

Weekly One Liners 17th to 23rd of November 2025

President Droupadi Murmu's Historic State Visit to Botswana

President **Droupadi Murmu** undertook a three-day official visit to **Botswana** from **11 to 13 November 2025**, marking the **first-ever state visit by an Indian President** to the country. This visit was the final part of her tour of **Angola and Botswana**, and comes ahead of the **60th anniversary of India–Botswana diplomatic relations** in 2026, established in 1966.

Major Highlights of the Visit

Arrival and Delegation

President Murmu arrived at the **Sir Seretse Khama International Airport** in Gaborone on 11 November 2025, where she received a ceremonial welcome. She was accompanied by:

- **V. Somanna**, Minister of State (MoJS & MoR)
- **Parbhubhai Vasava**, MP (Bardoli, Gujarat)
- **D.K. Aruna**, MP (Mahbubnagar, Madhya Pradesh)

Bilateral Meetings

She met **President Duma Gideon Boko** of Botswana and held one-to-one and delegation-level talks. Both sides explored cooperation in:

- Trade and investment
- Renewable energy
- Agriculture
- Health and pharmaceuticals
- Skill development
- Defence
- Digital technology

Key Visits

On 12 November 2025, President Murmu visited:

- **Diamond Training Company Botswana (DTCB)** – a major centre for diamond grading and training
- **National Assembly of Botswana**, the country's law-making body
- **Three Dikgosi Monument**, where she paid tribute to three key tribal leaders—Khama III, Sebele I, and Bathoen I—who played vital roles in Botswana's freedom movement

MoUs Signed During the Visit

1. Pharmacopoeial Cooperation

India and Botswana signed an MoU to harmonise pharmaceutical quality standards, improve regulatory collaboration, and expand access to Indian medicines in Botswana.

2. Supply of ARV Medicines

India agreed to supply **antiretroviral (ARV) drugs** used in the treatment of **HIV/AIDS**, strengthening Botswana's public health system.

3. Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP)

Botswana became the **18th country** to recognise the **Indian Pharmacopoeia** as a reference standard for medicines. This recognition reduces the need for repeat quality testing and promotes smoother pharmaceutical trade.

Countries already recognising IP include: Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Mauritius, Suriname, Nicaragua, Bhutan, Mozambique, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Nauru, Malawi, Guyana, Fiji, Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, and Maldives.

Project Cheetah: Botswana Donates Eight Cheetahs

On 13 November 2025, President Murmu and President Boko visited the **Molokodi Nature Reserve**. They jointly witnessed the transfer of **eight cheetahs**, captured from Botswana's Ghanzi region, into a quarantine facility.

These cheetahs will later be sent to **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, where India has already introduced batches from **Namibia and South Africa**.

Project Cheetah aims to restore the species in India, where cheetahs became extinct in **1952**.

Trade Relations

- India is one of Botswana's major trading partners, with **annual bilateral trade around USD 500 million**, dominated by the **diamond sector**.
- India imports rough diamonds from Botswana, processes them in hubs like **Surat (Gujarat)**, and re-exports finished stones globally.

About Botswana

- **President:** Duma Gideon Boko
- **Capital:** Gaborone
- **Currency:** Botswana Pula (BWP)

India Skills Report 2026 Released: India's Employability Rises to 56.35%

In November 2025, the **Educational Testing Service (ETS)**, along with its partners—the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, **AICTE**, **AIU**, and **Taggd**—released the **13th edition of the India Skills Report (2026)**. The report highlights a steady rise in India's overall employability, which increased to **56.35%** in 2026 from **54.81%** in 2025. This improvement reflects India's shift toward a **skill-first economy**, driven by AI adoption, digital skilling, and growing global workforce mobility.

Key Findings of the Report

1. Women Outperform Men in Employability

For the first time in five years, **women's employability (54%)** surpassed that of **men (51.5%)**. The report attributes this growth to the rise of **hybrid work models**, increased **digital skilling**, and greater opportunities in **Tier-2** and **Tier-3** cities.

Women's participation has notably increased in **BFSI, education, and healthcare** sectors.

2. Expanding Gig Workforce

India's **gig and freelance workforce** is expected to reach **23.5 million** by **2030**.

Project-based hiring has increased by **38%** compared to the previous year.

Despite this rise, **permanent jobs still make up 72%** of total employment, but gig and third-party roles have grown to **16%**.

3. India as a Global Talent Hub

The report positions India as a leading global supplier of skilled professionals.

With global labour shortages projected to reach **85 million by 2030**, India is expected to offer a surplus talent pool of **45 million skilled workers**, strengthening its global relevance.

4. AI and Tech Skills in High Demand

- India now holds **16% of the world's AI talent**, expected to reach **1.25 million** professionals by 2027.
- Over **90% of employees** across sectors use **Generative AI tools**.
- 70% of IT firms** and **50% of BFSI companies** have adopted **AI-based recruitment** systems.
- Computer Science graduates** show the highest employability at **80%**, followed by **IT engineers at 78%**, showing strong demand for skills in AI, automation, and data analytics.

