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Maharashtra topped the 6th National Water Awards 2024

- On 11 November, the winners of the 6th National Water Awards were announced by Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Paatil at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Forty-six winners, including joint winners, were selected for 10 categories.
- The categories include Best State, Best District, Best Village Panchayat, Best Urban Local Body, Best School or College, Best Industry, Best Water User Association, Best Institution (other than school or college), Best Civil Society and Best Individual for Excellence in the Water Sector.
- Maharashtra was conferred the first prize in the Best State category, followed by Gujarat and Haryana in second and third positions, respectively.
- The award ceremony will be held on 18 November 2025 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu will be the chief guest.
- Since 2018, the National Water Awards have been recognising individuals and organisations contributing to a 'Jal Samridh Bharat'.
- These awards aim to encourage sustainable water practices and foster a nationwide movement for conservation and responsible usage.



The sixth India-Vietnam Army exercise, VINBAX, began in Hanoi

- On 11 November, the 6th edition of the India–Vietnam Army Exercise VINBAX was inaugurated in Hanoi under the leadership of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Senior Lieutenant General Phung Si Tan.
- The exercise has been designed to strengthen interoperability and share best practices in UN peacekeeping operations.
- This year's fourth field-based UN peacekeeping exercise will run from November 11 to 27 at the National Military Training Centre 4.
- Around 300 officers and heavy equipment have been deployed to enhance engineering, medical, and search-and-rescue capabilities for UN missions.
- VINBAX 2025 also aims to boost operational readiness and coordination between the two armies.
- Cultural, sports, and ceremonial exchanges are part of the exercise to deepen understanding and friendship.
- VINBAX 2025 is the sixth Vietnam-India peace exercise overall and the fourth field-based exercise.
- The VINBAX series began in 2018 as a tabletop simulation in India and has evolved into a full-scale field exercise..
- It further reinforces both nations' commitment to peacekeeping and regional stability under the UN framework.



Gaganyaan-IMAT: Crucial Tests for India's First Human Spaceflight Mission



- **Gaganyaan Mission** aims to send **3 Indian astronauts** into a **400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** for **3 days** and bring them safely back to Earth.
- The mission uses the **HLVM3 (Human-Rated LVM3) launcher**, a modified GSLV Mk-III designed to safely carry humans.
- The spacecraft has two main parts: **Crew Module (CM)** – houses astronauts, ensures safe re-entry.
- **Service Module (SM)** – provides power, propulsion, and support functions.
- **IMAT (Integrated Module Aborts Test)** held on **November 3, 2025** tested emergency rescue capability during mission failure.
- For IMAT, the **Indian Air Force IL-76 aircraft** released the **Crew Module** from **6 tonnes load**, 2.5 km altitude, validating parachute-based safe landing.

- A key focus of the test was **Failure Scenario Testing**, checking crew safety under designed failure conditions.
- **Redundancy systems** are added to avoid single-point failures—ensuring mission success even if one subsystem fails.
- The mission follows a **multiple-layer safety system**, including backup parachutes and emergency abort procedures.
- **ISRO & DRDO** collaborate extensively. DRDO's **ADRDE** provides parachute systems, crew safety technologies, and landing deceleration systems.
- India targets the **first crewed Gaganyaan mission by 2026**, demonstrating complete human-rating, safety validation, and inter-agency coordination.

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Restored Vengalayapalem Pond Inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh

- The restored Vengalayapalem pond inaugurated by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Andhra Pradesh.
- The 21-acre Vengalayapalem pond in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, was inaugurated by Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 11 November.
- The pond restoration, completed at a cost of ₹1.2 crore, was part of the Watershed Mahotsav celebrations.
- Addressing the media, Mr. Chouhan emphasised that water serves as the foundation for cultural and economic development.
- He highlighted the success of programmes such as the Watershed Development and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.
- The ancient pond's rejuvenation will aid in groundwater recharge, improve soil fertility, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- The Union Minister described the Vengalayapalem project as a replicable model for rural development across India.
- Such multipurpose ponds contribute to environmental conservation and public health while supporting local livelihoods.



Public Service Broadcasting Day is observed every year on November 12

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is observed annually on November 12 to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's historic radio address.
- On this day in 1947, Gandhi visited the Broadcasting House in New Delhi for the first and only time.
- He spoke to refugees in Kurukshetra on the occasion of Diwali.
- Freedom fighter Rajkumari Amrit Kaur accompanied Gandhi during this broadcast.
- Initially, Gandhi was reluctant to use the radio and agreed to speak after being persuaded by Ghanshyam Das Birla.
- In 2000, Information and Broadcasting Minister Sushma Swaraj declared November 12 as Public Service Broadcasting Day.
- Since then, Akashvani has celebrated the day every year.
- In March 2023, during the 100th episode of PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat, the studio was renamed 'Bapu Studio'.
- Public Service Broadcasting Day reminds broadcasters to uphold and spread Mahatma Gandhi's ideals nationwide.



RPF Rescues Over 16,000 Children Under Operation Nanhe Farishtey

- Over 16,000 children rescued by Railway Protection Force under Operation Nanhe Farishtey.
- Railway Protection Force rescued these children from January to October this year.
- More than 2,000 lives were saved by Railway Protection Force through Mission Jeevan Raksha during the same period.
- Railway Protection Force carried out these life-saving efforts across the Indian Railways network.
- Railway Protection Force seized narcotics and psychotropic substances under Operation NARCOS, which is its anti-drug initiative.
- The total value of these seizures was more than ₹197 crore.
- More than 42,000 left-behind belongings worth over ₹70 crore were also recovered by Railway Protection Force under Operation Amanat.
- These coordinated efforts show the Railway Protection Force's strong commitment to passenger safety.



