mark**, overtaking Microsoft and Apple earlier in the year.
- **Microsoft** followed by reaching the same milestone in **July 2025**, while **Apple** joined the exclusive group after a sharp share-price rally in October 2025.
- Apple's market value surged following the **record-breaking launch of the iPhone 17 series** in September 2025.
- Over the past three months, **Apple's shares** have risen by **25%**, while **Microsoft's** have increased by **6%**.
- Other major players like **Alphabet (Google), Meta, Amazon, and Tesla** continue to remain close competitors in the trillion-dollar league.

Top 10 Most Valuable Companies in the World (as of October 2025)

Rank	Company	Market Cap (USD)	Country
1	NVIDIA	\$4.894 Trillion	USA
2	Microsoft	\$4.029 Trillion	USA
3	Apple	\$3.992 Trillion	USA
4	Alphabet (Google)	\$3.239 Trillion	USA
5	Amazon	\$2.444 Trillion	USA
6	Meta Platforms (Facebook)	\$1.887 Trillion	USA
7	Broadcom	\$1.761 Trillion	USA
8	Saudi Aramco	\$1.669 Trillion	Saudi Arabia
9	TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company)	\$1.563 Trillion	Taiwan
10	Tesla	\$1.531 Trillion	USA

India's Largest Company by Market Capitalisation

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** continues to be **India's most valuable company**, ranking **69th globally** as of October 2025.
- **Current Market Cap:** \$230.69 billion (approx. ₹20.36 trillion)
- Reliance's global ranking slipped from **46th in 2024** due to market volatility and declining oil margins.

Global Firework Index 2025

The Global Firepower Index 2025 ranks countries based on their military strength, defense capabilities, and global influence. It considers more than 60 factors, including manpower, equipment, technology, and defense budgets, to assess each nation's overall power. This annual ranking gives a clear picture of how nations compare in terms of military readiness and strategic strength.

Top-10 Most Powerful Militaries of the World by 2025

The Global Firepower Index 2025 ranks the top 10 most powerful militaries in the world based on strength, technology, manpower, and defense spending, showing how nations are modernizing and reshaping global military power.

Here is the list of top-10 most powerful militaries of the world by 2025:

Rank	Country	PwrIndx
1.	United States	0.0744
2.	Russia	0.0788
3.	China	0.0788
4.	India	0.1184
5.	South Korea	0.1656
6.	United Kingdom	0.1785
7.	France	0.1878
8.	Japan	0.1839
9.	Turkey	0.1902
10.	Italy	0.2164

GST Revenue Grows 4.6% to ₹1.96 Lakh Crore in October

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to **₹1.96 lakh crore in October 2025**, according to official data released on November 1. This marks a 4.6% year-on-year increase, the slowest pace in 52 months, even as collections hit a five-month high. The previous month's revenue stood at ₹1.89 lakh crore, showing a steady rise in inflows.

Tenth Straight Month Above ₹1.8 Lakh Crore

October continued the trend of strong GST inflows, with **total revenues staying above ₹1.8 lakh crore for the tenth consecutive month**. The last time collections exceeded the ₹2 lakh crore mark was in May 2025, reflecting sustained consumption and tax compliance despite slower growth momentum.

Growth Rate Slows Amid GST Changes

While collections increased in value, the growth rate **nearly halved from 9.1% in September to 4.6% in October**. Analysts link the slowdown to recent changes in the GST structure. In August, the government announced a major rejig of GST slabs, removing the 12% and 28% categories and moving 90% of goods to lower tax rates. These adjustments, while simplifying taxation, have temporarily moderated revenue growth.

Breakdown of Revenue Performance

Net GST collections rose marginally by **0.6% to ₹1.69 lakh crore**, while domestic revenues remained flat compared to last year. Net customs collections **showed a 2.5% rise to ₹37,210 crore**. Refunds also saw a sharp increase — 26.5% on the domestic side and 55.3% in customs — indicating faster clearance of claims and improved tax administration.