5. Top Hiring Trends

- Hiring intent for **FY 2026–27** stands at **40%**, compared to 29% last year.
- The most in-demand sectors are:
 - Technology
 - BFSI
 - Manufacturing
 - Renewable Energy
 - Healthcare

6. Emerging Skill Hubs

Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, including **Lucknow, Kochi, and Chandigarh**, have emerged as strong employability hubs, helping reduce the urban–rural skill gap.

7. Top Employable States

The states with the highest employability in 2026 are:

- Uttar Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Karnataka

8. Most Employable Age Group

The **22–25 age group** continues to lead with an employability rate of **75.7%**, dominating entry-level recruitment.

About the India Skills Report

This year's theme is **"The Future of Work: Gig Workforce, Freelancing, AI-Supplemented Workforce, Remote Work and Entrepreneurship."**

The report surveyed **over 1 lakh candidates** through the **Global Employability Test (GET)** and gathered insights from **seven key industries**, giving a comprehensive view of India's evolving workforce landscape.

About Educational Testing Service (ETS)

- CEO:** Amit Sevak
- Headquarters:** Princeton, New Jersey, USA
- Founded:** 1947

List of Son of the Soil Awards 2025 Awardees:

Award Category	Recipients
Emerging Achievers Award	Sukrita Baruah
	Sanghamitra Kalita
	Isharani Baruah
	Himjyoti Talukdar
	Dr. Debjani Borah
Lifetime Achievement Awards	Arun Nath
	Ravi Shankar Ravi
	Mainuddin Ahmed
	Lakshmi Baruah
	Simata Das
Social Sector Development Award	Dr. Alaka Sarma
	Akshar Foundation

QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026

The QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026, an annual list by global education analytics firm QS, has ranked Lund University (Sweden) as the world's most sustainable university. This is the first time Lund University has topped the list since its inception in 2023, displacing the University of Toronto, which had held the top position in both 2024 and 2025. This year's rankings assess nearly 2,000 universities across 106 countries, up from around 1,750 in the previous edition, marking a significant expansion of global participation in evaluating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance in higher education.

Top 10 Universities in QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

The top 10 universities for 2026 are as follows,

- Lund University, Sweden
- University of Toronto, Canada

3. University College London (UCL), United Kingdom
4. University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
5. University of British Columbia, Canada
6. London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom
7. Imperial College London, United Kingdom
8. University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney), Australia
9. McGill University, Canada
10. University of Manchester, United Kingdom

This list reflects strong performances by universities in the UK and Canada, with Sweden's Lund University claiming a perfect score of 100.

India's Growing Footprint in Global Sustainability Rankings

India has shown notable progress in the 2026 edition,

- 103 Indian universities featured in the rankings
- 26 institutions debuted in the rankings, the second highest number of new entries after Mainland China
- India ranks fourth in terms of total representation, behind the US (240), China (163), and the UK (109)
- This signals growing attention toward sustainability in Indian higher education institutions, with more universities aligning with ESG goals and sustainable development practices.

About the QS World University Sustainability Rankings

The QS Sustainability Rankings were introduced in 2023 and are designed to measure how well universities are addressing the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges. The rankings are based on,

- Environmental impact (carbon footprint, green practices, climate action)
- Social impact (equality, access, community engagement)
- Governance and ethics (institutional transparency, sustainability targets)
- Universities are scored and ranked according to their ESG performance, providing a snapshot of how institutions contribute to a more sustainable global future.

Why These Rankings Matter

As the world grapples with climate change, inequality, and environmental degradation, universities are increasingly expected to lead by example. The QS Sustainability Rankings,

- Encourage universities to adopt sustainable operations
- Promote climate-conscious research and education
- Highlight socially responsible governance and inclusion
- Offer students a lens to evaluate universities beyond academics

For students, educators, and policymakers, these rankings reflect an institution's commitment to building a greener, more equitable world.

Key Takeaways

- **Ranking name:** QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2026
- **Top rank:** Lund University, Sweden
- **Previous top:** University of Toronto (2024 & 2025)

- **India's representation:** 103 universities
- **Indian debutants:** 26
- **Ranking criteria:** Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) impact
- **QS launched the sustainability rankings in:** 2023
- **Total institutions evaluated:** Nearly 2,000 from 106 locations
- **Top countries by representation:** USA (240), China (163), UK (109), India (103)



National Affairs

- **MeitY** notified the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025**, operationalizing the **DPDP Act 2023**.
- **CBFC** launched a **Multi-lingual Module** on the **e-Cinepramaan portal** to streamline film certification.
- Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated India's first **AI Incubation Centre** at **DPS RK Puram, New Delhi**.
- PM **Narendra Modi** addressed **Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas** and inaugurated projects worth **₹9,700 crore** in **Gujarat**.
- **e-Jagriti** platform under **DoCA** reached **2.75 lakh registered users** for consumer grievance redressal.
- India's **merchandise + services exports** reached **USD 491.8 bn** (Apr–Oct 2025), a **4.84%** rise.
- **MeitY** approved **17 new projects** worth **₹7,172 crore** under the **Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)**.
- **Ambaji Marble** from Gujarat received the **GI Tag**.
- **10 new AMRIT pharmacies** inaugurated on the scheme's **10th anniversary**.

