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The first-ever Indian Defence Manufacturing Plant inaugurated in Morocco under Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is on a two-day official visit to Morocco from September 22.
- This marks the first-ever visit of an Indian Defence Minister to the North African nation.
- Tata Advanced Systems Maroc's new manufacturing facility at Berrechid inaugurated during the visit.
- The facility will produce the Wheeled Armoured Platform for defence use.
- It is the first Indian defence manufacturing plant in Africa, reflecting India's global expansion under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- A bilateral meeting held between Rajnath Singh and his Moroccan counterpart Abdeltif Loudiyi.
- The Indian community in Rabat interacted with the Defence Minister.
- A Memorandum of Understanding on defence cooperation signed between both countries.
- This MoU will provide an institutional framework to expand and deepen bilateral defence relations, including exchanges, training, and industrial relations.



The 10th All India CAT Conference inaugurated by Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai

- On 20 September, the 10th All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was inaugurated in New Delhi by Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai.
- CAT was described as a forum created to improve efficiency and access to justice for government officials.
- The Chief Justice highlighted that CAT has worked tirelessly over four decades since its establishment.
- The Chief Justice of India stressed the need for greater uniformity in the decisions of the tribunal and transparency in its functioning.
- It was emphasized that all litigants must feel tribunal decisions are well reasoned.
- Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal stated that officials often appeal even correct tribunal orders.
- He added that this tendency of automatic appeals needs to be reconsidered.
- Union Minister Jitendra Singh recalled that CAT was set up to provide ease of justice and reduce backlog in high courts.
- The conference aims to strengthen the judicial and administrative system through deliberations.
- The deliberations are expected to contribute to further enhancing the role of CAT as a cost-effective, accessible, and effective forum for service-related grievances.



India re-elected to UPU's Council of Administration and POC

- India has been re-elected to the Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council of the Universal Postal Union.
- The re-election took place during the 28th UPU Congress in Dubai.
- The Ministry of Communications stated that this reflects international confidence in India Post's reforms.
- Innovative digital initiatives of India Post were recognised by the global community.
- Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said this milestone shows India's growing global leadership.
- He credited External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar's efforts for this achievement.
- India has been a UPU member since 1876 and has supported global postal development.
- The UPU serves as the main forum for cooperation among global postal stakeholders.
- The Council of Administration handles policy, governance, and regulatory issues.
- The Postal Operations Council works on technical and operational modernisation of postal services worldwide.



Brazil became the first investor in the Global Forest Fund

- Brazil will be the first country to invest in the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).
- It is a multilateral funding mechanism that it has proposed to conserve globally threatened forests.
- The investment will be announced by President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at the UN in New York on 23 September.
- The Brazilian government believes the TFFF will be its main target at the UN climate summit, known as COP30, which will be held in November in the Amazonian city of Belém.
- The exact value of Brazil's contribution has not yet been disclosed.
- China had earlier indicated its intention to make an initial contribution to the fund.
- Support for the TFFF has also been shown by nations including the UK, France, Germany, Norway, Singapore, and the UAE.
- Policymakers envision the TFFF as a \$125 billion fund, combining sovereign and private sector contributions, managed like an endowment, paying countries annual stipends based on the survival of their tropical forests.
- To achieve this lofty goal, Brazil needs a first \$25 billion contribution from governments and major philanthropic institutions, followed by another \$100 billion from private investors.



Mohanlal has been chosen for the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2023

- The award will be presented at the 71st National Film Awards ceremony on September 23, 2025.
- Mohanlal is being honored for his significant contributions to Indian cinema.
- In 2009, he was appointed as an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Territorial Army.
- Mohanlal has acted in over 400 films, spanning more than forty years.
- He has won five National Awards and many Kerala State honours.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2019.
- Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema. It was started in 1969. It is the country's highest cinema honour.



28th National Conference on e-Governance 2025 begins in Visakhapatnam

- The 28th National Conference on e-Governance is being held in Visakhapatnam on September 22 and 23, 2025
- It is jointly organised by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG), the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme of the conference is ‘Viksit Bharat: Civil Service and Digital Transformation.’
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh will inaugurate the conference.
- The National e-Governance Awards 2025 will be presented during the conference.
- A total of 19 digital governance projects will be awarded.
- These include 10 Gold Awards, 6 Silver Awards, and 3 Jury Awards.
- Awardees include central and state departments, local bodies, and academic institutions.
- About 70 speakers will participate from government, academia, and industry.
- Topics will cover AI, cybersecurity, service delivery, agri-tech, and grassroots innovations.
- An exhibition will highlight key milestones in India’s e-Governance journey. A Wall of Fame will feature past award winners.
- Delegates from all 28 States and 8 Union Territories are attending.
- The conference is focused on using advanced technology for citizen-centric governance.
- Smt. Sarita Chauhan, Joint Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Govt of India will present the Visakhapatnam Declaration on e-Governance 2025.



