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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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### HEADLINES

- ❖ **Employees' Enrolment Campaign – 2025 (EEC 2025): A New Step Toward Expanding Social Security**
- ❖ **Maldives: The First Country in the World to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis**
- ❖ **India to Participate in the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**
- ❖ **Google to Invest \$10 Billion in a Data Centre and AI Hub in Andhra Pradesh**
- ❖ **Retail inflation was recorded at 1.54% in September, the lowest since 2017**
- ❖ **Divyang Rehabilitation Centres to be Established Across Uttar Pradesh**
- ❖ **“Fare Se Fursat” – Alliance Air’s Fixed-Fare Initiative Launched by Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu**
- ❖ **TCIL Wins HR Excellence Award at the Fortune Leadership Awards 2025**
- ❖ **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam – The Missile Man and People’s President of India**
- ❖ **India’s Private Space Milestone – GalaxEye “Drishti” Satellite Launch**

- ❖ **Monu Ratra Appointed as CEO of Capri Global Capital**
- ❖ **Sachin Tendulkar Launches 'TEN x YOU' Sportswear Brand to Inspire a Sport-Playing India**
- ❖ **Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple in Kanchipuram to Hold Grand Consecration on December 8 After 17 Years**
- ❖ **Fourth Edition of India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 to Commence in Perth**

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# Employees' Enrolment Campaign – 2025 (EEC 2025): A New Step Toward Expanding Social Security

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched the Employees' Enrolment Campaign, 2025 (EEC 2025).
- The goal is to expand social security coverage through the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).
- The campaign will run from November 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.
- It follows the success of a similar campaign held in 2017.
- The focus is on employees who joined between July 1, 2017, and October 31, 2025.
- These employees were not previously enrolled in the EPF scheme.
- Both current and new employers under the EPF Act are encouraged to participate.
- Employers are asked to voluntarily declare and enroll eligible employees.
- Only employees who are alive and working at the time of declaration can be enrolled.
- The employee's share of provident fund contributions for the past period will be waived if it was not deducted from wages.
- Employers must pay only their own contribution for that period.
- Employers who join the campaign will pay a one-time penalty of ₹100.
- Employers who register or add employees under EEC 2025 may also benefit from the Pradhan Mantri-Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana.
- The campaign aims to increase social security enrolment across the country.
- This initiative supports ease of doing business by simplifying compliance and lowering penalties.
- 7



## **Maldives: The First Country in the World to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B, and Syphilis**

- The World Health Organization has officially confirmed this achievement.
- Maldives was validated specifically for eliminating transmission of hepatitis B from mothers to their babies.
- According to WHO, around 25,000 HIV-positive pregnant women in the region need treatment to protect their babies.
- Hepatitis B still affects more than 42 million people in the region.
- In the Maldives, more than 95 percent of pregnant women receive antenatal care.
- Almost all pregnant mothers are tested for HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis.
- Health Minister Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim said this reflects the nation's strong commitment to maternal and child health.

**Maldives achieves 'triple elimination' of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis - first country globally**

# India to Participate in the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- India will take part in the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- The event will be held in Kampala, Uganda, on October 15 and 16.
- Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, will lead the Indian delegation.
- Uganda holds the NAM Chairmanship for the 2024 to 2026 period.
- The theme of the conference is Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence.
- India is one of the founding members of NAM. The country continues to support the movement's key values and objectives.
- NAM brings together 121 developing nations on a historically important platform.
- During the visit, Mr. Singh will meet Ugandan leaders. He will also hold talks with ministers from other NAM member countries.



## Google to Invest \$10 Billion in a Data Centre and AI Hub in Andhra Pradesh



- Google announced an investment of \$10 billion for a data centre and AI hub in India.
- A \$10 billion investment plan was announced by Alphabet Inc.'s Google to establish a data centre and AI hub in Andhra Pradesh.
- The project will be developed in Visakhapatnam, marking Google's largest-ever investment in India's technology infrastructure.
- A 1-gigawatt data centre campus will be built by Google in the port city of Visakhapatnam, where AI infrastructure, large-scale energy sources, and an expanded fibre-optic network will be combined.
- This initiative comes amid intensifying competition among global tech firms investing heavily in AI-driven data facilities.

