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HEADLINES

- ❖ Australia has now restricted YouTube access for children under 16
- ❖ Operation Shiv Shakti: India's Counter-Terror Victory in Poonch
- ❖ “Saksham Niveshak” – a 100-day drive to facilitate dividend claims and KYC updates – launched by the IEPFA
- ❖ UAE to Host 17th Men's Asia Cup 2025 Amid India-Pakistan Neutral Venue Pact
- ❖ Anant Ambani Joins RIL Board as Executive Director: Marking a New Era of Leadership
- ❖ Overview of the 8.8 Magnitude Earthquake Near the Pacific Ring of Fire
- ❖ Setubandha Scholar Scheme – Bridging Gurukul Tradition with IIT Research
- ❖ Kavach 4.0: India's Indigenous Train Protection System Commissioned on Delhi-Mumbai Route
- ❖ SIMBEX-25: Strengthening India-Singapore Naval Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh: First Indian State to Use AI for Road Safety
- ❖ Renowned economist Lord Meghnad Desai passed away at the age of 85

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Australia has now restricted YouTube access for children under 16

- This is part of broader efforts to improve online safety for minors.
- The goal is to reduce young users' exposure to harmful digital content.
- YouTube had previously been excluded from restrictions.
- It was considered valuable for its educational content.
- Authorities changed course after new research emerged.
- A survey showed that 37% of minors encountered harmful material on YouTube.
- The law was originally introduced in November 2024.
- It regulates how teens interact with social media platforms.
- Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat were already covered under the law.
- The updated restrictions will begin on December 10, 2025.
- Tech companies must comply with the new rules.
- Failure to do so may result in fines. Penalties could reach up to 49.5 million Australian dollars.
- This step highlights Australia's strict stance on digital safety for teens.



Operation Shiv Shakti: India's Counter-Terror Victory in Poonch

- The Indian Army launched *Operation Shiv Shakti* in the Poonch sector of Jammu and Kashmir, eliminating two terrorists attempting to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC).
- The operation followed *Operation Mahadev*, which neutralised three terrorists responsible for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians.
- The operation was launched in the Maldivalan sector of Degwar, a terrain vulnerable to infiltration due to its proximity to the LoC and difficult geography.
- Key goals included neutralising infiltrators, protecting local civilians, and ensuring safety during important pilgrimages like the Budha Amarnath Yatra.
- Based on joint intelligence inputs, the Indian Army and J&K Police ambushed and killed two militants, recovering three foreign-made weapons, including Chinese and Turkish pistols.
- The success highlighted close collaboration between the Indian Army's White Knight Corps and the Jammu and Kashmir Police, ensuring rapid threat neutralisation.
- The operation reaffirmed India's strong anti-terror posture and readiness to prevent cross-border infiltration post-Pahalgam attack, amidst rising foreign militant involvement.
- By preventing potential attacks on civilians and religious sites, the operation reinforced India's commitment to peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir despite adverse conditions.



“Saksham Niveshak” – a 100-day drive to facilitate dividend claims and KYC updates – launched by the IEPFA

- The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) has launched a national drive titled “Saksham Niveshak” to help investors reclaim unclaimed dividends.
- The campaign is running from July 28 to November 6, 2025 and aims to promote KYC updates and shareholder awareness.
- Companies have been urged to contact shareholders proactively to facilitate dividend recovery and update nominee details.
- Shareholders are encouraged to act promptly so their unclaimed dividends and shares are not transferred to the IEPFA.
- The initiative includes steps to streamline the resolution of dividend-related cases held by companies for long periods.
- The main objectives of the “Saksham Investor” campaign are as follows:
 - To provide assistance in resolving matters relating to unclaimed dividends lying with companies.
 - To provide assistance in KYC and nomination updates for shareholders.
 - To ensure dividend payment by companies directly to genuine investors.
 - Through this initiative, IEPFA continues its mission to safeguard investor interests and promote financial literacy.
 - Through initiatives like Investor Didi, Investor Panchayat and Investor Camps, IEPFA strives to create a financially aware and empowered investor base across the country.



