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HEADLINES

- ❖ **Namo Bharat became India's fastest train, connecting Delhi and Meerut in less than an hour.**
- ❖ **NSO to Conduct All-India Credit & Investment Survey and Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (2026-27)**
- ❖ **India has organised the Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 in Jeddah**
- ❖ **India participated in the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) held in Rome, Italy, from September 11 to 12, 2025.**
- ❖ **AIIMS New Delhi has launched the da Vinci Surgical Robot at its Skills, E-Learning and Telemedicine (SET) Facility.**

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- ❖ **Indian Govt cleared Great Nicobar Island Project**
- ❖ **South Indian Bank launches Digital Loan against Mutual Funds**
- ❖ **44th SCO RATS Council Meeting Held in Kyrgyz Republic**
- ❖ **ICC Launches ‘Will to Win’ Campaign for Women’s World Cup 2025**
- ❖ **AWSN to launch 24-hour women’s sports channel in Saudi Arabia**
- ❖ **African Swine Fever Outbreak in Guindy National Park (Chennai)**
- ❖ **TCS–C-DAC Partnership: Development of India’s Indigenous Cloud Platform**

Namo Bharat became India's fastest train, connecting Delhi and Meerut in less than an hour

- ✓ The Namoo Bharat train has officially become India's fastest train by operating at 160 km/h on the Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).
- ✓ Earlier, semi-high-speed trains like Gatimaan Express and Vande Bharat were allowed 160 km/h, but their speed was capped at 130 km/h after a directive in June 2024.
- ✓ The present operational stretch covers 55 km from New Ashok Nagar in Delhi to Meerut South in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The entire corridor of 82.15 km, with 16 stations from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in UP, is expected to be commissioned soon.
- ✓ Thirty six-car trainsets run at 15-minute intervals, reaching peak speeds on longer stretches between stations.
- ✓ The trains have been designed in Hyderabad and manufactured at Alstom's Savli factory in Gujarat with modern aerodynamic features and equipped with Automatic Train Protection (ATP), Automatic Train Control (ATC), and Automatic Train Operations (ATO) systems.



- ✓ Officials of the NCRTC stated that the train attains maximum speed on station intervals ranging from five to eight kilometres.
- ✓ Since the opening of its 17-km priority section on 21 October 2023, more than 1.5 crore passengers have already travelled on Namo Bharat.
- ✓ Meerut Metro services are also being trialed on the same tracks to allow seamless switching between regional and metro journeys.
- ✓ The Namo Bharat project, a joint venture of the Centre (50%) and the state governments of Delhi, UP, Haryana, and Rajasthan (12.5% each), represents India's first Regional Rapid Transit System and is set to redefine regional rail travel.

NSO to Conduct All-India Credit & Investment Survey and Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households (2026-27)

- ✓ The National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has been conducting large-scale household surveys (NSS) on various social and economic subjects.
- ✓ These surveys have been conducted regularly since the inception of this office in 1950.
- ✓ Among its major surveys, two surveys are extremely important for the country's financial and agricultural sectors.
- ✓ These are the All-India Credit and Investment Survey (AIDIS) and the Situational Assessment Survey of Agriculture-based Households (SIS).
- ✓ Both these national representative surveys are planned to be conducted in the period from July 2026 to June 2027.
- ✓ The AIDIS has its origins in the All-India Rural Credit Survey of 1951-52 and has since been expanded to cover household debt and investment.
- ✓ It has been conducted roughly once every decade, most recently in 2019 at the request of the Reserve Bank of India.



- ✓ The survey provides vital statistics on indebtedness, asset distribution, and household finance in both rural and urban areas.
- ✓ The SAS of Agricultural Households was first launched in 2003 to assess the economic conditions of farming families.
- ✓ Its scope was expanded to include all agriculture-based families in the year 2013. It was further broadened in the year 2019 round.
- ✓ The survey estimates, among other aspects: household income and expenditure, borrowing burden and availability of credit sources, ownership of land and cattle, crop and livestock yield, agricultural practices and use of technology, and access to government policies and crop insurance.
- ✓ Its findings are used by the Ministry of Agriculture, NITI Aayog, financial institutions, and researchers to design rural development policies.

India has organised the Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 in Jeddah

- ✓ SAJEX 2025 aims to boost trade ties with Saudi Arabia and expand India's reach into GCC and global markets.
- ✓ SAJEX 2025 is being organized by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council of India (GJEPC).
- ✓ SAJEX is supported by India's Ministry of Commerce, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh, and the Consulate General in Jeddah.
- ✓ SAJEX 2025 took place from September 11 to 13, 2025. The venue was the Jeddah Superdome.
- ✓ Over 200 exhibitors participated. They showcased their products across 250 booths.
- ✓ Exhibits included diamond and gemstone jewellery, bridal collections, and lab-grown diamonds.
- ✓ India exported \$32 billion worth of gems and jewellery in 2024-25.
- ✓ India processes more than one billion diamonds every year.
- ✓ This accounts for 65% of the global diamond trade by value and 92% by volume.



