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David Szalay Wins the 2025 Booker Prize for His Novel "Flesh"

- ✓ The Booker Prize for fiction awarded to David Szalay for his novel "Flesh".
- ✓ Canadian-Hungarian-British writer David Szalay has won the 2025 Booker Prize for fiction for his novel "Flesh" at a ceremony in London.
- ✓ The novel tells the story of an ordinary man's life over several decades in which what isn't on the page is just as important as what is.
- ✓ Szalay, aged 51, was selected from a total of 153 submitted novels.
- ✓ Szalay was previously shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 2016 for his book "All That Man Is".
- ✓ Last year, Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel 'Orbital'.
- ✓ The Booker Prize was established in 1969 and has established a reputation for transforming the careers of writers.



Samrat Rana Creates History with Gold in Men's 10m Air Pistol at ISSF World Championship 2025

- ✓ Samrat Rana won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Championship in Cairo on 10 November.
- ✓ He became the first Indian to win an individual world title in the men's air pistol category.
- ✓ Rana scored 243.7, defeating China's Hu Kai by 0.4 points.
- ✓ Varun Tomar won the bronze, giving India a double podium finish in the event.
- ✓ Rana, along with Varun Tomar and Sharavan Kumar, also helped India win the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol team event.
- ✓ At 22 years old, Rana has become only the fifth Indian shooter to win a world title in an Olympic event.
- ✓ He joins the elite list of Abhinav Bindra, Rudraksh Patil, Tejaswini Sawant and the mixed team pair of Shiv Narwal and Esha Singh.



- ✓ Additionally, Manu Bhaker missed an individual podium but won silver in the women's team event with Esha Singh and Suruchi Singh.
- ✓ India's medal tally at the Cairo Championships has increased to nine, including three gold, three silver, and three bronze.
- ✓ India currently stands second in the medal tally behind China.

India and Vietnam Strengthen Defence Ties at the 15th Defence Policy Dialogue in Hanoi

- ✓ Defence cooperation between India and Vietnam reviewed and expanded in the 15th Defence Policy Dialogue.
- ✓ On 10 November, the 15th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue was held in Hanoi.
- ✓ The dialogue was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnamese Deputy Minister Hoang Xuan Chien.
- ✓ Both sides reviewed progress in hydrography cooperation, training, UN peacekeeping, ship visits, and artificial intelligence collaboration.
- ✓ Agreement was reached to expand cooperation in cyber security, military medicine, expert exchanges, and real-time information sharing.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Agreement was signed to establish cooperation in submarine search and rescue operations.



- ✓ A Letter of Intent was also signed to strengthen defence industry partnership and promote technology transfer and joint cooperation in research as well as exchange of experts, design, and production of equipment.
- ✓ The Dialogue serves as a key mechanism under the India-Vietnam Joint Vision Statement 2030.
- ✓ The 16th Defence Policy Dialogue will be held in India in 2026.

The 2nd **WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit**

will be held from December 17 to 19 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi

- ✓ The summit is jointly organised by the World Health Organisation and Ministry of AYUSH.
- ✓ “Restoring Balance: The Science and Practice of Health and Well-being” is the central theme of the Summit.
- ✓ As per AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav, summit will promote the objectives of WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034.
- ✓ The summit aims to encourage global collaboration, research, and policy actions and to integrate evidence-based traditional healing practices into modern healthcare systems.



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India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise 'Mitra Shakti 2025' Begins in Belagavi, Karnataka

- ✓ The 11th edition of 'Mitra Shakti 2025' began at the Foreign Training Node in Belagavi, Karnataka.
- ✓ Mitra Shakti 2025 is a India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise. Mitra Shakti 2025 is being held from November 10 to 23.
- ✓ Mitra Shakti 2025 focuses on enhancing coordination and mutual trust between the two armies.
- ✓ India has deployed 170 soldiers from the Rajput Regiment and Sri Lanka has contributed 135 personnel from the Gajaba Regiment.
- ✓ The drills also involve 20 Indian Air Force members and 10 Sri Lankan Air Force members.
- ✓ The main goal is to improve joint capabilities for sub-conventional and counter-terrorism missions.
- ✓ These missions will be conducted under the UN Charter's Chapter VII framework.
- ✓ The exercise aims to deepen operational collaboration between the two nations.
- ✓ It also seeks to enhance peacekeeping and humanitarian response capabilities under UN mandates.



