



THE HINDU REVIEW

- **Current Affairs**
- **Monthly Capsule**

DECEMBER 2025



- **56th International Film Festival of India**
- **World Athletics' Athletes of Year 2025**
- **Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India**
- **RBI's 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY26**
- **ISSF World Cup Final 2025**
- **Arton Capital Passport Index 2025**
- **World Inequality Report 2026**



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National News

56th International Film Festival of India Held in Goa

Established in 1952, IFFI aims to showcase Indian cinema globally and bring world cinema to India. The event has been held annually in Goa since 2004, organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), in collaboration with the Government of Goa and the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG).

Special Country Participation

- Country of Focus: Japan
- Partner Country: Spain
- Spotlight Country: Australia

Major Highlights of IFFI 2025

1. Grand Carnival Parade Opening

For the first time, the festival opened with a street carnival parade inaugurated by Goa CM Pramod Sawant and Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju.

It featured:

- 26 film-themed floats
- Cultural performances
- Public participation

2. Opening & Closing Films

- Opening Film: *The Blue Trail* (Brazil), directed by Gabriel Mascaro
- Closing Film: *A Useful Ghost* (Thailand), directed by Ratchapoom Boonbunchachoke

Awards & Felicitations

Commemorative Release

A postal stamp was launched to mark the 100th birth anniversary of cinematographer K Vaikunth.

Special Felicitation

- Nandamuri Balakrishna, MLA of Andhra Pradesh, received Special Recognition for Contribution to Indian Cinema.
- Industry legends Guru Dutt, Raj Khosla, Bhanumati, Bhuwan, Ritwik, and actors Rajinikanth and Balakrishna were honoured for completing 50 years in cinema.

Participation Scope

- 240+ films from 81 countries
- 13 world premieres
- 5 international premieres
- 44 Asian premieres
- Selected from 2,314 submissions across 127 nations

Screening Segments

IFFI featured competitive and curated segments, including:

- International Competition

- Indian Panorama (Feature & Non-Feature)
- Tribute Screenings
- World Cinema Showcase
- Documentaries and experimental cinema

Panel Jury Highlight

Kamlesh K Mishra, National Award-winning filmmaker, served as a jury member for the Indian Panorama Feature section.

Special Programmes

Nine curated sections were screened:

- Docu-Montage
- From the Festivals
- Rising Stars
- Mission Life
- Experimental Films
- Restored Classics
- Macabre Dreams
- UNICEF
- Cinema of the World

Key Events at IFFI 2025

1. WAVES Film Bazaar (19th Edition)

- Inaugurated on 20 November 2025 by Dr. L. Murugan (MoS, MIB) at the Marriott Resort, Panaji.
- Originally launched in 2007 as Film Bazaar, renamed in 2025.

Highlights

- 300+ projects
- Delegations from over 7 countries
- Film incentives from 10+ Indian states
- Showcased Screenwriters' Lab, Co-production Market, Viewing Rooms, Market Screenings.

Outcome

- Generated business leads worth ₹1,050 crore.
- Facilitated four major MoUs between NFDC, IFFI, FTII (Pune), Deakin University, Melbourne Film Festival and IICT (Mumbai).

2. India's First AI Film Festival

Organised jointly by IFFI, NFDC, and LTIMindtree.

Top Winners

- Best AI Short Film – Craft Master Award (₹3 lakh): *Nagori* (France)
- Most Innovative AI Film – Craft Vanguard Award (₹2 lakh): *The Cinema That Never Was* (Germany)
- Best AI Animation – Craft Spectra Award (₹1 lakh): *Kyra* (USA)

Special Jury Mentions

- *The Last Backup Final Part* – English
- *Miracle on Kachua Beach* – Hindi

3. CMOT 2025 – Creative Minds of Tomorrow

Launched by **Dr. L. Murugan (MoS, MIB)** to nurture young filmmaking talent.

Participation

- **125 youth**
- **48-hour filmmaking challenge across 13 crafts**, including:
 - Direction, Acting, Scriptwriting, Music
 - Editing, Animation, VFX, AR/VR, Sound
 - Costume, Makeup, Art direction
 - Voiceover and dubbing

4. UNICEF – NFDC Partnership

For the **fourth year**, UNICEF partnered with IFFI to promote films related to **childhood themes**.

Featured films include:

- *Odyssey of Joy*
- *Happy Birthday*
- *The Beetle Project*
- *Kadal Kanni*
- *Putul*

IFFI 2025 – Major Award Winners

Award	Winner	Country	Prize (Rs.)
Golden Peacock – Best Feature Film	<i>Skin of Youth</i> by Ashleigh Mayfair	Vietnam	40,00,000
Silver Peacock – Best Director	Santosh Davakhar (<i>Gondhal</i>)	India (Marathi)	15,00,000
Silver Peacock – Best Actor (Male)	Ubeimar Rios (<i>A Poet</i>)	Spain	10,00,000
Silver Peacock – Best Actor (Female)	Jara Sofija Ostan (<i>Little Trouble Girls</i>)	Slovenia	10,00,000
Special Jury Award	Akinola Davies Jr (<i>My Father's Shadow</i>)	UK-Nigeria	15,00,000
Best Debut Director	Hesam Farahmand – <i>My Daughter's Hair</i>	Iran	10,00,000
Best Debut Director (2nd entry)	Tonis Pill – <i>Frank</i>	Estonia	—
Best Debut Indian Feature Film	Karan Singh Tyagi – <i>Kesari Chapter 2</i>	India	5,00,000
Best Web Series (OTT)	<i>Bandish Bandits</i> Season 2	India	10,00,000

Award	Winner	Country	Prize (Rs.)
ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal	<i>Safe House</i> by Eirik Svensson	Norway	—
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award	Rajinikanth	India	10,00,000

World Athletics' Athletes of Year 2025

Award	Winner	Country
Women's World Athlete of the Year	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA
Men's World Athlete of the Year	Mondo Duplantis	Sweden
Women's Track Athlete of the Year	Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone	USA
Men's Track Athlete of the Year	Emanuel Wanyonyi	Kenya
Women's Field Athlete of the Year	Nicola Olyslagers	Australia
Men's Field Athlete of the Year	Mondo Duplantis	Sweden
Women's Out of Stadium Athlete of the Year	Maria Perez	Spain
Men's Out of Stadium Athlete of the Year	Sabastian Sawe	Kenya
Women's Rising Star	Zhang Jiale	China
Men's Rising Star	Edmund Serem	Kenya
Coaching Achievement Award	Michael O'Connor	Ireland
President's Award	Bruce McAvaney	Australia
Woman of the Year	Ruth Jepchumba Bundotich	Kenya
International Fair Play Award	Tim Van de Velde	Belgium
Photograph of the Year	Vegard Grott	Norway
Member Federation Award	China	

Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** undertook a **two-day official visit to India from 4 to 5 December 2025** at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to attend the **23rd India–Russia Annual Summit**. The visit was historically significant as it marked the **25th anniversary of the India–Russia Strategic Partnership**, established in **2000**.

Key Highlights of the Visit

Arrival in New Delhi

On **4 December 2025**, President Vladimir Putin arrived at **Palam Airport, New Delhi**, where he was personally received by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, underlining the warmth of bilateral relations.

Diplomatic Engagements

- PM Narendra Modi hosted a **private dinner at Hyderabad House**, where he presented President Putin with a **Russian-language edition of the Bhagavad Gita** as a symbolic gesture of goodwill.
- On **5 December 2025**, **President of India Droupadi Murmu** formally welcomed President Putin at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and hosted a **state banquet** in his honour.

Tribute at Rajghat

President Putin paid **floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi** at **Rajghat**, accompanied by **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Union Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

23rd India–Russia Annual Summit

The **23rd India–Russia Annual Summit** was held at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**, co-chaired by **PM Narendra Modi** and **President Vladimir Putin**. A **Joint Statement** was released outlining major agreements and strategic priorities.

Major Outcomes of the Joint Statement

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Adoption of **Programme 2030 for Strategic Economic Cooperation**.
- Target set to achieve **USD 100 billion bilateral trade by 2030**.
- Emphasis on removing trade barriers, improving logistics, payment mechanisms, and connectivity.
- Agreement to promote **settlements in national currencies** and explore **digital payment systems**.
- **India–Russia trade reached USD 68.7 billion in FY 2024–25**, driven largely by energy imports.

Energy Partnership

Both countries agreed to expand cooperation in:

- **Oil and petrochemicals**
- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and LPG**
- **Coal gasification**
- **Nuclear energy and infrastructure projects**

Transport and Connectivity

Focus on strengthening key corridors such as:

- **International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**
- **Chennai–Vladivostok Maritime Route**
- **Northern Sea Route (NSR)**

Far East and Arctic Cooperation

- Trade and investment collaboration in **Russia’s Far East and Arctic regions (2024–2029)**.

- Sectors include **energy, mining, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, and maritime transport**.
- India participated in the **6th International Arctic Forum in Murmansk** and reaffirmed its role as an **Observer in the Arctic Council**.

Civil Nuclear and Space Cooperation

- Expansion of nuclear cooperation at **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (Tamil Nadu)**.
- Discussions on a **second nuclear site, VVER reactors, and joint manufacturing**.
- Space collaboration in **human spaceflight, satellite navigation, planetary exploration, and rocket engine development**.

Defence and Military Cooperation

- Emphasis on **joint R&D, co-development, and co-production** of advanced defence technologies.
- Continuation of **joint military exercises** and regular defence exchanges.

Science, Technology & Innovation

- Cooperation in **critical and digital technologies, start-ups, SMEs, and academic research**.
- Focus on **critical minerals, rare earth elements, and innovation-led growth**.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

- Organization of **cultural festivals, film collaborations, book fairs, and art events**.
- Promotion of tourism through **e-visa facilities and simplified visa processes**.
- Enhanced cooperation in **education, student welfare, and institutional partnerships**.

Multilateral and Global Cooperation

- Strengthening coordination in **UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO**.
- Commitment to **multilateralism, global governance reforms, and international security**.

Counter-Terrorism

- Joint commitment to combat **terrorism, extremism, transnational crime, money laundering, and terror financing**.

Key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) Signed

Migration and Mobility

Agreement to facilitate **temporary labour mobility** and combat **illegal migration**.

Health and Food Safety

- Cooperation between **MoHFW (India) and Ministry of Health (Russia)**.
- Food safety MoU between **FSSAI (India) and Russia’s consumer protection authority**.

Maritime & Polar Cooperation

MoU between **MoPSW (India) and the Maritime Board of Russia** for training specialists operating ships in **polar waters**.

Fertilizers Sector

- MoU between JSC UralChem and Indian PSUs RCF, NFL, and IPL.
- Establishment of a 1.8–2.0 million tonne urea plant with an investment of USD 1.2 billion.

Customs, Postal & Academic Cooperation

- Customs cooperation between CBIC (India) and Russian Federal Customs Service.
- International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) agreement between India Post and Russian Post.
- Academic MoUs involving DIAT Pune, University of Mumbai, and Russian universities.

Media Collaboration

MoUs signed by Prasar Bharati with major Russian media groups to enhance broadcasting cooperation.

22nd IRIGC-M&MTC Meeting

- Co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- Signing of the 22nd IRIGC-M&MTC Protocol.
- Invitation extended to India for the 23rd session in Russia (2026).

Other Major Announcements

- Free 30-day e-Tourist Visa for Russian citizens announced by India.
- Russia formally joined the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA).
- Launch of Space Mirror Lab by Delhi University and HSE University, Russia to promote joint space research.
- President Putin invited PM Narendra Modi to Russia for the 24th India–Russia Annual Summit (2026).

About Russia (Static Facts)

- **President:** Vladimir Putin
- **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin
- **Capital:** Moscow
- **Currency:** Russian Ruble (RUB)



Conclusion

President Vladimir Putin’s December 2025 visit significantly strengthened the India–Russia Strategic Partnership, deepening cooperation across defence, energy, trade, space, culture, and multilateral platforms. The outcomes of the 23rd Annual Summit reaffirm the long-term commitment of both nations toward a stable, mutually beneficial, and future-oriented partne

RBI’s 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY26

RBI MPC Meeting December 2025: Key Decisions and Highlights

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the 58th and 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of FY 2025–26 from 3 to 5 December 2025. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, RBI.

The policy review was crucial amid easing inflationary pressures and early signs of moderation in economic growth.

MPC Members Present

The meeting was attended by the following MPC members:

- Dr. Nagesh Kumar
- Saugata Bhattacharya
- Prof. Ram Singh
- Dr. Poonam Gupta
- Indranil Bhattacharyya

RBI Cuts Repo Rate to 5.25%, Retains Neutral Stance

Repo Rate Decision

- The MPC unanimously voted to reduce the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) to 5.25%.
- As a result:
 - Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate adjusted to 5.00%
 - Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and Bank Rate revised to 5.50%

Policy Stance

- The MPC decided to maintain a ‘Neutral’ stance, signalling flexibility for future rate actions depending on economic conditions.

Reason for Rate Cut

- Sharp decline in inflation to multi-year lows
- Early signs of growth moderation, creating space to support economic activity through monetary easing

RBI Policy Rates (December 2025)

Policy Instrument	Rate
Repo Rate	5.25%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	5.00%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.50%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%
Bank Rate	5.50%

RBI Raises FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3%

Real GDP Growth Projections

- **FY26 real GDP growth** projected at **7.3%**
- GDP recorded a strong **8.2% growth in Q2 (July–September 2025)**

Quarterly Growth Projections

- **Q3 FY26 (Oct–Dec 2025): 7.0%**
- **Q4 FY26 (Jan–Mar 2026): 6.5%**
- **Q1 FY27 (Apr–Jun 2026): 6.6%**
- **Q2 FY27 (Jul–Sep 2026): 6.8%**

RBI Revises FY26 Inflation Outlook to 2.0%

CPI Inflation Target

- Medium-term CPI inflation target remains **4% ± 2%**

Inflation Projections

- **FY26 CPI inflation: 2.0%**
 - **Q3 FY26: 0.6%**
 - **Q4 FY26: 2.9%**
- **FY27 Projections:**
 - **Q1 FY27: 3.9%**
 - **Q2 FY27: 4.0%**

Current Account Deficit (CAD) Outlook

- India’s **CAD moderated to 1.3% of GDP in Q2 FY26**
- Supported by **strong services exports and robust remittance inflows**
- In **October 2025**, merchandise exports contracted year-on-year, while imports increased for the second consecutive month, leading to a wider trade deficit
- RBI expects **CAD to remain well below 2% of GDP**

RBI Announces Liquidity Infusion Measures

Open Market Operations (OMO)

- RBI to conduct **OMO purchases worth ₹1 trillion (₹1,00,000 crore)**

USD/INR Buy-Sell Swap

- Announcement of a **3-year USD/INR Buy-Sell swap of USD 5 billion**

These steps aim to **inject durable liquidity**, improve **monetary transmission**, and ensure smooth functioning of financial markets.

India’s Forex Reserves Remain Strong

- As of **28 November 2025**, India’s foreign exchange reserves stood at **USD 686.2 billion**
- Provides an **import cover of more than 11 months**, strengthening external sector resilience

RBI Launches Two-Month Grievance Redressal Campaign

- RBI announced a **two-month campaign from 1 January 2026**
- Objective: **Resolve all complaints pending for over one month with the RBI Ombudsman**
- Aimed at improving **customer service and grievance redressal efficiency**

Important Definitions (For Exams)

Repo Rate

The **interest rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks** against government securities.

Reverse Repo Rate

The **rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks** for short durations to absorb excess liquidity.

Open Market Operations (OMO)

RBI’s **purchase and sale of government securities (G-secs)** in the open market to regulate liquidity, control inflation, and support economic stability.

Conclusion

The **December 2025 RBI MPC meeting** marked a significant shift towards **monetary easing**, with a **repo rate cut to 5.25%**, lower inflation projections, and proactive liquidity measures. By maintaining a **neutral stance**, the RBI has kept policy flexibility intact while prioritizing growth support and macroeconomic stability.

ISSF World Cup Final 2025 Concludes in Doha, Qatar

The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final 2025** successfully concluded at the **Lusail Shooting Complex, Doha, Qatar**, from **4 to 9 December 2025**. The event marked the **final stage of the 2025 ISSF shooting season**, bringing together the world’s top shooters across disciplines.

Overall Medal Tally: Top Performing Nations

- **China** emerged as the **top-ranked country**, winning a total of **9 medals**.
- **India** secured the **2nd position** with an impressive **6 medals**.
- The **United States of America (USA)** finished **3rd**, also with **6 medals**.