- **Tata Memorial Centre** achieved a global breakthrough showing radiation reduces recurrence in **high-risk bladder cancer**.
- Government launched **National Cyber Shield**, an **AI-driven cyber-security system** integrating 50+ agencies.
- India became the **world's 2nd-largest EV two-wheeler market** with **3.2 million** sales in FY 2024-25.
- India overtook Japan to become the **world's 3rd-largest equity market**, crossing **USD 5 trillion**.
- India signed its **first LPG import deal** with the **US**, securing **2.2 million tonnes/year** from 2026.
- India re-elected to the **Codex Executive Committee (Asia)** for **2024–2027**.
- Government released the **Offshore Wind Energy Policy 2025** targeting **37 GW** by 2030.
- PM launched **TB-Mukt Bharat Mission 2026** using **AI-X-ray**, free medicines & nutrition support.
- India opened its first **Regional AI Innovation Hub** in **Bengaluru** under the **IndiaAI Mission**.
- India released the **EV Battery Recycling Policy 2025** targeting **85% metal recovery** by 2030.
- India became the **world's 3rd-largest solar energy producer** with **88 GW** capacity.
- Government launched the **National Cybersecurity Helpline 1930** for quick fraud reporting.
- India and Japan signed the **Indo-Japan Digital Trade & Innovation Agreement 2025**.
- **CAG** set up a **Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit** in **Hyderabad** with **AI-based auditing**.
- **56th IFFI** showcased UNICEF's **"Five Films, One Universal Story"** (Nov 20–28, 2025).
- **India Post** opened its first **Gen-Z themed post office** at **IIT Delhi**.
- Courts in **New Zealand & Kenya** rejected India's **Basmati GI protection** pleas under **TRIPS**.
- India recorded a **21% drop in TB cases** and **25% drop in TB mortality** (2015–2024).

States in the News

- **Mandale Depot** for **Mumbai Metro Line 2B**, spread across **32 hectares**, was inaugurated as **Asia's largest and first elevated metro depot**.
- **Goa Police** became India's **first state police** to achieve a **100% response rate** in **cyber fraud complaints**, earning national recognition.
- **Ambaji Marble** from **Banaskantha, Gujarat**, received the **GI Tag** under the **High-Quality Natural Stone** category from **GIR–DPIIT**.
- **Karnataka** launched **KEO PC**, a **low-cost, AI-ready computer** priced at **₹18,999**, unveiled at the **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025**.

- **Karnataka** announced India's **first-ever Quantum City (Q-City)** at **Hesaraghatta**, backed by a **₹1,000 crore Quantum Mission**.
- **Nitish Kumar** sworn in as **Bihar Chief Minister** for a **record 10th term** after the **NDA victory** in the 2025 Assembly Elections.
- **Puri Beach** and **Sunapur Beach** in **Odisha** regained the **Blue Flag Certification**, meeting **33 global eco-tourism criteria**.
- Traditional **Lepcha instruments—Tungbuk and Pumtong Pulit**—received the **GI Tag**, promoting **Sikkim's cultural heritage**.
- **Himachal Pradesh** celebrated the **Raulane Festival** in **Kinnaur**, showcasing **masked dances** and **ancient folklore traditions**.
- **Sarbananda Sonowal** conferred the **Sons of the Soil Awards** in **Assam**, honoring five achievers in arts, culture, sports, and public service.
- **Karnataka Planters' Association** elected **M. Salman Baseer** as Chairman and **M. C. Kariappa** as Vice Chairman at its **67th AGM**, focusing on coffee sector sustainability.
- **Supreme Court** directed **Jharkhand** to declare **Saranda Forest** as a **Wildlife Sanctuary**.

