

# IACE

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## ISRO's LVM3 Rocket Ready for CMS-03 Launch

- ISRO's LVM3 moved to the launch pad ahead of the November 2 mission with the CMS-03 satellite.
- India's heaviest launch vehicle, LVM3, has been rolled out at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre launch pad in Sriharikota, marking the final stage of preparation for its next mission.
- The fully integrated vehicle carrying the CMS-03 communication satellite was moved on October 26, 2025.
- The launch has been scheduled for November 2.
- Named LVM3-M5, this will be the fifth operational flight of India's most powerful rocket.
- The mission aims to place CMS-03, an advanced multi-band communication satellite, into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- Weighing around 4,400 kg, CMS-03 is set to become the heaviest communication satellite ever launched from Indian soil.
- The satellite, developed by ISRO, is designed to enhance communication coverage across India and nearby oceanic areas.
- It will strengthen connectivity and bandwidth for civil, strategic, and maritime users across the country.
- The upcoming launch highlights LVM3's reliability and versatility as India's workhorse heavy-lift launcher.
- The rocket previously made history by successfully launching Chandrayaan-3 to the Moon's south pole in July 2023.



## **The government approved an investment of Rs 5,532 crore for seven projects under the ECMS**

- The Government of India has approved the first batch of seven projects under the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS).
- The projects involve a total investment of ₹5,532 crore and are expected to boost component production worth ₹36,559 crore and create over 5,100 direct jobs.
- The initiative is aimed at making India self-reliant in producing High-Density Interconnect (HDI) PCBs, Multi-Layer PCBs, Camera Modules, Copper Clad Laminates, and Polypropylene Films.
- The ECMS has received 249 applications representing investments of ₹1.15 lakh crore and the potential creation of 1.42 lakh jobs.
- The newly approved units are located across Tamil Nadu (5), Andhra Pradesh (1), and Madhya Pradesh (1).
- The projects will help meet 20% of India's domestic PCB demand and 15% of camera module sub-assembly requirements.
- For the first time, a domestic facility for manufacturing Copper Clad Laminates (CCL) will be established in India.
- These projects will reduce import dependency, build trusted supply chains, and lower product costs.
- The scheme complements India's Semiconductor Mission and Production Linked Incentive program, completing the electronics value chain from materials to innovation.



## **Central support assured by PM Modi as Cyclone Montha approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast**

- The cyclonic storm over the Bay of Bengal is moving northwestwards at a speed of 17 kmph.
- It currently lies about 230 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam and 310 km south-southeast of Kakinada.
- A red alert has been issued for Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, and adjoining South Odisha coasts.
- It is likely to move north-northwestwards and intensify into a severe cyclonic storm on October 28.
- The storm is expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and make landfall near Kakinada with winds up to 110 km/h.
- The IMD has advised fishermen to avoid venturing into the sea till October 29 due to high waves and rough conditions.
- The Odisha government has also taken precautionary measures, shifting over 35,000 people to cyclone shelters and closing educational institutions in eight districts.



## **Murmu Delivers Keynote Address at 8th International Solar Alliance Assembly**

- Murmu delivered the keynote address at the 8th International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly.
- The 8th ISA assembly is being held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, addressed the inaugural session of the ISA Assembly.
- Participants from 124 nations and over 40 ministers are taking part in the four-day global meet.
- It emphasizes global cooperation to boost solar energy adoption for a sustainable future.
- Discussions at the Assembly will focus on reviewing progress and overcoming challenges.
- They will also aim to unite global efforts to ensure universal access to affordable solar power.
- India has already achieved 50 percent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources. The country reached its 2030 goal five years early.
- India is ranked as the world's third-largest solar energy producer. It is also second-fastest-growing renewable energy market globally.
- The International Solar Alliance comprises 124 member and signatory nations.
- These nations work collaboratively to enhance global energy access and promote clean solar technologies.