UAE to Host 17th Men's Asia Cup 2025 Amid India-Pakistan Neutral Venue Pact

- The 17th Men's Asia Cup Cricket Tournament 2025 will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), even though India was originally scheduled to host it.
- The tournament will run from 9 September to 28 September 2025.
- This change in venue comes under an agreement facilitated by the International Cricket Council (ICC), which ensures that India and Pakistan will play at neutral venues till 2027.

About Men's Asia Cup Cricket Cup

- Started : 1984
- Administrator : Asian Cricket Council
- Current champion : India (8th title)
- Most successful : India (8 titles)
- 2025 Edition : 17th
- 2025 Host : United Arab Emirates
- Participants : 8 (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Oman, China, and United Arab Emirates)



Recent News headlines related to Sports

- India's Anahat Singh scripted history by claiming a bronze medal in the women's singles event at World Junior Squash Championships, the country's first in 15 years.
- Venus Williams becomes the oldest woman to win a WTA singles match since Martina Navratilova in 2004
- Harmanpreet Kaur completed 4000 runs in One Day Internationals (ODIs) during her century knock of 102 runs, becoming the third Indian woman to reach this milestone

- Levon Aronian, a chess grandmaster from the United States, won the fourth leg of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour 2025 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, hosted by World Chess Events Limited. Arjun Erigaisi (India) and R.Praggnanandhaa (India) ranked 6th & 7th Respectively
- The Japan Badminton Open 2025, held in Tokyo. China's Shi Yuqi claimed the men's singles title and An Se-young of South Korea secured the women's singles
- India secured three gold, two silver, and one bronze medal at the 66th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2025, held in Sunshine Coast, Australia.
- Star Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched the title with a leap of 7.75m at the Meeting Maia Cidade do Desporto in Maia, Portugal.
- Indian women wrestlers clinched four medals, including two gold, a silver and a bronze at the Polyák Imre & Varga János Memorial 2025 tournament at Budapest in Hungary.
- The hosting rights for the upcoming three ICC World Test Championship (WTC) Finals, which are set for 2027, 2029, and 2031, have been given to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Anant Ambani Joins RIL Board as Executive Director: Marking a New Era of Leadership

- Anant Ambani was appointed as Executive Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) effective from May 1, 2025, following shareholder approval.
- His appointment is part of RIL's broader succession strategy within the Ambani family to ensure leadership continuity in India's largest conglomerate.
- A graduate of Brown University, Anant Ambani had already been contributing to RIL as a non-executive director before this executive role.
- He holds key positions across RIL's subsidiaries—Jio Platforms (since May 2022), Reliance Foundation (since September 2022), and the renewable energy arms since June 2021.
- The board has approved his appointment for a five-year term, symbolizing a long-term leadership commitment.
- His role is expected to emphasize digital services, green and solar energy expansion, and philanthropic initiatives.
- With a market capitalization exceeding ₹18.8 lakh crore, RIL's leadership transitions have significant implications for India's economic and industrial future.
- Anant's elevation is seen as a move to reinforce strategic direction and reassure stakeholders about RIL's future governance and growth trajectory.



Overview of the 8.8 Magnitude Earthquake Near the Pacific Ring of Fire

- An 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck near the Pacific Ring of Fire, causing severe tremors and resulting in aftershocks.
- The earthquake's epicenter was 119 km northeast of Riks Island, near the Kermadec Islands of New Zealand.
- More than 7 magnitude aftershocks were reported; some even reached up to 7.5 magnitude causing significant tremors.
- Tsunami warnings were issued for coastal regions such as Japan, New Zealand, and surrounding islands, with waves recorded over 50 cm in some areas.
- Earthquakes under the ocean floor often lead to tectonic shifts, creating vertical water columns and resulting in giant waves (tsunami).
- A tectonically active belt covering 90% of the world's earthquakes and 75% of volcanoes, stretching across Asia-Pacific.
- Countries along the Ring of Fire include Japan, Philippines, Indonesia, Chile, New Zealand, and the west coast of the Americas.
- **Top 10 Historical Earthquakes Globally:** Includes Chile (1960), Alaska (1964), Indonesia (2004), Japan (2011), Russia (1952), Haiti (2010), and others based on magnitude.
- Primarily due to tectonic plate movements; the focus point underground is the **hypocenter**, while the surface point above it is the **epicenter**.
- Tsunamis are caused not just by earthquakes but also by landslides or meteorite impacts, and their waves can travel at speeds of 800 km/h causing massive destruction.





