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HEADLINES

- ❖ PM Modi Releases Commemorative Stamp and Coin to Mark 100 Years of RSS
- ❖ Deepika Padukone – India’s First Mental Health Ambassador
- ❖ Three Major Indian Ports Declared as Green Hydrogen Hubs under National Green Hydrogen Mission
- ❖ CCRAS Launches SPARK–4.0 to Promote Ayurvedic Research Among Students
- ❖ AIIMS New Delhi Performs India’s First Robotic Kidney Transplant
- ❖ Maharashtra Partners with Spain’s Fira Barcelona to Build Convention Centre in Nagpur
- ❖ Armenia Joins IUCN to Strengthen Global Nature Conservation Efforts
- ❖ Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma Named Global Brand Ambassadors for Pay10
- ❖ India Rises to Second-Highest Spot in THE World University Rankings 2026; IISc Bangalore Tops National List
- ❖ North Korea Unveils New ICBM ‘Hwasong-20’ at Military Parade
- ❖ Manipur Celebrates Mera Hou Chongba Festival of Hill-Valley Unity
- ❖ Inspector Bhawna Chaudhary becomes BSF air wing’s first woman flight engineer
- ❖ NITI Aayog Report – “Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy (2025)”

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PM Modi Releases Commemorative Stamp and Coin to Mark 100 Years of RSS

- A commemorative stamp marking 100 years of the RSS was released by Prime Minister Modi.
- The centenary celebration of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- A commemorative postage stamp and coin were released by the Prime Minister to mark 100 years of the RSS's contribution to the nation.
- The occasion was observed as a moment of national pride and historical significance.
- The Prime Minister described the RSS's 100-year journey as an inspiring example of sacrifice, service, and discipline.
- The RSS was founded in 1925 in Nagpur by Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar to promote unity, discipline, and cultural awareness among citizens.
- PM Modi, in his Mann Ki Baat address, hailed the organisation's century-long service as "unprecedented and inspiring".
- He recalled that the RSS was formed at a time when India faced an identity crisis during the colonial period.
- Dr. Hedgewar established the Sangh on the auspicious day of Vijayadashami, and after him, Guruji carried forward the mission of national service.



Deepika Padukone – India's First Mental Health Ambassador

- Deepika Padukone appointed as India's first Mental Health Ambassador by the Union Health Ministry.
- On the occasion of World Mental Health Day on 10 October, actor Deepika Padukone was appointed as the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's first-ever Mental Health Ambassador.
- The initiative was introduced to raise national awareness about mental well-being and promote open dialogue on psychological health.
- She will also collaborate with the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in creating other strategic interventions for equitable mental healthcare access.
- The appointment comes at a time when Deepika Padukone's charitable trust, The Live Love Laugh Foundation, has completed 10 years of service and impact.
- In 2015, the actor founded The Live Laugh Love Foundation to raise awareness about mental health issues.
- Her personal experience with depression inspired her to work toward destigmatising mental illness in India

Deepika Padukone
appointed as India's
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Three Major Indian Ports Declared as Green Hydrogen Hubs under National Green Hydrogen Mission



- Three major Indian ports recognised as green hydrogen hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- Three major ports—Deendayal Port Authority (Gujarat), V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Tamil Nadu), and Paradip Port Authority (Odisha)—were recognised as Green Hydrogen Hubs by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- The recognition was granted under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, which was launched to position India as a global hub for green hydrogen production and export.
- This recognition is a significant step towards building an integrated hydrogen ecosystem and advancing India's transition to clean energy.

