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HEADLINES

- ❖ India has been ranked third in the Asia Power Index 2025
- ❖ The three-day DGP/IGP conference inaugurated by Amit Shah in Raipur
- ❖ India ranks second in the world in global tea exports
- ❖ India–U.S. Sign ₹7,995-Crore MH-60R Helicopter Fleet Support Deal
- ❖ President Vladimir Putin to Visit India on December 4–5 for the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit
- ❖ Assam Passes the Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- ❖ 56th International Film Festival of India Concludes in Goa
- ❖ India's GDP grew by 8.2% in the Q2 of FY 2025–26
- ❖ Death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule: 28 November
- ❖ Renowned Bharatanatyam legend Kumari Kamala passed away at the age of 91
- ❖ BHIM Introduces Full Delegation Feature in UPI Circle to Expand User Base

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- ❖ **IDFC FIRST Bank Partners with FPSB India to Strengthen Financial Planning Standards and Professional Up skilling**
- ❖ **Malaysia plans to ban social media for users under the age of 16 from 2026**

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India has been ranked third in the Asia Power Index 2025

- The U.S. and China have been placed in the first and second ranks, respectively.
- The annual Asia Power Index has been released by the Lowy Institute, an Australia-based think tank.
- In 2024, India was ranked among the 'Middle Powers' with a comprehensive score of 38.1, while in this year's report, India scored 40 out of 100.
- It is ahead of Japan and Russia, which are ranked fourth and fifth with scores of 38.8 and 32.1.
- The Index is intended to assess how effectively Asian nations influence their external environment.
- According to its ranking, both India and China have scored better in different metrics and improved their positions, but there is a huge gap between the two nations.
- India's steady rise in power has been underlined, and it is expected to cross the major power threshold in 2025 as defined by the Index.
- The seventh edition of the Asia Power Index evaluates 27 countries and territories across the continent.
- A total of 131 indicators across eight large thematic measures have been used for evaluation.
- These measures include Military Capability, Defence Networks, Economic Capability, Economic Relationships, Diplomatic Influence, Cultural Influence, Resilience, and Future Resources.



The three-day DGP/IGP conference inaugurated by Amit Shah in Raipur

- On 28 November, the 60th All-India Conference of Directors General and Inspectors General of Police (DGP-IGP) has been inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
- Mr. Shah stated that security forces are effectively countering extremism, radicalisation, and narcotics.
- Emphasis was placed on precise intelligence, clarity of objectives, and synergy in action.
- The event has been organised by the Intelligence Bureau.
- Mr. Shah described the conference as a major platform for resolving internal security challenges and shaping policies.
- He highlighted that 586 fortified police stations have been established in the last seven years to eliminate Naxalism.
- The number of Naxal-affected districts has fallen from 126 in 2014 to 11 at present.
- A 360-degree attack on narcotics and organised crime was urged, along with stronger coordination among state police, NCB, and national agencies.



India ranks second in the world in global tea exports

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India is the second largest exporter of tea in the world.
- India produces approximately 255 million tonnes of tea every year.
- He said this while addressing the National Conference on Safe Tea Production in New Delhi on November 28.
- He said that the government has come up with a 1000 crore package and initiatives such as the Chai Sahyog app for the welfare of the labour in the tea industry.
- The Minister noted the government's aim to use the best testing facilities to strengthen the tea sector for Viksit Bharat 2047.
- Sustainable and innovative farming practices were encouraged for upskilling small tea growers.
- Researchers and scientists were urged to tap India's diverse agro-climatic advantages for new varieties and high-value products.



India-U.S. Sign ₹7,995-Crore MH-60R Helicopter Fleet Support Deal

- On 28 November, a ₹7,995-crore agreement has been sealed between India and the United States for the sustainment of the Navy's MH-60R helicopter fleet.
- The deal has been placed under a “follow-on support” package for Indian Navy's fleet of 24 Seahawk helicopters for five years.
- Letters of Offer and Acceptance have been signed under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme.
- The contract was signed after U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a hefty 50% tariff on Indian goods in late August, straining relations between the two countries.
- The support package includes spares, support equipment, training, product support, and replenishment of components.
- Facilities for intermediate-level repairs and periodic maintenance are to be set up within India.
- The MH-60R, built by Lockheed Martin, is an all-weather helicopter capable of multiple missions using advanced avionics and sensors.
- India originally signed the procurement contract for 24 MH-60Rs in February 2020.
- Setting up repair facilities in the country is expected to reduce dependence on the U.S. and support a self-reliant India.
- In 2021, the first three MH-60R helicopters were delivered to India.



