

Weekly One Liners 08th to 14th of December 2025

Russian President Vladimir Putin's Visit to India

Russian President **Vladimir Putin** undertook a **two-day official visit to India from 4 to 5 December 2025** at the invitation of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** to attend the **23rd India–Russia Annual Summit**. The visit was historically significant as it marked the **25th anniversary of the India–Russia Strategic Partnership**, established in **2000**.

Key Highlights of the Visit

Arrival in New Delhi

On **4 December 2025**, President Vladimir Putin arrived at **Palam Airport, New Delhi**, where he was personally received by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, underlining the warmth of bilateral relations.

Diplomatic Engagements

- PM Narendra Modi hosted a **private dinner at Hyderabad House**, where he presented President Putin with a **Russian-language edition of the Bhagavad Gita** as a symbolic gesture of goodwill.
- On **5 December 2025**, President of India **Droupadi Murmu** formally welcomed President Putin at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** and hosted a **state banquet** in his honour.

Tribute at Rajghat

President Putin paid **floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat**, accompanied by **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, Union Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

23rd India–Russia Annual Summit

The **23rd India–Russia Annual Summit** was held at **Hyderabad House, New Delhi**, co-chaired by **PM Narendra Modi** and **President Vladimir Putin**. A **Joint Statement** was released outlining major agreements and strategic priorities.

Major Outcomes of the Joint Statement

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Adoption of **Programme 2030 for Strategic Economic Cooperation**.
- Target set to achieve **USD 100 billion bilateral trade by 2030**.
- Emphasis on removing trade barriers, improving logistics, payment mechanisms, and connectivity.
- Agreement to promote **settlements in national currencies** and explore **digital payment systems**.
- India–Russia trade reached USD 68.7 billion in FY 2024–25**, driven largely by energy imports.

Energy Partnership

Both countries agreed to expand cooperation in:

- Oil and petrochemicals**
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and LPG**
- Coal gasification**
- Nuclear energy and infrastructure projects**

Transport and Connectivity

Focus on strengthening key corridors such as:

- International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**
- Chennai–Vladivostok Maritime Route**
- Northern Sea Route (NSR)**

Far East and Arctic Cooperation

- Trade and investment collaboration in **Russia's Far East and Arctic regions (2024–2029)**.
- Sectors include **energy, mining, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, and maritime transport**.
- India participated in the **6th International Arctic Forum in Murmansk** and reaffirmed its role as an **Observer in the Arctic Council**.

Civil Nuclear and Space Cooperation

- Expansion of nuclear cooperation at **Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (Tamil Nadu)**.
- Discussions on a **second nuclear site, VVER reactors, and joint manufacturing**.
- Space collaboration in **human spaceflight, satellite navigation, planetary exploration, and rocket engine development**.

Defence and Military Cooperation

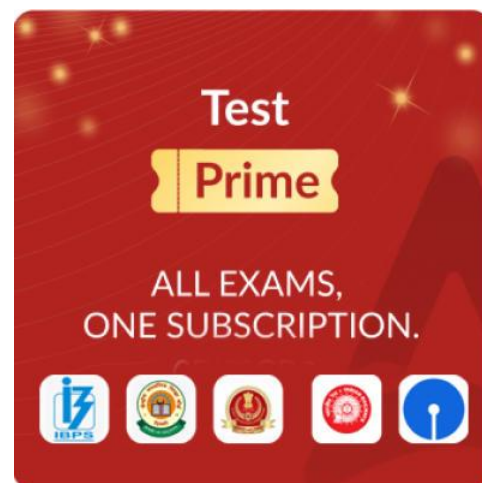
- Emphasis on **joint R&D, co-development, and co-production** of advanced defence technologies.
- Continuation of **joint military exercises** and regular defence exchanges.

Science, Technology & Innovation

- Cooperation in **critical and digital technologies, start-ups, SMEs, and academic research**.
- Focus on **critical minerals, rare earth elements, and innovation-led growth**.

Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges

- Organization of **cultural festivals, film collaborations, book fairs, and art events**.
- Promotion of tourism through **e-visa facilities and simplified visa processes**.
- Enhanced cooperation in **education, student welfare, and institutional partnerships**.



Multilateral and Global Cooperation

- Strengthening coordination in **UN, G20, BRICS, and SCO**.
- Commitment to **multilateralism, global governance reforms**, and international security.

Counter-Terrorism

- Joint commitment to combat **terrorism, extremism, transnational crime, money laundering, and terror financing**.