Government Outlook and Economic Impact

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects that recent GST rate cuts will help stimulate consumption and investment, boosting economic activity in the coming months. Reflecting growing optimism, the RBI recently revised **India's GDP growth forecast to 6.8%, up from 6.5%**, while the IMF raised its **estimate to 6.6%**. Policymakers believe stable GST inflows and tax rationalisation will support fiscal balance and long-term growth.

National Affairs

- **Coal Analytics Dashboard Launch:** Ministry of Coal set to unveil Koyla Shakti Smart Coal Analytics Dashboard on 29 October 2025 for real-time monitoring of production and supply chain.
- **NSC Seed Processing Unit Inaugurated:** Agriculture Minister opened new seed processing facility at Pusa Complex, New Delhi with 1 tonne/hour capacity plus five other plants across India.
- **India's First Presidential Rafale Flight:** President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian President to fly in a Rafale fighter jet during a 30-minute sortie from Ambala Air Force Station, demonstrating civil-military synergy as Supreme Commander.
- **India Pushes for Technological Sovereignty:** Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal announced ₹1 lakh crore Anusandhan Fund at TiEcon Delhi-NCR 2025, emphasizing deeptech innovation in AI, quantum computing, and semiconductors to reduce foreign tech dependence.
- **PM Launches ₹150 Coin Honoring Sardar Patel:** Prime Minister inaugurated commemorative coin and stamp at Kevadia, Gujarat on October 30, 2025, along with ₹1,219 crore worth projects marking Patel's 150th birth anniversary.
- **National Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Launched:** Union Minister George Kurian launched India's first fully digital fisheries census at ICAR-CMFRI Kochi, covering 1.2 million fisher households across 9 states and 4 UTs from November 3 to December 18, 2025.
- **Health Ministry Creates Three Guinness World Records:** Under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan, India achieved 3.21 crore health platform registrations and 9.94 lakh breast cancer screenings in a week, with over 19.7 lakh health camps organized nationwide.
- **EMRS Schools Celebrate Tribal Heritage:** Over 1.5 lakh students across 497 EMRS schools observe Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada from November 1-15, 2025, marking the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

States in the News

- **Uttarakhand to Levy Green Tax on Out-of-State Vehicles:** State will implement environmental tax from December 2025 with rates from ₹80 to ₹700 collected via ANPR cameras at 37 entry points supporting Clean Uttarakhand Mission.
- **Cyclone Montha Approaches Andhra Pradesh:** IMD reports Severe Cyclonic Storm Montha to make landfall between Kakinada and Kalingapatnam on 28 October with wind speeds of 90-100 km/h, affecting six states including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha.
- **World Bank Approves Kerala Healthcare Loan:** World Bank sanctions \$280 million under Kerala Health System Improvement Programme for 25 years targeting 11 million elderly citizens through digital health and climate-resilient infrastructure.
- **UP Creates 76th District:** Uttar Pradesh government announced Kalyan Singh Nagar as new district carved from Aligarh and Bulandshahr, honoring former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh.
- **Punjab Gets Second International Chess Master:** Jalandhar's Namitbir Singh Walia earned International Master title at 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France, becoming Punjab's second IM after Dushyant Sharma (2022).
- **Five States Celebrate Formation Day:** Karnataka, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh observed their Statehood Day on November 1, with PM Modi extending greetings for their contributions to national progress.
- **International Day of Older Persons Celebrated in UP:** The Department of Social Justice & Empowerment organized events at Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, featuring tree plantations, folk performances, and distribution of assistive devices to promote elder dignity.