## **Retail inflation was recorded at 1.54% in September, the lowest since 2017**

- India's retail inflation was recorded at 1.54% in September 2025, marking the lowest level in eight years, as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- This rate was down from 2.07% in August, showing a continued moderation in inflationary trends across the economy.
- It was observed that this was the lowest year-on-year inflation rate since June 2017, indicating a strong cooling in prices.
- In rural regions, inflation was reported at 1.07%, while in urban areas, it stood at 2.04%.
- The food inflation rate, based on the All India Consumer Food Price Index, remained negative for the fourth consecutive month.
- Food inflation slipped further into deflation at 2.28%, the lowest since December 2018.
- The food inflation rate for rural areas also declined to 2.17%, while urban areas also witnessed deflation, from 2.47% last month.
- A favourable base effect and a decline in prices of vegetables, oils, fruits, pulses, and cereals were cited as key reasons for the drop.
- The ministry highlighted that the fall in both headline and food inflation reflected improved supply conditions and a stable macroeconomic environment.



## **Divyang Rehabilitation Centres to be Established Across Uttar Pradesh**

- On October 13, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the establishment of Divyang Rehabilitation Centres at every divisional headquarters in Uttar Pradesh.
- The main objective is to enable differently abled persons to become part of the mainstream society.
- The announcement was made during a review meeting of the Department of Persons with Disability, emphasizing inclusive and equitable development.
- These centres will be state-of-the-art facilities offering integrated rehabilitation services under one roof.
- The initiative highlights the government's commitment to holistic empowerment of differently abled citizens, guided by Service, Compassion, and Respect.
- Existing rehabilitation centres will be upgraded into model facilities, and new ones will be established in districts lacking such centres.
- Each centre will provide essential services such as physiotherapy, occupational and speech therapy, psychological counselling, and prosthetic support.
- Currently, 37 districts, including 11 divisional headquarters, already have operational rehabilitation centres serving the community.
- The Chief Minister also directed the implementation of digital registration and online tracking systems to ensure transparency, along with deploying trained professionals like psychologists and physiotherapists.



# “Fare Se Fursat” – Alliance Air’s Fixed-Fare Initiative Launched by Civil Aviation Minister

## Rammohan Naidu

- Civil Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu launched “Fare Se Fursat”, a new initiative by Alliance Air to make air travel more affordable and stress-free.
- The scheme offers fixed-price airfares, ensuring that ticket prices remain constant irrespective of the booking date, even on the day of travel.
- The initiative will be tested from October 13 to December 31, 2025, on selected routes to evaluate passenger response and operational performance.
- It aligns with the objectives of the UDAN scheme to enhance regional air connectivity and promote inclusive air travel.
- The scheme primarily targets middle, lower-middle, and neo-middle class passengers, improving their access to air travel.
- Passengers will be protected from last-minute fare hikes and unpredictable ticket prices, ensuring stability and transparency.
- Alliance Air, India’s government-owned regional carrier, plays a vital role in linking Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities with major aviation hubs.
- The initiative challenges India’s dynamic airline pricing system, which often causes fare spikes close to departure, frustrating travelers.
- “Fare Se Fursat” is expected to attract first-time flyers from smaller towns and rural areas, strengthening India’s regional aviation network.



## TCIL Wins HR Excellence Award at the Fortune Leadership Awards 2025



- Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) received the **HR Excellence Award** at the Fortune Leadership Awards 2025 held in New Delhi on **October 11, 2025**.
- TCIL, a Miniratna Schedule 'A' PSU under the Department of Telecommunications, was recognized for its exemplary HR practices and innovative workforce initiatives.
- The award was presented by Dr. Dinesh Upadhyay (Former Member, Ministry of AYUSH) and Shri M. S. Nethrapal, IRS, and was received by Shri P. Suresh Babu, CGM (HR), TCIL.
- The recognition highlights TCIL's achievements in employee development, innovation, inclusivity, and the creation of a future-ready workforce.
- Between 2021 and 2025, TCIL implemented major HR reforms under Mission Karmayogi, focusing on accountability, transparency, and efficiency.