Key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) Signed

Migration and Mobility

Agreement to facilitate **temporary labour mobility** and combat **illegal migration**.

Health and Food Safety

- Cooperation between **MoHFW (India)** and **Ministry of Health (Russia)**.
- Food safety MoU between **FSSAI (India)** and Russia's consumer protection authority.

Maritime & Polar Cooperation

MoU between **MoPSW (India)** and the **Maritime Board of Russia** for training specialists operating ships in **polar waters**.

Fertilizers Sector

- MoU between **JSC UralChem** and Indian PSUs **RCF, NFL, and IPL**.
- Establishment of a **1.8–2.0 million tonne urea plant** with an investment of **USD 1.2 billion**.

Customs, Postal & Academic Cooperation

- Customs cooperation between **CBIC (India)** and **Russian Federal Customs Service**.
- **International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS)** agreement between **India Post** and **Russian Post**.
- Academic MoUs involving **DIAT Pune, University of Mumbai**, and **Russian universities**.

Media Collaboration

MoUs signed by **Prasar Bharati** with major Russian media groups to enhance broadcasting cooperation.

22nd IRIGC-M&MTC Meeting

- Co-chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** and **Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov** at **Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**.
- Signing of the **22nd IRIGC-M&MTC Protocol**.
- Invitation extended to India for the **23rd session in Russia (2026)**.

Other Major Announcements

- **Free 30-day e-Tourist Visa** for Russian citizens announced by India.
- **Russia formally joined the International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA)**.
- Launch of **Space Mirror Lab** by **Delhi University** and **HSE University, Russia** to promote joint space research.
- President Putin invited **PM Narendra Modi** to Russia for the **24th India–Russia Annual Summit (2026)**.

About Russia (Static Facts)

- **President:** Vladimir Putin
- **Prime Minister:** Mikhail Mishustin
- **Capital:** Moscow
- **Currency:** Russian Ruble (RUB)

Conclusion

President Vladimir Putin's December 2025 visit significantly strengthened the **India–Russia Strategic Partnership**, deepening cooperation across **defence, energy, trade, space, culture, and multilateral platforms**. The outcomes of the 23rd Annual Summit reaffirm the long-term commitment of both nations toward a stable, mutually beneficial, and future-oriented partnership.

RBI's 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY26

RBI MPC Meeting December 2025: Key Decisions and Highlights

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** conducted the **58th and 5th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of FY 2025–26 from 3 to 5 December 2025**. The meeting was chaired by **Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, RBI**.

The policy review was crucial amid easing inflationary pressures and early signs of moderation in economic growth.

MPC Members Present

The meeting was attended by the following **MPC members**:

- Dr. Nagesh Kumar
- Saugata Bhattacharya
- Prof. Ram Singh
- Dr. Poonam Gupta
- Indranil Bhattacharyya

RBI Cuts Repo Rate to 5.25%, Retains Neutral Stance

Repo Rate Decision

- The MPC **unanimously voted** to reduce the **policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) to 5.25%**.
- As a result:
 - **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate** adjusted to **5.00%**
 - **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate** and **Bank Rate** revised to **5.50%**

Policy Stance

- The MPC decided to **maintain a 'Neutral' stance**, signalling flexibility for future rate actions depending on economic conditions.

Reason for Rate Cut

- **Sharp decline in inflation to multi-year lows**
- **Early signs of growth moderation**, creating space to support economic activity through monetary easing

RBI Policy Rates (December 2025)

Policy Instrument	Rate
Repo Rate	5.25%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	5.00%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	5.50%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	3.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%
Bank Rate	5.50%

RBI Raises FY26 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.3%

Real GDP Growth Projections

- **FY26 real GDP growth** projected at **7.3%**
- GDP recorded a strong **8.2% growth** in **Q2 (July–September 2025)**

Quarterly Growth Projections

- **Q3 FY26 (Oct–Dec 2025): 7.0%**
- **Q4 FY26 (Jan–Mar 2026): 6.5%**
- **Q1 FY27 (Apr–Jun 2026): 6.6%**
- **Q2 FY27 (Jul–Sep 2026): 6.8%**

RBI Revises FY26 Inflation Outlook to 2.0%

CPI Inflation Target

- Medium-term CPI inflation target remains **4% ± 2%**

Inflation Projections

- **FY26 CPI inflation: 2.0%**
 - **Q3 FY26: 0.6%**
 - **Q4 FY26: 2.9%**
- **FY27 Projections:**
 - **Q1 FY27: 3.9%**
 - **Q2 FY27: 4.0%**