International Affairs

- **East Timor Becomes ASEAN's 11th Member:** Timor-Leste officially joined ASEAN on 26 October 2025 at Kuala Lumpur Summit, marking the end of a 14-year membership process with population of 1.4 million and GDP of \$2 billion.
- **China's CR450 Train Breaks World Speed Record:** High-speed train achieved 453 km/h during testing for Shanghai-Chengdu corridor, featuring 15-metre aerodynamic nose and advanced braking systems with commercial launch expected in 2026.
- **Catherine Connolly Elected Ireland's President:** Independent politician Catherine Connolly wins Ireland's 10th presidency with 63% votes, becoming the country's third woman president with campaign focused on social justice and neutrality.

- **Russia Tests Nuclear-Powered Cruise Missile:** President Putin announces successful test of Burevestnik missile with 14,000 km range and 15-hour flight duration, marking major advancement in strategic weapon systems with near-unlimited range capability.
- **Japan Launches Yen-Pegged Stablecoin:** Tokyo-based JPYC Inc. launches world's first yen-backed stablecoin on 27 October, planning to issue up to 10 trillion yen (\$66 billion) within three years to reduce transaction costs globally.
- **Cameroon's Biya Wins Eighth Term:** 92-year-old Paul Biya, Africa's longest-serving leader, secured his eighth presidential term with 53.66% votes amid protests and fraud allegations, extending his 43-year authoritarian rule since 1982.
- **Russia Tests Poseidon Nuclear Drone:** President Putin announced successful testing of Poseidon, a nuclear-powered underwater drone designed to evade defense systems and create radioactive tsunamis, representing a new paradigm in strategic deterrence.
- **U.S. Federal Reserve Cuts Rates Again:** The Fed implemented its second rate cut of 2025, lowering rates to 3.75%-4.00% range to support the cooling labor market, though internal splits signal policy uncertainty.
- **AmazonFACE Project Studies Climate Impact:** Scientists near Manaus, Brazil simulate 2050 CO₂ levels using six massive steel rings in world's first tropical forest climate experiment, with findings to inform COP30 Summit in Belem.
- **China Launches Shenzhou-21 Mission:** China launched Shenzhou-21 from Jiuquan Satellite Centre with three astronauts including Wu Fei (32), China's youngest astronaut, to conduct microgravity and biological research supporting lunar mission goals by 2030.
- **USCIS Ends Cheque Payments for Immigration:** US Citizenship and Immigration Services stopped accepting cheques and money orders for applications, requiring Form G-1650 for electronic bank debits to reduce fraud and accelerate processing.



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Visakhapatnam Port Signs ₹39,216 Crore Deals:** Port Authority announced major MoUs at India Maritime Week 2025, including ₹29,662 crore shipbuilding cluster at Dugarajapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- **India-Nepal Power Grid Projects:** POWERGRID and Nepal Electricity Authority signed agreements to build two 400 kV transmission lines (Inaruwa-Purnea and Lamki-Bareilly), strengthening cross-border energy trade and regional cooperation.
- **India-US Sign Historic 10-Year Defence Framework:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary Peter Hegseth signed comprehensive agreement in Kuala Lumpur on October 31, 2025, covering joint exercises, technology sharing, and Indo-Pacific maritime security.

Books and Authors

- **Sahitya Akademi Releases First Lithuanian-Hindi Translation:** The Hindi version of Jaroslavas Melnikas's novel "The Last Day" titled "Antim Din" was launched at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi, translated by Dr. Poonam Tiwari.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **RBI Launches HaRBInger 2025 Innovation Hackathon:** Reserve Bank opened registrations on 23 October 2025 for global hackathon themed "Secure Banking: Powered by Identity, Integrity, and Inclusivity" focusing on Tokenized KYC and Offline CBDC.
- **C. S. Rajan Reappointed Kotak Mahindra Chairman:** RBI extends C. S. Rajan's tenure as Part-Time Chairman till 21 October 2027, ensuring leadership continuity for the bank's digital transformation with his 46 years of governance experience.
- **Paytm Launches NRI UPI Service:** Paytm introduced UPI support for NRIs from 12 countries on 27 October 2025, allowing international mobile number registration with NRE/NRO accounts without Indian SIM.
- **RBI Proposes Same-Day Remittance Credit:** Reserve Bank of India's draft circular mandates same-day credit for foreign remittances received during forex market hours and next-day credit otherwise, promoting straight-through processing for faster fund flows.
- **SEBI Plans Mutual Fund Fee Reforms:** Securities regulator proposed excluding taxes from Total Expense Ratio, introducing performance-linked fee models and lower brokerage caps in consultation paper seeking public feedback till November 17, 2025.
- **RBI Census Shows Strong FDI Growth:** Foreign Liabilities and Assets Census 2024-25 revealed total FDI reached ₹68.76 lakh crore (11% YoY growth) with US (20%) and Singapore (14.3%) leading inflows, while manufacturing attracted 48.4% equity investment.

