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## **Aparajita Sarangi Named Chairperson of Joint Parliamentary Committee**

- BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi appointed chairperson of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Amendment Bills.
- The committee will examine the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025.
- The appointment was made after the Lok Sabha adopted a motion to refer these key bills to a joint committee for detailed study and recommendations.
- A total of thirty-one members have been nominated to the committee, representing various political parties.
- Among them, fifteen are from the BJP, eleven belong to NDA allies, four represent the opposition, and one is a nominated member.
- Prominent BJP leaders such as Ravi Shankar Prasad, Parshottambhai Rupala, Anurag Thakur, and Brij Lal are part of the committee, along with nominated member Sudha Murty.
- Opposition leaders including Supriya Sule, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Asaduddin Owaisi, and Niranjan Reddy have also been included in the panel.
- Congress and Trinamool Congress, however, declined to participate, stating that the bills go against the legal principle that a person remains innocent until proven guilty.
- These three bills, introduced on the final day of the Monsoon Session on 20 August 2025, propose the automatic removal of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, or Ministers if they are detained for 30 days on serious charges.
- The Lok Sabha passed a resolution to refer the bills to a Joint Committee of Parliament.



## 13th International Tourism Mart Held in Sikkim

- The 13th International Tourism Mart organised in Sikkim to showcase the tourism potential of the Northeast.
- The 13th edition of International Tourism Mart (ITM) is being organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India from 13 to 16 November 2025 in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- The event was inaugurated by Union Minister of Tourism and Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- It has been hosted with the objective of highlighting the rich natural beauty, cultural diversity, and adventure tourism opportunities of India's North-Eastern region.
- The International Tourism Mart is an annual flagship event of the Ministry of Tourism aimed at showcasing the tourism potential of the North Eastern Region – the "Ashta Lakshmi" of India – to domestic and international audiences.
- Sikkim was chosen as the venue to underline its global recognition as a model of eco-friendly and community-led tourism.
- Representatives from 19 countries, including Spain, Thailand, France, Germany, Russia, and Vietnam have participated, along with domestic and international tour operators, influencers, and media.
- The Mart features technical sessions, B2B meetings, product presentations, and panel discussions on cinematic tourism, homestays, youth entrepreneurship, and digital innovation.
- Cultural showcases and field visits to Rumtek Monastery, Do Drul Chorten, and Namgyal Institute of Tibetology have been arranged to exhibit the heritage and traditions of the North East.



## **Bhutan-India Kalachakra Peace Ceremony Inaugurated**

- The Bhutan-India Kalachakra Empowerment Ceremony for Global Peace inaugurated.
- The Kālacakra, or ‘Wheel of Time’, Empowerment ceremony was jointly inaugurated in Bhutan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the King of Bhutan during the Global Peace Prayer Festival.
- The event was presided over by His Holiness the Je Khenpo and brought together Buddhist monks, scholars, and devotees from across the world.
- Prime Minister Modi’s two-day state visit to Bhutan concluded with this ceremony, symbolising the shared cultural and spiritual ties between the two nations.
- During the visit, Prime Minister Modi announced a concessional Line of Credit worth ₹4,000 crore to support Bhutan’s energy sector projects.
- The leaders of both countries jointly inaugurated the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project, marking a new chapter in India-Bhutan energy cooperation.
- Three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were also exchanged in renewable energy, mental health, and healthcare to deepen bilateral collaboration.
- The Prime Minister met his Bhutanese counterpart, Dasho Tshering Tobgay, where discussions were held on regional development, technology, and space cooperation.
- Both sides expressed satisfaction over progress in Phase II of UPI integration, which will enable Bhutanese visitors to make digital payments in India using local apps.



## World Pneumonia Day 2025: 12 November

- World Pneumonia Day is observed every year on 12 November.
- Its main aim is to raise awareness regarding the complications and issues related to pneumonia.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), pneumonia kills more children under five than any other infectious disease.
- It also poses a serious threat to older people and those with chronic health conditions, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- World Pneumonia Day was first established in the year 2009 by the Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia.
- The Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) initiative has been launched by the Government of India to reduce childhood pneumonia through strong health systems and community awareness.
- It was further highlighted by the minister that the campaign's message, "Pneumonia nahi, toh bachpan sahi", inspires collective action for prevention and timely care.

### **Pneumonia:**

- Pneumonia is an infection which is caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi.
- It can be prevented by the proper vaccination against this disease.
- Air pollution is the main risk factor for death from pneumonia.
- Cough, high fever, fast heartbeat, rusty phlegm coughed from lungs, and shortness of breath are symptoms of pneumonia.



## **Cabinet Approves New Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters**

- A new Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
- The scheme will provide full credit protection for exporters, including MSMEs.
- The scheme aims to facilitate up to ₹20,000 crore in additional credit.
- A revision of royalty rates for minerals such as caesium, graphite, rubidium, and zirconium has also been approved by the Cabinet.
- This move will promote mineral block auctions. It will strengthen domestic production of critical minerals like lithium, tungsten, and niobium.
- A new Export Promotion Mission (EPM) has been approved with a budget of over ₹25,000 crore.
- This major initiative was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
- It seeks to increase export competitiveness, especially for MSMEs, new exporters, and labour-intensive sectors.
- The mission will provide a flexible, and digitally driven framework for export growth from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31.