MORD Signs 5 MoU's with NIRD & PR and four states to strengthen DAY - NRLM

DEENDAYAL ANTYODAYA YOJANA NATIONAL RURAL LIVELIHOODS MISSION (DAY-NRLM)



- Five MoUs have been signed by Ministry of Rural Development with NIRD&PR, Hyderabad and four State Rural Livelihoods Missions (SRLMs) from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Telangana.
- These MoUs have been signed to strengthen initiatives under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- These states have been identified for their pioneering work in digitization.
- Bihar is also leading in Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW) interventions.
- The MoUs were signed on September 19, 2025, by Shri T.K. Anil Kumar, the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) will focus on building the skills of SRLM staff and community leaders. It will also create a diverse pool of resource experts.

- The initiative will provide technical and strategic support to strengthen community organizations. It will also focus on increasing livelihood opportunities.
- The goal is to foster social inclusion and drive innovation using digital solutions.
- National Resource Organizations (NROs) have been recognized for supporting the development of LokOS.
- LokOS is a digital platform designed for Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- This platform will improve governance, transparency, and financial integration within SHGs and their federations.
- By leveraging technology, LokOS will empower rural communities and foster self-reliance.

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PhonePe gets RBI approval as online payment aggregator

- PhonePe has received final approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to act as an online payment aggregator
- This approval will allow PhonePe to extend its services to more online businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- Yuvraj Singh Shekhawat, PhonePe's chief business officer, said this move would help drive financial inclusion.
- It will also offer accessible payment solutions to businesses that were previously underserved.
- PhonePe has more than 650 million registered users. The company has a merchant network of 45 million outlets.
- PhonePe processes over 360 million transactions every day. Its total annual transaction value exceeds Rs 150 lakh crore.
- In 2023, PhonePe had received in-principle approval from the RBI for the payment aggregator licence.
- The company also provides services like insurance, lending, and wealth management.
- PhonePe has entered the consumer tech space with its ecommerce app, Pincode.
- Other fintech companies like Easebuzz, PayU, BharatPe, and Pine Labs have also received payment aggregator licences from the RBI.
- **PhonePe** is a Walmart-backed fintech headquartered in Bengaluru.
- **Payment Aggregator** is a third-party service provider that makes it possible for customers to send and receive payments online.



Arshdeep Singh became the first Indian bowler to take 100 T20I wickets

- Arshdeep Singh has become the first Indian men's bowler to reach 100 T20I wickets after dismissing Oman's Vinayak Shukla in India's final group match of the 2025 Asia Cup.
- The milestone was achieved in Arshdeep's 64th T20I, making him the 25th bowler to join the 100-plus wicket club.
- Arshdeep's T20I debut was made in July 2022 against England, and he reached 100 wickets in just three years and 74 days.
- The record is noted as the second-fastest for a fast bowler, after Bahrain's Rizwan Butt, who accomplished it in two years and 240 days.
- Arshdeep's bowling average of 18.37 is the best by a seamer from a Full Member nation and ranks third overall behind Rizwan Butt (16.68) and Oman's Bilal Khan (16.95).
- In addition, Vinoo Mankad was the first Indian bowler to reach 100 Test wickets, while Kapil Dev was the first to reach 100 ODI wickets.



Armor Turmeric of Telangana Nizamabad On track for GI Tag Recognition

- Telangana's Nizamabad district's Armor Turmeric is under consideration for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Armor turmeric is known for its high curcumin content, rich aroma, distinct flavor, and bright yellow color.
- This turmeric is widely cultivated in the Armor region of Nizamabad by small and marginal farmers.
- A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is given to products that have a specific origin and unique qualities linked to that location.
- The GI tag provides legal protection to the product, prevents misuse, and ensures better market recognition.
- In India, GI tags are governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- Other turmeric varieties already having GI tags are Erode Manjal (Tamil Nadu), Waigaon (Maharashtra), Sangli (Maharashtra), Lakadong (Meghalaya), and Vasmati (Maharashtra).
- The GI Mission Office India under the Ministry of Commerce helps promote and register GI products.
- With GI recognition, Armor turmeric farmers can get better pricing, branding, and export opportunities, boosting rural economy.



U.S. H-1B Visa Fee Hike and Gold Card Policy: Impact on India and Global Talent Mobility

- The H-1B visa fee will be increased to \$100,000 (around ₹88 lakhs) starting September 21, 2025.
- The main aim of this hike is to reduce the inflow of foreign workers and promote employment for Americans.
- A new scheme called Gold Card is introduced for wealthy foreigners, where paying \$1 million will directly provide a Green Card.
- India will be most affected as 71 percent of all H-1B visas are issued to Indians.
- The hike impacts professionals in IT, engineering, science, medical, and research fields.
- With fewer opportunities abroad, India may face reverse migration of skilled workers, which could affect remittances and domestic job competition.
- The decision has been criticized as protectionist, restricting global talent mobility.
- The objective behind the move is to safeguard American jobs and reduce reliance on foreign professionals.
- This may increase costs for American companies, especially in technology, and encourage outsourcing to other countries.
- In the long run, the policy could discourage skilled migration to the U.S., while countries like Canada, Australia, and the UK may benefit by attracting more Indian talent.