INDIA GETS ₹7,995-CRORE US SUSTAINMENT DEAL FOR 24 MH-60R NAVY CHOPPERS

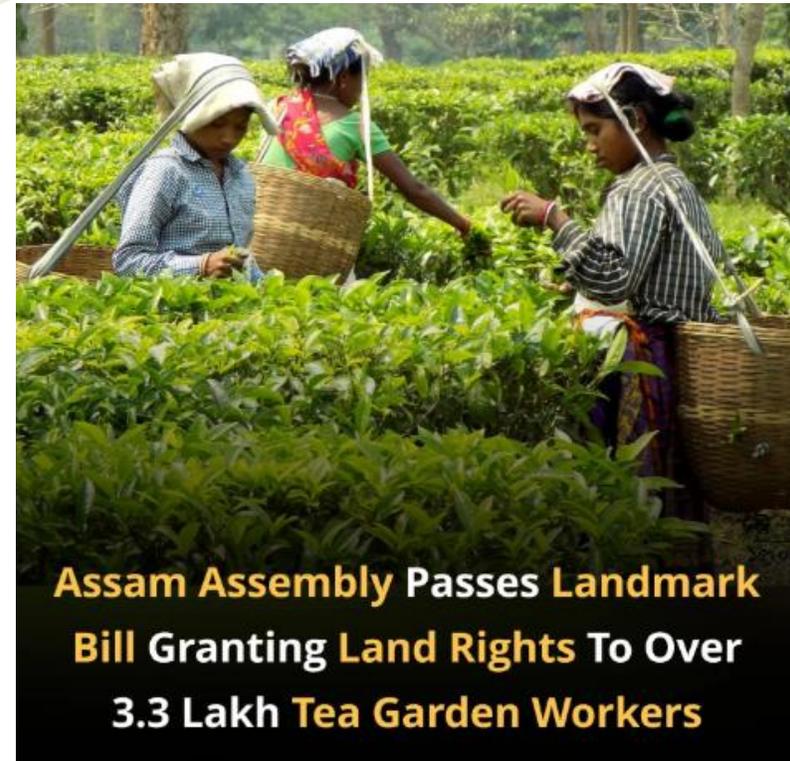
President Vladimir Putin to Visit India on December 4–5 for the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit

- Russian President Vladimir Putin will come to India on 4–5 December for the 23rd India–Russia Annual Summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited President Putin for the visit.
- During the visit, President Putin and PM Modi will carry out a review of the status of India–Russia relations.
- Both leaders are expected to set new priorities for Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership of Russia and India.
- A state banquet will be hosted by President Droupadi Murmu for President Putin.
- This will be first visit of Putin to India since Russia carried to invasion of Ukraine in 2022.
- India aims to makes its ties with Russia stronger without unsettling US and European partners.
- An extra 25% tariff was imposed by US on India over its purchases of Russian oil.
- India is making preparations for a major EU–India summit in January.
- It is expected that the EU summit will deliver results, which include an Free Trade Agreement and a stronger framework for defence and security.
- During the meeting, India seeks to deal with its growing trade deficit with Russia.
- Discussions are likely to be held on proposal of India to buy five more S-400 air defence systems' squadrons.



Assam Passes the Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025

- Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2025 has been passed by Assam Legislative Assembly.
- This bill has been passed to provide land settlement to tea garden workers residing in labour lines.
- With this move, around 3.33 lakh tea garden workers are expected to gain legal land rights.
- These workers have lived in labour lines for decades without formal ownership.
- The Bill excludes Joloha tea garden workers from the Muslim community.
- The amendment removes labour lines from the list of areas linked to special cultivation.
- This change allows the government to prioritise land settlement in favour of the workers who live there.
- The move is intended to provide long-term housing security to the residents.
- It also aims to reduce the risk of eviction and displacement.
- The Bill authorises the government to acquire land located within labour lines.
- All rights and interests in the acquired land will be transferred to the government.
- Assam has 825 registered tea estates. Labour colonies within these estates cover about 2,18,553 bighas of land.



