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FIFA Best Football Awards 2025

- ✓ The FIFA Best Football Awards 2025 were held in Doha, Qatar, celebrating the finest performances in world football over the past year.
- ✓ FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2025
- ✓ Ousmane Dembele (France / Paris Saint-Germain) was named FIFA Men's Player of the Year 2025, capping a sensational season in which he also won the Ballon d'Or.
- ✓ FIFA Women's Player of the Year 2025
- ✓ Aitana Bonmati (Spain / Barcelona) continued her dominance by winning the FIFA Women's Player of the Year award for the third consecutive time.

Special Awards

- ✓ FIFA Fair Play Award: Dr Andreas Harlass-Neuking (Germany)
- ✓ FIFA Fan Award: Zakho SC supporters



- ✓ Women's Coach of the Year: Sarina Wiegman
- ✓ Marta Award (Best Goal in Women's Football): Lizbeth Ovalle (Mexico / Liga MX Femenil)
- ✓ Men's Coach of the Year: Luis Enrique (PSG)
- ✓ Puskás Award (Best Goal): Santiago Montiel (Argentina)

India, Jordan Sign Petra-Ellora UNESCO Heritage Agreement

- ✓ India and Jordan have signed a twinning agreement between the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Petra and the Ellora Caves, famous for their rock-cut architecture.
- ✓ Petra, also known as the “Rose City” due to its pink sandstone cliffs, was the capital of the Nabataean Kingdom from around the fourth century BCE.

About the Ellora Caves

- ✓ Location - Charandri Hills, Maharashtra, near the Elaganga River
- ✓ Origin - Built mainly by the Rashtrakuta and Yadava dynasties between 600-1000 CE.
- ✓ Architecture - Rock-cut caves carved top-down into basalt rock
- ✓ Religion - Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain monuments stand side by side, reflecting religious tolerance.



About the Petra Caves

- ✓ The caves of Petra are part of an ancient city in Jordan, famous for its incredible rock-cut architecture, especially tombs, temples
- ✓ A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in 2007, Petra was an important trading hub and features iconic structures such as the Treasury (Al-Khazneh) and the Monastery (Al-Deir)

Key highlights and outcomes:

- ✓ Trade and economy: Bilateral trade at billion (2024); India is Jordan's 3rd-largest trading partner; decision to convene the 11th Trade & Economic Joint Committee (2026).

Digital & technology partnership:

- ✓ Letter of Intent to share India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) experience; expansion of the India–Jordan IT Centre of Excellence in Amman.
- ✓ Capacity building: Expansion of ITEC training slots from 35 to 50, strengthening human resource development.
- ✓ Water & green cooperation: MoUs on water resources management (aquifer management, water-saving technologies) and renewable energy (joint research and training).
- ✓ Cultural & people-to-people ties: Cultural Exchange Programme (2025–2029) and Petra– Ellora twinning to boost heritage cooperation and tourism.
- ✓ Multilateral convergence: Jordan's interest in joining Indian-led initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, CDRI and Global Biofuels Alliance.

Joint Exercise 'Ektah' 2025 held between India and Maldives

- ✓ The joint exercise 'Ektah' 2025 between India and Maldives was held in Maldives. Started in 2017, this year marked the 8th edition of Exercise Ektah.
- ✓ Indian Navy, is on an official visit to Maldives from December 15 to 17, 2025, to attend the closing ceremony of Exercise Ektah 2025.

India and Maldives Other exercises

- ✓ The 14th edition of the joint military exercise EKUVERIN-25 between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



Andhra Pradesh Emerges as India's Leading Fruit and Fish Producer with Robust Economic Growth: RBI Report

- ✓ According to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a top performing state across agriculture, fisheries, and socio-economic indicators.
- ✓ During FY 2024-25, the state ranked first in fruit production with over 19 million tonnes.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh also led in fish production, recording nearly 1 million tonnes.
- ✓ The state recorded steady economic growth, with GSDP estimated at nearly Rs. 16 lakh crore at current prices in 2024-25.
- ✓ The per capita GSDP of the state stood at over Rs. 2.5 lakh, reflecting rising income levels.



- ✓ Average life expectancy in Andhra Pradesh was 70 years (on par with the national average), with female life expectancy at 73 years and male life expectancy at 68 years.
- ✓ In terms of power availability, the state ranked 14th nationally, with per capita availability of nearly 1,500 units.
- ✓ Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) placed Andhra Pradesh at 10th position nationally with a score of 74.