## **Election Commission Launches Second Phase of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls**

- **Election Commission Launches Second Phase of Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls**
- As per Election Commission, SIR will be held across 12 states and Union Territories.
- The regions included in this phase are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- Around 51 crore registered voters will be covered in the second phase of the SIR.
- Voter lists in all 12 states and Union Territories have been frozen at midnight of 27 October to facilitate the revision process.
- The printing of enumeration forms and training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) has begun.
- Enumeration activities will start on 4th November and continue for one month. These activities will verify and update voter details.
- The draft electoral rolls will be made public on 9th December. The final voter lists will be released on 7th February.
- The Election Commission reported zero appeals in the first phase of the SIR.
- BLOs will distribute specially designed enumeration forms to all existing voters during this phase.
- Voters listed in the 2003 rolls are exempt from submitting any additional identification documents during verification.
- Individuals not on the 2003 voter list but whose parents were included in that list will also be exempted from providing extra documentation.



## **Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 Begins Nationwide from October 27**

- Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 has commenced nationwide from 27 October.
- It aims to encourage integrity in public life. It also seeks to foster a corruption-free society.
- The theme for this year's Vigilance Awareness Week is "Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility."
- Vigilance Awareness Week aims to raise awareness about ethics. It emphasizes accountability in governance.
- It also focuses on transparency in administration. The week began with public servants taking the integrity pledge.
- This included staff from Ministries, Departments, PSUs, Banks, and other organisations.
- Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava and Vigilance Commissioner A. S. Rajeev administered the pledge.
- The pledge ceremony took place at the Central Vigilance Commission headquarters in New Delhi.
- Throughout the week, multiple programs and outreach activities will be conducted.
- These programs will highlight the harmful effects of corruption. They will promote good governance.
- Vigilance Awareness Week is observed in the last week of October.
- It coincides with the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.



## **Sujeet Kalkal Wins Gold at U-23 World Wrestling Championships in Serbia**

- Sujeet Kalkal has secured gold at U-23 World Wrestling Championships.
- This is first-ever world title of Kalkal. He already had one U-20 Asian Championship gold and two U-23 Asian titles.
- Sujeet Kalkal competed in the men's freestyle 65-kilogram category.
- Kalkal won over Uzbekistan's Umidjon Jalolov with a 10-0 win.
- At the same event, Indian women's wrestling team won 5 bronze medals and 2 silver medals.
- At the same event, Indian women's wrestling team also secured the team championship title.
- In the men's Under-23 Senior World Wrestling Championship of 2025, Sujeet's medal is the only medal for India.
- U23 World Wrestling Championships are the Wrestling World Championship for athletes under 23 years old.
- U23 World Wrestling Championship is organized by United World Wrestling, international governing body for Wrestling.
- In 2025, U23 World Wrestling Championship was organised in Novi Sad, Serbia.



## **Nagaland to Host 22nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference Next Month**

- Nagaland will host the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference next month.
- The 22nd Annual Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone-III Conference is set to be hosted by Nagaland next month.
- The event will take place at the Nagaland Legislative Assembly from November 9 to 13, 2025.
- The theme for this year's conference is "Policy, Progress & People: Legislatures as Catalysts of Change."
- The conference will provide a platform for the eight northeastern states to discuss regional challenges and find common solutions.
- It will cover topics ranging from economic development to policy issues and develop a strong, unified voice for the region.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will serve as the Chief Patron, while Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio will act as the Vice Patron.
- Speaker Sharingain Longkumer, who also chairs the CPA India Region Zone-III, has invited presiding officers from all northeastern legislatures.
- The five-day event will include plenary sessions, workshops, expert panels, exhibitions, and cultural programs.
- Legislative innovation, procedural reforms, transparency, and inclusive governance will be key focus areas of the discussions.