- **Reliance-Meta Launch ₹855 Crore AI Joint Venture:** Companies established Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd (REIL) for enterprise-grade AI products including automation tools, predictive analytics, and generative AI models supporting Digital India goals.
- **CPSE Classification Overhaul Planned:** Government planning to introduce two new Ratna categories for public sector enterprises with 10-member committee led by Cabinet Secretary submitting report before Budget 2026-27.
- **Apple Hits \$4 Trillion Valuation:** Apple became the third company after Nvidia and Microsoft to cross \$4 trillion market cap, driven by strong iPhone 17 series and iPhone Air sales, though analysts warn about slow AI integration risks.
- **Nvidia Becomes Most Valuable Company:** Nvidia's market capitalization reached \$5 trillion, overtaking Apple and Microsoft, fueled by massive AI chip demand and strategic partnerships with Samsung, Hyundai, and Nokia.
- **Uber-Nvidia Robotaxi Partnership:** Strategic collaboration announced to deploy 100,000 autonomous Level 4 robotaxis by 2027 using Nvidia DRIVE AGX Hyperion 10, with Stellantis supplying vehicles and pilot launches in Austin, Atlanta, and Abu Dhabi.
- **Cochin Port-BPCL LNG Project:** ₹500 crore MoU signed to establish LNG bunkering infrastructure in Kochi port region, supporting IMO 2050 clean fuel targets and India's green port vision with launch expected by end of 2025.
- **DP World Commits \$5 Billion to Indian Logistics:** Dubai-based port operator announced massive investment to expand integrated supply chains and reduce logistics costs, adding to \$3 billion already invested over 30 years in alignment with PM Gati Shakti initiative.
- **India's Industrial Output Rises 4%:** Index of Industrial Production grew 4% year-on-year in September 2025, driven by 4.8% manufacturing growth and 28.7% surge in electrical equipment sector.
- **₹38,000 Crore Fertiliser Subsidy Approved:** Union Cabinet sanctioned ₹37,952.29 crore for Rabi 2025-26 season covering 28 grades of P&K fertilisers from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- **New Pension Options for Central Government Employees:** Government extends LC75 and BLC investment options to NPS and UPS subscribers, allowing up to 75% equity exposure for enhanced flexibility and long-term returns.
- **RBI Returns Jana Small Finance Bank's Universal Bank Application:** The Reserve Bank of India returned Jana SFB's application for universal bank conversion citing unmet criteria, with CEO Ajay Kanwal planning to reapply soon while current operations remain stable.
- **Reliance and Google Partner for AI Development:** Reliance Industries and Google joined forces to advance India's AI ecosystem, offering Jio users aged 18-25 free 18-month access to Google Gemini Pro worth ₹35,100 and planning multilingual AI models.