International Affairs

- **USA** approved supply of **100 FGM-148 Javelin ATGMs** worth **USD 45.7 mn** and **216 Excalibur M982A1 artillery rounds** worth **USD 47.1 mn** to India, boosting **precision-strike** and **anti-armor** capability.
- **GCC** approved a **Unified Travel System**, a one-stop mobility platform across **six member nations**, with phased rollout from **2026**.
- **Shah Rukh Khan Tower** announced in **Dubai**, named **"Shahrukhz by Danube"**, to be completed by **2029**.
- **UNESCO** declared the **Sundarbans** a **Climate Heritage Site**, recognizing its role as a **natural climate buffer** jointly conserved by **India & Bangladesh**.
- **UIDAI** launched the new **Aadhaar App** with features like **masked Aadhaar**, **biometric lock**, and **5-profile storage**.
- India signed its first structured **India–US LPG Agreement** to import **2.2 million tonnes/year** from **2026**, covering **10% of India's LPG demand**.
- India re-elected to the **Codex Executive Committee (Asia)** for **2024–2027** during the **48th CAC session**.
- Government released the **Offshore Wind Energy Policy 2025** targeting **37 GW** capacity by 2030.
- **RBI** enabled **Digital Rupee (e₹)**–**UPI interoperability** for seamless QR-based payments.
- PM launched **TB-Mukt Bharat Mission 2026** using **AI X-rays**, free treatment & **Nikshay Poshan Yojana** support.

- India opened its first **Regional AI Innovation Hub** in **Bengaluru** under the **IndiaAI Mission** to train **1 lakh AI developers**.
- World Bank** approved **USD 1.2 bn** for **Climate-Resilient Agriculture Program** across **10 states**, benefiting **8 million farmers**.
- India released the **EV Battery Recycling Policy 2025** targeting **85% recovery** of lithium, cobalt & nickel by **2030**.
- India became world's **3rd largest solar power producer** with **88 GW** installed capacity and **22% share** in electricity mix (2025).
- Government launched the **National Cybersecurity Helpline 1930** for UPI fraud, phishing, and identity theft.
- India and Japan signed the **Indo-Japan Digital Trade & Innovation Agreement 2025** to boost digital trade by **40%** in 3 years.
- US** designated **Saudi Arabia** a **Major Non-NATO Ally**, approving **F-35 sales**, **300 tanks**, and cooperation in **civil nuclear, AI & critical minerals**.
- India & Israel** signed **ToR** to begin negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** focusing on **investment & tech transfer**.
- China** developed a **Deep-Sea All-Weather Floating Facility** for **238 personnel**, nuclear-resistant, operational by **2028**.
- Larry Page** overtook **Jeff Bezos** with a net worth of **USD 246 bn**, driven by **Alphabet Q3 earnings** and **Gemini 3 AI** success.
- UAE** contributed **USD 1.46 bn (7.2%)** to **global UN aid**, praised for its **speed & long-term impact**.
- India resumed **tourist visas for Chinese citizens** from **July 2025**, boosting tourism & hospitality sectors.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Intellipaat** partnered with the **IndiaAI Mission (MeitY)** to launch **YUVAi for ALL**, a nationwide programme to boost **AI literacy** across India.
- IOCL, BPCL & HPCL** signed India's **first-ever structured LPG import contract** with the **USA**, securing **2.2 MTPA** LPG supply for **2026**.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)** signed an **MoU** with the **Jharkhand State Pharmacy Council (JSPC)** to strengthen **medicine safety & pharmacovigilance**.
- C-DOT** signed an **MoU** with the **Andhra Pradesh Government** to participate in the **Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV)** initiative, expanding **quantum security** and indigenous telecom R&D.

- Samsung**, with **UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI)**, launched **DigiArivu**, an education programme to boost **digital & STEM learning** for students in **Tamil Nadu**.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Axis Bank** organised the **10th EVOLVE MSME** series in **Kozhikode**, themed "**MSMEs Powering the USD 10 Trillion Economy**", with **100+ entrepreneurs** participating.
- SBI** discontinued the **mCASH** facility on **OnlineSBI & YONO Lite** effective **1 December 2025**.
- India Ratings (Ind-Ra)** projected **7.2% GDP growth** for **Q2 FY26**, driven by private consumption and services.
- RBL Bank** launched **LUMIERE** and **NOVA** premium credit cards targeting **HNWIs**.
- Master Capital Services** received **SEBI in-principle approval** to start a **Mutual Fund business**.
- South Indian Bank** launched **SIB HER Account**, a premium savings account for **women & NRIs**.
- PayU** received **RBI's integrated PA** authorisation for **online, offline & cross-border payments**.
- SBI Research Ecowrap** projected **7.5–8.0% GDP growth** for **Q2 FY26**, above **RBI's 7% estimate**.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **SIDBI** signed an **MoU** to scale credit support for **MSMEs & startups**.
- PayGlocal** secured final **RBI PA** authorisation for **cross-border inward & outward payments**.
- ICRA** lowered India's **Q2 FY26 GDP forecast** to **7%**, citing lower government spending.
- WPI inflation** fell to a **27-month low** of **-1.21%** in **Oct 2025**.
- Elevation Capital (SAIF Partners)** sold **1.86% stake** in **Paytm** for **₹1,556 crore**.
- HDFC Bank** topped **Kantar BrandZ 2025** as India's **most valuable brand (USD 44.99 bn)**, overtaking **TCS**.
- RBI** approved **PayGlocal (PA CB I&O)** and **Infibeam Avenues (PA-P)** to expand India's digital payments ecosystem.
- RBI** offered **moratoriums**, extended **export-credit tenors**, and more time for **export realisation** to ease financial stress.
- Bank credit growth** slowed to **11.3%**, while **deposits rose 9.7%**, indicating **liquidity surplus**.
- Higher deposits and slower credit may trigger **next round of bank mergers**.
- CPI inflation** at **0.25%**, while **WPI inflation** dipped to **-1.21%** in **Oct 2025**.