India Unveils DHRUV64, Its First Fully Indigenous 64-Bit Microprocessor

- ✓ **India** launched **DHRUV64**, the country's first fully indigenous microprocessor, developed by **C-DAC** under the **Microprocessor Development Programme (MDP)**, marking a major milestone in India's semiconductor journey.
- ✓ The DHRUV64 is a 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core processor capable of supporting strategic and commercial applications, with higher efficiency, enhanced multitasking, and improved reliability.
- ✓ The processor's advanced design allows seamless integration with a wide range of external hardware systems, and its modern fabrication uses technologies similar to high-performance chips.
- ✓ DHRUV64 is suitable for multiple sectors, including 5G infrastructure, automotive systems, consumer electronics, industrial automation, and the Internet of Things (IoT), strengthening India's indigenous processor pipeline.
- ✓ Before DHRUV64, India had already begun expanding its indigenous microprocessor development ecosystem in recent years, including SHAKTI (2018, IIT Madras), AJIT (2018, IIT Bombay), VIKRAM (2025, ISRO–SCL), and THEJAS64 (2025, C-DAC).



Jyotiraditya Scindia Unveils 25-Foot Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Belagavi, Karnataka

- ✓ **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** unveiled a **25-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Athani in Karnataka's Belagavi district**, calling it a historic moment that celebrates India's spirit of courage, self-respect, and national duty.
- ✓ The unveiling symbolizes a resolve to carry forward the ideals of Hindavi Swaraj, inspiring future generations with Shivaji Maharaj's values of fearlessness, strategic brilliance, and visionary leadership.
- ✓ The event highlighted the historical and strategic significance of Belagavi and Athani, linking Shivaji Maharaj's southern campaigns to contemporary India's vision of self-reliance, good governance, and cultural pride under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



India and Liberia Sign MoU on Pharmacopoeia to Enhance Access to Safe and Affordable Medicines

- ✓ **India and Liberia** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on pharmacopoeia**, aimed at promoting shared **quality standards**, regulatory alignment, and improving access to safe and affordable medicines.
- ✓ The MoU was signed by India's Ambassador to Liberia, Manoj Bihari Verma, and Liberia's Health Minister, Louise M. Kpoto, allowing Liberia to adopt the Indian Pharmacopoeia as a reference for medicine quality standards.
- ✓ The agreement is expected to strengthen regulatory collaboration, enhance global health cooperation, and ensure the availability of safe, effective, and affordable medicines in Liberia through standardized pharmacopoeial practices and advanced analytical techniques.



Recently India signed MoUs with others countries

- ✓ Hub71 and UAE-India CEPA Council Sign Pact to Boost Cross-Border Startup Expansion
- ✓ India and Saudi Arabia Sign MoU to Boost Cultural Cooperation and Heritage Exchange
- ✓ India and Ecuador Sign MoU on Diplomatic Training Cooperation

- ✓ India and Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation MoU to Strengthen Strategic Partnership
- ✓ Adani Group and Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) have signed an MoU to jointly develop 5,000 MW of hydropower projects in Bhutan.

Sai Jadhav Makes History at Indian Military Academy

- ✓ At just 23, Sai Jadhav has entered the history books by becoming the first woman officer to graduate from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun.
- ✓ Her commissioning ends a 93-year-old tradition that saw only men pass out from one of India's most prestigious military institutions.
- ✓ IMA was established in 1932 and is located in Dehradun



Kavita Chand Scales Mount Vinson, Becomes First Woman from Uttarakhand to Summit Antarctica's Highest Peak'

- ✓ **Kavita Chand**, a native of Almora, Uttarakhand, successfully **summitted Mount Vinson (4,892 m) in Antarctica**, marking a major milestone in her Seven Summits quest.
- ✓ Considered one of the world's most unforgiving peaks, Mount Vinson tested the climbers with extreme cold, isolation and unpredictable Antarctic weather, requiring meticulous planning and acclimatisation.
- ✓ The expedition was led by renowned guide Mingma David Sherpa, with support from Bharath Thammineni and Boots and Crampon, as a nine-member Indian team successfully reached the summit.



18 December - Minorities Rights Day

- ✓ Minorities Rights Day is observed in India every year on 18 December to recognise and uphold the rights of religious and linguistic minorities.
- ✓ The day highlights the protection, promotion, and awareness of minority rights guaranteed under the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ Theme for 2025: *Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials*.
- ✓ The Ministry of Minority Affairs was established on 29 January 2006, separated from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to focus specifically on minority welfare.
- ✓ The National Commission for Minorities was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 to safeguard minority interests.
- ✓ Initially, five religious communities Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Parsis were notified as minorities.
- ✓ Jains were recognised as a minority community on 27 January 2014, expanding the list of notified minorities in India.



International Migrants Day 2025: 18 December

- ✓ International Migrants Day is annually celebrated on 18 December.
- ✓ This day is celebrated to create awareness regarding the plight of migrants across the world.
- ✓ It is observed to mark the anniversary of adopting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990.
- ✓ UNGA had proclaimed 18 December as International Migration Day on 4 December 2000.
- ✓ This year, theme of International Migrants Day is My Great Story: Cultures and Development.
- ✓ The theme highlights how human mobility drives growth and enriches societies.
- ✓ Established in 1951, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is the lead United Nations agency working in the field of migration and assists millions of migrants every year.



**INTERNATIONAL
MIGRANTS DAY**