- **PayPal Integrates with ChatGPT:** PayPal will integrate its digital wallet with ChatGPT enabling AI-based e-commerce transactions through "Buy with PayPal" feature, with company shares rising 4% after the announcement.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Justice Surya Kant Recommended as 53rd Chief Justice of India:** First CJI from Haryana will succeed CJI Bhushan R. Gavai on 23 November 2025 with a 14-month tenure till February 2027.
- **Raj Kumar Arora Appointed Financial Advisor (Defence Services):** 1990-batch IDAS officer Raj Kumar Arora took charge as Financial Advisor (Defence Services), bringing over 30 years of experience in defence finance and procurement.

Defence News

- **INS Sutlej Completes Indo-Mauritian Hydrographic Mission:** Naval ship finished 18th mission on 26 October 2025 surveying 35,000 sq nautical miles, training six Mauritian officials, and conducting joint EEZ patrols aligning with MAHASAGAR Vision.
- **India Joins Elite Exercise Ocean Sky 2025:** Indian Air Force became first non-NATO nation to participate in Spain's air combat exercise from 20-31 October at Gando Air Base, Canary Islands, enhancing aerospace interoperability.
- **Army Gets Indigenous Software Radios:** Indian Army signed contract in October 2025 for first DRDO-designed Software Defined Radios to be manufactured by BEL with MANET capabilities.
- **India-Russia Aircraft Deal Signed:** HAL signed MoU with Russia's UAC on 27 October 2025 to manufacture SJ-100 civil commuter aircraft in India for regional connectivity under UDAN scheme.
- **MDL-Swan Defence Partner for Naval Ships:** Mazagon Dock and Swan Defence signed Teaming Agreement on 28 October 2025 to jointly build Landing Platform Docks for Indian Navy worth ₹33,000 crore.
- **India Conducts Major Tri-Services Exercise Trishul:** Armed forces launched 10-day military drill from October 30 in Gujarat and Rajasthan featuring 20,000 troops, Rafale jets, Sukhoi-30 aircraft, T-90 tanks, and Navy frigates to test joint combat readiness.
- **Pravaig VEER EV Wins iDEX Award:** Bengaluru startup Pravaig Dynamics developed VEER EV, India's indigenous stealth all-electric military vehicle designed for desert and forest missions, winning the Innovation for Defence Excellence award.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Vajra Chandrasekera Wins Ursula K. Le Guin Prize:** Sri Lankan author Vajra Chandrasekera receives \$25,000 prize for novel 'Rakesfall', honored for imaginative fiction exploring power, equity, and humanity with judges including Kelly Link and Rebecca Roanhorse.
- **James Anderson Receives Knighthood:** England's legendary fast bowler knighted at Windsor Castle on 28 October 2025 by Princess Anne for services to cricket, retired with 704 Test wickets.
- **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor Honored by World Food Prize:** Celebrity chef recognized among top agri-food pioneers by World Food Prize Foundation for nutrition advocacy and promoting bio-fortified crops through initiatives like 'Nutri Pathshala' improving school nutrition.
- **Prof. Ravindra Korisetar Receives Rajyotsava Award:** Karnataka honored archaeologist and UGC Emeritus Fellow from Karnatak University Dharwad with prestigious state award for 40+ years of prehistoric and geoarchaeological research including palaeoclimate studies.
- **Trump Receives South Korea's Highest Honour:** U.S. President Donald Trump became the first American President to receive South Korea's Grand Order of Mugunghwa during a ceremony in Gyeongju, recognizing his diplomatic efforts with North Korea.
- **UNESCO Recognizes Lucknow as City of Gastronomy:** Lucknow became India's 9th UNESCO Creative City and 2nd for gastronomy after Hyderabad, honored for its Awadhi cuisine at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Summits and Conferences News

- **India to Host Asia Pacific Aviation Safety Summit:** Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau will organize APAC-AIG meeting from 28-31 October 2025 with 90 international delegates focusing on advanced investigation techniques and regional cooperation.
- **East Asia Summit Adopts Kuala Lumpur Declaration:** 20th EAS held in Malaysia adopted declaration reaffirming commitment to peace, stability and ASEAN's central role in regional architecture.
- **72 Nations Sign UN Cybercrime Convention:** First universal legal framework against cybercrime signed in Hanoi, Vietnam covering hacking, online fraud, child exploitation with 90-day enforcement after 40 ratifications.
- **COP30 Climate Summit Preparations Accelerate:** Brazil prepares to host global climate conference from November 10-21, 2025, in Belem, focusing on forest preservation, carbon markets, and climate finance for developing nations.