- **RBI** launched an **AI-powered fraud detection system** analysing **millions of transactions/sec**, targeting **30% fraud reduction**.
- **Global crude oil prices** fell **4% to USD 74/barrel** after **OPEC+** maintained production levels.
- India to host **Global Startup Summit 2026** with **12,000+ entrepreneurs** from **80 countries**.
- India's **demat accounts** crossed **21 crore**, with **30 lakh new accounts** in **Oct 2025** driven by strong IPO activity.
- **HDFC Bank** again confirmed as **India's most valuable brand**; **Zomato** fastest rising brand; **UltraTech** entered top 10.
- **Tesla** to open its **first India Tesla Centre** in **Gurugram** on **26 Nov 2025**, marking its **50th global market**.
- **Dell** appointed **Anurag Arora** as **Senior Director & GM – Consumer Sales India**.
- **UPI-TIPS** integration enabled **real-time, low-cost cross-border payments** with **20 Eurozone nations**.
- India's GDP expected to grow **7% in 2025**, easing to **6.4% in 2026**, driven by consumption and infrastructure.
- India's **forex reserves** hit **USD 692.57 bn**, strengthening rupee stability.
- India launched a **new GDP series (base year 2022–23)** reflecting structural economic changes and digital sector expansion.
- India's **unemployment rate** remained **5.2%** in October 2025.
- **Gold imports** surged to **USD 14.72 bn** due to festive demand.
- **RBI** enabled **Digital Rupee (₹)**–UPI interoperability.
- **World Bank** approved **USD 1.2 bn** for **Climate-Resilient Agriculture** in 10 states.
- **UIDAI** launched a new **Aadhaar app** with **masked Aadhaar, biometric lock**, and multi-profile support.

- **MoPP&P** extended **Mallika Srinivasan's** tenure as **Chairperson, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** for the second consecutive term.
- **UNICEF India** appointed **Keerthy Suresh** as **Celebrity Advocate** to promote **children's rights, mental health, education & gender equality**.
- The Government appointed **Sandhip Pradhan (IRS)** as **Whole-Time Member (WTM)**, **SEBI** for a **3-year term**.
- **Doug McMillon** to retire in **January 2026**; **John Furner** appointed new **Global CEO of Walmart**.
- **RBI** approved **S. Krishnan** as **Part-time Chairman of J&K Bank** (13 Nov 2025–March 2028).
- **Amit Agrawal** appointed **Telecom Secretary**; **Neeraj Mittal** transferred as **Secretary, Petroleum Ministry**.
- **Sunil Paliwal** appointed **Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** to boost cargo and multimodal logistics.

Defence News

- The **8th Ajeya Warrior** bilateral exercise between the **Indian Army & British Army** began at **Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan**, focusing on **counter-terrorism operations** under **UN Chapter VII** (Nov 2025).
- **DRDO** and **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)** signed an **MoU** to develop **smart defence technology solutions** for national security.
- **Indian Air Force** joined **Garuda-2025** in **France** with **Su-30MKI**, strengthening **interoperability and air combat training**.
- **DRDO** unveiled **man-portable AUVs** equipped with **Side Scan Sonar, underwater cameras, and AI-based mine detection** for naval operations.
- India and France conducted **Garuda-25 Air Exercise** at **Mont-de-Marsan Air Base** (Nov 16–27, 2025) involving **Su-30MKI & Rafale**, deepening defence ties.
- **DRDO's Laser-Based Anti-Drone Systems (Mark-2)** inducted into **Indian Army & IAF**; **10-kW laser** capable of neutralizing drones at **2 km** with **AI-based tracking & radar integration**.
- **Indian Navy** unveiled the **INS Mahe crest**, featuring Kerala's traditional **Urumi sword** and the motto "**Silent Hunters**", symbolizing enhanced **anti-submarine warfare** capability.
- **Indian Army** secured **IPR protection** for its new **Digital Combat Coat**, a **three-layer system** designed by **NIFT Delhi & Army Design Bureau**, improving **mobility, warmth & camouflage**.