Top 3 Countries – ISSF World Cup Final 2025

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	4	2	3	9
2	India	2	3	1	6
3	USA	2	2	2	6

ISSF World Cup Final – Doha 2025: Key Details

- **Organiser:** International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)
- **Venue:** Lusail Shooting Complex, Doha, Qatar
- **Significance:** Final competition of the **2025 ISSF shooting calendar**

Prize Money

- **Gold Medal:** €5,000
- **Silver Medal:** €4,000
- **Bronze Medal:** €2,000

Indian Shooters Shine: Gold Medal Highlights

Simranpreet Kaur

- Won **Gold** in **Women’s 25 metre Pistol**
- Scored **41 out of 50 hits**
- **Equalled the Junior World Record** of Olympic Champion **Yang Ji-in (South Korea)**

Suruchi Singh

- Won **Gold** in **Women’s 10m Air Pistol**
- Scored **245.1 points**
- Set a **new ISSF Junior World Record**
- Surpassed **Manu Bhaker’s previous record of 244.7 points (2019)**

Significance for India

India’s strong second-place finish highlights the country’s **growing dominance in international shooting**, especially in **women’s pistol events**. The record-breaking performances by young shooters underline the **depth of talent and effective training systems** in Indian shooting sports.

About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)

- **President:** Luciano Rossi
- **Headquarters:** Munich, Germany
- **Established:** 1907
- **Role:** Global governing body for Olympic shooting sports

President Droupadi Murmu Presents National Handicrafts & Shilp Guru Awards 2023–24

On **9 December 2025**, the **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, presented the **National Handicrafts Awards and Shilp Guru Awards for 2023 and 2024** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The ceremony was held as part of the **National Handicrafts Week 2025**, observed from **8 to 14 December 2025**.

The event was organized by the **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)** and was attended by **Union Minister Giriraj Singh** and **Minister of State Pabitra Margherita**.

Exam-Oriented Key Facts (Quick Revision)

- **Event:** National Handicrafts Awards & Shilp Guru Awards (2023–2024)
- **Presented by:** President Droupadi Murmu
- **Venue:** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- **Organiser:** Ministry of Textiles (MoT)
- **Total Awards:** 48
 - **Shilp Guru Awards:** 12
 - **National Handicrafts Awards:** 36
- **Women Awardees:** 20
- **Handicrafts Workforce:** Over **3.2 million**, with **68% women**

Background of the Awards

National Handicrafts Awards

Instituted in **1965**, the **National Handicrafts Awards** recognise outstanding artisans for **artistic excellence, innovation, and contribution to India’s cultural heritage**.

Shilp Guru Awards

Introduced in **2002**, the **Shilp Guru Awards** are the **highest national honour in the handicrafts sector**, conferred upon **master craftspersons** who have preserved and passed on traditional skills to future generations.

Highlights of Handicrafts Awards 2023–24

Award Composition

- A total of **48 awards** were conferred during the 2023–24 cycle.
- Included **2 special Design & Innovation Awards**, encouraging **artisan–designer collaboration**.

Representation of Women

- **20 women artisans** were among the awardees, highlighting strong female participation.
- The sector remains a major driver of **women empowerment and rural employment**.

Crafts Represented

Awardees represented diverse traditional crafts such as:

- Metal and wood crafts
- Hand-printed textiles
- Pattachitra painting
- Leather puppetry
- Terracotta and stone carving
- Carpets and cane–bamboo crafts

Economic and Cultural Significance of Handicrafts

- The handicrafts sector employs **over 3.2 million people**, with **68% women workforce**.
- Growth is being supported through:
 - **Geographical Indication (GI) tags**
 - **One District One Product (ODOP)** initiative
 - **National Handicrafts Development Programme**
 - Alignment with the **‘Vocal for Local’** vision
- **GST reduced from 18% to 5%** for handicraft products.
- **Export target:** ₹1 lakh crore by **2031–32**.

Shilp Guru Awardees – 2023

Awardee	Craft Category	State
Ajit Kumar Das	Hand Painted Textiles	West Bengal
Sudhir Kumar Maharana	Pattachitra Painting	Odisha
D. Sivamma	Leather Puppetry	Andhra Pradesh
Dolon Kundu Mandal	Terracotta	West Bengal
Khatri Gulamhusain Umar	Tie & Dye Textiles	Gujarat
Madhuri Mishra	Batik Printing	Uttar Pradesh

Shilp Guru Awardees – 2024

Awardee	Craft Category	State
Kamlesh Sharma	Wood Craft (Tarkashi Work)	Rajasthan
Subhash Arora	Metal Craft (Dhokra)	Haryana
Shaheen Anjum	Wood Craft (Jewellery Box)	Delhi
Mohammad Dilshad	Wood Carving (Sheesham Wood)	Uttar Pradesh
Tarit Paul	Clay Modelling (Vishwarupa of Lord Krishna)	West Bengal
Shobharani Poddar	Jute Craft (Goddess Durga)	West Bengal

About Ministry of Textiles (MoT)

- **Union Minister:** Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar)
- **Minister of State:** Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha, Assam)

Arton Capital Passport Index 2025: UAE Retains Top Spot, India Ranks 67th

In December 2025, the Canada-based global financial advisory firm Arton Capital released the 2025 Passport Index, which evaluates the strength of passports worldwide based on global mobility.

According to the latest index, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) once again emerged as the world’s strongest passport, maintaining the 1st position for the 7th consecutive year. The UAE achieved an impressive Mobility Score (MS) of 179, offering its citizens visa-free access to 126 destinations, visa-on-arrival access in 45 countries, and ETA (Electronic Travel Authorization) access to 8 countries.

Top Performers in Passport Index 2025

- **1st Rank:** United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Mobility Score 179
- **2nd Rank (Joint):** Singapore and Spain – Mobility Score 175
- **3rd Rank (Shared by 18 countries):** Including Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, Austria, Malaysia, among others – Mobility Score 174

European nations continued to dominate the upper ranks, reaffirming Europe’s strong global travel influence.

India’s Position in the 2025 Passport Index

- **Global Rank:** 67th
- **Mobility Score:** 74
- **Visa-free Access:** 74 countries
- **Global Coverage:** Approximately 37% of the world

India’s ranking highlights moderate global mobility compared to top-performing nations.

Bottom-Ranked Countries

The lowest positions in the Global Passport Power Index 2025 were occupied by conflict-affected and politically unstable nations:

- **94th:** Afghanistan – MS 38
- **93rd:** Syria – MS 39
- **92nd:** Iraq – MS 40
- **91st (Joint):** Pakistan and Somalia – MS 41

Key Highlights of Passport Index 2025

- **Biggest Gainer:** Singapore, which jumped from 30th position to 2nd place, marking the most significant improvement.
- **Malaysia’s Rise:** Improved from 41st to 17th in the Individual Passport Power Rank and reached 3rd position in the Global Passport Rank.
- **Individual Passport Power Ranking (Top 3):**
 1. UAE
 2. Singapore
 3. Spain
- **Welcoming Countries Ranking:**
 - **1st:** Vietnam, Samoa, Tuvalu, Bolivia
 - **2nd:** Ethiopia
 - **3rd:** Dominica, Palau, Madagascar

About the Passport Index

The Passport Index, launched by Arton Capital in 2014, is one of the world’s most widely referenced tools for assessing passport strength.

Coverage

- Includes passports of 193 United Nations member states
- Covers 6 selected territories

Ranking Systems

The index uses three major ranking frameworks:

1. Global Passport Power Rank
2. Individual Passport Power Rank
3. Welcoming Countries Rank

These systems collectively assess mobility, openness, unity, and freedom.

Mobility & Global Trends

- The World Openness Score (WOS)—a real-time indicator of global mobility—declined by 1.3%, falling to 22,177 in 2025, compared to 22,459 in 2024, indicating slightly tighter global travel conditions.

About Arton Capital

- **President:** Armand Arton
- **Headquarters:** Montreal, Canada
- **Established:** 2006

World Inequality Report 2026: Top 10% Indians Earn 58% of National Income

In December 2025, the World Inequality Lab (WIL) released the 3rd edition of the World Inequality Report (WIR 2026), offering a detailed assessment of income, wealth, gender, and climate-related inequalities across the world. The findings reveal that economic inequality remains extremely high, both globally and within India.

Key India-Specific Findings

The report highlights sharp income and wealth concentration in India:

- The top 10% of India’s population earn 58% of the total national income, while the bottom 50% receive only 15%, underscoring severe income imbalance.
- In terms of wealth:
 - The top 10% own nearly 65% of total wealth
 - The top 1% alone control about 40% of national wealth
- Average per capita income in India stands at around 6,200 euros (PPP), while average wealth is estimated at 28,000 euros.

Gender Inequality in India

- Women account for just 18% of total labour income
- Female workforce participation remains well below global averages
 - Global benchmark: 34% income share and 51% employment participation

Exam Highlights (Quick Facts)

- Report: World Inequality Report 2026
- Released by: World Inequality Lab (WIL)
- Edition: 3rd
- Database Used: WID.world
- India Snapshot:
 - Top 10% earn 58% of income
 - Bottom 50% earn 15%
 - Top 1% hold 40% of wealth
 - Women earn 18% of labour income

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Global Wealth Inequality Snapshot

- The top 10% globally earn more than the bottom 90% combined
- They hold nearly 75% of global wealth
- The bottom 50% own just 2% of global wealth
- About 0.001% of the global population (≈60,000 people) possess three times the wealth of the entire bottom half of humanity

Climate Inequality Findings

The report draws a strong link between wealth and climate responsibility:

- Poorest 50% of the world:
 - Generate 3% of emissions from private capital
 - Account for 10% of consumption-based emissions
- Richest 10%:
 - Responsible for 77% of private capital emissions
 - Generate 47% of consumption-based emissions
- The top 1% alone produce 41% of private capital emissions, nearly double that of the bottom 90% combined

Despite contributing the least, low-income countries face the greatest risks from climate disasters such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, while wealthy nations and individuals have better adaptive capacity.

Gender Inequality at the Global Level

- Globally, women receive just over 25% of total labour income
- Regional breakdown:
 - Middle East & North Africa: 16%
 - South & Southeast Asia: 20%
 - Sub-Saharan Africa: 28%
 - East Asia: 34%
 - Europe, North America, Oceania, Russia & Central Asia: 40%
- When both paid and unpaid work are considered:
 - Women earn 32% of men’s hourly earnings
 - This rises to 61% when unpaid work is excluded

Regional Inequality Across the World

- High-income regions (North America, Europe, Oceania) earn far more than Sub-Saharan Africa, South & Southeast Asia, and Latin America
- An average individual in North America & Oceania earns 13 times more than someone in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Regions with highest inequality:
 - USA
 - Latin America
 - Southern Africa
 - Middle East & North Africa

Redistribution, Taxation & Public Spending

- **Progressive taxation and welfare transfers** reduce income inequality by nearly **30%** in **Europe and North America**
- Education spending inequality remains stark:
 - **Sub-Saharan Africa: ~220 euros per child**
 - **Europe & North America: 7,430–9,020 euros per child**

Global Financial System Inequality

The report notes that the **global financial system structurally favours rich countries**:

- Countries issuing **reserve currencies** can:
 - Borrow at lower costs
 - Lend at higher interest rates
 - Attract global savings
- Wealthy nations earn more from investments while paying less to borrow, placing **developing countries at a disadvantage**

About World Inequality Report (WIR)

- **Produced by:** World Inequality Lab
- **First Published:** 2018
- **Publication Cycle:** Every ~4 years
- **WIR 2026 Contributors:** Over **200 researchers worldwide**
- **Focus Areas:** Income, wealth, gender, climate impact, taxation, politics, and access to opportunities

About World Inequality Lab (WIL)

- **Scientific Co-Director:** Facundo Alvaredo
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Established:** 2016

20th Session of UNESCO ICH Committee Held in New Delhi for the First Time

The **20th Session of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)** was held from **8 to 13 December 2025** at the **Red Fort, New Delhi**. This landmark event marked the **first time India hosted the prestigious global cultural forum**.

The session was particularly significant as it coincided with **20 years of India’s ratification of the 2003 UNESCO Convention**, which India adopted in **2005**.

Inaugural Ceremony & Key Dignitaries

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of several high-profile dignitaries, including:

- **Khaled El-Enany**, Director-General, UNESCO
- **Dr. S. Jaishankar**, Union Minister, Ministry of External Affairs
- **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Minister, Ministry of Culture & Tourism
- **Rekha Gupta**, Chief Minister of Delhi

Exam-Oriented Key Facts

- **Event:** UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of ICH
- **Edition:** 20th
- **Venue:** Red Fort, New Delhi (Delhi)
- **Dates:** 8–13 December 2025
- **Organisers:** Ministry of Culture, Government of India & Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA)
- **Chair:** Vishal V. Sharma, Ambassador & Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO
- **Global Additions:** 67 new ICH elements from 77 countries
- **Indian Inclusion:** Deepavali added to UNESCO’s Representative List
- **Next Presidency (2026):** China

About the UNESCO ICH Committee

The **2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage** was adopted on **17 October 2003** at UNESCO’s **32nd General Conference in Paris**.

Objective

The Convention aims to safeguard **living cultural traditions**, including:

- Oral traditions
- Performing arts
- Social practices, rituals, and festivals
- Traditional knowledge and craftsmanship

These traditions face threats from **globalisation, rapid social change, and resource constraints**.

Committee Composition

The Committee consists of **24 elected States Parties**, including **India, China, France, Germany, UAE, Spain, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and others**.

Highlights of the 20th Session

Venue Significance

- The **Red Fort**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site (inscribed in 2007)**, served as the venue
- Built by **Emperor Shah Jahan (1638–1648)**
- Managed by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**

Participation

- Delegates from **over 150 countries**
- Cultural experts and observers
- Focus on safeguarding policies, international cooperation, and community-led preservation

Expansion of UNESCO’s Intangible Heritage Lists

During the session, UNESCO expanded its living heritage lists with **67 new elements**:

- **11 elements** on the **List of ICH in Need of Urgent Safeguarding**
- **53 elements** on the **Representative List of the ICH of Humanity**

- 1 programme on the **Register of Good Safeguarding Practices**

• 2 elements upgraded to the Representative List
With these additions, **849 cultural practices from 157 countries** are now part of UNESCO's ICH lists.

First-Time Inscriptions (2025)

Countries receiving their **first-ever ICH inscriptions** include: **Barbados, Chad, Comoros, El Salvador, Gabon, Libya, and São Tomé & Príncipe.**

Deepavali Added to UNESCO's ICH List

One of the major highlights was the inclusion of **Deepavali (Diwali)** in UNESCO's **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

About Deepavali

- Celebrated during **October–November** on **Amavasya** of the Hindu month **Kartika**
- Symbolises the **victory of light over darkness and good over evil**
- Associated with:
 - **Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya**
 - **Lord Krishna's victory over Narakasura**

New Inscriptions from Asia–Pacific Region (2025)

Urgent Safeguarding List

- Art of crafting and playing **Kobyz** – *Uzbekistan*
- **Boreendo/Bhorindo** folk musical tradition – *Pakistan*
- **Dong Ho folk woodblock printing** – *Vietnam*
- **Asin Tibuok artisanal sea salt practice** – *Philippines*

Representative List

Includes cultural elements such as:

- **Ayeneh-Kari mirrorwork** – Iran
- **Pantun** – Indonesia, Malaysia & Brunei
- **Traditional saree weaving of Tangali** – Bangladesh
- **Washi paper craftsmanship & float festivals** – Japan
- **Deepavali** – India

Good Safeguarding Practices

- **Hezhen Yimakan storytelling programme** – China

Chairmanship Handover

At the conclusion of the session, **India formally handed over the chairmanship** of the UNESCO ICH Committee to **China**, which will **host and preside over the 2026 session.**

India's Presence on UNESCO ICH List

As of **December 2025**, **15 Indian elements** are inscribed on UNESCO's ICH Representative List, including:

- **Performing Arts:** Kutiyattam, Chhau
- **Sacred Traditions:** Vedic chanting, Buddhist chanting (Ladakh)
- **Community Practices:** Ramlila, Ramman, Sankirtana
- **Traditional Crafts:** Thatheras' metalcraft, Kalbelia dance
- **Large Gatherings:** Kumbh Mela

- **Living Traditions:** Yoga, Durga Puja, Garba
- **Shared Heritage:** Novruz

About UNESCO

- **Director-General:** Khaled El-Enany
- **Headquarters:** Paris, France
- **Established:** 1945

RBI Releases 10th Edition of Handbook of Statistics on Indian States (2024–25)

In **December 2025**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **10th edition of the "Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024–25"**. The publication serves as a **comprehensive and comparable statistical reference for Indian States and Union Territories (UTs)**, supporting policy analysis, research, and competitive exam preparation.