Current Account Deficit (CAD) Outlook

- India's **CAD moderated to 1.3% of GDP** in **Q2 FY26**
- Supported by **strong services exports** and **robust remittance inflows**
- In **October 2025**, merchandise exports contracted year-on-year, while imports increased for the second consecutive month, leading to a wider trade deficit
- RBI expects **CAD to remain well below 2% of GDP**

RBI Announces Liquidity Infusion Measures

Open Market Operations (OMO)

- RBI to conduct **OMO purchases worth ₹1 trillion (₹1,00,000 crore)**

USD/INR Buy-Sell Swap

- Announcement of a **3-year USD/INR Buy-Sell swap of USD 5 billion**

These steps aim to **inject durable liquidity**, improve **monetary transmission**, and ensure smooth functioning of financial markets.

India's Forex Reserves Remain Strong

- As of **28 November 2025**, India's foreign exchange reserves stood at **USD 686.2 billion**
- Provides an **import cover of more than 11 months**, strengthening external sector resilience

RBI Launches Two-Month Grievance Redressal Campaign

- RBI announced a **two-month campaign** from **1 January 2026**
- Objective: **Resolve all complaints pending for over one month with the RBI Ombudsman**
- Aimed at improving **customer service** and **grievance redressal efficiency**

Important Definitions (For Exams)

Repo Rate

The **interest rate** at which the RBI lends short-term funds to **commercial banks** against government securities.

Reverse Repo Rate

The **rate at which the RBI borrows money from commercial banks** for short durations to absorb excess liquidity.

Open Market Operations (OMO)

RBI's **purchase and sale of government securities (G-secs)** in the open market to regulate liquidity, control inflation, and support economic stability.

Conclusion

The **December 2025 RBI MPC meeting** marked a significant shift towards **monetary easing**, with a **repo rate cut to 5.25%**, lower inflation projections, and proactive liquidity measures. By maintaining a **neutral stance**, the RBI has kept policy flexibility intact while prioritizing growth support and macroeconomic stability.

ISSF World Cup Final 2025 Concludes in Doha, Qatar

The **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final 2025** successfully concluded at the **Lusail Shooting Complex, Doha, Qatar**, from **4 to 9 December 2025**. The event marked the **final stage of the 2025 ISSF shooting season**, bringing together the world's top shooters across disciplines.

Overall Medal Tally: Top Performing Nations

- **China** emerged as the **top-ranked country**, winning a total of **9 medals**.
- **India** secured the **2nd position** with an impressive **6 medals**.
- The **United States of America (USA)** finished **3rd**, also with **6 medals**.

Top 3 Countries – ISSF World Cup Final 2025

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	China	4	2	3	9
2	India	2	3	1	6
3	USA	2	2	2	6

ISSF World Cup Final – Doha 2025: Key Details

- **Organiser:** International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)
- **Venue:** Lusail Shooting Complex, Doha, Qatar
- **Significance:** Final competition of the **2025 ISSF shooting calendar**

Prize Money

- **Gold Medal:** €5,000
- **Silver Medal:** €4,000
- **Bronze Medal:** €2,000

Indian Shooters Shine: Gold Medal Highlights

Simranpreet Kaur

- Won **Gold** in **Women's 25 metre Pistol**
- Scored **41 out of 50 hits**
- **Equalled the Junior World Record** of Olympic Champion **Yang Ji-in (South Korea)**

Suruchi Singh

- Won **Gold** in **Women's 10m Air Pistol**
- Scored **245.1 points**
- Set a **new ISSF Junior World Record**
- Surpassed **Manu Bhaker's previous record of 244.7 points (2019)**

Significance for India

India's strong second-place finish highlights the country's **growing dominance in international shooting**, especially in **women's pistol events**. The record-breaking performances by young shooters underline the **depth of talent and effective training systems** in Indian shooting sports.

About International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)

- **President:** Luciano Rossi
- **Headquarters:** Munich, Germany
- **Established:** 1907
- **Role:** Global governing body for Olympic shooting sports

President Droupadi Murmu Presents National Handicrafts & Shilp Guru Awards 2023–24

On **9 December 2025**, the **President of India, Droupadi Murmu**, presented the **National Handicrafts Awards and Shilp Guru Awards for 2023 and 2024** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**. The ceremony was held as part of the **National Handicrafts Week 2025**, observed from **8 to 14 December 2025**.