Awards and Recognitions

- The “On the Edge?” Climate Change Gallery at Science City Kolkata (NCSM) received the CIMUSET Award at the 27th ICOM General Conference, Dubai, recognising India’s innovation in science museums.
- Tom Cruise received the Academy Honorary Award (Honorary Oscar) at the 16th Governors Awards, presented by director Alejandro González Iñárritu.
- Former Chile President Michelle Bachelet received the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament & Development, presented by Sonia Gandhi.
- Tennis legend Roger Federer was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHF) Class of 2026, securing over 75% votes.
- Keerthy Suresh appointed UNICEF India Celebrity Advocate, focusing on child rights, emotional health & safe environments.
- Oscar Piastrì won Australia’s Don Award 2025 for inspiring the nation through major Formula 1 victories.
- Veteran art director Thota Tharani received France’s Chevalier Award for his outstanding contribution to arts & literature.
- Leonardo DiCaprio to receive the Desert Palm Achievement Award (Actor) at the 2026 Palm Springs Film Festival for his performance in “One Battle After Another”.
- Sarbananda Sonowal conferred the Son of the Soil Awards 2025 in Tezpur, Assam.

Summits and Conferences News

- Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, held from 14–15 November 2025 under the theme “Technology, Trust & Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order.”
- India’s Ambassador to Brazil, Dinesh Bhatia, inaugurated the 3rd International Ayurveda Conference in Sao Paulo, marking 40 years of Ayurveda practice in Brazil, the first South American nation to recognize Ayurveda.
- The Government of Andhra Pradesh secured ₹13.25 lakh crore investments through 613 MoUs at the CII Partnership Summit 2025, generating 16.31 lakh jobs across green energy, IT, infrastructure & tourism sectors.
- The CII Summit 2025 saw participation from 2,500 delegates across 77 countries, with Andhra Pradesh targeting USD 0.5 trillion investments.
- The 6th International Agronomy Congress (IAC-2025) held from 24–26 November 2025 focused on climate-

smart agriculture, AI in farming, precision agriculture, and natural farming innovations.

- Earth Summit 2025-26 inaugurated in Hyderabad on rural innovation.

Ranks and Reports

- The 16th Finance Commission (FC) submitted its report on tax devolution for 2026–27 to 2030–31 to President Droupadi Murmu, with copies also presented to the Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister; report will be made public after being tabled in Parliament under Article 281.
- MoSPI held the 75th Anniversary Culmination Ceremony of the National Sample Survey (NSS) in Udaipur, releasing the National Industrial Classification (NIC) 2025, a coffee table book, a Stories journal, and launching the Data Innovation Lab Portal and NSO Anthem.
- Dr. V.K. Paul (NITI Aayog) released the report “Water Budgeting in Aspirational Blocks” in New Delhi, supporting improved water management practices.
- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with CFA Institute India to promote financial literacy, ethical governance, and decision-making in India’s innovation ecosystem.
- Singapore ranked 1st globally in passport mobility, while India slipped to 85th, offering 57 visa-free destinations, highlighting the global mobility gap.

Sports News

- The 24th Asian Archery Championship 2025 was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 8–14 November 2025, the 3rd time Bangladesh hosted the event.
- India topped the overall standings with 6 Gold, 3 Silver, 1 Bronze (10 medals), ahead of South Korea, which won only 2 Gold despite also winning 10 medals.
- B. Dhiraj and Ankita Bhakat became the first-ever Indian male and female archers to win individual recurve gold medals at the Asian Archery Championships.
- Sarayu Velpula (19) from Warangal, Telangana became India’s 26th Woman Grandmaster (WGM) after earning her final norm at the First League of Central Serbia 2025.
- Ravindra Jadeja entered the elite all-rounder club, completing 4000 Test runs & 300 wickets in his 88th Test vs South Africa, joining Kapil Dev, Ian Botham & Daniel Vettori.

- **Curaçao** became the **smallest nation ever** to qualify for the **FIFA World Cup 2026**; **Haiti** qualified for the **first time since 1974**; **Cape Verde** and **Panama** also secured qualification.
- **India won 9 gold medals** in international boxing, with **Indian women winning 7 golds**, marking India's **best-ever performance** in global boxing events.
- **Roger Federer** inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame, Class of 2026**, recognised for **20 Grand Slams** and **310 weeks as World No.1**.

Schemes and Committees News

- **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** inaugurated the **10th Anniversary of AMRIT Pharmacies** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, and launched **10 new AMRIT outlets** across India.
- **MeitY** launched '**YUVA AI for ALL**', a first-of-its-kind **free AI course** under the **IndiaAI Mission**, aiming to train **1 crore Indians** in **foundational AI skills** and promote **ethical AI adoption**.
- **Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** launched the **Trade Intelligence & Analytics (TIA) Portal** to provide **transparent, accessible trade data** for **MSMEs, startups, and small exporters**.
- **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** announced two major indigenous innovations—
 - **ColoNoX**, India's **first Nitric-Oxide Wound Dressing**
 - **Ferrocyanatite (BARC B1401)**, India's **first Certified Reference Material (CRM) for Rare Earth Elements (REE)**
 Both strengthen **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and India's **critical-mineral capabilities**.
- **India** was **unanimously re-elected** to the **Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC) for Asia** during **CAC48 (FAO Rome, 2025)**, extending its term till **CAC50 (2027)**; delegation was led by **Rajit Punhani (CEO, FSSAI)**.
- **INTACH**, under the **Ministry of Culture**, launched **Project Gaja-Lok** to document the **cultural, historical & ecological significance** of **Asian elephants** and their relationship with human societies across India.