Key Exam-Oriented Highlights

- **What?** Release of *Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024–25*
- **Released by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- **Edition:** 10th
- **First Published:** 2016
- **New Additions:** 11 new state-wise tables and a new External Sector section
- **Data Coverage Period:** 1951 to 2024–25
- **Purpose:** Provide a consolidated, uniform, and comparable database across States and UTs

Background of the Handbook

The **Handbook of Statistics on Indian States** was **first published in 2016** to compile long-term socio-economic data for Indian states in a **single, standardised format.**

Preparation & Data Sources

- Prepared by the **Regional Economy Monitoring Division (REMD)**
- Department: **Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), RBI**
- Data Sources include:
 - State Government submissions
 - RBI surveys
 - Reputed third-party agencies

This multi-source approach ensures **accuracy, reliability, and consistency.**

Scope of the 10th Edition

The **10th Handbook** provides extensive coverage across key sectors:

- Socio-demographics and health
- State Domestic Product (SDP)
- Agriculture and environment
- Prices and wages
- Industry and infrastructure
- Banking and fiscal indicators
- Social security and pensions
- Tourism and exports

The handbook follows a “one indicator–one table” format, enabling easy comparison, trend analysis, and assessment of regional disparities.

Key Enhancements in the 2024–25 Edition

Updated Data Series

- Older data series with outdated base years (such as **2004–05 for GDP**) have been **phased out**
- Replaced with updated **2011–12 base year series**, improving relevance and statistical accuracy

New External Sector Section

- Introduced to provide **state-level insights into exports and external engagement**

11 Newly Introduced State-Wise Tables

The 10th edition includes the following **new statistical tables**:

1. **State-wise Domestic Tourist Visits**
2. **Net State Value Added (Current Prices)**
3. **Net State Value Added (Constant Prices)**
4. **State-wise Status of Groundwater Extraction**
5. **State-wise Revenue Expenditure**
6. **State-wise Capital Receipts**
7. **Market Borrowings of State Governments**
8. **Gender-wise Subscribers of National Pension System (NPS) – All Citizens**
9. **Gender-wise Enrolments under Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**
10. **State-wise Exports**
11. **State-wise Foreign Tourist Visits**

Why This Handbook Is Important

- Enables **long-term economic and social trend analysis**
- Helps identify **structural changes and regional inequalities**
- Supports **policy formulation and academic research**
- Highly useful for **UPSC, SSC, Banking, State PSCs, and Economics-related exams**

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

- **Governor: Sanjay Malhotra**
- **Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- **Established: 1 April 1935**

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 at Rashtrapati Bhavan

The Honorable President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 at an award ceremony held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan today (December 23, 2025). For the second edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 24 awards were presented to distinguished scientists in four categories which are Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.

About The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar aims to honour individuals and teams whose work has made a notable and inspiring impact in advancing India’s scientific and technological capabilities. In 2025, a total of 24 awards were presented across four categories,

1. Vigyan Ratna
2. Vigyan Shri
3. Vigyan Yuva – Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar
4. Vigyan Team

The awards cover a wide range of disciplines including agriculture, atomic energy, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, medicine, physics, environmental science, space science, and technology innovation.

Here Is The Full Awardees List

Vigyan Ratna

Award	Name	Institution	Key Contributions
Vigyan Ratna (Posthumous)	Late Prof. Jayant Vishnu Narlikar	IUCAA, Pune	Hoyle–Narlikar theory, Quasi-Steady State Cosmology, founder of IUCAA

Vigyan Shri

Field	Name	Institution	Key Contributions
Agricultural Science	Dr Gyanendra Pratap Singh	ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi	Development of mega wheat varieties, heat & drought tolerance
Atomic Energy	Dr Yusuf Mohammad Seikh	BARC, Mumbai	Neutron & synchrotron beamlines, superconductivity, magnetic materials
Biological Sciences	Dr Kumarasamy Thangaraj	CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad	Human genomics, disease susceptibility, infertility studies
Chemistry	Prof. Thalappil Pradeep	IIT Madras	Indigenous water purification technologies, molecular clusters
Environmental Science	Dr S. Venkata Mohan	CSIR-NEERI, Nagpur	Environmental bioengineering, wastewater, biohydrogen

Field	Name	Institution	Key Contributions
Engineering Sciences	Prof. Aniruddha B. Pandit	ICT Mumbai	Cavitation reactors, energy-efficient microbial cell disruption
Mathematics & Computer Science	Prof. Mahan	Mj TIFR, Mumbai	Geometric group theory, hyperbolic 3-manifolds
Space Science & Technology	Shri Jayan N.	ISRO, Bengaluru	Cryogenic engines, regenerative cooling

Vigyan Yuva – Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Field	Name	Institution	Key Contributions
Agricultural Science	Dr Jagadis Gupta	Kapuganti BRIC-NIPGR, New Delhi	Nitric oxide signaling, shelf-life enhancement
Agricultural Science	Dr Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia	ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad	Genome-edited Samba Mahsuri rice
Biological Sciences	Dr Deepa Agashe	NCBS-TIFR, Bengaluru	Molecular evolution, adaptive responses
Biological Sciences	Prof. Debarka Sengupta	IIIT Delhi	Single-cell genomics, AI, cancer biomarkers
Chemistry	Dr Dibyendu Das	IISER Kolkata	Systems chemistry, peptide nanostructures
Earth Science	Dr Waliur Rahaman	NCPOR, Goa	Isotope geochemistry, climate & sea-level studies
Engineering Sciences	Prof. Arkaprava Basu	IISc Bengaluru	GPU/CPU memory systems for AI-ML
Mathematics & Computer Science	Prof. Sabyasachi Mukherjee	TIFR Mumbai	Complex analysis, conformal dynamics

Field	Name	Institution	Key Contributions
Medicine	Dr Suresh Kumar	PGIMER, Chandigarh	Pediatric critical care, probiotics research
Physics	Prof. Amit Kumar Agarwal	IIT Kanpur	Quantum condensed matter physics
Physics	Prof. Surhud Shrikant More	IUCAA, Pune	Cosmology, galaxy clustering statistics
Space Science & Technology	Shri Ankur Garg	ISRO-SAC, Bengaluru	Satellite data processing, remote sensing
Technology & Innovation	Prof. Mohanasankar Sivaprakasam	IIT Madras	Biomedical devices, cataract surgery tech

Vigyan Team

Award	Team	Lead Institution	Contributions
Vigyan Team	Team – Aroma Mission (CSIR)	CSIR-CIMAP	High-yield aromatic crops, farmer income, rural entrepreneurship

Cabinet Approvals

- The Union Cabinet has approved the conduct of **Census of India 2027** at a total cost of ₹11,718.24 crore, marking the **16th Census of India and the 8th after Independence**. The Census will be conducted in **two phases—Houselisting and Housing Census from April to September 2026**, followed by **Population Enumeration in February 2027**, with exceptions for snow-bound regions like **Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (non-synchronous areas), Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**, where enumeration will take place in **September 2026**. About **30 lakh field functionaries** will be deployed, and for the **first time**, the Census will be conducted **digitally using mobile applications** supported by a **Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS)** portal. Citizens will also get an **option for self-enumeration**, and **caste enumeration** will be included during the Population Enumeration phase, as approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs in April 2025**. The initiative will generate around **1.02 crore man-days of employment**, enhance **digital capacity building**, and enable **faster, user-friendly, and machine-readable data dissemination** under the **Census-as-a-Service (CaaS)** framework, supported by a nationwide awareness campaign.

- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** for copra for the **2026 season**, fixing **₹12,027 per quintal for milling copra (Fair Average Quality)** and **₹12,500 per quintal for ball copra**, in line with the policy of providing MSP at **1.5 times the cost of production**, announced in the **Union Budget 2018–19**. This represents an increase of **₹445 per quintal for milling copra** and **₹400 per quintal for ball copra** over the previous season, and reflects a long-term rise of over **127–129% since 2014**, significantly improving income security for coconut farmers. The procurement will continue under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** through **NAFED and NCCF as Central Nodal Agencies**, ensuring remunerative prices, encouraging higher production, and supporting the growing domestic and international demand for coconut-based products.
- The **Cabinet** has approved the **CoalSETU window** under the **Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) Linkage Policy**, introducing a **new auction-based mechanism for long-term coal linkages** aimed at ensuring **seamless, efficient, and transparent utilization of coal for any industrial use and export**, except resale within India. This reform removes end-use restrictions for eligible domestic buyers, aligns with the policy of **commercial coal mining without end-use constraints**, and seeks to **reduce dependence on imported coal**, improve ease of doing business, and accelerate utilization of domestic coal reserves. While **coking coal and traders are excluded**, existing NRS sub-sectors may also participate, and linkage holders can export up to **50% of allocated coal** and flexibly use coal across group companies, including for **coal washing**. The policy is expected to increase availability of **washed coal**, reduce imports, and enhance India's competitiveness in both domestic and export coal markets.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved **three new corridors under Delhi Metro Phase-V (A)—R.K. Ashram Marg to Indraprastha (9.913 km), Aerocity to IGD Airport Terminal-1 (2.263 km), and Tughlakabad to Kalindi Kunj (3.9 km)**—covering a total length of **16.076 km** at a cost of **₹12,014.91 crore**, to be funded by the **Government of India, Government of Delhi, and international agencies**, with the aim of improving connectivity across Central, South, West, North and Old Delhi, including the **Central Vista area and Domestic Airport Terminal-1**. The project, comprising **13 stations (10 underground and 3 elevated)**, will extend the **Magenta Line and Golden Line**, provide direct metro access to key locations such as **Kartavya Bhawans, India Gate, Bharat Mandapam, Saket, Kalindi Kunj**, and airport-linked areas, and is expected to benefit nearly **60,000 office-goers and 2 lakh visitors daily**, while reducing road congestion, pollution, and fossil fuel use. These extensions will further strengthen Delhi Metro's role as the city's lifeline, complementing the ongoing **Phase-IV project (111 km, 83 stations)** targeted for completion by **December 2026**, and building on an already extensive network of **12 lines, about 395 km, and 289 stations**, which currently handles around **65 lakh daily passenger journeys**.

State-wise December Month Important Events

Andhra Pradesh

- **PESA Mahotsav Celebrated in Andhra Pradesh:** Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised 'PESA Mahotsav: Utsav Lok Sanskriti Ka' in Visakhapatnam.
- The event marked the enactment of the PESA Act, 1996, with PESA Day observed on 24 December.

Arunachal Pradesh

- **'Dao' handcrafted blade and Yak Churpi cheese** received **Geographical Indication (GI) tags** from **DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, highlighting indigenous craftsmanship and traditional food heritage.

Assam

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the new terminal of **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati**, strengthening aviation infrastructure in **Northeast India**.

Bihar

- The state launched **Mukhyamantri Bharat Darshan Yojana** to provide **secondary school students** with experiential learning through exposure to **India's heritage, culture, and national integration**.
- **Bihar Approves Saat Nishchay-3 (2025–2030):** Bihar Cabinet chaired by CM Nitish Kumar approved 'Saat Nishchay-3' to promote development with justice and achieve developed-state status.
- It builds on Saat Nishchay-1 and 2, which focused on infrastructure, women empowerment, youth welfare, and service delivery.

Chhattisgarh

- **Kopra Reservoir (Bilaspur)** was designated as **Chhattisgarh's first Ramsar Site** on **12 December 2025**, receiving international recognition as a **Wetland of International Importance**.
- **GAIL-Chhattisgarh MoU for Fertiliser Plant:** GAIL (India) Limited signed a non-binding MoU with the Chhattisgarh government for a greenfield gas-based fertiliser plant.
- The agreement was signed in the presence of CM Vishnu Deo Sai to boost fertiliser self-reliance.

Goa

- **Goa Liberation Day** marked the **64th anniversary** of liberation from **Portuguese rule (1961)** through **Operation Vijay**, India's **first tri-service military operation**.

Gujarat

- The state launched the **Smart Blue Harbours Initiative** at **Jakhau, Vanakbara (Diu), and Karaikal**, in collaboration with **FAO and MoFAHD**, to strengthen the **Blue Economy and fisheries sector**.

- **Gujarat Rooftop Solar Milestone:** Gujarat achieved 1,879 MW rooftop solar capacity, completing 50% of its PM Surya Ghar target.
- The achievement was supported by ₹3,778 crore in government subsidies.

Haryana

- The **Lado Lakshmi Scheme** was modified, replacing ₹2,100 monthly payments with ₹6,300 quarterly payments, benefiting over 7 lakh women.
- The **Haryana State Assembly** unanimously passed a resolution to commemorate the **350th martyrdom year of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**, honoring religious freedom and human dignity.
- **Hansi Declared Haryana's 23rd District:** Haryana government officially notified Hansi as the state's 23rd district, carved out of Hisar district.
- The notification was approved by Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh to enhance administrative decentralisation.

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand became the **first Indian state** to pass comprehensive **Gig Workers' Welfare legislation**, providing social security, insurance, and grievance redressal for platform workers.
- **CoE and VR Mine Simulator at IIT Dhanbad:** Union Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated a Centre of Excellence under NCM and India's first Virtual Reality Mine Simulator at IIT-Dhanbad.
- The CoE will support research in critical minerals with global collaborations including Cambridge University.

Karnataka

- The state launched **e-Swathu 2.0**, digitising 95 lakh rural property records, enabling online e-Khata services, and expected to generate ₹2,000 crore revenue.
- Karnataka signed an **MoU with Taiwan's Allegiance Group** to set up an **India-Taiwan Industrial Technology Park** with an investment of ₹1,000 crore, creating 800 direct jobs by 2030.



Kerala

- India Post inaugurated the **first Gen-Z themed Post Office at CMS College, Kottayam**, featuring eco-friendly design, student artwork, and full postal services.

Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh Adopts Rolling Budget:** Madhya Pradesh became India's first state to adopt a three-year rolling budget system with annual reviews.
- The move improves fiscal planning, transparency, and long-term budgeting.

Maharashtra

- The state launched **Project Mahadeva**, a **U-13 football talent hunt** offering 5-year scholarships covering elite training, academics, and exposure.
- Maharashtra created a **Guinness World Record** by installing **45,911 solar pumps in 30 days** under **PM-KUSUM Component-B** and **Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump Yojana**.
- Maharashtra became the **first Indian state to launch MahaCrimeOS-AI**, unveiled at the **Microsoft AI Tour, Mumbai**, to strengthen cybercrime investigation and predictive policing.
- **Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella** launched an **AI-powered crime analysis tool** for Maharashtra Police during the same event.
- The state abolished the **century-old Pagdi rent system**, modernising rental laws and ensuring tenant protection.
- **Brookfield announced a \$1 billion investment** to build Asia's largest **Global Capability Centre** in **Powai, Mumbai**, expected to create **30,000+ jobs by 2029**.
- **Raisin Research Centre in Sangli:** Maharashtra announced the establishment of a raisin research centre in Sangli district. The centre will improve grape quality, processing techniques, and export potential.

Nagaland

- The **26th Hornbill Festival** was held from **1-10 December 2025** at **Kisama Heritage Village, Kohima**, showcasing the culture of **17 Naga tribes**.
- Nagaland observed its **62nd Statehood Day on 1 December 2025**, marking its formation in **1963** as India's **16th state**.
- The **Hornbill Festival**, launched in **2000**, symbolizes unity, tradition, and reverence for the hornbill bird.

Odisha

- Chief Minister **Mohan Charan Majhi** inaugurated the **15th International Sand Art Festival** and **36th Konark Festival (1-5 December 2025)** at the **Konark Sun Temple**.
- Odisha hosted the **Regional AI Impact Conference (19-20 December 2025)** focusing on AI applications in governance, healthcare, and education.
- **OPTCL signed a ₹1,685.27 crore long-term loan agreement with NABARD**, marking NABARD's **first project financing to a State PSU in Odisha**, to strengthen power transmission infrastructure.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan became the **first Indian state to achieve 100% digitisation of voter rolls** under **SIR-2026**, covering **5.46 crore voters**.
- The process used **ECINET and BLO apps**, achieving **97% voter mapping**, the highest in India.
- Draft electoral rolls will be published on **16 December 2025**, and final rolls on **14 February 2026**.

Tamil Nadu

- The state secured **GI tags for five products—Woraiyur sari, Kavindapadi jaggery, Namakkal cookware, Thooyamalli rice, and Ambasamudram toys**—raising the total GI count to **74**.
- **Tamil Nadu Otter Conservation Programme:** Tamil Nadu government launched a special conservation initiative in the Cauvery river basin to protect otters.
- Otters are key indicators of healthy freshwater ecosystems.