PLFS Q2 2025 Survey Shows Continued Improvement in India's Labour Market

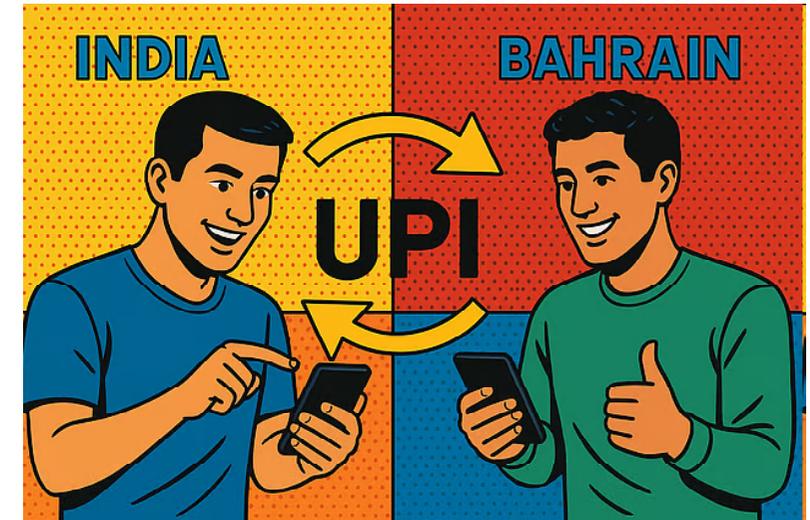
- ✓ National Statistical Office's Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July-September 2025 showed continued improvement in India's labour market.
- ✓ It reports a lower unemployment rate and higher workforce participation.
- ✓ The overall unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above declined to 5.2%. In the previous quarter, it was 5.4%.
- ✓ Rural unemployment declined from 4.8% to 4.4%.
- ✓ Urban unemployment increased slightly. The male urban unemployment rate stood at 6.2%, while the female rate was 9.0%.
- ✓ The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) increased marginally to 55.1%.
- ✓ The rural LFPR reached 57.2%, and the urban LFPR was 50.7%.
- ✓ Female labour force participation increased to 33.7%, mainly supported by higher involvement of rural women.
- ✓ The LFPR for rural women increased to 37.5%. The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) improved to 52.2%.



- ✓ The female WPR reached 32.0%. Self-employment continued to dominate in rural India and expanded to 62.8% of the rural workforce.
- ✓ In urban areas, salaried and regular wage employment led the job market and increased slightly to 49.8% of the total urban workforce.
- ✓ Agriculture absorbed 57.7% of rural workers during the quarter.
- ✓ In urban areas, the services sector accounted for 62.0% of urban employment.
- ✓ The survey estimated that around 56.2 crore individuals (39.6 crore men and 16.6 crore women) aged 15 and above were employed nationwide.
- ✓ The PLFS methodology was updated in January 2025 to provide more frequent monthly and quarterly labour data for both rural and urban India.

India and Bahrain Join Hands for UPI-Based Cross-Border Payments

- ✓ **NPCI International Payments Limited and Bahrain's BENEFIT company have formed partnership to enable cross-border remittances between India and Bahrain.**
- ✓ The partnership links India's UPI system with Bahrain's Fawri+ network.
- ✓ This initiative allows users in India and Bahrain to send and receive money instantly.
- ✓ They will also allow them to send and receive money in real time through interoperable digital payment systems.
- ✓ This partnership was established under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of Bahrain.
- ✓ The aim of partnership is to advance digital financial inclusion and promote fintech cooperation.
- ✓ The partnership builds upon a Memorandum of Understanding first signed during PM Modi's 2019 visit to Bahrain.
- ✓ Bilateral trade between India and Bahrain reached USD 1.64 billion in 2024–2025.
- ✓ BENEFIT is Bahrain's leading fintech and electronic financial transactions company.
- ✓ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