Sports News

- **FIFA Launches ASEAN Cup for Regional Football:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino announced new tournament at 47th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur featuring 11 national teams including East Timor, modeled on FIFA Arab Cup to promote youth talent.
- **Indian Chess Stars Excel at European Club Cup:** D Gukesh wins gold on Board 1 for SuperChess and Divya Deshmukh claims gold on Board 2 for Monte Carlo Club, boosting confidence ahead of Chess World Cup 2025 in Goa featuring 24 Indian players.
- **FIDE World Cup Trophy Named After Viswanathan Anand:** The FIDE Chess World Cup 2025 trophy has been renamed the Viswanathan Anand Cup, honoring India's five-time World Chess Champion at a ceremony in Panjim, Goa, with 206 players from 80 countries participating.
- **India's 90th Chess Grandmaster Emerges:** Chennai's 16-year-old Ilamparthi AR achieved his final GM norm at Bijeljina Open in Bosnia, becoming India's 90th Grandmaster under the guidance of GM Shyam Sundar M.

Science and Technology News

- **World's First 3D Wind-Mapping Satellites Announced:** Hong Kong's Stellerus Technology to deploy Feilian constellation generating hourly kilometer-scale wind data globally, led by ex-NASA scientist Prof. Hui Su to revolutionize aviation and renewable energy forecasting.
- **India Leads Interstellar Comet Tracking:** Indian observatories ARIES Devasthal and IIA Pune led global tracking of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS after NASA's data outage, providing critical orbit data to the Minor Planet Center.
- **ISRO Prepares CMS-03 Satellite Launch:** India's heaviest communication satellite weighing 4,400 kg scheduled for launch on November 2, 2025, from Sriharikota using LVM3-M5 rocket to boost digital and maritime connectivity.
- **India Leads Solar Revolution at ISA Assembly:** Eighth International Solar Alliance Assembly held in New Delhi on October 28, 2025, launched SUNRISE and OSOWOG programs with 125 member nations driving global solar economy.

Important Days News

- **79th Infantry Day Commemorated:** India observes Infantry Day on 27 October, honoring the 1947 airlift of 1st Battalion Sikh Regiment to Srinagar, with Lt Gen Ajay Kumar leading nationwide tributes to infantry soldiers.
- **World Day for Audiovisual Heritage Observed on 27 October:** UNESCO marked the occasion with 2025 theme "Digitizing Our Shared UNESCO History" highlighting risks from technological obsolescence and encouraging digital preservation of historic audiovisual records.

- **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 Begins Nationwide:** Campaign runs from 27 October to 2 November with theme "Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility" coinciding with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary featuring integrity pledges and anti-corruption seminars.
- **International Animation Day Celebrated Globally:** Observed annually on 28 October by ASIFA, commemorating Émile Reynaud's 1892 Théâtre Optique screening in Paris with 2025 poster designed by Lucija Mrzljak featuring film screenings and workshops worldwide.
- **World Stroke Day Observed:** Ministry of Ayush highlighted role of traditional Indian medicine in stroke prevention and rehabilitation on 29 October 2025, emphasizing Ayurveda's Pakshaghata treatment approach.
- **National Unity Day Marks Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary:** India celebrated Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31, 2025, with nationwide Run for Unity events, pledge ceremonies at Statue of Unity in Gujarat honoring Patel's role in uniting 560+ princely states.
- **World Thrift Day Observed:** World Thrift Day was celebrated on October 30 in India (October 31 globally) with the 2025 theme "Conquer Your Tomorrow" by World Savings and Retail Banking Institute, promoting financial awareness and savings culture.
- **World Vegan Day Marks Start of Vegan Month:** Observed annually on November 1 since 1994, World Vegan Day 2025 promoted plant-based living with the theme "Veganism and its Positive Impact on the Planet, Animals, and Human Health."