- Key initiatives included merit-based promotions, E-Office and ERP digitization, and a performance-linked management system to enhance productivity.
- TCIL invested in skill development, enabling 58 officers to earn global certifications in cyber security, networking, and auditing, boosting project performance.
- These HR reforms have strengthened TCIL's organizational capability, contributing significantly to national programmes like Digital India and Smart Cities.
- Established in 1978, TCIL is a global telecom consultancy and engineering firm executing 500+ projects in over 100 countries, playing a vital role in India's digital growth and international telecom cooperation.

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## Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam – The Missile Man and People’s President of India



- Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam was born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.
- He graduated in Science from St. Joseph’s College, Trichy in 1954.
- He specialized in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957.
- He pioneered fibre glass technology in India.
- He was the Project Director for India’s first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3).
- Under his leadership, SLV-3 successfully launched the Rohini Satellite into near-earth orbit in July 1980.
- This made India a member of the exclusive Space Club.
- He became the Chief Executive of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- He was responsible for the development and operationalisation of AGNI and PRITHVI missiles.
- He established the Research Centre Imarat (RCI) for advanced technologies.

- He served as Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Secretary of Defence Research & Development from 1992 to 1999.
- He played a major role in the weaponisation of strategic missile systems.
- He was involved in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998.
- He promoted self-reliance in defence systems and supported projects like the Light Combat Aircraft.
- As Chairman of TIFAC(Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council), he prepared Technology Vision 2020 for developing India into a developed nation.
- He served as Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India from 1999 to 2001.
- He chaired the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet and launched the India Millennium Mission 2020.
- He proposed the World Knowledge Platform for international cooperation in innovation.
- His books were translated into several Indian and foreign languages.
- Dr. Kalam wrote several influential books, including **“Wings of Fire,” “Ignited Minds,” “India 2020,”** and **“The Luminous Sparks,”** in which he shared his thoughts on India's future, leadership, and the power of dreams.
- Some universities that honoured him include Nanyang Technological University, Carnegie Mellon University, and University of Sydney.
- He received the Padma Bhushan in 1981, the Padma Vibhushan in 1990, and the Bharat Ratna in 1997.
- He received the King Charles-II Medal from the Royal Society, UK in 2007.
- He received the Woodrow Wilson Award and the Hoover Medal in 2008.
- He received the International Medal from the Royal Academy of Engineering, London in 2009.

- He received the Von Karman Wings Award from the California Institute of Technology in 2009.
- Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, known as the Missile Man of India, specialized in Aeronautical Engineering.
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam became the 11th President of India on 25th July 2002.
- He served as President till 25th July 2007.
- He was known as the People's President.
- His vision was to make India a developed, prosperous, and peaceful nation by 2020.

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## India's Private Space Milestone – GalaxEye “Drishti” Satellite Launch

- Bengaluru-based company GalaxEye has developed “Drishti”, the world’s first multi-sensor Earth observation satellite.
- The satellite is scheduled to be launched into orbit in 2026.
- It aims to build a constellation of 8 to 10 satellites for advanced Earth observation.
- The technology used is Sync-Fused Astro-SAR, combining Synthetic Aperture Radar and optical sensors.
- It integrates Synthetic Aperture Radar and Multispectral Sensors for detailed imaging.
- The satellite weighs around 160 kilograms.
- It can detect objects as small as 1.5 meters on the Earth’s surface.
- It will be used for weather monitoring, disaster management, defense, agriculture, forestry, and resource mapping.
- ISRO through IN-SPACe encourages private companies like GalaxEye to participate in India’s space programs.
- It operates in a Sun-Synchronous Orbit ensuring consistent lighting for imaging.
- The project supports the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative by boosting indigenous innovation and creating new employment opportunities in India’s space sector.