The event was organized by the **Ministry of Textiles (MoT)** and was attended by **Union Minister Giriraj Singh** and **Minister of State Pabitra Margherita**.

Exam-Oriented Key Facts (Quick Revision)

- **Event:** National Handicrafts Awards & Shilp Guru Awards (2023–2024)
- **Presented by:** President Droupadi Murmu
- **Venue:** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
- **Organiser:** Ministry of Textiles (MoT)
- **Total Awards:** 48
 - **Shilp Guru Awards:** 12
 - **National Handicrafts Awards:** 36
- **Women Awardees:** 20
- **Handicrafts Workforce:** Over **3.2 million**, with **68% women**

Background of the Awards

National Handicrafts Awards

Instituted in **1965**, the **National Handicrafts Awards** recognise outstanding artisans for **artistic excellence, innovation, and contribution to India's cultural heritage**.

Shilp Guru Awards

Introduced in **2002**, the **Shilp Guru Awards** are the **highest national honour in the handicrafts sector**, conferred upon **master craftspeople** who have preserved and passed on traditional skills to future generations.

Highlights of Handicrafts Awards 2023–24

Award Composition

- A total of **48 awards** were conferred during the 2023–24 cycle.
- Included **2 special Design & Innovation Awards**, encouraging **artisan–designer collaboration**.

Representation of Women

- **20 women artisans** were among the awardees, highlighting strong female participation.
- The sector remains a major driver of **women empowerment and rural employment**.

Crafts Represented

Awardees represented diverse traditional crafts such as:

- Metal and wood crafts
- Hand-printed textiles
- Pattachitra painting
- Leather puppetry
- Terracotta and stone carving
- Carpets and cane–bamboo crafts

Economic and Cultural Significance of Handicrafts

- The handicrafts sector employs **over 3.2 million people**, with **68% women workforce**.
- Growth is being supported through:
 - **Geographical Indication (GI) tags**
 - **One District One Product (ODOP) initiative**
 - **National Handicrafts Development Programme**
 - Alignment with the **'Vocal for Local'** vision
- **GST reduced from 18% to 5%** for handicraft products.
- **Export target: ₹1 lakh crore by 2031–32.**

Shilp Guru Awardees – 2023

Awardee	Craft Category	State
Ajit Kumar Das	Hand Painted Textiles	West Bengal
Sudhir Kumar Maharana	Pattachitra Painting	Odisha
D. Sivamma	Leather Puppetry	Andhra Pradesh
Dolon Kundu Mandal	Terracotta	West Bengal
Khatrri Gulamhusain Umar	Tie & Dye Textiles	Gujarat
Madhuri Mishra	Batik Printing	Uttar Pradesh

Shilp Guru Awardees – 2024

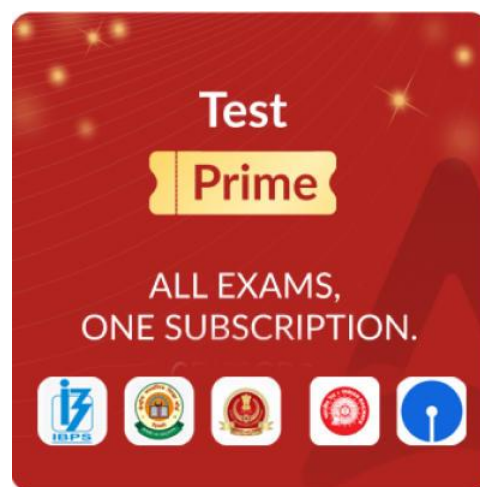
Awardee	Craft Category	State
Kamlesh Sharma	Wood Craft (Tarkashi Work)	Rajasthan
Subhash Arora	Metal Craft (Dhokra)	Haryana
Shaheen Anjum	Wood Craft (Jewellery Box)	Delhi
Mohammad Dilshad	Wood Carving (Sheesham Wood)	Uttar Pradesh
Tarit Paul	Clay Modelling (Vishwarupa of Lord Krishna)	West Bengal
Shobharani Poddar	Jute Craft (Goddess Durga)	West Bengal

About Ministry of Textiles (MoT)

- **Union Minister:** Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar)
- **Minister of State:** Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha, Assam)