Telangana

- Telangana signed an agreement with **Australia's Deakin University** to establish a **Centre of Excellence in Applied AI** in **Hyderabad**, focusing on ethical and public-impact AI.
- The state government and **Google LLC** launched the **Google for Startups Hub** at **T-Hub, Hyderabad**, inaugurated by **CM A. Revanth Reddy** to strengthen the startup ecosystem.

Uttar Pradesh

- The Union Government approved the establishment of **India's first dedicated Forest University** in **Gorakhpur**, focusing on **forestry, wildlife conservation, and environmental studies**.
- **UP Presents Supplementary Budget FY26:** UP Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna presented supplementary demands worth ₹24,496.97 crore in the State Assembly.
- This raises UP's FY26 budget to ₹8.33 lakh crore, accounting for 3.03% of the original budget.
- **Rashtra Prerna Sthal Inaugurated in Lucknow:** Rashtra Prerna Sthal, a memorial dedicated to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was inaugurated in Lucknow. It aims to inspire youth with democratic values and national ideals.

West Bengal

- **NH Projects in West Bengal:** PM Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for two National Highway projects worth ₹3,200 crore at Ranaghat, Nadia district, WB. The projects improve road connectivity between Kolkata and Siliguri, boosting trade and logistics.

Jammu & Kashmir

- The **Rustam-e-Jammu & Kashmir Wrestling Championship 2025**, an international **Indian-style Kushti** event, was announced to promote **traditional wrestling and sports tourism**.

- Jammu & Kashmir inaugurated its **first Gen-Z Post Office** at **AIIMS Vijaypur** on **17 December 2025**, making it the **first AIIMS in India** with a youth-centric postal facility.
- **Chillai Kalan Begins in Kashmir:** Kashmir's harshest 40-day winter period, Chillai Kalan, began on December 21, 2025. It brings extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and frozen water bodies affecting daily life.

November Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- **MoD signed a ₹7,995 crore, 5-year support agreement with the USA** under **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** for sustainment of **24 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters**, enhancing **Indian Navy's maritime combat readiness**.
- **India unveiled Hansa-3 NG**, the country's **first indigenous all-composite two-seater trainer aircraft**, launched by **Union MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh**, strengthening indigenous aviation training capacity.
- **Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated the Semiconductor Process Gallery and PARANGAT Lab** at **SCL Mohali**, boosting the **India Semiconductor Mission** and skill development.
- **India Post released a commemorative stamp marking 25 years of NCPOR** during **Antarctica Day** celebrations in **Goa**, highlighting India's polar research journey.
- **ISRO launched India's first private Navigation Excellence Centre (ACEN)** in **Thiruvananthapuram**, focusing on **defence navigation, GNSS solutions, and MRO support**.
- **Credit Assessment Model (CAM)** was launched to accelerate **MSME lending** using **verified digital data**.
- **National 'LandStack' Symposium** was held on **3 December 2025** in **New Delhi**, focusing on **digitised land records** under the **NAKSHA** model.
- **DigiLocker integrated Passport Verification Records (PVR)**, launched by **NeGD (MeitY)** with **MEA**, enabling **instant digital passport verification**.
- **India's first all-electric Green Tug** steel-cutting was flagged off for **Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla)** under the **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)**.
- **India's first indigenous hydrogen fuel-cell passenger vessel (Pilot-01)** was flagged off at **Namo Ghat, Varanasi**, supporting **clean inland water transport**.
- **Sujalam Bharat App** was launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**, developed by **BISAG-N**, to monitor **rural water supply systems** using **GIS**.
- **11th India International Science Festival (IISF 2025)** was held from **6–9 December 2025** at **Panchkula, Haryana**, themed "**Vigyan Se Samruddhi**", showcasing **Matsya-6000 deep-sea submersible**.
- **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025** was organised on **11 December 2025** at **National Bal Bhawan, New Delhi**, celebrating linguistic diversity.

- **Param Vir Dirgha Gallery** was inaugurated at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on **Vijay Diwas (16 December 2025)** by President **Droupadi Murmu**.
- **DHRUV64**, India's **first indigenous 1.0 GHz 64-bit dual-core microprocessor**, was unveiled by the Government, developed by **C-DAC under DIR-V programme**.
- **India's first wildlife-safe road** was launched on **NH-45 in Madhya Pradesh** by **NHAI**, reducing animal-vehicle collisions.
- **AFMS, AIIMS & MoHFW** launched **India's first AI-driven community screening programme for Diabetic Retinopathy** at **Army Hospital (R&R), New Delhi**.
- **Electric Green Tug (India's first)** was launched at **Atreya Shipyard** for **DPA Kandla**, with a target of **50 green tugs by 2030**.
- **PM released Ashwagandha commemorative postal stamp** during the **2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine** in **New Delhi**.
- **PM Modi visited West Bengal and Assam (Dec 20–21, 2025)** to inaugurate and lay foundation stones of major infrastructure projects.
- **India's first nature-themed airport terminal** was inaugurated at **Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport**.
- **An 80-foot statue of Gopinath Bordoloi** was unveiled in **Guwahati** to honour **Assam's first Chief Minister**.
- **₹10,600 crore Ammonia-Urea Fertiliser Project** foundation was laid at **Namrup, Dibrugarh, Assam**.
- **Fit India Sundays on Cycle** first anniversary was celebrated in **Puducherry** with the launch of the **Fit India Mobile App** carbon credit feature.
- **Swachh Survekshan 2025–26 toolkit** was released with the theme *"Swachata Ki Nayi Peהל – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath"*.
- **Delhi Metro Phase-V(A)** was approved with three corridors spanning **16.076 km** at a cost of **₹12,014.91 crore**.
- **250 MW Unit-2 of Subansiri Lower HEP** was commissioned on the **Assam–Arunachal Pradesh border**.
- **MYAS** launched a **comprehensive internship policy**, offering **452 internships** annually with a **₹20,000** monthly stipend.
- **India's first PPP-model medical colleges** were launched in **Dhar and Betul, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **BIS** released **revised seismic zonation map** under **Earthquake Design Code 2025**, integrating **fault, tectonic, and lithological data**.
- **PMO complex** renamed **'Seva Teerth'**, while **Raj Bhavan/Raj Niwas** were renamed **Lok Bhavan/Lok Niwas**, reinforcing **citizen-centric governance**.
- **NITI Aayog Frontier Tech Hub** released **Quantum Economy Roadmap**, targeting **top-3 global quantum position by 2047**, co-developed with **IBM**.
- **India's Total Fertility Rate** declined to **1.9**, with population stabilisation projected by **2080**.
- **India achieved record foodgrain production of 357 million tonnes (2025)**, an increase of **100 MT** over a decade.
- **India's renewable energy capacity** reached **2,59,423 MW**, surpassing fossil fuel capacity.
- **IGI Airport, Delhi** became **India's first water-positive airport**, recycling **16.6 MLD** sewage.
- **Industrial growth** slowed to **0.4% (Oct 2025)**, the lowest in **14 months**.
- **NSFI 2025–30** launched, featuring **Panch-Jyoti framework** and **47 action points** for inclusive finance.
- **India began reviewing 26 global indices** under the **GIRG framework**, monitored by **NITI Aayog-DMEO**.
- **GDP base year** updated to **2022–23**, effective **February 2026**, replacing **2011–12**.
- **India assumed chairship of International IDEA for 2026**, represented by **CEC Gyanesh Kumar**.
- **Census of India 2027** approved with **₹11,718 crore**, marking **India's first fully digital census with caste enumeration**.
- **CoalSETU policy** approved, enabling **auction-based coal allocation** for industrial use.
- **Atomic Energy Bill** cleared, allowing **private sector participation** in nuclear power generation.
- **MGNREGA** renamed to **Poojya Babu Grameen Rozgar Yojana**, increasing **guaranteed workdays to 125**.
- **Insurance Amendment Bill 2025** approved, raising **FDI limit to 100%**.
- **IMF** declared **UPI as the world's largest real-time payment system**, with **India accounting for 49% of global transactions**.
- **India's first hydrogen-powered train prototype** completed by **Indian Railways**.
- **ADB** raised **India's FY26 growth forecast to 7.2%**.
- **India ranks 7th globally in coffee production**, with exports nearing **70%**.
- **SHANTI Bill, 2025** received **Presidential assent**, allowing **private sector participation** and up to **49% FDI** in nuclear energy.
- **Bureau of Port Security (BoPS)** was approved to strengthen security of **ports, vessels and coastal infrastructure**.

Miscellaneous National News

- **India re-elected to IMO Category-B (2026–27)** with **154 out of 169 votes**, the highest in its category.
- **India re-elected to UNESCO Executive Board (2025–29)**, reinforcing its role in **global education and culture**.
- **India approved Sustainable Aviation Fuel blending targets: 1% (2027), 2% (2028), 5% (2030)** for greener aviation.

- **India achieved 20% ethanol blending** in petrol in November 2025, ahead of the 2030 target under the EBP Programme.
- **NCW launched SHAKTI Scholars Fellowship** to promote policy-oriented research on women-centric issues.
- **New Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025** introduced a single petroleum lease system to boost investment.
- **CBDT launched the NUDGE campaign** for AY 2025–26 to encourage voluntary tax compliance through data analytics.
- **Supreme Court approved a 100-metre benchmark** for Aravalli Hills protection, raising environmental concerns.
- **Gujarat was declared India’s newest Tiger State** by NTCA after 33 years of conservation efforts.
- **A 2,000-year-old stone labyrinth** with Indo-Roman influence was discovered in Boramani, Solapur.

GOVT SCHEMES

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

Name of Initiative / Scheme	Ministry / Authority	Year	Purpose / Key Objective
Tex-RAMPS Scheme	Ministry of Textiles	2025	Approved with ₹305 crore (FY 2025–26 to 2030–31) to strengthen textile research, innovation, infrastructure, and start-ups
PM SVANidhi Extension	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	2025	Extended till March 2030 ; offers three-stage loans and ₹30,000 UPI–RuPay credit card for street vendors
100-Day Child Marriage-Free Bharat Awareness Campaign	Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD)	2025	Launched on 1st anniversary of Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to eliminate child marriage through awareness
Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Milestone	Ministry of Finance / PFRDA	2025	APY crossed 8.34 crore subscribers , with 48% women participation , boosting old-age social security
NUDGE Campaign – Phase 2	Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	2025	Encourages voluntary disclosure of foreign assets ; Phase-1 led to disclosure of ₹29,208 crore assets
PFRDA Master Circular on Investment Guidelines	PFRDA	2025	Revised rules for UPS, NPS, APY, NPS Lite ; enhances diversification, safety, and transparency
Revised Pension Investment Framework	PFRDA	2025	Allows up to 65% in G-Secs, 25% equity, 45% corporate debt, Gold/Silver ETFs, REITs, InvITs , and caps short-term debt at 10%

STATE GOVT SCHEME

State	Name of Scheme / Initiative	Year	Purpose / Key Features
Uttarakhand	Meri Yojana Portal	2025	One-stop digital platform providing information on Central & State welfare schemes , eligibility, application process, and documents
Uttarakhand	Meri Yojana Handbooks (General, State Govt, Central Govt editions)	2025	Simplifies scheme awareness, reduces dependency on intermediaries, and improves transparency & delivery
Delhi	Atal Canteen Scheme		Delhi CM Rekha Gupta launched the Atal Canteen Scheme to provide nutritious meals at ₹5 per plate at 100 locations. The scheme was launched on the 101st birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **International Water Management Institute (IWMI)** and the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** launched **SoLAR Phase-II** across **India, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Ethiopia** to expand **solar-powered irrigation** and promote **climate-resilient agriculture** in **South Asia and East Africa**.
- The **ILO Modern Slavery Report 2025** revealed that **50 million people** globally live in modern slavery, an increase of **10 million since 2016**. Of these, **27.6 million** are in forced labour generating **USD 236 billion annually**, with the **Asia-Pacific region hosting 15.1 million victims**.
- The **World Inequality Report 2026** highlighted persistent global income inequality and noted that **India’s top 1% controls a disproportionately large share of wealth**, recommending **progressive taxation reforms**.
- **Paschal Donohoe**, former Irish Finance Minister, assumed charge as **Managing Director and Chief Knowledge Officer of the World Bank** on **24 November 2025**.

- Pakistan appointed its first Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) under the 27th Constitutional Amendment, naming Field Marshal Asim Munir, who retains operational control over the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Andrej Babiš, leader of the ANO Party, was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Czech Republic on 9 December 2025, returning to power after the October elections.
- José Antonio Kast of Chile's Republican Party was elected the 38th President of Chile on 14 December 2025, securing about 58% of the vote, and will assume office in March 2026.
- Henrique Braun was appointed CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, with a focus on sustainability, innovation, and digital expansion.
- India will chair the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) from 3 December 2025, represented by CEC Gyanesh Kumar, strengthening India's role in global democratic governance.
- Brazil formally transferred the BRICS Presidency to India, positioning India to host major summits in 2026, with emphasis on the Global South and multilateral reforms.
- India-Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to expand bilateral trade, boost non-oil commerce, and enhance MSME participation.
- India and the Netherlands signed an MoU to establish a Joint Trade and Investment Committee (JTIC) to promote trade, investment, and regulatory cooperation.
- Japan's JERA signed its first-ever long-term LNG export agreement with India's Torrent Power, supplying 0.27 MMTPA annually for 10 years from 2027.
- PM Narendra Modi visited Jordan (15–16 December 2025) during the 75th anniversary of India-Jordan diplomatic relations, holding talks with King Abdullah II and signing MoUs in water, defence, education, and culture.
- PM Modi undertook his first-ever bilateral visit to Ethiopia (16–17 December 2025), meeting PM Abiy Ahmed to deepen cooperation rooted in civilisational ties.
- Italy's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani visited India from 10–12 December 2025 to strengthen the India-Italy Strategic Partnership.
- The World Bank approved nearly USD 600 million for clean air programmes in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana under the Regional Air Quality Management Program, benefiting around 270 million people.
- Uttar Pradesh received USD 299.66 million, adopting an airshed approach and introducing 15,000 electric three-wheelers and 500 electric buses.
- Haryana's Clean Air Project (₹3,646 crore) includes 500 electric buses, 200 EV charging stations, and is coordinated by ARJUN SPV.
- UNESCO added endangered traditional arts and crafts to its Urgent Safeguarding List, while the UN Environment Assembly adopted India's global wildfire management resolution.
- Italy became the first country to receive UNESCO recognition for its national cuisine as Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- Russia secured its first African naval base after Sudan approved a 25-year agreement near Port Sudan, allowing up to 300 personnel and four naval vessels, including nuclear-capable ships.
- India expanded Operation Sagar Bandhu, deploying additional Navy ships to Sri Lanka for Cyclone Ditwah relief, delivering 1,000 MT aid and assisting thousands.
- Russia ratified the India-Russia RELOS Agreement, granting reciprocal access to military logistics facilities, deepening strategic defence cooperation.
- The US and Jordan launched Operation Hawkeye Strike in Syria after an ISIS attack, targeting 70+ ISIS locations.
- The 20th CITES Conference of Parties (CoP-20) was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (24 Nov–5 Dec 2025), marking 50 years of CITES, with 77 species added to protection lists.
- The 33rd Southeast Asian Games began on 9 December 2025 in Thailand, featuring 13,000+ athletes from 11 nations.
- NASA temporarily lost contact with the MAVEN Mars orbiter, which has studied Mars' atmosphere for over a decade; restoration efforts are underway.
- The Asia Power Index 2025 ranked India 3rd globally, recognising it as a Major Power after the US and China.
- The 2025 Passport Index showed Asian and European dominance in mobility rankings, with India improving its position.
- QUAD Conducts First Field Training Exercise (FTX): QUAD partners India, USA, Australia and Japan conducted their 1st Field Training Exercise from December 8–12, 2025, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.