## **Monu Ratra Appointed as CEO of Capri Global Capital**

- **Monu Ratra**, former CEO of IIFL Home Finance, is set to join **Capri Global Capital** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- At Capri Global, he will oversee overall operations and lead the company's medium-term growth strategy, reporting directly to MD and promoter Rajesh Sharma.
- Capri Global Capital, a retail-focused NBFC with ₹24,753 crore AUM and 0.56 million customers, offers loans in MSME, gold, construction, and housing segments through its subsidiary, Capri Global Housing Finance.

### **Recent Appointments in Banking & Insurance Sector:**

- **Executive Director of RBI** – Sonali Sen Gupta
- **Executive Director of RBI** – Sanjay Kumar
- **MD & CEO of Karnataka Bank** – Raghavendra Srinivas Bhat; (reappointment for 1 month)
- **MD & CEO of Union Bank of India** – Asheesh Pandey; for 3 years
- **MD & CEO of Central Bank of India** – Kalyan Kumar; for 3 years.



## **Sachin Tendulkar Launches 'TEN x YOU' Sportswear Brand to Inspire a Sport-Playing India**

- Sachin Tendulkar launched his new sportswear and athleisure brand “TEN x YOU” under SRT10 Athleisure Pvt. Ltd., co-founded with Karthik Gurumurthy and Karan Arora, aimed initially at cricket players and later for all sports enthusiasts.
- The brand focuses on India-specific designs, considering factors like wider feet, diverse body structures, and climate conditions, offering products tested for comfort, durability, and style across all playing levels.
- TEN x YOU plans to target ₹4–5 crore monthly revenue initially, aiming for ₹30–35 crore within 18 months, with future export plans, and shoe prices ranging from ₹5,000–₹9,000 per pair.



## **Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple in Kanchipuram to Hold Grand Consecration on December 8 After 17 Years**

- The **Arulmigu Ekambaranathar Temple** in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, will **hold its consecration ceremony on December 8, 2025**, after a 17-year gap, as announced by the state's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P.K. Sekar Babu.
- The 1,300-year-old temple, **dedicated to Lord Shiva**, received patronage from the Pallava, Chola, and Vijayanagara dynasties and is renowned for its tall Dravidian-style gateway tower.
- Due to 34 extensive renovation works costing around ₹28 crore, the consecration was delayed beyond the traditional 12-year cycle; restoration was carried out under strict preservation guidelines.
- In Turkey's Denizli region, archaeologists unearthed a 2,700-year-old temple dedicated to the 'Mother Goddess', featuring a monumental structure, ritual cave, and twin stone statues reflecting Phrygian spiritual and artistic traditions.



## Fourth Edition of India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025 to Commence in Perth

- The **fourth edition of India-Australia** joint military **Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025** will begin in Perth, Australia, with a 120-member Indian Army contingent led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles participating from various arms and services.
- The exercise aims to enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability, and allow participating armies to exchange tactics, techniques, and procedures in sub-conventional warfare in urban or semi-urban terrain, focusing on joint company-level operations in open and semi-desert areas.
- AUSTRAHIND 2025 will provide an opportunity to hone operational capabilities, integrate emerging technologies, and operate jointly in a combat environment, thereby strengthening defence cooperation and camaraderie between Indian and Australian Army troops.

### Recent Exercise:

- **Exercise KONKAN-2025** between Indian Navy and Royal Navy – Arabian Sea off the western coast of India.
- **Exercise ZAPAD 2025** between Russia & India – Mulino Training Ground, Nizhniy, Russia.
- 14th edition of Joint Military Exercise **MAITREE-XIV** between India & Thailand – Joint Training Node (JTN), Umroi, Meghalaya.
- 21st edition of **Joint Military Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025** between India and USA – Fort Wainwright.

