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Delhi IGI Airport – India’s First High-Capacity Water-Positive Airport



- Delhi IGI Airport declared India’s first high-capacity water-positive airport.
- Delhi’s IGI Airport was declared India’s first high-capacity airport to achieve “water-positive” status, marking a major step in sustainable water management.
- The airport was recognised at the Water Innovation Summit 2025 for meeting Scope I Water Neutrality under the NITI Aayog–CII Framework.
- GMR Aero-led Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said that Indira Gandhi International Airport has transformed from a groundwater-scarce place to one that replenishes more water than it uses.
- Years of work in conservation, restoration and monitoring were acknowledged as the foundation for this achievement.
- Over 625 rainwater-harvesting structures and two underground reservoirs with a capacity of 9 million litres are now operating on the campus.
- A 16.6 MLD zero-liquid-discharge sewage treatment plant recycles all airport wastewater for HVAC, landscaping, toilet flushing and other non-potable uses.

- Water-efficient infrastructure such as drip and sprinkler systems have been deployed across landscaped areas to reduce wastage.
- DIAL stated that the water-neutrality assessment recognised IGIA's measurement systems, watershed-level restoration work and conservation efforts.

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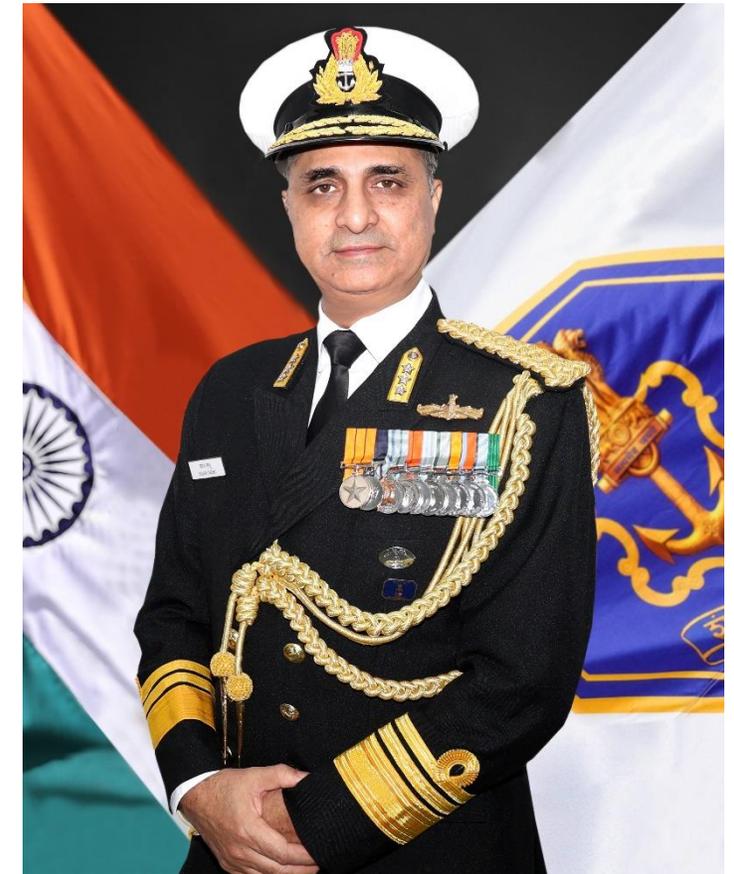
14th India–Maldives Joint Military Exercise ‘EKUVERIN’ Begins in Kerala

- On 2 December, the 14th India–Maldives exercise, EKUVERIN, started in Kerala.
- The 14th edition of the India-Maldives bilateral exercise is being conducted from 2 December to the 15th of this month in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The exercise will be held between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Forces.
- EKUVERIN aims to strengthen interoperability in counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism operations.
- The training focuses on semi-urban, jungle, and coastal terrains.
- The term “Ekuverin” means “Friends”, reflecting the friendly ties between India and the Maldives.
- The exercise is conducted annually and alternates between India and the Maldives.
- EKUVERIN is one of the three major joint activities between the two countries.
- The two bilateral exercises are “Ekuverin” and “Ekatha”, while “Dosti” is a trilateral exercise involving Sri Lanka.



Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu assumed charge as CWP&A

- Vice Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, AVSM, NM, has been appointed as the Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, effective 28 November 2025.
- He succeeded Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan, AVSM, NM, who superannuated on 30 Nov 25 after 38 years of distinguished service to the nation.
- He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987 and holds a postgraduate degree in mechanical engineering and an MPhil in defence and strategic studies.
- His career of over 38 years includes major operational, staff, and yard appointments.
- He has served on the Aircraft Carrier INS Viraat and frontline frigates INS Brahmaputra and INS Dunagiri.
- Before becoming a Flag Officer, he held roles such as Additional General Manager at Naval Dockyard Mumbai and Principal Director Marine Engineering at Naval Headquarters.



Kohli broke Tendulkar's century record, and Rohit Sharma surpassed Afridi in ODI sixes

- Virat Kohli made a record-breaking 52nd ODI century in Ranchi, where he surpassed Sachin Tendulkar for the most centuries in a single format.
- His 135 runs off 120 balls were scored at a strike rate of 112.50, marking a dominant performance in the ODI series opener against South Africa on 30 November.
- Kohli also overtook Tendulkar and David Warner by recording the most ODI centuries against South Africa with his sixth ton.
- He further moved past Sachin's record for the most fifty-plus scores in ODIs at home by achieving his 59th such score.
- On the other hand, Rohit Sharma, in the same match, broke Shahid Afridi's world record for the most sixes in ODI history.
- Rohit surpassed Afridi's tally of 351 sixes by hitting three sixes in the Ranchi match, completing the feat in only his 277th match.
- He reached this record faster than Afridi and also went past Chris Gayle's ODI six-hitting numbers.



UPI Records 32% Year-on-Year Growth in November 2025: NPCI Report

- According to report released by NPCI, UPI transaction volumes grew about 32% year on-year in November 2025.
- The unified payments interface (UPI) transactions crossed 19 billion transfers during November 2025.
- The unified payments interface (UPI) registered 22 per cent annual growth in transactions.
- NPCI data shows the average daily value of UPI payments reached about ₹87,721 crore in November.
- Daily transaction counts averaged roughly 682 million in November. This was slightly higher than the 668 million recorded in October.
- In October, UPI logged around 20.7 billion transactions. This reflected nearly 25% annual growth in transaction count.
- Transaction value in October grew about 16% year-on-year to ₹27.28 lakh crore.
- UPI continued to dominate digital payments in India.
- Total transactions in the first half of 2025 reached 106.36 billion. This represented about 35% year-on-year growth.



Coal Ministry Introduces New Streamlined Approval System for Exploration and Geological Reports

- A streamlined approval system for exploration programs and Geological Reports to accelerate coal and lignite exploration has been introduced by the Ministry of Coal.
- India's growing energy needs have prompted reforms aimed at faster, more transparent, and technologically advanced resource exploration.
- The Ministry has overhauled its earlier methodology, removing the requirement for a January 2022-constituted committee to approve exploration plans and Geological Reports.
- Accredited Prospecting Agencies registered with QCI-NABET can now submit and peer-review exploration documents under the simplified process.
- The revised framework is intended to make exploration procedures more business-friendly and is publicly available on the Ministry's website.
- The reform expands the role of private prospecting agencies.
- The new approval model is expected to shorten Geological Report clearance time by at least three months.
- The initiative aims to speed up exploration, reduce procedural delays, and support sustainable use of the country's coal resources.



India Invited to Chair International IDEA for the First Time

- India has been invited for the first time to lead the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).
- Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar will assume the Chairship at an event in Stockholm in Sweden.
- He stated that India's global reputation for conducting free, fair and transparent elections is widely recognised.
- He added that the chairship is a source of pride for Indian citizens and election officials.
- International IDEA, founded in 1995, is an inter-governmental organisation. It currently comprises 37 member states.
- The organisation includes countries such as the United States and Japan as Observers.
- Since 2003, International IDEA has held observer status at the United Nations General Assembly.
- India is a founding member of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). It has
- long contributed to IDEA's governance, research work and electoral training initiatives.
- International IDEA is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden.