- The exercise operationalised the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) to strengthen HADR logistics interoperability.
- **India to Assume BRICS Presidency:** Brazil formally handed over the rotating BRICS presidency to India during the 4th BRICS Sherpas Meeting in Brasilia.
- India will officially assume the BRICS chairmanship from January 1, 2026.
- **EAM Jaishankar Visits Sri Lanka:** External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar visited Sri Lanka as PM Modi’s Special Envoy after Cyclone Ditwah.
- The visit was conducted under ‘Operation Sagar Bandhu’, reinforcing India’s Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **Russia Plans Nuclear Power Plant on Moon:** Russia announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2036 to support its lunar missions.
- The project, involving Roscosmos and Lavochkin Association, will power a joint Russia-China lunar research station.
- **Elon Musk Becomes \$700 Billion Individual:** Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk became the world’s first individual to reach a \$700 billion net worth. The milestone was driven by growth in technology, space and AI investments.
- **Pearl Harbor Survivor Ira Schab Passes Away:** Ira “Ike” Schab, a survivor of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack, died at the age of 105. He symbolised wartime resilience and the legacy of World War II veterans.
- **India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement:** India and New Zealand concluded comprehensive FTA negotiations covering agriculture, dairy, IT and education. The agreement supports India’s trade diversification strategy and bilateral economic ties.
- **Oman Launches Polymer Currency:** Oman announced the launch of its first polymer one-rial banknote for circulation from January 2026. The move aims to enhance durability, security and currency modernization.
- **India Announces \$450 Million Sri Lanka Relief Package:** India announced a \$450 million humanitarian aid package for Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah. The assistance includes food, medicines and infrastructure support under the Neighbourhood First Policy.
- **World’s Busiest Airport Ranking 2025:** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport retained its position as the world’s busiest airport. The ranking reflects strong post-pandemic recovery in global aviation.
- **World’s Best Food Cities 2025-26:** Global culinary rankings highlighted several Asian and European cities as top food destinations.
- The list promotes culinary tourism and urban cultural branding.
- **Top Billionaires’ Wealth Gains 2025:** Forbes reported that technology, AI and energy sectors dominated global wealth creation in 2025. The trend highlights innovation-driven economic growth.
- **Armenia Unveils COP17 Logo:** Armenia unveiled a butterfly-themed logo for COP17 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The logo symbolises biodiversity conservation and ecological balance.
- **Japan to Restart Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Plant:** Japan announced plans to restart the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant. The move aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence, cut emissions and improve energy security.

BANKING & FINANCE

Understood. Below is a **detailed, clean, tabular presentation**, arranged **category-wise**, with **only factual details** and **no exam-relevance column**, exactly as requested.

1. Banking & Digital Payments

Initiative / Event	Detailed Information
UPI Transactions Milestone	UPI recorded 19 billion transactions worth ₹24.58 lakh crore in November 2025 , reflecting 23% year-on-year growth .
Retail CBDC (Digital Rupee)	Retail e₹ crossed 120 million transactions worth ₹28,000 crore , with over 8 million active users ; government and fintech platforms are integrated, and cross-border applications are under exploration.
IMF Recognition of UPI	The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognised UPI as the world’s largest Fast Payment System , with India accounting for 49% of global real-time payment transactions .
NPCI Bharat BillPay – Banking Connect	Launched as an interoperable net banking platform enabling biometric authentication and real-time oversight by the RBI .
NPCI International–Cambodia MoU	NPCI International signed an MoU with ACLEDA Bank (Cambodia) to enable QR-based cross-border payments between UPI (India) and KHQR (Cambodia) .
Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)	By FY25, PIDF enabled 5.45 crore digital payment touchpoints and issued 56.86 crore QR codes to 6.5 crore merchants , primarily in Tier-3 to Tier-6 areas.

Initiative / Event	Detailed Information
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Deposits reached ₹2.75 lakh crore across 56 crore accounts, with 78% accounts in rural/semi-urban areas and 50% held by women.
Bharat Taxi Cooperative	India's first driver-owned national mobility platform, soft-launched in Delhi and Gujarat, registering 51,000+ drivers within 10 days, offering zero commission and no surge pricing.

2. RBI: Monetary Policy, Regulations & Supervision

Announcement / Action	Detailed Information
Repo Rate Cut	RBI reduced the repo rate to 5.25%, projecting FY26 GDP growth at 7.3% and inflation at 2%.
Open Market Operations (OMO)	RBI announced ₹1 trillion worth of OMO purchases to inject liquidity amid rupee depreciation.
USD Buy-Sell Swap	RBI conducted a USD 5 billion buy-sell swap to stabilise the Indian rupee.
Accelerated Payout of Unclaimed Deposits	RBI launched a scheme to fast-track payouts of unclaimed deposits, amounting to ₹67,000 crore as of June 2025.
National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) 2025-30	Released by RBI based on the Panch-Jyoti five-pillar framework with 47 action points, aiming to expand access, usage, and quality of financial services.
RBI Ombudsman Report 2024-25	Recorded 13.34 lakh complaints (up 13.55%); 81.53% were against banks; private banks accounted for 37.53% of complaints; credit card complaints rose 20.04%.
Interest Rate Derivatives (IRD) Master Directions, 2025	Allows resident and non-resident entities to trade rupee interest rate derivatives from 1 March 2026.
Indian Digital Payments Infrastructure Company (IDPIC)	RBI approved SBI and Bank of Baroda to establish IDPIC to curb digital payment fraud across public sector banks.
Trilingual Banking Services Mandate	RBI directed banks to provide services in Hindi, English, and regional languages.
RBI Appointments	Usha Janakiraman appointed Executive Director (Department of Supervision); Vikram Sahu approved as CEO of Bank of America India.
RBI Penalties	Penalties imposed: ₹91 lakh on HDFC Bank and ₹99.30 lakh on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for regulatory violations.

3. SEBI & Capital Markets

Development	Detailed Information
Raajmarg Infra InvIT Approval	SEBI granted in-principle approval to Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust under InvIT Regulations, 2014.
PaRRVA Platform Launched	SEBI launched the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA) platform with NSE and CAREEdge to prevent misleading performance claims.
Merchant Banker Regulation Overhaul	SEBI introduced stricter capital adequacy norms, mandating minimum liquid net worth and revenue from permitted activities.
SEBI Penalties & Oversight	SEBI strengthened market surveillance through updated disclosure and compliance mechanisms.

4. Economy: GDP, Inflation & Macro Indicators

Indicator / Report	Detailed Information
Q2 FY26 GDP	NSO reported GDP at ₹48.63 lakh crore, registering 8.2% growth, the highest in six quarters.
GDP Forecasts	CRISIL projected 7%, Fitch upgraded to 7.4%, ADB raised forecast to 7.2%, and Moody's projected India as fastest-growing APAC economy.
Retail Inflation (Nov 2025)	Retail inflation rose to 0.71%, with urban inflation at 1.4%, indicating easing food deflation.
Foreign Exchange Reserves	India's forex reserves stood around USD 686-687 billion, with higher gold reserves offsetting currency asset decline.

5. Banks, Insurance & Financial Institutions

Update	Detailed Information
D-SIB Status Retained	SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank retained Domestic Systemically Important Bank status with capital surcharges of 0.80%, 0.40%, and 0.20% respectively.
Fino Payments Bank	Received in-principle RBI approval to convert into a Small Finance Bank, becoming the first payments bank to do so.
LIC Product Launches	LIC launched "Protection Plus" and "Bima Kavach", offering linked protection and savings features.
LIC-Yes Bank Partnership	LIC entered a bancassurance partnership with Yes Bank.
PNB 'Luxura' Credit Card	PNB launched a premium RuPay credit card, appointing Harmanpreet Kaur as brand ambassador.
IDFC First Bank – FIRST WOW! Black	Launched an FD-backed credit card with zero forex markup on international transactions.
IndusInd Bank & Jio-bp Card	Launched a RuPay co-branded fuel and lifestyle credit card.
IFFCO-TOKIO Micro-Insurance	Launched a cooperative-based micro-insurance initiative aligned with Insurance for All by 2047.
Sahaj Insurance Services	Received IRDAI corporate agency licence.
Wise Travel Card	Global fintech Wise launched a multi-currency travel card in India at GFF 2025.

6. Business, Investment & Corporate Developments

Development	Detailed Information
Tata Realty Green Loan	Signed a ₹1,280 crore green loan with DBS Bank India for Intellion Park, Gurugram.
Amazon Investment	Announced USD 35 billion investment in India by 2030 and signed MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.
Microsoft Investment	Announced USD 17.5 billion AI and cloud investment; Hyderabad to host its largest hyperscale data centre region.
Adani Group Green Energy Plan	Announced USD 75 billion investment, with Khavda Renewable Energy Park targeting 30 GW by 2030.
Telangana Investments	Secured ₹5.75 lakh crore commitments at Rising Global Summit 2025.
Netflix-Warner Bros Deal	Netflix acquired Warner Bros Discovery for USD 72 billion, gaining HBO Max, DC Comics, and premium IPs.
Genesys International	Launched India's first 3D subsurface mapping technology and secured a ₹17.38 crore contract for six Adani airports.
Tata Group–Intel MoU	Signed MoU for semiconductor fab at Dholera and OSAT facility at Guwahati.
BPCL Recognition	Became the only Indian entity in Top 100 Corporate Startup Stars 2025, awarded in Paris.
Banking Awards	Bank of Baroda won Best Bank in India 2025; DBS Bank named Global Bank of the Year 2025.

MoU's & AGREEMENTS

Parties Involved	MoU / Agreement Details
C-DOT & IIT Roorkee	Set up a Centre of Excellence in advanced communication technologies to strengthen telecom R&D and self-reliance
IWAI & Multiple Partners	MoUs worth ₹6,000+ crore signed at India Maritime Week 2025 to transform river transport & tourism on NW-1 (Ganga), Uttar Pradesh
Indian Navy (DGNAI), IIT-Madras & Apollo Micro Systems	Joint MoU to develop next-generation indigenous naval armament systems
Ministry of Tourism & Mastercard	2-year MoU to promote India as a global tourism destination
Government of India & ADB	Three loan agreements exceeding USD 800 million for projects in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat

Parties Involved	MoU / Agreement Details
NHAI & Reliance Jio	MoU to provide telecom-based real-time highway safety alerts
SEBI	Issued FVCI (Amendment) Regulations 2025 , launching SWAGAT-FI single-window framework
Atal Innovation Mission & Hitachi MGRM Net	Statement of Intent to develop MStar™ Global AI Connect
Nokia & Bharti Airtel	Partnership to open Airtel’s network via “Network as Code” platform
NMDC & IIT Kanpur	Cybersecurity MoU leveraging C3iHub for mining digital transformation
Patanjali Group & Russia	Cultural MoU to promote Yoga, Ayurveda & wellness
India & Israel	Launched Semiophore Ltd. , a 50:50 agri-tech JV for pheromone-based crop protection
Tata Advanced Systems & Lockheed Martin	Announced C-130J MRO facility in Bengaluru
Tata Group & Intel	MoU for semiconductor manufacturing, packaging & AI compute
IOA & Italy’s CONI	5-year MoU for sports cooperation
India & Liberia	MoU on medicine quality & pharmacopoeia cooperation
MSME Ministry & Amazon	MoU to support PM Vishwakarma artisans via Amazon Karigar
Government of India – Netherlands	MoU signed to strengthen cooperation on maritime heritage , supporting the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat under the Sagarmala Programme .
India Optel Limited (IOL) – Safran Electronics & Defense (France)	Agreement for local production of advanced defence systems , including SIGMA 30N Inertial Navigation System and CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight under Make in India .
Indian Army – Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT)	MoU to develop AI-based military software solutions focusing on modern warfare applications and indigenous defence innovation .
IDRBT – IIIT Hyderabad	MoU for collaboration in academics, research, training, and technology development to strengthen banking technology, cybersecurity, and digital finance .
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) – CrisprBits Pvt. Ltd.	Letter of Intent to establish a Centre of Excellence for CRISPR Innovation and Translation , marking a major PPP initiative in gene-editing research .
DRDO – Rashtriya Raksha University	MoU to enhance cooperation in defence and internal security , strengthening academic–defence collaboration in strategic technologies.
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment – Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Dhanwantari Ashram & University of Patanjali	MoUs signed under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan to promote substance-abuse awareness, prevention, and wellness through yoga and community outreach.
Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)	Launched on 15 August 2020 ; as of December 2025 , MoUs signed with eight spiritual organisations nationwide to support a drug-free India mission.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

APPOINTMENTS – NATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Vivek Chaturvedi	Chairman	Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)	Replaced Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
Praveen Kumar	Additional Charge as DG	Border Security Force (BSF)	Also DG ITBP; charge from 1 Dec 2025
Ramakrishnan Chander	Managing Director	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Tenure from 1 Dec 2025 to 30 Sept 2027

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Place	Key Notes
Usha Janakiraman	Executive Director	Reserve Bank of India	Took charge on 1 Dec 2025
Arun Kumar Singh	Chairman (Tenure Extension)	ONGC	Extended till 6 Dec 2026
Ravi Ranjan	Managing Director	State Bank of India	Approved by ACC in Dec 2025
Ashwini Kumar Tewari	Managing Director (Re-appointment)	State Bank of India	Second term from Jan 2026 to Dec 2027
Ajai Kumar Shukla	MD & CEO	PNB Housing Finance	Effective from 18 Dec 2025
B. Sairam	Chairman-cum-Managing Director	Coal India Limited	Tenure till 31 March 2028
Suresh Goyal	Director General	NCAER	Effective from 5 Jan 2026
Sai Jadhav	Officer (Historic Milestone)	Indian Military Academy, Dehradun	First woman officer to pass out from IMA
Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo	President	National Rifle Association of India	Re-elected for 2025–2029 term
Pawan Singh	Secretary General	NRAI	Elected unopposed
Bibhu Prasad (B.P.) Kanungo	Non-Executive Chairman	IIFL Finance Limited	Former RBI Deputy Governor ; will guide board-level strategy, strengthen governance standards, and protect shareholder interests.
Saleem Ahmad	Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)	Assumed charge on 23 December 2025 ; heads the Navratna CPSE under Ministry of Railways; tenure till 30 April 2029 or further orders. Has 30+ years' experience in civil engineering and large infrastructure projects; succeeded Sukhmal Chand Jain (interim CMD) after Pradeep Gaur's retirement.

APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Appointed As	Entity / Country	Key Notes
Stefan Priesner	UN Resident Coordinator	India	Term: 2025–2029; from Austria
Roman Gofman	Mossad Chief (Designate)	Israel	Military background, intelligence focus
Amar Subramanya	Vice President – AI	Apple Inc.	Leads Siri & Apple Intelligence
Cristiano Ronaldo	Investor & Brand Ambassador	Perplexity AI	Launch of “Ronaldo Hub AI”
Henrique Braun	CEO	The Coca-Cola Company	Focus on sustainability & innovation

BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS

Person Name	Brand / Campaign	Key Notes
Abhishek Sharma	DP World	Promotes sports engagement & global connectivity
Harmanpreet Kaur	Vedanta Pink City Half Marathon 2025	Ambassador for #RunForZeroHunger
Harmanpreet Kaur	Punjab National Bank	First female brand ambassador; launched Luxura Metal Card
Cristiano Ronaldo	Perplexity AI	Global brand ambassador & investor

OTHER APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Designation / Post	Who is Appointed	Replacing / Succeeding	Key Notes
DG BSF (Additional Charge)	Praveen Kumar	Daljit Singh Chawdhary	Charge from 1 Dec 2025
Press Club of India President	Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty	—	First woman President
Chief Information Commissioner	Raj Kumar Goyal	Heeralal Samariya	13th CIC; sworn in Dec 2025
President & CEO	Reliance Retail Ventures	—	Jeyandran Venugopal (ex-Flipkart)
Head – Public Policy	Meta India	—	Aman Jain appointed
MD & CEO	PNB Housing Finance	—	Ajai Kumar Shukla

CONSTITUTIONAL / STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS

Designation / Post	Person Name	Key Notes
Chief Information Commissioner	Raj Kumar Goyal	Three-year term; sworn in by President
Chairman, CBIC	Vivek Chaturvedi	Senior IRS officer
UN Resident Coordinator	Stefan Priesner	Represents UN system in India

DEFENCE, SPORTS & INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Event / Appointment	Details
Zen Technologies MoD Contract	₹120 crore contract for India's first Combat Training Node at Infantry School, Mhow
NRAI Elections	Conducted at Mohali; supervised by Justice (Retd.) Nirmaljit Kaur
Forbes 30 Under 30 (2026)	Arkin Gupta featured in Finance category

AWARDS

Below is a **clean, structured, fully tabular presentation**, organised **exactly under the headings you specified**. All awards, recognitions, and honours are **logically grouped, fact-complete, and easy to revise**.