- ✓ Foreign direct investment in India's gem and jewellery sector rose by 315% in FY 2024–25. This contributed to a national FDI total of \$50 billion.
- ✓ The World Jewellery Investment Forum held alongside SAJEX. It hosted discussions on trade, investment, retail trends, and transparency in the sector

India participated in the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) held in Rome, Italy, from September 11 to 12, 2025

- ✓ India used the summit as a platform to strengthen its role in international maritime cooperation.
- ✓ A two-member Indian Coast Guard (ICG) delegation represented India at the event.
- ✓ The delegation was led by Director General Paramesh Sivamani.
- ✓ DG Sivamani delivered a presentation titled 'Guardians Against the Blaze: ICG's Tactical Response to Fire Emergencies.'
- ✓ The presentation highlighted India's experience and capabilities in managing fire-related incidents at sea.
- ✓ India also announced its plan to bid for the presidency of the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit.
- ✓ India proposed to host the next summit in 2027.
- ✓ The Rome summit brought together delegates from 115 countries and international maritime organisations.
- ✓ Italy and Japan co-chaired the event, showcasing their strong maritime collaboration.



- ✓ The theme of the summit centered around a shared identity as ‘Guardians at Sea.’
- ✓ The CGGS was originally established in 2017 by the Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation.
- ✓ It has since become a key platform for global maritime dialogue and confidence-building.
- ✓ Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni attended the summit in person.
- ✓ Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba addressed the gathering through a virtual message.

AIIMS New Delhi has launched the da Vinci Surgical Robot at its Skills, E-Learning and Telemedicine (SET) Facility

- ✓ This development marks a major step forward in India's medical training landscape.
- ✓ It is the first time a government medical college in India has acquired the da Vinci robotic system for training purposes.
- ✓ The installation was made possible through a formal agreement with Intuitive Surgical.
- ✓ AIIMS Delhi now becomes the only institution in the country with two robotic systems used exclusively for education and training.
- ✓ The institute already houses the Hugo robotic trainer developed by Medtronic.
- ✓ The SET Facility offers practical, hands-on robotic surgery training.
- ✓ It is open to medical students, residents, nurses, and faculty members.



- ✓ The SET Facility includes simulators, robotic trainers, and manikins for guided learning.
- ✓ The new da Vinci robot will support surgical skill development across various specialities.
- ✓ These include urology, gynaecology, general surgery, surgical oncology, and head and neck surgery.

Indian Govt cleared Great Nicobar Island Project

- ✓ Great Nicobar Island Project - A multicomponent mega development project to transform Great Nicobar into a logistics, trade, and defence hub, improving India's presence in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Situated at the southernmost tip of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, near the Malacca Strait, one of the busiest global sea lanes.
- ✓ **Transshipment Port:** Planned at Galathea Bay with a capacity of 14.2 million TEUs by 2050, enabling large container ships to dock directly.
- ✓ Will lessen India's reliance on foreign ports such as Singapore and Colombo for transshipment.
- ✓ A dual-use airport (civilian + military), capable of handling all types of aircraft.
- ✓ A 450 MVA capacity plant to meet both industrial and civilian energy requirements.
- ✓ Designed to accommodate around 3.5 lakh people, with residential, commercial, and industrial zones.



- ✓ Proximity to the Malacca Strait strengthens India's monitoring ability, maritime security, and counterbalance to China's presence in the IOR.
- ✓ Positions India as a transshipment hub, reduces logistics costs, boosts connectivity, trade, and tourism.
- ✓ Will generate new job opportunities and improve infrastructure in a remote island region.
- ✓ Environmental impact on forests, Nicobar megapode birds, leatherback turtles, and coral reefs; as well as tribal rights issues affecting Shompens and Nicobarese communities. Bottom of Form

South Indian Bank launches Digital Loan against Mutual Funds

- ✓ South Indian Bank has launched a new service called “Loan Against Mutual Funds” together with Ark Neo Financial Services’ digital platform DhanLAP, which allows customers to take loans using their mutual fund investments as collateral.
- ✓ The service is fully paperless and instant; investors don’t need to sell their mutual funds to get liquidity.
- ✓ Anyone between 18 and 75 years can apply, even if they are not already a customer of South Indian Bank. PAN and Aadhaar are used for KYC verification.
- ✓ Under this scheme, one can borrow up to 50% of the value of equity mutual funds and up to 70% of the value of debt mutual funds.
- ✓ Even after taking the loan, the investments continue to earn returns, so long-term wealth growth is not compromised while meeting shortterm liquidity needs.