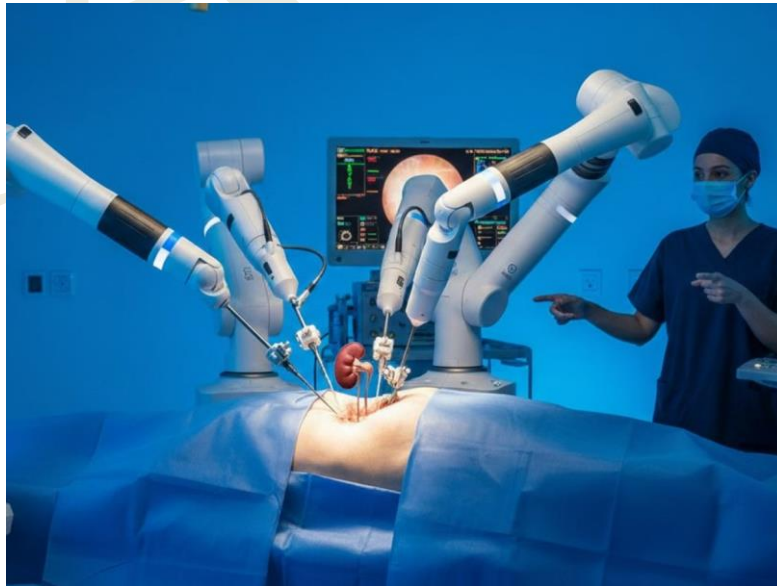
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission launched by the Government of India aims to establish the country as a global hub for the production, use and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal stated that India's ports would become catalysts for clean energy innovation under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi.
- The Green Hydrogen Hub model follows a cluster-based development approach to overcome infrastructure and logistical challenges.
- The revised scheme guidelines for setting up Hydrogen Valley Innovation Clusters (HVICs) and Green Hydrogen Hubs, released on June 27, 2025, provide the framework for identifying and supporting potential regions capable of large-scale hydrogen activity.
- Projects within these designated areas will receive benefits under central and state schemes aligned with the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- The recognition is expected to attract green investments, promote innovation, and support India's energy self-reliance goals.
- This step marks a crucial advancement in achieving India's target of net-zero emissions by 2070 and positioning the country as a leader in sustainable maritime development.

CCRAS Launches SPARK-4.0 to Promote Ayurvedic Research Among Students

- SPARK-4.0 has been announced by Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) for the academic year 2025-26.
- SPARK-4.0 is the fourth edition of its flagship Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK).
- The program is meant to encourage scientific research among undergraduate Ayurveda students across India.
- It aims to build curiosity and research skills at an early stage of their education.
- As part of program, a total of 300 (Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) BAMS students will be selected.
- These students must be enrolled in colleges recognized by the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine.
- Each selected student will receive a research studentship worth ₹50,000.
- The amount will be given as ₹25,000 per month for two months.
- The program connects classical Ayurvedic knowledge with modern scientific methods.
- So far, 591 students have benefited from the initiative. These students came from 289 institutions across 20 Indian states.
- SPARK gives students hands-on experience in research. They learn about research design, data collection, and analysis.
- SPARK-4.0 supports Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences' larger goal to build a strong research base in traditional medicine. It also promotes innovation within the Ayush sector.

AIIMS New Delhi Performs India's First Robotic Kidney Transplant

- AIIMS New Delhi has performed the country's first robotic kidney transplant.
- This is a major step forward in robotic-assisted surgery in India.
- It is the first time a government hospital in India has used this technique.
- The first surgery took place on the 3rd of last month. Since then, five patients have undergone robotic kidney transplants at AIIMS.
- Dr. Virinder Kumar Bansal, a kidney transplant specialist at AIIMS, said the robotic method helps patients recover faster.
- He mentioned that recovery is quicker than with traditional open surgery.
- Most patients are ready to go home within a week of the operation.
- He also described the robotic technique as safe and effective.
- As per Dr. Bansal, AIIMS offers this surgery at a much lower cost than private hospitals.



Maharashtra Partners with Spain's Fira Barcelona to Build Convention Centre in Nagpur

- Maharashtra government has entered into a partnership with Fira Barcelona International from Spain.
- The goal is to build a high-quality convention centre in Nagpur.
- The agreement was signed at the Chief Minister's official residence in Mumbai.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the centre will include modern and advanced facilities.
- The convention centre will host exhibitions and large events. It will also serve as a cultural space that reflects Nagpur's historical identity.
- Spain's Ambassador to India, Juan Antonio, was present at the event. He spoke about the growing ties between India and Spain.
- The ambassador noted that Mumbai is becoming a powerful hub in South Asia.



Armenia Joins IUCN to Strengthen Global Nature Conservation Efforts



- Armenia joined the IUCN, strengthening global efforts for nature conservation.
- Armenia was announced as the newest State Member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), marking a significant step in its global environmental engagement.
- The announcement was made during the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi, highlighting Armenia's growing commitment to biodiversity protection and sustainable development.
- Through this membership, Armenia is expected to gain access to global expertise, innovative conservation tools, and international partnerships.
- Armenia's Environment Minister, Hambarzum Matevosyan, noted that the decision supports the country's preparations to host COP17 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2026.
- The 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP17) will be held in Yerevan, Armenia, in 2026.

- Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Armenia hosts diverse ecosystems such as alpine meadows, mountain forests, semi-deserts, and freshwater habitats.
- These landscapes are home to rare species, including the Critically Endangered Caucasian leopard, the endemic Bezoar goat, and the Sevan trout unique to Lake Sevan.
- Armenia has made significant progress in biodiversity policy and legislation through initiatives such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the Red Book of Armenia.
- Armenia's IUCN membership supports its green transition goals, such as restoring forests across 12.9% of its territory by 2030 and protecting freshwater ecosystems.

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Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma Named Global Brand Ambassadors for Pay10

- **Fintech firm Pay10** has appointed **Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma** as global brand ambassadors ahead of the launch of its UPI-enabled payments app in India.
- The collaboration aims to promote safe, seamless, and smart digital transactions while engaging India's growing population of tech-savvy users.
- Pay10 believes the duo reflects the brand's values of trust, innovation, and reliability, making them ideal representatives for a platform that seeks to make digital payments accessible to all.

Recent Brand Ambassador

- Sanju Samson – English Premier League (EPL) in India
- Shubhanshu Shukla – Viksit Bharat Buildathon 2025
- Mohammed Siraj – Skechers India
- Alia Bhatt- Denim brand Levi's
- Abhinav Bindra – International Olympic Committee (IOC)
Mental Health Ambassadors



India Rises to Second-Highest Spot in THE World University Rankings 2026; IISc Bangalore Tops National List



- *India Becomes Second-Highest Contributor in THE World University Rankings 2026; IISc Bangalore Leads National List*
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore**, has been ranked as **India's top university in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026**, securing a **spot in the 201–250 rank band**.
- India has achieved a major milestone by becoming the country with the second-highest number of ranked universities, trailing only the United States.
- Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Chennai) improved its ranking to the 351–400 band, while Jamia Millia Islamia (Delhi) and Shoolini University (Himachal Pradesh) were placed in the 401–500 category.
- Prestigious institutions like BHU, IIT Indore, KIIT University, Lovely Professional University, Mahatma Gandhi University, and UPES Dehradun are ranked in the 501–600 range.
- Several universities including AMU, Amity, IIT Patna, NIT Rourkela, University of Delhi, and VIT Vellore feature in the 601–800 rank band, reflecting India's broad representation across multiple categories.

- **Globally, the University of Oxford retained the No. 1 spot for the 10th consecutive year**, while Princeton University reached joint 3rd place, and China and Hong Kong strengthened their presence with 13 and 6 universities, respectively, in the top 200.
- **Hong Kong sets a record with six universities in the top 200**, driven by improvements in teaching performance.

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North Korea Unveils New ICBM 'Hwasong-20' at Military Parade



- North Korea celebrated the 80th anniversary of its ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) with a large military parade in Pyongyang.
- During the parade, it unveiled a new inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) named Hwasong-20 (HWA-SONG-20).
- The Hwasong-20 is described by North Korea as the most powerful strategic weapon developed by the country.
- Analysts believe it is capable of targeting the United States mainland, thereby strengthening North Korea's deterrence posture.
- The estimated range of the Hwasong-20 is up to 15,000 kilometers, capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.
- It is believed to be equipped with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) technology.
- MIRV technology enables a single missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads that can hit different targets.
- This makes it more difficult for missile defense systems to intercept or neutralize the threat.

- The Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) was founded in October 1945 and remains the ruling party in North Korea.
- North Korea's nuclear program dates back to the 1950s with assistance from the Soviet Union.
- The country conducted its first nuclear test in 2006 and has since developed several ICBM variants.
- Despite international sanctions, North Korea continues to advance its nuclear and missile programs.
- The Hwasong-20 demonstration coincided with the WPK anniversary to showcase national power and technological progress.
- The missile represents a major leap in North Korea's pursuit of long-range solid-fuel ICBMs.
- The display is seen as a signal of strategic defiance and internal political consolidation by the North Korean leadership.