Awards in Arts & Culture / Films

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
Golden Globe Horizon Award	Alia Bhatt	Cinema	Honoured at Red Sea International Film Festival for global impact on cinema
TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025	Leonardo DiCaprio	Film & Entertainment	Recognised for film <i>One Battle After Another</i> and environmental advocacy
Oscar 2026 Shortlist	"Homebound" (Indian Film)	Cinema	Shortlisted for Best International Feature Film
Turner Prize	Nnena Kalu	Contemporary Art	First artist with a learning disability to win the prize
FIFA Best Football Awards 2025	Multiple winners	Sports & Culture	Honoured global excellence in football
TIME Athlete of the Year 2025	A'ja Wilson	Sports	Historic WNBA season with five major titles
NASA – Most Inspirational Award (International Space Apps Challenge 2025)	Photonics Odyssey (Chennai-based team)	Space Technology / Innovation	Won at International Space Apps Challenge 2025 for a satellite-internet concept aimed at expanding broadband access in remote and underserved regions of India.
Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres	Ravi DeeCee (MD & CEO, DC Books)	Arts & Literature / Cultural Exchange	Conferred by French Embassy, New Delhi for promoting French literature in Malayalam and strengthening Indo-French cultural ties.
Transformational Leader of the Year Award	Jay Shah (BCCI Secretary)	Sports Governance	Awarded for sports governance reforms and significant contributions to the growth of women's cricket in India.

Other Important Awards

Award Name	Award Winner	Field	Key Notes
UN Population Award 2025	IUSSP	Population Studies	Recognised for global contributions under Dr. Shireen Jejeebhoy
Global Humanitarian Award (Animal Welfare)	Anant Ambani	Wildlife Conservation	Youngest-ever and first Asian recipient
UNEP Champions of the Earth Award 2025	Supriya Sahu	Environment	Awarded for sustainable cooling & ecosystem restoration
Geddes Gavel Award	Colonel Prateek Roy	Defence Studies	Awarded in Australia after Defence Strategic Studies Course
Home Minister's Efficiency Medal	Dinesh Khatak (CRPF)	Internal Security	Recognised for exemplary service
Innovation Awards	NTPC NETRA & CSIR Scientists	Science & R&D	For applied research and indigenous innovation
IEEE SA Corporate Award 2025	C-DOT	Technology & Standards	First Indian organisation to receive this honour

Important Recognitions

List / Recognition	Details
TIME Person of the Year 2025	"Architects of Artificial Intelligence"
TIME Person of the Year – Honourees	Jensen Huang, Sam Altman, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Lisa Su, Demis Hassabis, Dario Amodei, Fei-Fei Li
Forbes 30 Under 30 (2026)	Arkin Gupta – Finance category
Hurun India Top 200 Entrepreneurs (2025)	Deepinder Goyal topped the list
World's Richest Person 2025	Elon Musk crossed USD 600 billion net worth
Jindal Stainless ESG Ranking	Ranked 4th globally, 1st in stainless steel sector (DJSI CSA 2025)
PGIMER Chandigarh	India's Best Health Technology Assessment Institute (2nd consecutive year)

Other Awards

S. No.	Name of Award	Winner
1	FICCI TURF Emerging Sports Event Award 2025	Archery Premier League
2	World Athletics Honour 2025	Mondo Duplantis
3	World Athletics Honour 2025	Sydney McLaughlin
4	Microsoft Store Awards 2025	ChatGPT
5	Microsoft Store Awards 2025	Perplexity AI
6	Microsoft Store Awards 2025	Notion
7	FIFA Peace Prize (First-ever)	Donald Trump
8	PETA India Person of the Year 2025	Raveena Tandon
9	TIME CEO of the Year 2025	Neal Mohan (YouTube)
10	Global Bank of the Year 2025	DBS Bank Ltd.
11	Ramsar Site Addition (95th)	Siliserh Lake, Rajasthan
12	Ramsar Site Addition (96th)	Kopra Jalashay, Chhattisgarh
13	GI Tag Award	Ponduru Khadi, Andhra Pradesh
14	Commemorative Postage Stamp	Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II
15	TIME Athlete of the Year	A'ja Wilson

SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE

Summits, Events & Conferences (November–December 2025)

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Summit	23rd India–Russia Annual Summit	India	Russian President Vladimir Putin visited India; discussions focused on defence modernisation, energy cooperation, labour mobility, and strategic partnership
Summit	EARTH Summit 2025	Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat	Inaugurated by Amit Shah; focused on cooperative governance, rural banking, and institutional reforms
Summit	World Summit on Disaster Management	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Held alongside Uttarakhand Science Conference; inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh
Summit	WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit (upcoming)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Scheduled 17–19 Dec 2025; focus on science-backed traditional medicine & global well-being
Summit	UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Session (20th)	Red Fort, New Delhi	India hosted session; Diwali nominated for UNESCO ICH Representative List
Summit	Regional AI Conference	Shillong, Meghalaya	Held ahead of India’s AI Summit; backed by ₹10,300 crore IndiaAI Mission and 38,000 GPUs

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Event	60th DGP–IGP Conference	IIM Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Chaired by PM Narendra Modi (Nov 28–30, 2025); theme “Viksit Bharat: Security Dimensions”
Event	Smart India Hackathon 2025 (8th Edition)	60 nodal centres nationwide	Organised by MoE Innovation Cell & AICTE to promote student-led innovation
Event	Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025	New Delhi	Launched by C.R. Patil along with BHARAT-WIN portal for water innovation
Event	National Handicrafts Week Chaupal Programme	New Delhi	Launched by Office of DC (Handicrafts) to empower artisans (8–14 Dec 2025)
Event	Bharat 6G Mission Apex Council Meeting	New Delhi	Chaired by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia; roadmap to make India a global 6G leader by 2030
Event	IALA Council – 3rd Session	Mumbai (Virtual Inauguration)	Inaugurated by Sarbananda Sonowal; focus on marine navigation safety & cooperation

Category	Conference	Venue	Key Points
Conference	Uttarakhand Science Conference	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Held with Disaster Management Summit; focused on scientific innovation & resilience
Conference	World Summit on Disaster Management (Technical Sessions)	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Disaster preparedness, mitigation strategies & climate resilience
Conference	UNEA–7 (7th UN Environment Assembly)	Nairobi, Kenya	Held 8–12 Dec 2025; theme “Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet”
Conference	UNEA–7 High-Level Segment	Nairobi, Kenya	Chaired by Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al-Amri (Oman)
Conference	India’s Representation at UNEA–7	Nairobi, Kenya	India represented by MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh
Conference	UNEP Champions of the Earth Award Ceremony	Nairobi, Kenya	Supriya Sahu (India) awarded alongside Imazon (Brazil) and Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
Global Health / AYUSH	2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine 2025	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Held 17–19 Dec 2025 ; organised by WHO & Ministry of AYUSH ; theme: “Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-Being”.
Public Diplomacy	Inauguration of WHO Traditional Medicine Summit	New Delhi	Inaugurated by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in presence of MoS Prataprao Jadhav ; saw wide global participation on traditional medicine.

Category	Event	Venue	Key Points
International Cooperation / AYUSH	AYUSH Bilateral Meetings & India–Cuba MoU	New Delhi / Havana	16 bilateral meetings held; India–Cuba MoU extended to establish AYUSH Chair and Panchakarma Centre in Havana.
Digital Governance / AYUSH	Launch of AYUSH Digital Initiatives	New Delhi	PM Modi launched My AYUSH Integrated Services Portal (MAISP) , Ayush Mark certification , and WHO technical report on Yoga training .
International Trade / SDGs	UEF–UNSDC MoUs at Trade Summit 2025	Chennai	United Economic Forum signed 10 MoUs with UNSDC to implement UN SDGs across 45 educational institutions .
Economic Development / Summit	UEF Trade Summit 2025	Chennai Trade Centre	Held 12–14 Dec 2025 ; theme <i>“Unnatha Thamizhagam–4TN for TN by 2047”</i> ; attended by 4,000+ delegates .
International Governance / Anti-Corruption	COSP-11 of UNCAC	Doha, Qatar	Held 15–19 Dec 2025 ; hosted by Qatar with UNODC ; focused on global anti-corruption efforts.
Banking & Digital Payments	Mswipe Receives RBI Payment Aggregator Licence	India	RBI granted final PA licence enabling online, offline, omnichannel and cross-border payments .
Banking / FinTech	South Indian Bank Launches RuPay SIB Paytag	India	NFC-enabled contactless sticker for secure tap-and-pay transactions without a physical card.
Digital Payments – Features	RuPay SIB Paytag Capabilities	India	Supports payments up to ₹1 lakh ; PIN required above ₹5,000 ; usable for POS & e-commerce , not ATM withdrawals.

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World Urbanization Prospects 2025:

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) released the *World Urbanization Prospects 2025* in November 2025, covering urban population trends across 237 countries. Jakarta emerged as the world’s most populous city with 41.9 million people, followed by Dhaka (36.6 million) and Tokyo (33.4 million). India featured prominently, with New Delhi ranking 4th globally at 30.2 million and Kolkata 9th with 22.5 million residents. The report noted a sharp rise in megacities from 8 in 1975 to 33 in 2025, projected to reach 37 by 2050, with 9 of the top 10 located in Asia. The 2025 edition lowered the city population threshold to 50,000, enabling analysis of over 12,000 cities. It highlighted that 96% of cities have populations below 1 million and 81% below 250,000, while rural-majority countries declined to 62 and are projected to reduce to 44 by 2050. In India, 44% of the population lives in towns meeting census urban criteria. UNDESA is headquartered in New York, established in 1948, and led by Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua.

India Tourism Data Compendium 2025:

- The Ministry of Tourism released the 66th edition of the *India Tourism Data Compendium 2025*, revealing that India recorded 20.94 million foreign tourist visits in 2024, marking an 8.84% increase over 2023. Maharashtra emerged as the most visited state by foreign tourists with 3.71 million visits, followed by West Bengal with 3.12 million and Uttar Pradesh with 2.27 million, underscoring the recovery and expansion of India’s tourism sector.



Asia Power Index 2025:

- Australia's Lowy Institute released the 7th edition of the *Asia Power Index 2025* in November 2025, ranking India 3rd globally with a score of 40.0 and officially categorising it as a "Major Power," an upgrade from its Middle Power status in 2024. The United States topped the index with 80.4 points, followed by China at 73.7. India's rise was driven by gains in economic capability, military strength, and foreign investment attractiveness, although it ranked lower in defence networks. The index evaluated 27 Asian countries using 131 indicators across eight themes including diplomacy, economy, resilience, military, and culture.

SIPRI Top 100 Arms-Producing Companies 2024:

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its global defence rankings on 1 December 2025, listing Lockheed Martin, RTX (formerly Raytheon), and Northrop Grumman as the top three arms-producing companies worldwide. India featured three public sector firms in the global top 100—Hindustan Aeronautics Limited ranked 44th, Bharat Electronics Limited 58th, and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited 91st. India's total arms revenue reached USD 7.5 billion, accounting for 1.1% of global sales and reflecting an 8.2% growth over 2023. SIPRI is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, was established in 1966, and is headed by Director Karim Haggag.

UBS Global Wealth Transfer Report:

- According to a UBS report, 91 billionaires globally inherited USD 298 billion over the past 12 months, while an estimated USD 5.9 trillion in wealth is expected to transfer worldwide over the next 15 years. The largest intergenerational wealth transfers are projected in the United States, India, France, Germany, and Switzerland, highlighting shifting patterns in global wealth ownership.

TIME Person, CEO & Entertainer of the Year 2025:

- TIME Magazine named the "Architects of Artificial Intelligence" as its Person of the Year 2025, recognising global AI leaders such as Jensen Huang, Sam Altman, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Lisa Su, Demis Hassabis, Dario Amodei, and Fei-Fei Li for driving AI's mainstream adoption. Neal Mohan, CEO of YouTube, was named TIME CEO of the Year 2025 for advancing creator-first digital platforms, while Leonardo DiCaprio was honoured as TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025 following the global success of his film *One Battle After Another* and his long-standing environmental advocacy.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) 2025:

- In December 2025, UNESCO inducted 72 new cities from 46 countries into its Global Network of Learning Cities, expanding the network to 425 cities across 91 countries and supporting lifelong learning for nearly 500 million people. The 2025 intake included 11 capital cities such as Cairo, Riyadh, Lisbon, Ankara, and Buenos Aires, while countries like the USA and Chile joined the network for the first time.

India is represented by three GNLC cities—Warangal, Thrissur, and Nilambur. The GNLC was launched by UNESCO's Institute for Lifelong Learning in 2013, with formal city declarations beginning in 2015.

Global AI Vibrancy Tool 2025:

- The Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) released the *Global AI Vibrancy Tool 2025* under its AI Index project, ranking India 3rd globally with a score of 21.59, a significant improvement from 7th position in 2023. The United States topped the index with 78.6, followed by China at 36.95. The tool evaluates national AI ecosystems across seven pillars—R&D, Talent, Economy & Investment, Policy & Governance, Infrastructure, Responsible AI, and Public Opinion—using 23 indicators. Stanford HAI, established in 2019 and headquartered in California, is led by Executive Director Russell Wald.

"Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations"

- In December 2025, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog released a comprehensive report titled "**Internationalisation of Higher Education in India: Prospects, Potential, and Policy Recommendations**", outlining a long-term roadmap to position India as a **global hub for higher education and research by 2047**. The report was released by senior NITI Aayog leadership including **Suman Bery (Vice Chairman), Dr V.K. Paul (Member-Education), Dr Arvind Virmani (Member) and B.V.R. Subrahmanyam (CEO)**, with participation from the **Department of Higher Education and AICTE**. Prepared in collaboration with **IIT Madras, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and Acumen**, the study focuses on "**internationalisation at home**" in line with **NEP 2020**, drawing inputs from online surveys of **160 higher education institutions across 24 states, key informant interviews with experts from 16 countries, and a national workshop at IIT Madras**. The report highlights a significant **student mobility imbalance**, noting that in **2024**, for every international student studying in India, **28 Indian students went abroad**, despite a **518% rise in foreign student inflows since 2001**. To address this, the study provides **time-bound projections** for increasing international enrolment using **CAGR-based global benchmarking and internationalisation intensity models**, with estimates reaching up to **11 lakh foreign students by 2047**. It presents **22 policy recommendations, 76 action pathways, and 125 performance indicators** across five thematic areas—**Strategy & Regulation, Finance, Branding, Communication & Outreach, and Curriculum & Culture**. Key proposals include setting up **Bharat Vidya Kosh**, launching **Vishwa Bandhu scholarships and fellowships**, and creating **Bharat ki AAN (Alumni Ambassador Network)** to leverage the Indian diaspora, reinforcing India's ambition to emerge as a leading global destination for higher education and research.