Recent MoUs Signed in Banking Sector

- ✓ L & T Finance Ltd. Partners with Google Pay to Offer Personal Loans to its Eligible Users .
- ✓ HDFC ERGO Partners with PhonePe to Launch Affordable Health Insurance for Young Adults.
- ✓ PhonePe Partners with SBI Card to Launch PURPLE and SELECT BLACK Co-Branded Credit Cards.

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44th SCO RATS Council Meeting Held in Kyrgyz Republic

- ✓ The 44th meeting of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was held in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic.
- ✓ India strongly condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam at this meeting, and demanded that the sponsors, organisers, and financiers behind the attack be held accountable.
- ✓ The RATS council endorsed the condemnation of the Pahalgam attack as was already done in the Tianjin Declaration from the SCO summit
- ✓ India emphasized that “double standards” in fighting terrorism are unacceptable.
- ✓ The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Kyrgyz Republic
- ✓ India was represented by Deputy National Security Advisor T.V. Ravichandran at this meeting.



ICC Launches 'Will to Win' Campaign for Women's World Cup 2025

- ✓ The ICC has launched its flagship “Will to Win” campaign ahead of the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025.
- ✓ The campaign theme is determination, perseverance, and transformation - celebrating how women cricketers grow from early struggles to become champions
- ✓ The campaign film was released at the same time as the general ticket sales window opened: 8 PM IST, 8 September 2025 via tickets.cricketworldcup.com
- ✓ The 2025 Women’s World Cup (ODI) is co-hosted by India & Sri Lanka, from 30 September to 2 November 2025, at five venues (four in India, one in Sri Lanka).
- ✓ India is hosting the Women’s World Cup after 12 years
- ✓ The campaign film tells stories of player journeys, early dreams, the sacrifices made, and growth over time - to show that greatness comes from consistent effort, not instant success.



AWSN to launch 24-hour women's sports channel in Saudi Arabia

- ✓ The All Women's Sports Network (AWSN), co-founded by Whoopi Goldberg, is launching a dedicated 24-hour women's sports channel in Saudi Arabia called "SSC AWSN".
- ✓ The channel is being set up in cooperation with the Saudi Arabian Football Federation and the national broadcaster, Saudi Sports Company
- ✓ It will be available via the MBC Shahid streaming platform starting from the launch date
- ✓ The launch coincides with the start of the Saudi Women's Premier League season, which will for the first time be broadcast both domestically and internationally.
- ✓ Weekly prime-time matches of the Saudi Women's Premier League will be shown, along with international women's competitions (including UEFA events) and other women's sports leagues
- ✓ The move is part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 agenda, aiming to improve women's sports visibility, promote private sector involvement, and diversify cultural/sports offerings.
- ✓ Female participation in public sports and entry into stadiums was only allowed recently: girls in schools were banned from public school sports until 2017, and women were not allowed into stadiums until 2018.



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African Swine Fever Outbreak in Guindy National Park (Chennai)

- ✓ African Swine Fever (ASF) is a contagious viral disease that causes very high mortality among pigs.
- ✓ The virus spreads through pig excreta, feed, carcasses, blood, skin, and also through carriers like mosquitoes and ticks.
- ✓ The disease is non-zoonotic, meaning it does not affect humans. However, it can spread to other animals such as wild boars.
- ✓ ASF causes severe economic losses to the pig industry, with farmers facing heavy financial damage.
- ✓ Continuous health monitoring of animals in zoos, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries is essential to prevent outbreaks.
- ✓ Guindy National Park is a unique national park located in Chennai city. It is home to blackbucks, leopards, foxes, snakes, and also pigs, which are at risk of ASF.
- ✓ Preventive measures include proper disposal of pig carcasses, quarantine of infected animals, and strict biosecurity practices.
- ✓ The National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) plays a key role in diagnosing ASF by testing viral samples and helping in disease control.
- ✓ Disease surveillance is essential to monitor pig populations in and around the park, assess the risk of ASF spread, and implement timely control measures.



TCS-C-DAC Partnership: Development of India's Indigenous Cloud Platform

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to develop a fully indigenous cloud platform.
- ✓ The initiative will help reduce dependency on foreign cloud service providers and promote self-reliance in India's digital infrastructure.
- ✓ The project aligns with the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) vision by strengthening India's capability in cloud technology.
- ✓ Indigenous cloud solutions will support critical national sectors such as defense, healthcare, agriculture, space, and telecommunications.
- ✓ The initiative will enhance national security by ensuring sensitive data remains within India's borders (Data Localization).
- ✓ Cloud computing enables on-demand access to resources like storage, servers, databases, networking, software, and analytics without physical infrastructure.
- ✓ C-DAC, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), plays a leading role in supercomputing and now in cloud infrastructure.



- ✓ Data localization ensures data protection, privacy, and sovereignty by mandating storage within the country.
- ✓ The collaboration will improve India's technological independence and reduce reliance on global tech giants like AWS, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud.
- ✓ This initiative represents a significant step in India's digital transformation journey, making cloud services accessible, secure, and aligned with national interests.