- The Setubandha Scholar Scheme is India's first national-level initiative to integrate traditional gurukul-trained scholars into the IIT research ecosystem without requiring formal degrees.
- The scheme is backed by the **Ministry of Education** and implemented by the **Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Division** of the **Central Sanskrit University (CSU)**.
- It aims to bridge India's ancient **gurukul system** with **modern scientific and academic research**, fostering knowledge exchange between traditional and contemporary domains.
- Applicants must have undergone **at least 5 years of rigorous study in a recognised gurukul** and shown demonstrable **excellence in Shastras or traditional knowledge**.
- The **maximum age** for applying to the scheme is **32 years**.

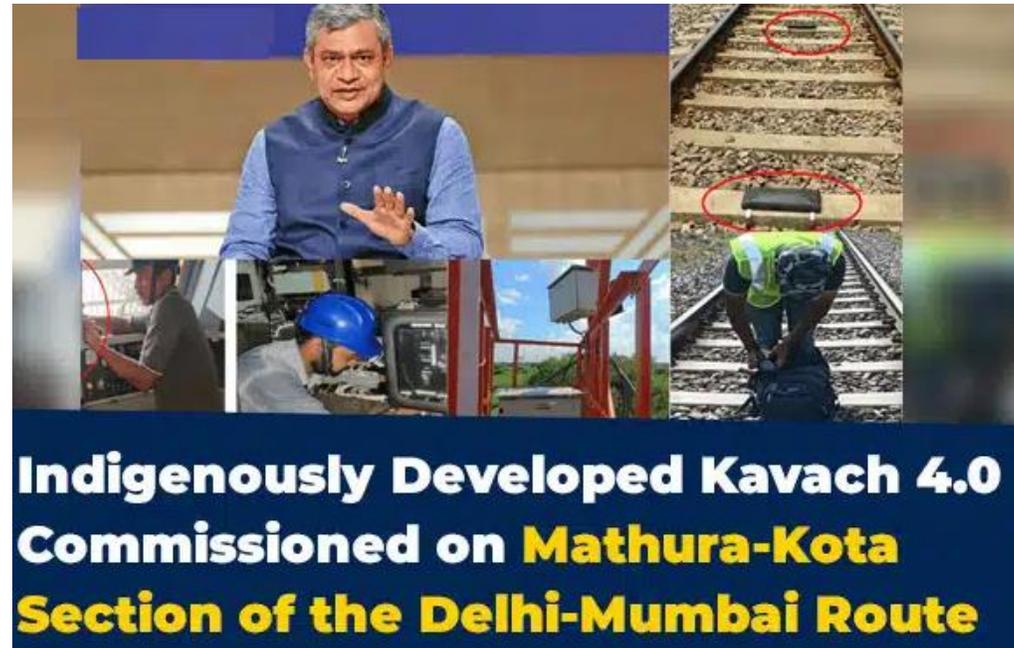
Fellowship Structure:

- **Category 1 (PG level):** ₹40,000/month + ₹1 lakh/year research grant.

- **Category 2 (PhD level):** ₹65,000/month + ₹2 lakh/year research grant.
- The scheme supports **18 interdisciplinary fields** such as **Ayurveda, cognitive science, political theory, grammar, mathematics, physics, health sciences**, and more.
- It provides **formal academic recognition** to traditional scholars and opens **scholarship and research pathways** at **elite institutions like IITs**.
- This marks a **significant shift in India's education policy**, promoting **inclusivity of non-formal classical learning** into mainstream academic research.

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Kavach 4.0: India's Indigenous Train Protection System Commissioned on Delhi-Mumbai Route



- Indian Railways commissioned *Kavach 4.0*, an indigenously developed automatic train protection system, on the busy Mathura-Kota section of the Delhi-Mumbai route in record time.
- Kavach was designed, developed, and manufactured in India under the '*Atmanirbhar Bharat*' initiative, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision.
- Kavach is designed at *Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL 4)*—the highest standard for railway safety systems globally.
- The system enables loco pilots to view signal information *inside the cab*, even during low-visibility conditions such as fog.
- Integrated with the locomotive's braking system, Kavach ensures *automatic brake application* in emergencies to prevent collisions.