Obituaries News

- **Eminent Plastic Surgeon Dr. K. Mathangi Ramakrishnan Passes Away:** Pioneer who founded first government burns unit in South India at Kilpauk Medical College died in Chennai on 27 October 2025 aged 91, recipient of Padma Shri (2002) and developer of indigenous collagen membrane for burn treatment.

- **Hockey Legend Manuel Frederick Passes Away:** India's first Olympic medallist from Kerala and member of the 1972 Munich Olympics bronze-winning hockey team, Manuel Frederick, passed away at age 78 after representing India in 1973 and 1978 World Cups.

Miscellaneous News

- **Aurangabad Railway Station Gets New Identity:** Station officially renamed Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Railway Station with new code CPSN under South Central Railway, honoring Maratha heritage through gazette notification issued 15 October 2025.
- **India's First Volcano Tourism Initiative:** Passenger vessel 'Sindhu' completes maiden civilian voyage to Barren Island with 500 passengers, marking India's first structured tourism to the country's only active volcano located 140 km from Port Blair.
- **Maritime Heritage Complex Logo Unveiled:** Ministry of Ports launched National Maritime Heritage Complex logo on 28 October 2025 during India Maritime Week in Mumbai, complex to be built at Lothal, Gujarat.
- **GI-Tagged Lime Exports to UK:** India exported Indi Lime from Karnataka and Puliyanakudi Lime from Tamil Nadu to the UK for the first time, facilitated by APEDA to boost farmer income and promote geographical indication products.
- **All Top 40 Polluted Cities from India:** Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan topped the world's pollution list with AQI 830, while Delhi ranked 13th with AQI above 400, highlighting worsening air quality crisis from stubble burning and emissions.
- **Dictionary.com Names "67" Word of the Year:** For the first time, a number received Word of the Year designation, symbolizing Gen Z internet culture and "brainrot" slang used to express vibes and emotions in digital meme culture evolution.

Static Takeaways

Organization / State / Country	Head / Chief / Position	Other Key Officials / Info	Headquarters / Capital	Established / Founded	Additional Info
Kerala	CM – Pinarayi Vijayan	Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Thiruvananthapuram	—	Tiger Reserves – Periyar TR, Parambikulam TR
Indian Coast Guard (ICG)	DG – Paramesh Sivamani	—	New Delhi, Delhi	1978	—
UNESCO	DG – Audrey Azoulay	—	Paris, France	1945	Member Nations – 194
WHO	DG – Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus	—	Geneva, Switzerland	1948	—
UNODA	USG & HR – Izumi Nakamitsu (Japan)	—	New York, USA	1998	—