**Assam Assembly Passes Landmark
Bill Granting Land Rights To Over
3.3 Lakh Tea Garden Workers**

56th International Film Festival of India Concludes in Goa



- The 56th International Film Festival of India concluded in Goa with a closing ceremony at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.
- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the festival showcased creative talent and global artistic exchange.
- Dharmendra was honoured for his legendary contribution to Indian cinema.
- Rajnikanth was celebrated for completing fifty years in the film industry.
- The Golden Peacock for Best Feature Film was awarded to Ashleigh Mayfair's film, Skin of Youth.
- The film depicts the struggles of San and Nam in 1990s Saigon as they search for identity and love.
- Santosh Davakhar won the Silver Peacock for Best Director for his film Gondhal.
- Akinola Davies Junior received the Special Jury Award for "My Father's Shadow".
- Ubeimar Rios won the Best Actor (Male) award for the Spanish film A Poet.
- Jara Sofija Ostan won the Best Actor (Female) award for Slovenian film Little Trouble Girls.

- The Silver Peacock for Best Debut Feature Film was shared by "My Daughter's Hair" and "Fränk".
- The ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal was presented to Eirik Svensson's film "Safe House".
- Karan Singh Tyagi won Best Debut Director for an Indian feature film for "Kesari 2".
- The OTT Indian Panorama Award was given to "Bandish Bandit 2".

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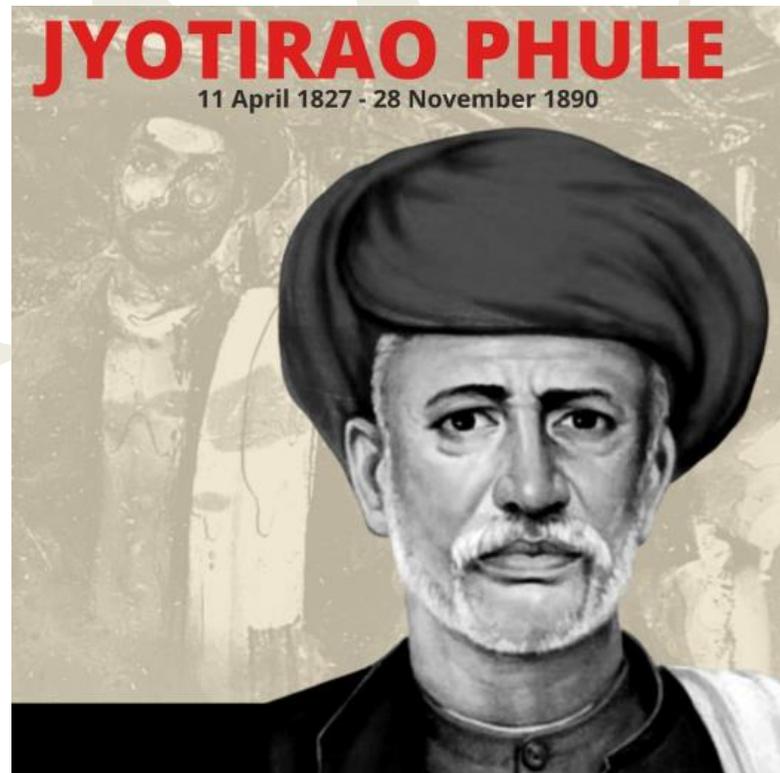
India's GDP grew by 8.2% in the Q2 of FY 2025-26

- This growth was driven by manufacturing, secondary industries, and services.
- The Q2 growth rate was higher than the 7.8 percent recorded in Q1.
- It was also stronger than the 5.6 percent seen in the same quarter last year.
- Nominal GDP increased by 8.7 percent in the second quarter.
- Manufacturing, which accounts for 14 percent of GDP, expanded by 9.1 percent.
- This was a sharp increase from the 2.2 percent growth in the same period last year.
- The 8.2 percent real GDP growth is the fastest in six quarters.
- GDP growth for the first half of the year now averages 8 percent.
- Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran said Q2 performance led to a higher full-year growth estimate.
- He expects the economy to grow at 7 percent or more this year.
- The services sector grew by 9.2 percent in the second quarter.
- Financial, real estate, and professional services expanded by 10.2 percent. This was their fastest growth in nine quarters.
- Public administration, defence, and related services expanded by 9.7 percent.
- Agriculture grew by 3.5 percent in Q2, lower than the 4.1 percent growth seen a year earlier. It was also slightly below the 3.7 percent reported in Q1.