National Affairs

- **PVR Feature on DigiLocker Launched:** NeGD (MeitY), with MEA, launched Passport Verification Records (PVR) on DigiLocker on 4 Dec 2025 to simplify passport verification digitally. It enhances secure access to passport-related records for citizens and authorities.
- **India's Nuclear Power Capacity Expansion:** India's nuclear capacity will rise from 8,780 MW to 9,480 MW by FY26, 13,480 MW by FY30, and 21,880 MW by FY32. Under the Nuclear Energy Mission, India targets 100 GW nuclear power by 2047, aiding Net Zero by 2070.
- **5G Use Case Booklets Released:** Three booklets documenting 100 5G Use Case Labs were released. They highlight India's progress from 5G infrastructure to innovation and hackathons.
- **India's First All-Electric Green Tug:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off steel-cutting of India's first electric green tug. Built for Deendayal Port Authority under GTTP, it promotes zero-emission maritime operations.
- **India-Sweden Green Tech Projects:** India and Sweden launched seven decarbonisation projects in steel and cement sectors. The projects support India's Net Zero 2070 goal under the LeadIT partnership.
- **Hydrogen-Based Steelmaking Projects:** Projects include hydrogen use in rotary kilns and electric heating for steelmaking. Partners include Tata Steel, Jindal Steel & Power, IITs, and Swedish firms.
- **Green Cement & Carbon Capture Initiatives:** Projects focus on steel slag recycling and CCU technologies in cement plants. AI-based optimisation tools will reduce emissions and improve efficiency.
- **Right to Disconnect Bill 2025:** MP Supriya Sule introduced the bill in Lok Sabha on 6 Dec 2025. It empowers employees to ignore after-hours work calls, with penalties for violations.
- **TRAI Internet Report Q2 FY26:** India's internet subscribers rose to 1.017 billion, with wireless users at 95.6%. ARPU increased 10.67% YoY to ₹190.99, indicating higher telecom revenues.
- **Ghaziabad Worst Polluted City:** Ghaziabad recorded India's highest PM2.5 level at 224 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Nov 2025. Shillong remained the cleanest city with PM2.5 at 7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- **DHRUVA Digital Address System:** Department of Posts proposed DHRUVA to provide digital address identifiers. It aims to enable an 'Address as a Service' ecosystem under the Post Office Act, 2023.
- **Pariksha Pe Charcha 2026:** The 9th edition will be held in January 2026. Registrations are open from 1 Dec 2025 to 11 Jan 2026, promoting stress-free exams.
- **NATGRID Intelligence Queries:** NATGRID now processes about 45,000 intelligence queries monthly. Access has been extended to SP-rank state police officers in 2025.
- **IMF on UPI:** IMF declared UPI as the world's largest real-time payment system. India accounts for 49% of global real-time transactions.
- **TRaNJA WTO Reform Initiative:** CUTS International launched TRaNJA in Tokyo. The initiative aims to revive WTO relevance amid rising global protectionism.
- **Your Money, Your Right Campaign:** Launched in Oct 2025, it returned over ₹2,000 crore of unclaimed funds. Platforms like UDGM and SEBI MITRA facilitated the recovery.
- **India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train:** Indian Railways completed the prototype of the world's longest hydrogen train. It features zero emissions and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Electric Green Tug Launched:** India's first electric green tug was built at Atreya Shipyard for DPA Kandla. The government targets 50 green tugs by 2030.
- **Sujalam Bharat App:** Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the BISAG-N developed Sujalam Bharat app. It tracks rural water supply systems using GIS-based real-time data.
- **ADB Growth Forecast:** ADB raised India's FY26 growth forecast to 7.2%. Strong domestic demand and easing inflation supported the outlook.
- **Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Passenger Vessel:** India launched its first hydrogen-powered passenger boat in Varanasi. It promotes clean mobility on inland waterways.
- **Census of India 2027 Approved with ₹11,718 Crore:** Government approves India's first digital census featuring caste enumeration, self-enumeration option, and deployment of 30 lakh field workers.
- **CoalSETU Policy Gets Green Light:** New policy ensures fair coal access through auction-based allocation, aims to reduce imports while providing flexible industrial use.



- **Atomic Energy Bill Cleared for Private Sector Entry:** Historic bill allows private sector participation in nuclear power generation, targeting ambitious 100 GW capacity by 2047.
- **MGNREGA Renamed to Poojya Bapu Grameen Rozgar Yojana:** Employment guarantee scheme gets new name with guaranteed workdays increased from 100 to 125 days.
- **Insurance Amendment Bill 2025 Approved:** Major reform raises FDI limit to 100% in insurance sector, expected to boost investment and competition.