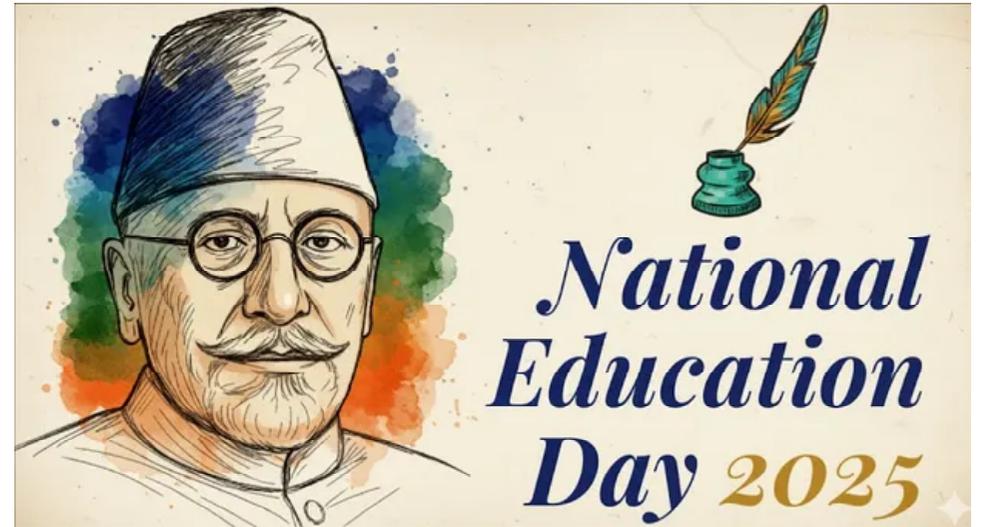


National Education Day 2025: 11 November

- ✓ National Education Day is observed every year in India on November 11.
- ✓ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister.
- ✓ The observance was officially announced in 2008 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education).
- ✓ The purpose of this day is to highlight the importance of education and to reflect on the nation's progress in the field of learning.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad - Life and Vision:

- ✓ Born on November 11, 1888, in Mecca.
- ✓ He was a freedom fighter, scholar, and national leader.
- ✓ He founded the Urdu weekly newspapers Al-Hilal and Al-Balagh to spread nationalist ideas.
- ✓ In 1923, he became one of the youngest Presidents of the Indian National Congress.
- ✓ After independence, he served as India's first Minister of Education from 1947 to 1958.



Azad's Contributions to Indian Education:

- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) was established to regulate higher education.
- ✓ He played a key role in establishing the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- ✓ He supported the development of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.
- ✓ He helped establish Sahitya Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi, and Sangeet Natak Akademi to promote Indian literature, art, and culture.
- ✓ In 1992, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna for his contributions to education and national unity.
- ✓ International Day of Education is observed globally on January 24 as declared by the United Nations.
- ✓ The theme for International Day of Education 2025 was: “AI and Education: Preserving Human Agency in a World of Automation.”

Google's Project Suncatcher Aims to Launch AI Data Centres in Space

- ✓ Project Name: Project Suncatcher, an ambitious research initiative by Google.
- ✓ Core Aim: To build AI data centres in space using solarpowered satellites in Earth orbit.
- ✓ The orbiting satellites will house high-performance AI hardware like TPUs (Tensor Processing Units)
- ✓ Problem Solved: Overcoming the energy and cooling limits faced by traditional ground-based data centres (which consume vast electricity and water).
- ✓ Sustainability Benefit: Provides uninterrupted access to solar energy in space and eliminates the need for water cooling.
- ✓ Uses free-space optical communication systems (high-speed laser links) for data transfer between satellites and Earth.
- ✓ Maintaining multi-terabit wireless communication and precise satellite proximity (a few hundred meters apart) is technically complex
- ✓ The initial prototype satellites are expected to launch by early 2027.



China Launches Third Aircraft Carrier 'Fujian' with Cutting-Edge Tech

- ✓ In a major leap forward for its naval capabilities, China has officially commissioned its third aircraft carrier, the Fujian
- ✓ It is China's first flat-deck aircraft carrier, allowing for more efficient aircraft launch and recovery.
- ✓ Equipped with EMALS, the carrier can launch aircraft with full fuel and weapons payloads, greatly enhancing operational range and strike capability(Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System)
- ✓ **Liaoning:** China's first aircraft carrier
- ✓ **Shandong:** First indigenously built carrier



City Union Bank Partners with EPFO to Launch EPF Payment Facility for Corporate Clients

- ✓ City Union Bank (CUB), a private sector bank headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, has launched a new EPF payment remittance feature in collaboration with the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- ✓ The feature enables corporate customers to remit provident fund (PF) amounts directly through CUB's net banking portal, enhancing ease of compliance and digital convenience for employers.
- ✓ The launch event was conducted by Vijay Anandh, Executive Director of City Union Bank, and Maneesh Agnihotri, Regional PF Commissioner, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank Limited.: Dr. N. Kamakodi