Death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule: 28 November

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid tribute to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his death anniversary.
- Death anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, who passed away on 28 November 1890, is observed on 28 November.
- He was born on 11 April 1827. He was a great social reformer, visionary thinker and educationist.
- He worked for social equality, women empowerment and boosting education.
- Mahatma Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873.
- He opened the first school for girls in 1848 in Pune.
- He worked for the eradication of untouchability and the caste system in India.
- In 1888, social activist Vitthalrao Krishnaji Vandekar honored him with the title of 'Mahatma'.



Renowned Bharatanatyam legend Kumari Kamala passed away at the age of 91

- Renowned Bharatanatyam artist Kamala Lakshminarayanan, fondly known as Baby Kamala and later Kumari Kamala, passed away in California.
- She was one of the last links in those transformative decades when Sadir was reborn as Bharatanatyam and re-established as a classical art form on the public stage.
- Along with her guru, Vazhuvoor Ramaiah Pillai, Kamala defined the elegant, poetic Vazhuvoor bani for over half a century.
- Born in 1934, she built a career spanning classical stage performances and cinema.
- Prestigious honours, including the Padma Bhushan (1970) and the U.S. National Heritage Fellowship, acknowledged her as a defining figure of modern Bharatanatyam.



BHIM Introduces Full Delegation Feature in UPI Circle to Expand User Base

- **BHIM app** launches full delegation feature for UPI Circle, enabling primary users to authorise trusted secondary contacts to make UPI payments up to a monthly limit of ₹15,000.
- Each primary account can delegate payments to up to five secondary users, who need not have a bank account but must be registered on BHIM with a valid Virtual Payment Address (VPA).
- The feature complements UPI Circle's existing partial delegation option, allowing fully delegated payments without requiring approval for every transaction, enhancing convenience for users.



IDFC FIRST Bank Partners with FPSB India to Strengthen Financial Planning Standards and Professional Up skilling

- **IDFC FIRST Bank** has signed an **MoU with FPSB India** as an **Approved Corporate Partner (ACP)** to strengthen professional standards in financial planning and enhance up skilling opportunities for its management and private banking teams.
- The partnership, signed under FPSB India's ACP initiative, aims to promote financial planning excellence, professional certification, and ethical standards across India's financial services industry.

About FPSB India

- FPSB India is the country's premier financial planning body, committed to establishing, maintaining, and promoting high professional standards in financial planning across India.
- It offers the globally respected **CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER (CFP®)** certification, known for its rigorous competency and ethical requirements, and represents over 3,215 CFP professionals in India, connected to a worldwide network of 230,648 CFP professionals.
- FPSB India operates as the Indian subsidiary of FPSB Ltd., the global standards-setting organisation for the financial planning profession and the owner of the international CFP certification program.



Malaysia plans to ban social media for users under the age of 16 from 2026



- Malaysia plans to ban social media for users under the age of 16 from 2026 as part of its new digital regulations
- The minimum age threshold for social media accounts is proposed to be raised from 13 to 16 years.
- This decision falls under an updated regulatory framework focused on “online safety” for youngsters
- A strict age verification process will come into place starting in 2026.
- This rule aims to protect children and teens from becoming victims of cyberbullying, financial scams, and child sexual abuse.
- The move aligns with international concerns, as major platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, Google, and Meta Platforms face lawsuits in the US over mental health concerns among teens.
- Australia: Passed a law banning social media accounts for those under 16, effective December 2025.
- Malaysia: Plans to ban social media access for users under 16 starting January 2026.

- France: A 2023 law mandates parental consent for users under 15 and is discussing a potential full ban for that age group.
- Denmark: Announced plans to ban social media access for children under 15.
- Norway: Developing legislation to raise the minimum age for social media use and data processing to 15. • New
- Zealand: Actively considering legislation to ban social media access for individuals under 16.
- Papua New Guinea: Approved a policy requiring a national digital ID to verify users are 14 or older.
- Brazil: A law requires social media companies to link the accounts of users under 16 with their parents.
- United Kingdom: The Online Safety Act requires robust age checks to protect children from harmful content.
- Spain, Greece, and Italy: Collaborating on testing a common European age-verification system for platforms to restrict underage access.
- Indonesia: Requires platforms to implement stronger age verification procedures and filter harmful content.