**Union Cabinet Approves ₹20,000 Crore  
Credit Guarantee Scheme to Boost  
Indian Exports and MSMEs**

## **India Achieves 21% Reduction in TB Cases in 10 Years**

- India has achieved a 21 per cent reduction in tuberculosis cases over the past decade.
- This is nearly twice the global decline rate of 12 per cent.
- The World Health Organization's Global TB Report 2025 highlights this progress.
- According to the report, TB incidence in India fell from 237 cases per lakh people in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024.
- The Ministry of Health attributed this achievement to enhanced case detection and improved access to treatment services.
- Data also shows that multidrug-resistant TB cases have remained stable, with no major increase.
- Deaths caused by tuberculosis dropped from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 21 per lakh in 2024.
- Government programmes are driving efforts to eradicate TB across the country.
- These programmes include the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, and Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana.
- Tuberculosis is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. It commonly affects the lungs. It is also called the white plague.

**India Sees 21%  
Drop in TB  
Cases, Says WHO  
Report**

## **CSIR and NICDC Sign MoU to Boost Aatmanirbhar Bharat**

- CSIR and NICDC signed MoU to strengthen Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed an MoU with the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC).
- The MoU aims to improve research and development capabilities of CSIR.
- As per Ministry of Science and Technology, the collaboration seeks to build a self-reliant and innovation-driven industrial framework.
- The collaboration will support national initiatives such as Make in India, Startup India, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Under the partnership, the development of R&D hubs, industrial incubators, and innovation centres within smart cities is envisioned.
- These centres will strengthen links between industry, academia, and research institutions.
- Under the partnership, the focus is on promoting high-tech entrepreneurship and accelerating innovation-led industrial growth.
- It will also help identify and deploy cutting-edge technologies.
- Key sectors that will benefit include biotechnology, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and aerospace.

## National Tribal Film Festival Begins in Imphal

- National Tribal Film Festival and Carnival has started in Imphal.
- National Tribal Film Festival and Carnival marks the start of a four-day celebration as part of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh initiative.
- National Tribal Film Festival and Carnival features 23 tribal films from nine Indian states.
- These films show the richness of tribal art, culture, and storytelling traditions.
- Screenings and cultural events are being held at the City Convention Centre and the Manipur State Film Development Society complex.
- The festival will continue until November 15. Feature films from Maharashtra, Odisha, West Bengal, and six northeastern states are part of the festival.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh is being held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a tribal freedom fighter.



## **IICA–WNS Ybrant Programme Launched in New Delhi**

- IICA–WNS Ybrant Programme on CSR, ESG, and Sustainability jointly launched by Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and WNS Global Services in New Delhi.
- The programme aims to align business performance with sustainable and inclusive growth.
- It also aims to integrate CSR, ESG, and sustainability into mainstream management education.
- Its goal is to prepare students for purpose-driven leadership roles.
- India’s CSR spending increased from ₹10,065.93 crore in FY 2014–15 to ₹34,908.75 crore in FY 2023–24.
- Ybrant represents a tripartite collaboration between government, industry, and academia.
- It is a six-month course, which includes classroom sessions, and fieldwork.
- Weekly live sessions led by IICA faculty and industry experts are conducted through IICA’s online learning platform.



## **Punjab Becomes First State to Implement Revised Bharat Net Scheme Statewide**



- Punjab became the first state to implement the revised Bharat Net scheme statewide.
- Punjab has bagged the honour of becoming the first state in India to implement the amended Bharat Net Scheme across its entire territory.
- On November 11, Punjab Chief Secretary K.A.P. Sinha received the award from CGM BSNL Punjab Circle Ajay Kumar Karara in Chandigarh.
- Internet and broadband services have been provided in 43 shadow areas of the state, with only one village remaining.
- By the end of November, every village will be covered.
- With this achievement, Punjab's rural and border regions can now be monitored live from any location in the country.
- The Bharat Net Scheme has been designed to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats, households, and key rural institutions.
- It also aims to support e-health, and e-governance initiatives in villages to strengthen digital inclusion.

- In October 2011, the Government of India launched an ambitious project called BharatNet, which aims to provide affordable high-speed internet access to every Gram Panchayat in the country.
- The project is being implemented by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) called Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL).
- BBBL was formed on February 25, 2012, under the Indian Companies Act, 1956.
- In August 2023, the government approved the Revised BharatNet Programme (ABP).

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## **RBI Recognises Self-Regulated PSO Association (SRPA) as Self-Regulatory Body for Payment System Operators**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has officially recognised the **Self-Regulated PSO Association (SRPA)** as a self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for the payment system operators (PSO) sector, allowing it to oversee conduct and set industry standards.
- Current SRPA members include major players such as Razorpay, PhonePe, CRED, BillDesk, Infibeam Avenues (CC Avenue), Mobikwik, and Mswipe, with more PSOs expected to join following RBI's approval.
- Payment System Operators (PSOs) are entities authorised by the RBI to manage fund transfers across cards, wallets, and digital platforms, ensuring secure and efficient digital payments.
- The RBI has also recognised other SROs in related sectors — such as FACE (Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment), Sa-Dhan, MFIN, and FIMMDA (**Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India**) to strengthen self-regulation across India's financial ecosystem.



## Ethiopia to be approved as host for COP32 climate summit in 2027

- **COP32 Climate Summit** (32nd Conference of the Parties) will be hosted in **2027**.
- **Ethiopia** (representing the African Countries Group) will host the summit in its capital city **Addis Ababa**.
- The hosting decision is expected to be **formally confirmed during the ongoing COP30** conference in Brazil.
- Ethiopia launched its bid in **September**, competing with **Nigeria**, but the African Countries Bureau **unanimously supported Ethiopia**.
- **COP30 (2025)** is being hosted by **Brazil**, in the Amazonian city of **Belém**.
- **COP31 (2026)** host is still undecided, with **Australia** and **Turkey** contesting within the "Western Europe and Others" group.
- **COP (Conference of the Parties)** is the supreme decision-making body of the **UNFCCC**, guiding global climate action.
- The purpose of COP conferences is to **assess countries' progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and ensure effective implementation of the Climate Convention.