Science and Technology News

- **Godrej Enterprises Group (GEG)** delivered the **first human-rated L110 Vikas Engine** to **ISRO-LPSC Bengaluru**, a key propulsion system for the **HLVM3 rocket** that will launch **Gaganyaan astronauts by 2027**.
- **DRDO-NSTL** developed next-generation **Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs)** for **Mine Countermeasure (MCM)** operations.

- **MoS Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched India's **first indigenous high-precision compact diode laser** at **ESTIC 2025**, enabling **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)** for secure financial & banking communication.
- **ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan** announced the launch of **Oceansat** aboard the **first commercially built PSLV – PSLV-N1** in **2026**, revealed at **IMS 2025, Bengaluru**.
- **NASA & European partners** successfully launched **Copernicus Sentinel-6B** aboard a **SpaceX Falcon-9** from **Vandenberg Space Force Base, USA**, for global **sea-level and climate monitoring**.
- **India filed 64,000+ patents** in 2025, with **55% from resident inventors**, ranking India **6th globally** in patent filings—strong evidence of rising **innovation capacity**.
- India announced plans for the **world's deepest underwater lab (6,000 m)** by **2047** to advance **deep-sea research, biotechnology & geology**.
- The **56th IFFI 2025** opened in **Goa (Nov 20–28)**, showcasing **240+ films from 81 countries**, with new awards for **emerging directors**; South Asia's only **FIAPF-accredited festival**.
- **Apple** launched the **MacBook Pro (2025)** made of **100% recycled titanium**, powered by **M4 Pro / M4 Max chips**, delivering **15% better battery efficiency**, advancing Apple's **2030 carbon-neutrality goal**.
- **NASA** confirmed **water-ice deposits** in unexplored lunar craters (1–3 m depth) using **LRO + ShadowCam**, strengthening long-term **Artemis program** human-habitation plans.
- **ISRO** tested its first **hypersonic glide vehicle** achieving **Mach 7+** using **scramjet propulsion**, advancing India's **spaceplane & strategic defence capabilities** with more tests in **2026**.
- **Google-DeepMind** launched **Gemini 3 (Nov 18, 2025)** with a **1 million-token context window**, **Deep Think Mode**, and record scores such as **1501 Elo, 93.8% GPQA, 72.1% SimpleQA**.
- **ISRO RLV-LEX 4** succeeded with a fully **autonomous high-precision landing** at **Chitradurga Airfield, Karnataka**, advancing India's **Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)** program.
- India's **first fully private PSLV-XL** built by **HAL & L&T** is ready for the **Oceansat launch in early 2026**, under a **2022 NSIL contract**—a major milestone in India's **NewSpace private manufacturing ecosystem**.
- **ISRO** announced a **2035 expansion roadmap**, including a **space station**, **new lunar missions**, and **Gaganyaan milestones**.

Important Days News

- **World Usability Day (WUD)**, also called **Make Things Easier Day**, is observed on the **second Thursday of**

November; 2025 Theme: "Emerging Technologies and Human Experience", focusing on AI, AR & immersive interfaces.

- The **UN International Day for Prevention & Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime** is observed on **15 November; 2025 Theme: "Follow the Money. Stop Organized Crime."**
- **National Press Day (NPD)** is observed in India on **16 November**, marking the establishment of the **Press Council of India** to uphold **press freedom & journalistic ethics**.
- India celebrated **Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary**, honouring tribal heritage through **festivals, museums & digital initiatives** nationwide.
- The **UN International Day for Tolerance** is observed on **16 November** to promote **understanding, respect & cultural harmony**.
- **National Epilepsy Day** is observed on **17 November** in India to raise awareness on **epilepsy diagnosis, treatment & stigma reduction**.
- The **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR)** is observed on the **third Sunday of November; 2025 Theme: "Remember. Support. Act."**
- The **first-ever World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day (WCCED)** was observed on **17 November 2025; Theme: "Act Now: Eliminate Cervical Cancer."**
- **International Students' Day** is observed on **17 November**, marking the **1939 Nazi crackdown on Czech students** and celebrating **student rights & global diversity; 2025 marks the 85th observance**.
- **National Naturopathy Day** is observed on **18 November** in India; **2025 marks the 8th edition**, promoting **holistic wellness through natural therapies**.
- **World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW)** is observed from **18–24 November** to promote **One Health action** against antimicrobial resistance; **Theme: "Act Now: Protect Our Present, Secure Our Future."**
- The **World Day for Prevention & Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Violence** is observed on **18 November**, reinforcing global child protection efforts.
- **Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED)** is observed globally on **19 November; 2025 marks 12 years**, highlighting **women-led businesses & economic empowerment**.
- **WHO** observed the **first World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day**, highlighting **3.5 lakh annual deaths** globally and urging **HPV vaccination**, which prevents **up to 90% of cases**.
- **World Toilet Day (UN-Water)** was observed with the **2025 Theme: "We'll Always Need the Toilet"**, emphasizing **climate-resilient sanitation** for the **3.5 billion people** lacking safe toilets.