- Kavach deployment includes installation of *RFID tags, telecom towers, optical fibre cables*, and control systems across stations and locomotives.
- Its setup is *equivalent to building a telecom network*, with constant communication between Loco Kavach, Station Kavach, and signaling systems.
- Indian Railways plans to *deploy Kavach 4.0 nationwide within 6 years*, significantly faster than the 20–30 years taken by many developed countries.
- *Over 30,000 personnel trained*; IRISSET signed MoUs with 17 engineering institutions; part of Railways' ₹1 lakh crore annual investment in safety.

About kavach

- **Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system** by Indian Railways, designed to prevent collisions through automatic braking and speed control, even in low-visibility conditions like fog.
- **It operates at the highest global safety standard – Safety Integrity Level 4 (SIL-4)** and integrates with signaling, telecom, and braking systems to ensure real-time safety and control across the railway network.
- **Kavach development began in 2015**, with its **first operational deployment in 2018** on South Central Railway; the latest version, **Kavach 4.0**, was approved in **May 2025** for speeds up to **160 km/h**.
- **Kavach is fully indigenously manufactured** and has been **approved by the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO)**, showcasing India's self-reliance in railway safety technology.

SIMBEX-25: Strengthening India-Singapore Naval Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

- The exercise began with the Harbour Phase. This phase includes expert-level exchanges, professional engagements, and operational discussions.
- INS Satpura is joined by Singapore Navy ships RSN Vigilant and RSN Supreme.
- Initial activities focus on sharing naval expertise and aligning operational procedures.
- Participants are also conducting familiarisation tours of each other's ships.
- These efforts reflect the deepening trust and cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- SIMBEX-25 supports India's maritime vision under the 'MAHASAGAR' initiative.
- It also aligns with the Act East Policy, which promotes stronger regional engagement.
- The Sea Phase includes a wide range of advanced naval drills.
- These involve air defence exercises, cross-deck helicopter operations, and precision targeting.
- It also features complex ship maneuvers and Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) operations.
- The goal is to improve interoperability and strengthen joint efforts for maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- SIMBEX highlights the long-standing naval bond between India and Singapore

**Indian Navy
participates in
SIMBEX
exercise in
Singapore**



Uttar Pradesh: First Indian State to Use AI for Road Safety

- Uttar Pradesh becomes the **first state in India** to launch an **AI and Big Data Analytics-based Road Safety Pilot Project**, approved by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- The **UP government allocated ₹10 crore** in the 2025–26 Budget to develop a **data-driven administrative model** for the Transport Department.
- The pilot is executed **free of cost** by **ITI Limited (PSU)** in collaboration with **global tech firm mLogica**; MoRTH holds **no financial liability**.
- The system analyses **accident reports, weather, vehicle/driver data, and road infrastructure** to detect accident causes and **identify black spots**.
- It aims to **trace accident patterns** and **identify high-risk zones** through **real-time data collection and analytics**.
- A comprehensive dashboard will **track vehicle movement, violations, income records, and enforcement data in real time**.
- The system will **flag fraudulent applications, track vehicles, and aid in enforcement and e-challan recovery processes**.
- The project covers **5 crore vehicles and 3 crore driving licence holders**, integrating AI into services like **faceless licensing**, with full adherence to the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, CMV Rules, 1989**, and all relevant **road safety SOPs**.

UP set to become first state to get AI-driven road-safety experiment



Renowned economist Lord Meghnad Desai passed away at the age of 85

- Lord Meghnad Desai, an eminent economist and member of the UK's House of Lords, has passed away on July 29, 2025.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep grief over his demise, calling him a distinguished thinker and a bridge between India and the UK.
- Desai was known for his deep connection with Indian culture and frequent contributions to Indian public discourse.
- His academic journey began in Vadodara and took him to the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his PhD in 1963.
- He authored over 20 books and 200 academic articles, spanning topics from Marxian economics to global capitalism.
- His teaching career at the London School of Economics was marked by scholarly excellence and influence.
- Notable works include Marx's Revenge and Who Wrote the Bhagavad Gita?, in which he critically examined foundational ideas.
- Desai was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2008 for his significant contributions to economics and public service