INDIA CHAIRS
INTERNATIONAL IDEA,
ELECTORAL SUCCESS GAINS
GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Lok Sabha Passes Manipur GST (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been passed by Lok Sabha.
- The bill amends Manipur Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
- The bill was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- It seeks to match the Manipur's GST rules with the Centre's revised GST slabs.
- The bill also seeks to replace an ordinance issued in October 2025.
- The amendment implements recent recommendations of the GST Council.
- These include shifting to two main GST slabs of 5% and 18%.
- Previously, the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2025 was passed by Lok Sabha in August 2025 to replace an earlier ordinance.
- The 56th GST Council decided to rationalise GST rates on about 375 items.
- It decided to merge the 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% slabs into two rates of 5% and 18%.



In Football, India men's team has secured qualification for 2026 AFC U17 Asian Cup

- India defeated Iran 2–1 in the men's AFC U-17 Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers held at EKA Arena in Ahmedabad.
- With this victory, India secured its place in the 2026 AFC Under 17 Asian Cup in Saudi Arabia.
- Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya congratulated the team for qualifying for the AFC Under 17 Asian Cup.
- With this win, India earned three more points. This took India's tally to seven points, matching Iran's tally.
- Iran already had 7 points. Iran will remain on 7 points.
- India topped Group D because of its higher points in head-to-head matches against Iran.
- This victory made India Men's team the fourth national team that will take part in Asian Cup in 2026, joining the senior women's team, the U-20 women's team and the U-17 women's team.

AFC U-17 Asian Cup:

- The AFC U-17 Asian Cup was formerly known as the AFC U-16 Championship and AFC U-17 Championship.
- It is a football competition and is organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).
- The 2026 AFC U-17 Asian Cup will be the 21st edition of the AFC U-17 Asian Cup.
- Saudi Arabia is the host country for the event scheduled during 7-24 May 2026.



APL Bags Top Honour at India Sports Awards 2025

- The 'Emerging Professional Sports Event of the Year' award won by the Archery Premier League (APL) at the India Sports Awards 2025.
- The recognition was presented during FICCI TURF 2025, the 15th Global Sports Summit held at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi.
- The award has been regarded as a major milestone in APL's debut year, highlighting its innovative approach to competitive archery.
- APL's introduction was widely appreciated for showcasing fast-paced archery with enhanced professionalism and strong audience engagement.
- Organised by the Archery Association of India, the league is recognised as the world's first professional archery league.
- The inaugural season was conducted at the Yamuna Sports Complex, New Delhi, from October 2 to 12, 2025.
- Leading Indian and international archers participated in both recurve and compound categories across men's and women's events.



Jakarta Becomes World's Largest City as UN Report Highlights Asia's Dominance in Megacities

- A new United Nations report ranks **Jakarta (Indonesia)** as the world's largest city with 41.9 million people, followed by **Dhaka (Bangladesh)** with 36.6 million, while **Tokyo (Japan)** slips to third place with 33.4 million residents.
- Dhaka has risen dramatically from 9th to 2nd place, and is projected to become the world's largest city by 2050, reflecting rapid population growth in South Asia.
- The report notes the rise of 33 megacities (cities with more than 10 million people) in 2025—up from just 8 megacities in 1975, showcasing rapid global urbanization.
- Asia is home to 19 of the world's 33 megacities, and nine out of the top 10. In addition to Jakarta, Dhaka and Tokyo, the other **Asian cities in the top 10 are: New Delhi, India (30.2 million); Shanghai, China (29.6 million); Guangzhou, China (27.6 million); Manila, Philippines (24.7 million); Kolkata, India (22.5 million); and Seoul, South Korea (22.5 million).**
- With a population of 32 million people, **Egypt's Cairo is the only city in the top 10 that is outside Asia, according to the UN.**
- Sao Paulo in Brazil, with 18.9 million people, is the largest city in the Americas, while Lagos in Nigeria also grew rapidly, making it the largest city in sub-Saharan Africa.



India Ranks 8th in Debut at World Skills Asia 2025, Wins Multiple Medals

- India achieved a major milestone by securing 8th rank in its first-ever participation at the **World Skills Asia Competition 2025**, competing with 29 nations.
- Indian participants **won 1 Silver, 2 Bronze medals**, and 3 Medallions for Excellence across traditional and tech-driven skill categories, showcasing their talent and dedication.
- The competition was held from November 27 to 29 in Chinese Taipei.