- **World Children's Day** was observed globally with themes **"My Day, My Rights"** and **"For Every Child, Every Right"**, marking the adoption of the **1959 Declaration on the Rights of the Child** and **1989 UNCRC**, with UNICEF leading global campaigns including **Go Blue**.

Obituaries News

- **Thota Tharani**, renowned Indian **Art Director** and **Padma Shri Awardee**, was conferred the **Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** (Knight of the Order of Arts & Letters), one of **France's highest civilian honours in arts & culture**.
- **Kamini Kaushal**, legendary Bollywood actress known for films like **Neecha Nagar**, passed away at **98** in **Mumbai**; she was born on **24 February 1927** in **Lahore (now in Pakistan)**.
- **Arunachalam Vellayan**, **Chairman Emeritus of Coromandel International** and former head of the **Murugappa Group**, passed away at **72** in **Chennai**; born on **9 January 1953**

Miscellaneous News

- **Cambridge Dictionary** has announced **'parasocial'** as its **Word of the Year 2025**, highlighting the growing global trend of one-sided emotional connections people form with celebrities, influencers, fictional characters, and Artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots.



Static Takeaways

Topic / Entity	Key Details
Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)	Director: Dr. Abraham Varughese • HQ: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh • Established: 1969
User Experience Professionals Association (UXPA)	Established: 1991 (as UPA) • Renamed: 2012 • President & Director of Chapters: Christina Manikus • HQ: Houston, Texas (USA)
World Archery Asia (WAA)	HQ: Seoul, South Korea • Founded: 1978
Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)	Union Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw • MoS: Jitin Prasada
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	President: Rajiv Memami • HQ: New Delhi • Established: 1895
Botswana	President: Duma Gideon Boko • Capital: Gaborone • Currency: Botswana Pula (BWP)
United States of America (USA)	President: Donald Trump • Capital: Washington DC • Currency: USD
France	President: Emmanuel Macron • PM: Sébastien Lecornu • Capital: Paris • Currency: Euro (EUR)
Care Luit	Founder & Managing Trustee: Kishor Jayanta Madhab • HQ: Guwahati, Assam • Established: 2007
Ministry of Culture	Union Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat • MoS: Rao Inderjit Singh
Press Council of India (PCI)	Chairman: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai • HQ: New Delhi • Established: 1966
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	President: Annalena Baerbock • HQ: New York (USA) • Established: 1945
Gujarat	CM: Bhupendrabhai Patel • Governor: Acharya Devvrat • Capital: Gandhinagar • NPs: Gir NP, Marine NP
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW)	Union Minister: JP Nadda • MoS: Prataprao Jadhav, Anupriya Patel
Educational Testing Service (ETS)	CEO: Amit Sevak • HQ: Princeton, New Jersey (USA) • Founded: 1947
Geographical Indication Registry (GIR)	HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu • Established: 2003
United Kingdom (UK)	Capital: London • PM: Keir Starmer • Currency: GBP
RBL Bank	MD & CEO: R. Subramaniakumar • HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra • Tagline: "Apno ka Bank" • Established: 1943
Epilepsy Foundation of India (EFI)	Founder: Dr. Nirmal Surya • HQ: Mumbai • Established: 2009
Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	Secretary: Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty • HQ: Mumbai • Established: 1954
Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)	Chairperson: Allan Azegele • Members: 189 • Established: 1963
Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)	Union Minister: C.R. Patil • MoS: Veeranna Somanna, Raj Bhushan Choudhary
World Health Organization (WHO)	DG: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus • HQ: Geneva, Switzerland •

	Established: 1948
Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI)	MoS (IC): Rao Inderjit Singh
Andhra Pradesh (AP)	CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu • Governor: Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer • Capital: Amaravati • WLS: Kolleru, Coringa
Chile	President: Gabriel Boric • Capital: Santiago • Currency: CLP
Bihar	Capital: Patna • CM: Nitish Kumar • Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan • NP: Valmiki NP
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	Chairman: Dr. V. Narayanan • HQ: Bengaluru, Karnataka • Established: 1969
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)	DG: Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran • HQ: Paris, France • Established: 1924
Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organisation (WEDO)	CEO: Wendy Diamond • HQ: New York (USA) • Established: 2013
NITI Aayog	CEO: B.V.R. Subrahmanyam • HQ: New Delhi • Established: 2015
Kantar Group	CEO: Chris Jansen • HQ: London (UK) • Established: 1992
NASA	Acting Administrator: Sean Duffy • HQ: Washington DC (USA) • Established: 1958