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Ministry of Finance (MoF)	Union Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (RS–Karnataka)	MoS – Pankaj Chaudhary (Maharajganj, UP)	New Delhi, India	—	—
UNCTAD	Secretary-General – Rebeca Grynspan	—	Geneva, Switzerland	1964	—
FATF	President – Elisa de Anda Madrazo (Mexico)	—	Paris, France	1989	—
IUCN	President – Razan Al Mubarak / DG – Dr. Grethel Aguilar	—	Gland, Switzerland	1948	Maintains the Red List of Threatened Species
RBI	Governor – Sanjay Malhotra	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1935	—
City Union Bank (CUB)	MD & CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi	Tagline – “Trust and Excellence since 1904”	Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu	—	—
ICMR	DG – Dr. Rajiv Bahl	—	New Delhi, Delhi	1911	—
Kotak Mahindra Bank	CEO – Ashok Vaswani	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra	21 Nov 1985	—
Russia	President – Vladimir Putin	PM – Mikhail Mishustin	Moscow	—	Currency – Russian Ruble (RUB)
BWF	President – Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul	—	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1934	—
European Chess Union (ECU)	President – Zurab Azmaiparashvili	—	Hünenberg, Switzerland	1985	—
Indian Army (IA)	CoAS – General Upendra Dwivedi	Motto – <i>Seva Paramo Dharma</i>	New Delhi, Delhi	1895	—
ASIFA	President – Deanna Morse	Operates under UNESCO	Annecy, France	1960	Unites global animators for peace
Rajasthan	CM – Bhajan Lal Sharma	Governor – Haribhau Kishanrao Bagde	Jaipur	—	NPs – Ranthambore NP, Keoladeo NP
MoA&FW	Union Minister – Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, MP)	MoS – Ram Nath Thakur (RS–Bihar), Bhagirath Choudhary (Ajmer, Rajasthan)	New Delhi, India	—	—
UNODC	Executive Director – Ghada Fathi Waly	—	Vienna, Austria	1997	—
IAPB	President – Caroline Casey	—	London, UK	1975	—
ILO	DG – Gilbert F. Houngbo (Togo)	—	Geneva, Switzerland	1919	Member Nations – 187
World Stroke Organisation (WSO)	President – Jeyaraj Pandian (India)	President-Elect – Craig Anderson (Australia)	Geneva, Switzerland	2006	—
Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)	Central Vigilance Commissioner – Praveen Kumar Srivastava	—	New Delhi, Delhi	1964	Promotes integrity; autonomous; reports to Parliament

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Ministry of Culture	Union Minister – Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Jodhpur, Rajasthan)	MoS – Rao Inderjit Singh (Gurugram, Haryana)	New Delhi, India	—	—
Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)	Union Minister – Ashwini Vaishnaw (RS–Odisha)	MoS – Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, UP)	New Delhi, India	—	—
Telangana	CM – Anumula Revanth Reddy	Governor – Jishnu Dev Varma	Hyderabad	—	NPs – KBR NP, Mahavir Harina Vanasthali NP
State Bank of India (SBI)	Chairman – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty	—	Mumbai, Maharashtra	1955	Originated from Bank of Calcutta (1806)
MoCF	Union Minister – Jagat Prakash Nadda (RS–Gujarat)	MoS – Anupriya Patel (Mirzapur, UP)	New Delhi, India	—	—
Republic of Seychelles	—	—	Victoria	—	Currency – Seychelles Rupee (SCR)
MoC&I	Union Minister – Piyush Goyal (Mumbai North, Maharashtra)	MoS – Jitin Prasada (Pilibhit, UP)	New Delhi, India	—	—
NITI Aayog	Vice-Chairperson – Suman Bery	—	New Delhi, Delhi	2015	—
Uttar Pradesh (UP)	CM – Yogi Adityanath	Governor – Anandiben Patel	Lucknow	—	NP – Dudhwa NP
NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL)	CMD – Gurdeep Singh (Addl. Charge)	—	Greater Noida, UP	2022	—
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	President – Masato Kanda (Japan)	—	Manila, Philippines	1966	—
South Korea	President – Lee Jae Myung	—	Seoul	—	Currency – South Korean Won (KRW)
Nepal	PM – Sushila Karki	—	Kathmandu	—	Currency – Nepalese Rupee (NPR)
NICDC	MD & CEO – Rajat Kumar Saini	Under MoC&I (DPIIT)	New Delhi, Delhi	2008 (renamed 2020)	Formerly DMICDC
Karnataka	CM – Siddaramaiah	Governor – Thawar Chand Gehlot	Bengaluru	—	TRs – BRT TR, Bandipur TR
World Savings and Retail Banking Institute (WSBI)	President – Isidro Fainé	—	Brussels, Belgium	1924	—

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