DEFENCE

Category	Event / Update	Venue / Area / Participants	Detailed Key Points
Navy Induction	INS Taragiri commissioned	Indian Navy	Fourth Project-17A Nilgiri-class frigate; third built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL); revives legacy of INS Taragiri (1980–2013)
Coast Guard	ICGS Amulya delivered	Goa Shipyard Ltd	Third Fast Patrol Vessel under Atmanirbhar Bharat for maritime security
HADR Operation	Operation Sagar Bandhu	Sri Lanka	Indian Navy delivered Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief after Cyclone Ditwah
Military Exercise	EKUVERIN (14th Edition)	India–Maldives; Thiruvananthapuram	Two-week counter-terrorism and joint training drill
Military Exercise	Garuda Shakti (10th Edition)	Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh; India–Indonesia	Bilateral Special Forces exercise initiated in 2012
Military Exercise	Harimau Shakti 2025 (5th Edition)	Mahajan Firing Range, Rajasthan; India–Malaysia	Focus on sub-conventional warfare under UN Chapter VII mandate
Military Exercise	Desert Cyclone-II (2nd Edition)	Abu Dhabi; India–UAE	Desert warfare, urban operations, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism
Missile Test	BrahMos Missile	Bay of Bengal	Test-fired by Indian Army Southern Command, validating long-range precision strike
Defence Testing	Fighter Escape System	RTRS Facility, Chandigarh, TBRL	DRDO successfully tested high-speed aircraft crew escape system
Submarine Programme	INS Aridhaman	India	Third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine; K-4 missile capable; final commissioning trials
Naval Induction	INS Mahe	Indian Navy	Commissioned to enhance maritime operational capability
Naval Capability	DSC A20 commissioned	Naval Base Kochi	India’s first indigenous Diving Support Craft for underwater repair and rescue
Naval Aviation	INAS 335 “Ospreys” Squadron	Goa	Strengthens maritime surveillance and coastal security
Defence Demo	Indian Navy Operational Demo	Shangumugham Beach, Kerala	Showcased indigenous submarines, aircraft and special operations
Defence Contract	Bharat Dynamics Ltd	India	₹2,461.62 crore emergency contracts for ATGMs and SAMs
Defence Technology	DRDO Tech Transfer	New Delhi	7 indigenous technologies transferred; 12 new TDF projects approved
Defence Technology	Technologies Handed Over	Armed Forces	Includes IHVPS, IWPS, VLF-HF Matrix, Seawater Battery, Lithium Recovery Process
Border Infrastructure	BRO Projects Inaugurated	Ladakh, J&K, 7 States	125 projects worth ₹5,000 crore; highest simultaneous launch
Strategic Tunnel	Shyok Tunnel	Eastern Ladakh (LAC)	920-m tunnel ensuring all-weather troop movement
Border Bridges	Strategic Bridges	Chamoli, Uttarakhand	Five bridges near India–China border inaugurated
Memorial	Galwan War Memorial	Eastern Ladakh	Honours soldiers martyred in 2020 Galwan clash
Army Expedition	Mount Kangto Summit	Arunachal Pradesh	First recorded ascent (7,042 m) by Indian Army Eastern Command
Defence Manufacturing	TASL–Lockheed Martin	Bengaluru	Construction of C-130J MRO facility for Indian & regional fleets
Air Defence	IADWS Deployment Plan	Delhi NCR	Integrated system with QRSAM and VSHORADS
Defence Diplomacy	CNS Visit to Brazil	Brazil	Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi held high-level maritime cooperation talks
Naval Cooperation	Scorpene Submarine MoU	India–Brazil–France	Tripartite MoU to strengthen submarine maintenance & cooperation

Category	Event / Update	Venue / Area / Participants	Detailed Key Points
Army Deployment	Heavy Tanks Inducted	Kashmir Valley	Enhanced high-altitude combat readiness
Senior Appointment	Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu	Indian Navy	Appointed Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition
Senior Appointment	Air Marshal Tejbir Singh	Indian Air Force	Appointed DG (Inspection & Safety); 7,000+ flying hours
Senior Appointment	Praveen Kumar	BSF & ITBP	Given additional charge as DG BSF
Naval Modernisation	INS Sindhughosh Decommissioned	Naval Dockyard, Mumbai	Lead submarine of Sindhughosh class decommissioned after 40 years of service, marking fleet modernisation of the Indian Navy.
Indigenous Naval Platform	INS Anjadip Delivered	Chennai Port	GRSE-delivered ASW Shallow Water Craft enhances coastal surveillance and anti-submarine warfare under <i>Make in India</i> .
Missile Systems	Akash-NG User Trials Completed	Chandipur, Odisha	DRDO completed User Evaluation Trials of Akash-New Generation SAM for operational readiness by Indian Army and Air Force.
Coast Guard Capability	Samudra Pratap Inducted	Goa Shipyard Limited	India's first indigenously built Pollution Control Vessel enhances oil spill response and marine environmental protection.
Defence Exports	WhAP Vehicles Exported to Morocco	Tata Advanced Systems	First batch of WhAP 8x8 armoured vehicles delivered, boosting <i>Make in India</i> and <i>Make for the World</i> .
Foreign Relations / Act East	Quick Impact Projects to Myanmar	Myanmar	India handed over three QIPs in education, healthcare, and community development, strengthening bilateral ties.
Defence-Academia Collaboration	DRDO-Rashtriya Raksha University MoU	India	MoU to strengthen defence and internal security research, promoting indigenous capability building.
AI & Modern Warfare	Indian Army-NSUT AI Collaboration	Indian Army & NSUT	Partnership to develop AI-based military solutions, enhancing modern warfare and student-led innovation.
Border Infrastructure	BRO Manual Launched	Ministry of Defence	Border Roads Organisation Manual launched to improve efficiency, transparency, and strategic road construction.
Naval Heritage	INSV Kaundinya Maritime Voyage	Porbandar to Muscat	Stitched wooden vessel to sail on 29 Dec 2025, retracing ancient maritime trade routes and showcasing naval heritage.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Russia launched Soyuz MS-28 from Baikonur, Kazakhstan, carrying 2 Russian cosmonauts and 1 American astronaut to the ISS for an 8-month Expedition 73 mission.**
- **Wildlife Institute of India discovered 13 new bush frog species (Raorchestes genus) across Eastern Himalayas & Indo-Burma hotspots, marking India's largest vertebrate discovery in over a decade.**
- **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan inaugurated India's first private Navigation Excellence Centre— ACEN — in Thiruvananthapuram, set up by Ananth Technologies.**
- **National Industries R&D Council launched InDApp, a single-window digital MSME empowerment platform, unveiled by Union MoS B.L. Verma.**
- **Skyroot Aerospace opened Infinity Campus to boost private space innovation, highlighted in PM's Mann Ki Baat.**
- **WHO & CDC flagged Cannabinoid Hyperemesis Syndrome (CHS)—severe vomiting due to chronic cannabis use—as a global health concern requiring awareness and treatment.**
- **WMO forecast: 55% probability of weak La Niña in December 2025–February 2026, but warmer temperatures likely in Northern Hemisphere due to climate change.**
- **Google Gemini 3 Deep Think Mode: Advanced AI reasoning, problem-solving, better for STEM, research, professional workflows.**

- In December 2025, astronomers from the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR), Pune discovered an ancient massive spiral galaxy named Alaknanda, located 12 billion light-years away, using James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) data; the discovery was made by Rashi Jain and Prof. Yogesh Wadadekar and published in Astronomy & Astrophysics.
- The spiral galaxy Alaknanda, discovered in the Abell 2744 field, is about 1.5 billion years old, has two distinct arms, and a high star-formation rate of 63 solar masses per year, challenging theories that early-universe galaxies were largely chaotic.
- In December 2025, the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) launched ‘Y-Point Venture Capital (VC) Fund’, India’s first deep-tech VC fund managed by an academia-linked incubator, with a corpus of ₹250 crore.
- The Y-Point Venture Capital Fund aims to support early-stage deep-tech startups by providing critical risk capital, strengthening India’s innovation and research-driven startup ecosystem.
- On December 10, 2025, Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T), virtually inaugurated India’s National Hub for Quantum Communication at IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai.
- The IIT Madras – Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Samgnya Technologies Foundation was established under the National Quantum Mission (NQM) and will focus on Quantum Cryptography, Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Post-Quantum Security, Quantum Repeaters and Satellite-based Quantum Communication.
- The Quantum Communication Hub is India’s first national-level dedicated hub under NQM and one of four thematic hubs, alongside Quantum Computing (IISc Bengaluru), Quantum Sensing & Metrology (IIT Bombay) and Quantum Materials & Devices (IIT Delhi).
- In December 2025, scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new species of jumping spiders—Asemonea dentis and Colyttus nongwar—in Meghalaya, reinforcing the ecological importance of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot.
- The spider discoveries by ZSI were published in Zootaxa, a leading international taxonomy journal published by Magnolia Press, Auckland (New Zealand).
- In 2025, Deepavali was officially inscribed in UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list, recognising its universal symbolism of light over darkness and associated traditions like rangoli, diya-making and community rituals.
- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) qualified AIM-NASH, the world’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for assessing Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH), enabling faster and more consistent analysis of liver biopsy images.
- On December 11, 2025, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and the IndiaAI Mission hosted the Global AI Conclave in Chennai, focusing on AI Safety Commons for the Global South and interoperable AI frameworks.
- The Global AI Conclave 2025 served as a precursor to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, highlighting India’s growing leadership in ethical, inclusive and locally relevant artificial intelligence governance.
- In December 2025, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, received eight black-capped capuchin monkeys (Sapajus apella)—four males and four females—under an international animal exchange programme, with the animals arriving at Kempegowda International Airport on 14 December 2025 and transferred to the park the same day.
- On 17 December 2025, the Indian Navy commissioned INAS 335 (Ospreys), its second MH-60R Seahawk multi-mission helicopter squadron, at INS Hansa, Goa, in a ceremony presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, significantly enhancing naval aviation capabilities along the western seaboard.
- In 2025, India ranked 3rd globally in the Global AI Index, reflecting strong performance in AI research, talent, infrastructure, and innovation, behind the United States and China.
- AIIMS Delhi conducted India’s first advanced brain stent clinical trial, marking a major step in indigenous neurovascular research and reducing dependence on imported medical devices.
- Google launched Project Suncatcher, an initiative aimed at developing solar-powered data centres in space to lower carbon emissions from data operations.
- A Bank of America report ranked India first globally in AI app active users, surpassing the US and China, driven by high smartphone penetration and rapid digital adoption.



- **Michaela Benthaus in Space:** German engineer Michaela Benthaus will be the **first wheelchair user** to go to **space** on **Blue Origin NS-37**, promoting **accessibility in aerospace**.
- **RESPOND Basket 2025:** ISRO invites **research proposals** from **universities** to align with **space missions**, focusing on **vehicles, satellites, propulsion, space science, and advanced materials**.
- **James Webb Telescope Discovers New Exoplanet:** The James Webb Space Telescope discovered a rare lemon-shaped exoplanet.
- The finding challenges existing theories of planetary formation.
- **CRISPR Centre of Excellence Announced:** A Letter of Intent was signed to establish a Centre of Excellence for CRISPR research.
- The initiative supports biotechnology innovation and India's bio-economy goals.
- **NASA Loses Contact with MAVEN Orbiter:** NASA lost communication with its MAVEN Mars Orbiter launched in 2013.
- Efforts are ongoing to restore contact with the spacecraft.
- **Indian Railways Deploys AI for Wildlife Safety:** Indian Railways enhanced AI-based surveillance along tracks to prevent wildlife accidents.
- The system uses cameras to detect animal movement in real time.
- **IIT Delhi Launches AILA:** IIT Delhi introduced AILA, an Autonomous AI Lab Assistant.
- The tool supports data analysis, experiment planning and automation in research.
- **Russia Plans Nuclear Plant on Moon:** Russia announced plans to build a nuclear power plant on the Moon by 2036.
- The project aims to support long-term lunar missions and research infrastructure.

SATELLITES LAUNCHES

- **ISRO LVM3-M6 Launch:** ISRO will launch **LVM3-M6** on **Dec 24** to deploy **BlueBird-6 satellite**, boosting **India's commercial space role**.
- **ISRO Completes Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute Tests:** ISRO successfully completed qualification tests of drogue parachutes for the Gaganyaan Crew Module. The tests were conducted at DRDO's TBRL Rail Track Rocket Sled facility in Chandigarh.
- **ISRO Launches BlueBird Block-2 Satellite:** ISRO launched the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite aboard LVM3-M6 from Sriharikota.
- The mission was executed under a commercial agreement with AST SpaceMobile via NSIL.

NATIONAL

- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) discovered 13 new bush frog species of the *Raorchestes* genus across the Eastern Himalayas and Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspots, marking India's largest vertebrate discovery in over a decade and highlighting the region's rich ecological diversity.
- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan inaugurated India's first private Navigation Excellence Centre (ACEN) in Thiruvananthapuram, established by Ananth Technologies, to support navigation systems, defence applications, and satellite-based services.
- The National Industries R&D Council launched InDApp, a single-window digital platform aimed at empowering MSMEs, unveiled by Union Minister of State B. L. Verma, to streamline innovation, funding, and technology access.
- Skyroot Aerospace inaugurated its Infinity Campus, strengthening India's private space ecosystem; the development was highlighted by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat.
- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new jumping spider species—*Asemonea dentis* and *Colyttus nongwar*—in Meghalaya, reinforcing the ecological significance of the Indo-Burma hotspot; the findings were published in Zootaxa.
- The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay, launched Y-Point Venture Capital Fund, India's first deep-tech VC fund managed by an academia-linked incubator, with a ₹250 crore corpus, to support early-stage deep-tech startups.
- IIT Madras, under the National Quantum Mission, inaugurated India's National Hub for Quantum Communication at the IIT Madras Research Park, focusing on quantum cryptography, QKD, post-quantum security, quantum repeaters, and satellite-based quantum communication.
- AIIMS Delhi successfully conducted India's first advanced brain stent clinical trial, a major milestone in indigenous neurovascular research aimed at reducing dependence on imported medical devices.
- IIT Madras and IndiaAI Mission hosted the Global AI Conclave 2025 in Chennai, focusing on AI Safety Commons for the Global South and interoperable AI frameworks, serving as a precursor to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026.
- Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru, received eight black-capped capuchin monkeys under an international animal exchange programme, enhancing genetic diversity and conservation collaboration.
- India ranked 3rd globally in the Global AI Index 2025, reflecting strong performance in AI research, talent, infrastructure, and innovation, behind the USA and China.
- A Bank of America report ranked India first globally in AI app active users, surpassing the US and China due to high smartphone penetration and rapid digital adoption.

INTERNATIONAL

- Russia launched Soyuz MS-28 from Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, carrying two Russian cosmonauts and one American astronaut to the International Space Station (ISS) for the 8-month Expedition 73 mission.
- Astronomers from NCRA-TIFR, Pune, using James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) data, discovered an ancient massive spiral galaxy named "Alaknanda", located 12 billion light-years away in the Abell 2744 field, challenging existing theories about early-universe galaxy formation.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecast a 55% probability of a weak La Niña during December 2025–February 2026, while noting that global warming may still drive higher temperatures, especially in the Northern Hemisphere.
- WHO and the US CDC flagged Cannabinoid Hyperemesis

Syndrome (CHS)—severe vomiting linked to chronic cannabis use—as a global health concern, calling for increased awareness and treatment protocols.

- The US FDA qualified AIM-NASH, the world’s first AI system for assessing Metabolic Dysfunction–Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH), enabling faster and more consistent liver biopsy analysis.
- Google launched Gemini 3 – Deep Think Mode, an advanced AI reasoning system designed for complex problem-solving, STEM research, and professional workflows.
- Google announced Project Suncatcher, aiming to develop solar-powered data centres in space to reduce carbon emissions from data operations.
- German engineer Michaela Benthaus will become the first wheelchair user to travel to space aboard Blue Origin’s NS-37 mission, promoting inclusivity in space exploration.

SPORTS

CRICKET

- ACC Men’s U-19 Asia Cup 2025 was held in Dubai (12–21 Dec); Pakistan defeated India by 191 runs in the final.
- Bisleri became the Official Beverage Partner of TATA WPL from 2026 for two seasons.
- Mohit Sharma retired from all formats of international cricket (Dec 2025).
- Rohit Sharma became the highest ODI six-hitter (352 sixes) and crossed 20,000 international runs.
- Virat Kohli scored his 52nd ODI century, reaching 83 international centuries overall.
- Sunil Narine became the first bowler to take 600 T20 wickets.
- Jasprit Bumrah became the first Indian with 100 wickets in Tests, ODIs and T20Is.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal scored his maiden ODI century vs South Africa.
- Andre Russell retired from IPL and was appointed KKR Power Coach.
- Vaibhav Suryavanshi (14 years) became the youngest Indian to score a List-A century and hit 171 runs vs UAE in U-19 Asia Cup.
- Jharkhand won its first Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title (2025).
- Mullanpur Stadium (Punjab) named stands after Yuvraj Singh and Harmanpreet Kaur.

- Hina Akechi (Japan) won Women’s Singles.
- Gayatri Gopichand & Treesa Jolly won Women’s Doubles.

HOCKEY

- Belgium won the 31st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025, defeating India 1–0.
- India won Silver, New Zealand Bronze.
- FIH Men’s Junior Hockey World Cup 2025 was held in Chennai & Madurai.
- Germany won Gold, Spain Silver, India Bronze.

MOTORSPORTS

- Max Verstappen won the 2025 Qatar F1 Grand Prix (Red Bull Racing).
- Lando Norris won his first F1 World Drivers’ Championship and became the 11th British champion.
- MRF Tyres won the FIA European Rally Championship 2025.



♟️ CHESS

- **Alpine SG Pipers** won the **Global Chess League 2025**, defeating Triveni Continental Kings.
- **Praggnanandhaa** won the **Global Chess League title, FIDE Circuit 2025**, and qualified for **Candidates 2026**.
- **Arjun Erigaisi** won the **Jerusalem Masters 2025**, defeating Viswanathan Anand.
- **Alireza Firouzja** won Men’s Player of the Tournament (GCL 2025).
- **Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy & Vaishali Rameshbabu** qualified for **Women’s Candidates 2026**.
- **Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha** became the **youngest FIDE-rated chess player**.

⚽ FOOTBALL

- **East Bengal FC** won the **inaugural SAFF Women’s Club Championship**, reinforcing India’s regional dominance.

🏆 MULTI-SPORT EVENTS

- **WorldSkills Asia Competition 2025** was held in **Taipei, Taiwan**; India finished **8th** on debut.
- **Khelo India University Games 2025** were held across **Rajasthan**; **Chandigarh University** topped the medal tally.
- **Khelo India Tribal Games** logo launched; **Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)** will host the inaugural edition from **14 Feb 2026**.