RPF rescued 84,119 Children Under Operation Nanhe Farishtey In Last 7 years

Punjab Police Inspector Lakhwinder Singh Wins Gold at Masters International Tent Pegging Championship

- Punjab Police Inspector Lakhwinder Singh won a gold medal in the Individual Sword category at the Masters International Tent Pegging Championship.
- The event was held at Ghaziabad from 10-12 November 2025.
- Inspector Lakhwinder Singh secured a perfect score of 36 out of 36.
- Punjab Police team also won silver medal in team competition.
- IPS Officer Inderbir Singh, DSP Jaswinder Singh, Inspector Youngbir Singh, and Inspector Lakhwinder Singh were part of the team.
- Inspector Youngbir Singh said six teams took part in the championship.
- The teams were from BSF, ITBP, Haryana Police, the Indian Army, Punjab Police, and an international team from South Africa.



India and Chile held the 9th Foreign Office Consultations in Santiago



- The talks aimed to expand bilateral cooperation in emerging areas such as digital infrastructure, innovation, and green energy.
- The meeting was co-chaired by India's Secretary (East) P. Kumaran and Chile's Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Rodrigo Olsen.
- Both nations agreed to strengthen collaboration in multiple sectors.
- These include trade, investment, connectivity, health, pharmaceuticals, traditional medicine, science and technology, mining, defence, civil nuclear, education, space, agriculture, and people-to-people exchanges.
- The consultations reviewed progress on issues discussed during President Boric's April 2025 visit to India.
- Visa facilitation for Indian professionals and business travelers was discussed.
- These cover customs cooperation, recognition of Indian pharmacopoeia, traditional medicine, Yoga, social security, space collaboration, training, education, science and technology, and cultural exchanges.

- India and Chile discussed cooperation in renewable energy, technology sharing, and investment opportunities.
- This builds on Chile's hosting of the International Solar Alliance LAC Regional Conference.

India-Chile Relations:

- India and Chile celebrated 60 years of relations in 2009. In October 2020, first India-Chile Joint Commission Meeting was organised virtually.
- Chile is India's 5th largest trading partner in the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region.

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India Inaugurates First Megawatt-Hour Scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery System

- India's first megawatt-hour scale Vanadium Redox Flow Battery (VRFB) system inaugurated by Union Minister Manohar Lal.
- The system was inaugurated by Union Minister during his visit to NETRA, the R&D Centre of NTPC at Greater Noida.
- It has a capacity of 3 MWh. The project marks a major step forward in India's journey towards long-duration energy storage technology.
- It aims to strengthen renewable energy integration and enhance grid stability.
- The Vanadium Flow Battery is one of the alternatives to conventional lithium-ion batteries.
- It expands the range of elements that can be used for energy storage systems.
- During his visit, he inspected multiple demonstration facilities and also saw the MSW-RDF Steam Gasification Plant and a 4 MWp AC Microgrid with a 1 MWh Li-NMC battery system.



Three-Day Himalayan Conclave Begins Under the Leadership of NIHE



- G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE) is organising a three-day Himalayan Conclave.
- The conclave is being organised from November 13 to 15, 2025, at the NIHE headquarters in Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand.
- The conclave is titled “Indian Himalayan Region–2047: Environmental Conservation with Sustainable Socio-Economic Growth.”
- It aims to develop a vision for Himalayan region aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 initiative.
- Scientists, policymakers, administrators, NGOs, and community representatives are taking part in the conclave.
- During the conclave, participants will discuss environmental protection, climate adaptation, and sustainable development in the Himalayas.
- The event also aims to create a strategic roadmap for key challenges, including climate change, unsustainable land use, demographic pressures, and natural disasters such as glacier retreat and flash floods.

- Discussions will be held across six thematic areas, covering biodiversity, natural resource management, climate resilience, sustainable livelihoods, governance, and gender inclusion.
- The conclave also aims to update the Himalayan Action Plan.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is cohosting the conclave with NIHE.
- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Integrated Centre for Mountain Development (ICIMOD), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are partners.
- Other partners are IIT Roorkee, National Centre for sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Wetland's Interaction South Asia (WISA), Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology (UCOST).
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), State Bank of India (SBI), and several universities and NGOs are also partners.

'Vibe Coding' Named Collins Dictionary's Word of the Year 2025

- **'Vibe coding'**, a term coined by Andrej Karpathy, former Director of AI at Tesla and founding engineer at OpenAI, was chosen as the **Word of the Year 2025** by the Collins Dictionary.
- The phrase describes a new way of software development where AI converts natural language into code, making app creation effortless and intuitive.
- Other trending words in 2025 include 'glaze' (to flatter someone excessively) and 'aura farming' (creating a charismatic and cool persona intentionally).



NBA Legend and Three-Time Hall of Famer Lenny Wilkens Passes Away at 88

- **Lenny Wilkens**, a legendary NBA figure and **three-time Basketball Hall of Fame** inductee, **passed away** at the age of 88. He was honored as a player, coach, and member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team.
- Wilkens holds the record for most games coached in NBA history (2,487) and was the first NBA coach to achieve 1,000 career wins. He also coached the U.S. team to gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- A nine-time NBA All-Star as a player, Wilkens led the Seattle SuperSonics to the 1979 NBA Championship and remained a beloved figure in Seattle's basketball community for decades.