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Manipur Celebrates Mera Hou Chongba Festival of Hill-Valley Unity

- The festival is named Mera Hou Chongba. It is celebrated in Manipur.
- It is a traditional festival that powerfully symbolizes the unity between hill tribes and valley dwellers
- It is observed on the 15th lunar day of the Mera month in the traditional Meitei calendar. It is an annual event.
- The celebration traditionally takes place at the Manipur Royal Palace (Sana Konung) in Imphal, followed by a march to the historic site of Kangla..
- This year, tribal village chiefs from the hill districts were ceremoniously received by Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba, the titular King of Manipur and a Rajya Sabha MP.

MANIPUR CELEBRATES MERA HOU CHONGBA FESTIVAL 2025

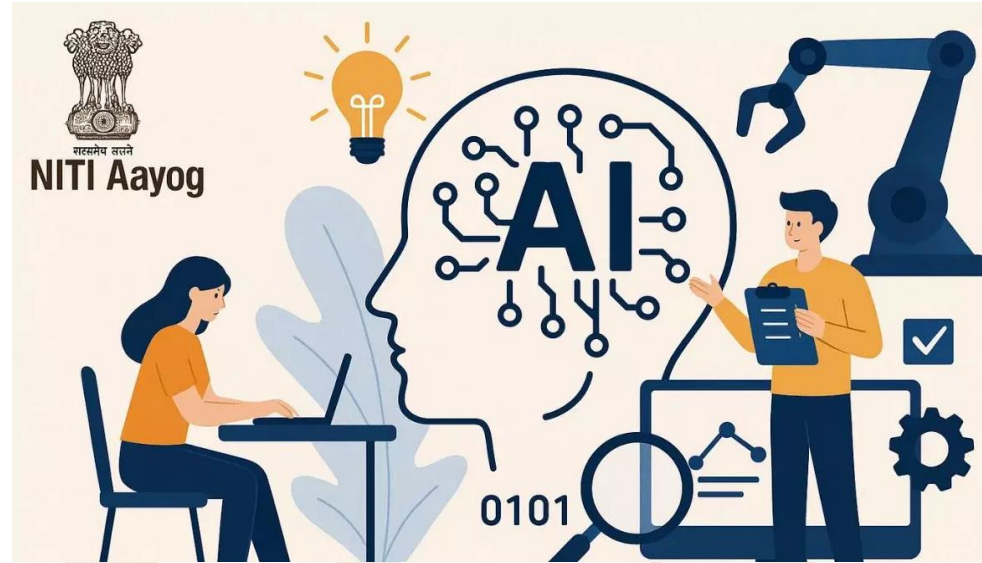


Inspector Bhawna Chaudhary becomes BSF air wing's first woman flight engineer

- Received flying badge from BSF DG Daljit Singh Chawdhary after completing the first in-house training capsule.
- The BSF air wing, established in 1969, operates the MHA aviation unit and supports paramilitary forces, NSG, and NDRF.
- BSF raised: December 1965
- Primary role: Guard India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh



NITI Aayog Report – “Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy (2025)”



- NITI Aayog released a report titled “Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy”.
- The report focuses on the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on employment in India.
- The target is to create 20 lakh new jobs by 2031 through AI-driven sectors.
- The report was released by NITI Aayog CEO B. V. R. Subbarao.
- Routine jobs such as data entry, back-office, and business process work may decline due to automation.
- New opportunities will arise in technology-based fields like Data Science, AI Development, Machine Learning, and Robotics.
- Existing employees need to upgrade their skills (up skilling) and learn new technologies (reskilling).
- In the technology sector, current jobs may reduce from 80 lakh to 60 lakh by 2031.
- In creative sectors, jobs may reduce from 25 lakh to 18 lakh.

- However, around 40 lakh new jobs will be created in emerging AI-driven sectors.
- NITI Aayog recommended launching a national-level program called “India AI Talent Mission”.
- The mission aims to make India a global AI talent hub and expand employment opportunities.
- NITI Aayog was established in 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- It works on formulating policies, ensuring coordination between the Centre and States, and promoting sustainable development.
- The AI economy will transform India’s job structure, balancing the reduction of routine jobs with the creation of high-skill jobs.
- By 2031, India is expected to have more than 20 lakh AI-related jobs.
- The report suggests that technological transformation can support economic growth and inclusive employment generation.