🐎 EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

- **FEI Asian Equestrian Championships 2025** were held in **Pattaya, Thailand**.
- **Ashish Limaye** became the **first Indian to win individual gold in Eventing**.
- **Shruti Vora** won **three silver medals in Dressage**.

🏸 SQUASH

- **Squash World Cup 2025** was held in **Chennai**.
- **India won its first-ever Squash World Cup**, defeating Hong Kong.
- India became the **first Asian nation** to win the title.

🏹 INDIGENOUS & EMERGING SPORTS

- **India will host the 1st Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship 2026** (9–14 March) with **24 nations**; **Ahmedabad** is a leading contender.

🏆 AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- **Shafali Verma** won **ICC Women’s Player of the Month (Nov 2025)**.
- **Simon Harmer** won **ICC Men’s Player of the Month (Nov 2025)**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Key Notes
Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai (Gujarati Edition)	Vinay Joshi, Ashok Desai & Pankaj Jani	Gujarati edition released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Ahmedabad ; biography of UP Governor Anandiben Patel ; published by Prabhat Prakashan (May 2025) .
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan	Autobiography of former Indian cricketer Shikhar Dhawan ; unveiled on 14 December 2025 in New Delhi ; published by HarperCollins India .

OBITUARY

NATIONAL

Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
Swaraj Kaushal	Politics	Solan, Himachal Pradesh	Former Governor of Mizoram ; passed away at 73 in New Delhi .
Simone Tata	Industry / Business	Geneva, Switzerland	Former Chairperson of Lakme ; step-mother of Ratan Tata ; passed away at 95 in Mumbai .
Dr. Baba Adhav	Social Activism	Maharashtra	Veteran labour rights activist ; founder of Hamal Panchayat ; passed away at 95 in Pune .
Kalyan Chatterjee	Cinema	West Bengal	Acclaimed Bengali film actor associated with Satyajit Ray ; passed away at 81 .
Shivraj Vishwanath Patil	Politics	Chakur, Maharashtra	Former Union Home Minister and Lok Sabha Speaker ; passed away at 90 in Latur .
Shamanur Shivashankarappa	Politics	Davanagere, Karnataka	India’s oldest serving MLA ; passed away at 94 in Bengaluru .

Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
Ram Vilas Das Vedanti	Politics	Uttar Pradesh	Former MP and key figure of Ram Janmabhoomi movement; passed away at 67 in Rewa.
Prafulla Govinda Baruah	Journalism	Assam	Padma Shri (2018) awardee; Chairman Emeritus of The Assam Tribune; passed away at 93.
Ram Sutar	Art / Sculpture	Maharashtra	Designer of Statue of Unity; Padma Bhushan awardee; passed away at 100.
Sreenivasan	Cinema	Kerala	Veteran Malayalam actor, writer & director; known as voice of the common man; passed away at 69.
Sreenivasan	Malayalam cinema (Actor, Director, Screenwriter, Producer)	Kerala, India	Renowned figure in Malayalam cinema; passed away at 69 in Kochi. Won the National Film Award (1998) for Best Film on Other Social Issues.
Vinod Kumar Shukla	Hindi Literature (Writer, Poet)	Chhattisgarh, India	Eminent Hindi writer; died at 88 in Raipur. Became the first writer from Chhattisgarh to receive the Jnanpith Award (2025).

INTERNATIONAL

Person Name	Field	Born Place	Key Notes
Sir Tom Stoppard	Literature / Theatre	Zlin, Czechoslovakia	Acclaimed British playwright and Oscar-winning screenwriter; passed away at 88 in UK.
Nicola Pietrangeli	Sports (Tennis)	Tunisia	Italian French Open champion and tennis legend; passed away at 92 in Rome.
Robin Smith	Sports (Cricket)	England	Former England cricketer; scored 4,236 Test runs; passed away at 62 in Australia.
Frank Gehry	Architecture	Toronto, Canada	Pritzker Prize (1989) winner; designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; passed away at 96 in USA.
Sophie Kinsella	Literature	London, UK	Author of Shopaholic series; passed away at 55 after battling glioblastoma.
Peter Arnett	Journalism	New Zealand	Pulitzer Prize-winning war correspondent; famed for Vietnam & Gulf War coverage; passed away at 91 in USA.
Ira "Ike" Schab	World War II Veteran	United States	Passed away at 105 in Oregon, USA. Noted as a survivor of the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack.

IMPORTANT DAYS

IMPORTANT DAYS & OBSERVANCES – DECEMBER 2025

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
1 December	World AIDS Day	Theme "Overcoming disruption, transforming the AIDS response"; highlights India's NACP-V goal to end AIDS by 2030.
1 December	BSF Raising Day	61st Raising Day of Border Security Force, established in 1965 as India's primary border guarding force.
2 December	National Pollution Control Day (India)	Theme "Sustainable Living for a Greener Future"; observed in memory of Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984) victims.
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	25th edition; launched by NIIT in 2001 to bridge digital literacy gaps worldwide.
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Focuses on ending modern slavery, affecting nearly 50 million people globally.
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Theme "Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress."

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
4 December	Indian Navy Day	Theme "Combat Ready, Cohesive, Self-Reliant" ; commemorates Operation Trident (1971) .
4 December	UN International Day of Banks	Theme "Banks Powering a Livable Planet" ; highlights banks' role in sustainable development .
4 December	International Cheetah Day	Raises awareness about cheetah conservation ; fastest land animal (up to 112 km/hr).
5 December	International Volunteer Day	Theme "Every Contribution Matters" ; launch year for International Year of Volunteers 2026 .
5 December	World Soil Day	Theme "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities" ; 12th edition promoting sustainable soil use.
6 December	Mahaparinirvan Diwas	Observed in memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar , symbol of social justice and equality.
6 December	National Microwave Oven Day	Marks invention by Percy Spencer , celebrating cooking technology innovation.
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day (India)	77th observance honouring sacrifices of Indian Army, Navy & Air Force personnel.
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day (UN)	81st anniversary of Chicago Convention (1944) ; aviation's role in development.
8 December	SAARC Charter Day	41st observance marking adoption of SAARC Charter (1985) .
8 December	Indian Navy Submarine Day	58th anniversary of induction of INS Kalvari (1967) .
8 December	Bodhi Day	Marks Lord Buddha's enlightenment at Bodh Gaya ; focuses on Four Noble Truths .
9 December	UN Day Against Genocide	10th anniversary ; also marks 77 years of Genocide Convention .
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity."
10 December	Human Rights Day	Theme "Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials" ; 77th anniversary of UDHR (1948) .
11 December	International Mountain Day	Theme "Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods."
11 December	UNICEF Day	79th anniversary of UNICEF's establishment in 1946 .
12 December	International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day	Theme "Unaffordable health costs? We're sick of it!" ; supports SDG-3 .
12 December	International Day of Neutrality	Promotes neutrality in peace-building and diplomacy (UNGA Resolution 71/275).
14 December	International Day Against Colonialism	First observance after UN Resolution A/RES/80/106 reaffirming decolonisation.
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day (India)	Observed by BEE, Ministry of Power ; promotes energy efficiency and awards excellence.
16 December	Vijay Diwas	54th anniversary of India's victory in 1971 Indo-Pak War .
17 December	International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers	22nd observance highlighting safety, dignity and human rights.
18 December	International Migrants Day	Theme "My Great Story: Cultures and Development" ; 25th observance .
18 December	UN Arabic Language Day	Theme "Innovative Pathways for Arabic" ; marks Arabic's adoption as UN language (1973).

Date	Day / Observance	Theme / Description
18 December	Minorities Rights Day (India)	Marks 1992 UN Declaration ; linked to Articles 29 & 30 of Indian Constitution.
19 December	Goa Liberation Day	64th anniversary of Operation Vijay (1961) ending Portuguese rule.
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	Promotes global unity , poverty eradication and SDGs .
22 December 2025	National Mathematics Day	Observed to commemorate Srinivasa Ramanujan's birth anniversary and highlight the role of mathematics in scientific and human progress.
22 December 2025	138th Birth Anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan	Marks the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian mathematician. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2025 was awarded to Dr Alexander Smith (Northwestern University, USA).
23 December 2025	National Farmers' Day (Kisan Diwas)	Observed to honour Indian farmers and their contribution to the economy. It marks the 123rd birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, former Prime Minister of India.
24 December 2025	National Consumer Day	Promotes awareness of consumer rights and responsibilities. Theme 2025: <i>"Efficient and Speedy Disposal through Digital Justice"</i> .
25 December 2025	Good Governance Day	Observed to commemorate Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 101st birth anniversary and marks the 12th observance of Good Governance Day.
19–25 December 2025	Good Governance Week (Sushasan Saptah)	A nationwide initiative promoting transparent, accountable, and citizen-centric governance.
26 December 2025	Veer Bal Diwas	Observed to honour the martyrdom of Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh, symbolising courage, faith, and sacrifice.
20–27 December 2025	Shaheedi Hafta	Observed in remembrance of the four Sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, highlighting bravery, resilience, and sacrifice.
26 December 2025	Birth Anniversary of Sardar Udham Singh	Commemorates the 126th birth anniversary of the revolutionary who avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
24 December 2025	Christmas Eve	Observed worldwide with prayers, midnight masses, and carols, marking the eve of Jesus Christ's birth.
25 December 2025	Christmas Day	Celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ with worship, feasts, and gift-giving across the world.

Miscellaneous

- Oxford University Press declared "Rage Bait" as Word of the Year 2025, citing its three-fold rise due to online outrage-driven content trends.
- Darjeeling Mandarin Orange (Citrus reticulata Blanco) from West Bengal received the GI tag, with DOFPO Mirik as proprietor; valued for unique sweetness due to Darjeeling-Kalimpong climate.
- Darjeeling Orange GI filing was facilitated by UBKV and Patent Information Centre, marking WB's 33rd GI tag and second from the Darjeeling region after Dalley Khorsani.
- India's first GI product was Darjeeling Tea (2004) and GI registrations in India are valid for 10 years renewable every decade.
- IGI Airport became India's first water-positive airport, certified by CII-Triveni Water Institute under NITI Aayog's Water Neutrality framework at the Water Innovation Summit 2025.
- Tamil Nadu received GI tags for five traditional items—Woraiyur sari, Kavindapadi jaggery, Namakkal cookware, Thooyamalli rice, and Ambasamudram wooden toys—raising its GI tally to 74, second highest after Uttar Pradesh.



- **SIM-Binding Rules for Messaging Apps:** DoT directed apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, and Snapchat to enforce SIM-binding and periodic web logout. The move aims to prevent cyber fraud and protect telecom identifiers under Telecom Cybersecurity Amendment Rules, 2025.
- **Vigyanika Science Literature Festival 2025:** Held in New Delhi on 8–9 Dec 2025. It promoted science communication in Indian languages.
- **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025:** Celebrated linguistic diversity across India. Aligned with NEP 2020’s emphasis on mother-tongue education.
- **Lionel Messi Statue in Kolkata:** A 70-foot iron statue of Lionel Messi was unveiled in Kolkata. It reflects India’s growing football culture and tourism potential.
- **Capuchin Monkeys Arrive at Bannerghatta:** South African capuchin monkeys imported to Karnataka's Bannerghatta Biological Park near Bengaluru following international wildlife protocols to enhance genetic diversity and conservation efforts.

Static Takeaways

Entity / Topic	Head / Key Office Holder	Headquarters / Capital	Established / Formation	Additional Important Details
Ministry of Defence	Union Minister: Rajnath Singh ; MoS: Sanjay Seth	New Delhi	—	Defence of India
Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)	Chairman: Ravi Agarwal	New Delhi	1964	Direct tax administration
Meghalaya	CM: Conrad Sangma ; Governor: C. H. Vijayashankar	Shillong	—	NPs: Nokrek, Balpakram
Moody’s Ratings	President: Michael West	New York, USA	1909	Global credit rating agency
NASA	Acting Administrator: Sean Duffy	Washington DC, USA	1958	US space agency
Wildlife Institute of India	Director: Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj	Dehradun, Uttarakhand	1982	Wildlife research & training
OPCW	Director-General: Fernando Arias	The Hague, Netherlands	1997	Chemical weapons watchdog
UN DESA	USG: Li Junhua	New York, USA	1948	UN economic & social affairs
Goa	CM: Pramod Sawant ; Governor: P. A. Gajapati Raju	Panaji	—	WLS: Bondla, Cotigao, Mhadei, Netravali
Ministry of Textiles	Union Minister: Giriraj Singh ; MoS: Pabitra Margherita	New Delhi	—	Textile sector
Arunachal Pradesh	CM: Pema Khandu ; Governor: Lt Gen K.T. Parnaik	Itanagar	—	NPs: Namdapha, Mouling
International Maritime Organization	Secretary-General: Arsenio Dominguez	London, UK	1948	UN shipping body
CSIR–NAL	Director: Abhay Anant Pashilkar	Bengaluru	1959	Aerospace R&D
International Hockey Federation (FIH)	President: Tayyab Ikram	Lausanne, Switzerland	1924	Global hockey body
Badminton World Federation (BWF)	President: Patama Leeswadtrakul	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1934	Badminton governing body
UNAIDS	Executive Director: Winnie Byanyima	Geneva, Switzerland	1996	HIV/AIDS programme
Border Security Force (BSF)	DG: Praveen Kumar (Addl.)	New Delhi	1965	Motto: <i>Duty Until Death</i>
Ministry of Tourism	Union Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat ; MoS: Suresh Gopi	New Delhi	—	Tourism promotion

Entity / Topic	Head / Key Office Holder	Headquarters / Capital	Established / Formation	Additional Important Details
Chhattisgarh	CM: Vishnu Deo Sai ; Governor: Ramen Deka	Raipur	—	NPs: Indravati, Kanger Valley
UNESCO	Director-General: Khaled El-Enany	Paris, France	1945	Education, culture
Uttar Pradesh	CM: Yogi Adityanath ; Governor: Anandiben Patel	Lucknow	—	TRs: Amangarh, Ranipur
Ministry of Coal	Union Minister: G. Kishan Reddy ; MoS: Satish Chandra Dubey	New Delhi	—	Coal sector
CRISIL	CEO & MD: Amish Mehta	Mumbai	1987	Credit rating agency
LIC of India	CEO & MD: R. Doraiswamy	Mumbai	1956	Life insurance PSU
Goa Shipyard Limited	CMD: Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay	Vasco-da-Gama, Goa	1957	Defence PSU
CPCB	Chairman: Vir Vikram Yadav	New Delhi	1974	Pollution control
NIIT	CEO: Pankaj Jathar	Gurugram	1981	IT training
Indian Navy	CNS: Admiral D.K. Tripathi	New Delhi	1950	Motto: <i>Sam No Varunah</i>
Reserve Bank of India	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra	Mumbai	1935	Central bank
OECD	Secretary-General: Mathias Cormann	Paris	1961	Economic cooperation
Indian Army	COAS: Gen. Upendra Dwivedi	New Delhi	1895	Land forces
ILO	Director-General: Gilbert Hougbo	Geneva	1919	Labour standards
DRDO	Chairman: Samir V. Kamat	New Delhi	1958	Defence R&D
NITI Aayog	Chairman: PM Narendra Modi ; CEO: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam	New Delhi	2015	Policy think tank
Malaysia	PM: Anwar Ibrahim	Kuala Lumpur	—	Currency: Ringgit
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin	Moscow	—	Currency: Ruble
IMF	MD: Kristalina Georgieva	Washington DC	1944	Global finance
WHO	DG: Tedros Ghebreyesus	Geneva	1948	Global health
ADB	President: Masato Kanda	Manila	1966	Asia development
UNEP	Executive Director: Inger Andersen	Nairobi	1972	Environment
FAO	DG: Qu Dongyu	Rome	1945	Food & agriculture
UAE	President: Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed	Abu Dhabi	—	Currency: Dirham
Indonesia	President: Prabowo Subianto	Jakarta	—	Currency: Rupiah
Brazil	President: Lula da Silva	Brasília	—	Currency: Real
Italy	PM: Giorgia Meloni	Rome	—	Currency: Euro
Taiwan	President: Lai Ching-te	Taipei	—	Currency: NT Dollar
BRICS	—	—	2006	New members incl. Egypt, Iran, UAE
ICC	Chairman: Jay Shah	Dubai	1909	Cricket body
UNHRC	President: Jurg Lauber	Geneva	2006	47 members
FIBA	President: Sheikh Saud Al Thani	Mies, Switzerland	1932	Basketball
FIDE	President: Arkady Dvorkovich	Lausanne	1924	Chess body

TARGET Batch

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