## **Saudi Arabia Abolishes 50-Year-Old Kafala System**

- **Saudi Arabia** has officially abolished its **50-year-old Kafala (sponsorship) system**, a major labour reform announced in June 2025, impacting nearly 13 million migrant workers—mainly from South and Southeast Asia.
- The Kafala system, introduced in the 1950s, tied workers' residency and employment to their employers (kafeel), often leading to exploitation, abuse, and restricted job mobility, as workers required employer consent for job changes or travel.
- Under the new contractual employment model, workers can change employers without approval, leave the country without exit visas, and gain legal protections, aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 reform agenda to modernize its economy and labor rights framework.
- The reform is hailed as a historic step in advancing labor rights in the Gulf region, expected to reduce exploitation, improve working conditions, and empower migrant workers with greater freedom, fairness, and dignity.

### **About Saudi Arabia:**

- **Capital-** Riyadh
- **Currency-** Saudi riyal
- **Prime minister-** Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud



## **Manish Gupta Appointed as India's Next Ambassador to Ireland, Strengthening Bilateral Ties**

- **Manish Gupta**, currently serving as India's High Commissioner to Ghana, has been **appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ireland** and is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- India-Ireland relations have deep historical roots, with formal diplomatic ties established in 1947 and India opening its Embassy in Dublin in 1951, a significant Indian community of around 80,000 people resides in Ireland, contributing to healthcare, IT, engineering, and management sectors.

### **About Ireland:**

- Capital – Dublin
- Currency – Euro
- Continent – Europe
- President – Catherine Connolly
- Prime Minister – Micheál Martin



## **SBI Honoured with Global Finance Awards 2025**

- SBI Wins “World’s Best Consumer Bank 2025” and “Best Bank in India 2025” Titles from Global Finance, New York
- State Bank of India (SBI) has been honoured with two prestigious titles — “World’s Best Consumer Bank 2025” and “Best Bank in India 2025” — by Global Finance, New York, at the Global Finance Award Ceremony held during the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings 2025.
- These dual awards reaffirm SBI’s status as a global banking leader, recognised for its innovation, financial inclusion, customer-centric services, and technological advancement across India’s vast geographical landscape.
- SBI Chairman Challa Sreenivasulu Setty highlighted that serving 520 million customers and adding 65,000 new customers daily reflects the bank’s continuous investment in digitalisation and advanced technology to enhance customer experience.

### **Recent Awards:**

- **HR Excellence Award at Fortune Leadership Awards 2025** – Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (for Outstanding People-Centric Reforms and Innovation)
- **IUCN’s Kenton R. Miller Award** – Director of Kaziranga National Park Sonali Ghosh (for Innovation in National Parks)
- **Mrs Universe 2025** – Sherry Singh; 1st Runner-up – Saint Petersburg
- **Hombale Samhita Harinikumar Krishi Media Award 2025** – Mysuru Journalist Amshi Prasannakumar (for his contribution to agricultural reporting)
- **Tourism Wins Global Tourism Award 2025** – Andhra Pradesh (for Visionary Initiatives and Investment Milestones)



## **Kerala to Build First Underwater Tunnel Linking Vypin and Fort Kochi**

- Project Location: The tunnel will connect Vypin and Fort Kochi in Kochi, Kerala.
- This is Kerala's first underwater tunnel and India's second major sub-sea infrastructure (after Kolkata's Hooghly River Metro Tunnel).
- The estimated cost is ₹2,672 crore, and it will be developed by the Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL).
- It will drastically reduce the current road distance from 16 km to just 3 km beneath the Arabian Sea.
- Travel time between Vypin and Fort Kochi is expected to be cut from over 2 hours to just 30 minutes.
- The total length is 2.75 km (1.75 km bored tunnel + 1 km cutand-cover).
- It will feature a Twin-Tube Structure, meaning separate tunnels for each direction of traffic.
- The tunnel will be constructed 35 metres below sea level.
- Key safety features include emergency stops every 250m and escape passages every 500m, along with advanced ventilation and fire safety systems.
- Tunnel Over Bridge: A tunnel was chosen over a bridge because a bridge would require extreme height (for cargo ships) and extensive land acquisition, which the tunnel minimizes.