States in the News

- **Rajasthan Digitises Voter Rolls Fully:** Rajasthan became the first state to achieve 100% digitisation of 5.46 crore voter records under SIR-2026 in December 2025. Led by CEO Navin Mahajan, the state used ECINET and BLO apps, achieving 97% voter mapping, highest in India.
- **Karnataka-Taiwan Industrial Tech Park:** Karnataka signed an MoU with Allegiance Group to set up an India-Taiwan Industrial Technology Park. With an outlay of ₹1,000 crore, the project aims to create 800 direct jobs by 2030.
- **Telangana-Deakin University AI Centre:** Telangana and Australia's Deakin University signed an agreement to establish a Centre of Excellence in Applied AI. The CoE in Hyderabad will focus on ethical, applied, and public-impact AI solutions.
- **Gujarat Smart Blue Harbours Initiative:** Gujarat launched Smart Blue Harbours at Jakhau, Vanakbara (Diu), and Karaikal under the TCP. The initiative is executed with FAO and MoFAHD to boost fisheries and Blue Economy growth.
- **Google for Startups Hub in Telangana:** Telangana government and Google LLC launched the Google for Startups Hub at T-Hub, Hyderabad. The hub was inaugurated by CM A. Revanth Reddy to strengthen the startup ecosystem.
- **Rajasthan Leads Electoral Reforms:** Rajasthan achieved full digitisation of electoral rolls on December 6, 2025. Draft rolls will be published on December 16, 2025, and final rolls on February 14, 2026.
- **Project Mahadeva Football Talent Hunt:** Maharashtra launched Project Mahadeva to identify U-13 football talent statewide. Selected players receive 5-year scholarships including elite training, academics, and exposure programs.
- **Maharashtra Solar Pump Guinness Record:** Maharashtra set a Guinness World Record by installing 45,911 solar pumps in 30 days. The achievement was under PM-KUSUM Component B and Magel Tyala Saur Krushi Pump Yojana.
- **Kerala's Gen-Z Post Office:** India Post inaugurated the first Gen-Z themed post office at CMS College, Kottayam. It features eco-friendly design, student art, and full postal services.

- **MahaCrimeOS-AI Launched:** Maharashtra launched MahaCrimeOS-AI with Microsoft's support. The AI system enhances predictive policing and speeds up criminal investigations.
- **Pagdi System Abolished in Maharashtra:** Maharashtra abolished the century-old Pagdi rent system through new legislation. The reform ensures tenant protection, transparent housing norms, and modernised urban rental laws.
- **Brookfield's \$1 Billion Investment in Mumbai:** Asia's largest Global Capability Center to be built in Powai, Mumbai, creating 30,000+ jobs by 2029.
- **Chhattisgarh Declares First Ramsar Site:** Kopra Reservoir in Bilaspur designated as state's first Ramsar Site on December 12, 2025, recognized as Wetland of International Importance.

International Affairs

- **Japan-India LNG Deal:** Japan's largest power producer JERA signed its first-ever long-term LNG export agreement with India's Torrent Power Limited. Under the deal, JERA will supply 0.27 MMTPA (4 LNG cargoes annually) for 10 years starting from 2027.
- **CITES CoP20 Held in Uzbekistan:** The 20th Conference of Parties (CoP20) to CITES was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from Nov 24 to Dec 5, 2025. Marking 50 years of CITES, 77 species were added to appendices through 353 decisions and 46 voting rounds.
- **India Expands Operation Sagar Bandhu:** India deployed four additional Navy ships to Sri Lanka for Cyclone Ditwah relief. INS Gharial and LCUs delivered ~1,000 MT aid, rescued 2,000+ Indians, and treated over 2,000 patients.
- **Lithuania Declares Emergency:** Lithuania imposed a state of emergency after repeated balloon incursions from Belarus. The acts were termed hybrid attacks linked to Belarus-Russia strategy disrupting aviation and security.
- **Czech Republic Political Change:** Andrej Babiš was sworn in as Prime Minister of the Czech Republic on Dec 9, 2025. His coalition holds 108 of 200 parliamentary seats, supported by SPD and Motorists for Themselves parties.
- **33rd Southeast Asian Games Begin:** The 33rd SEA Games opened on December 9, 2025, in Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand. Over 13,000 athletes from 11 nations are competing across 50 medal sports.
- **World Inequality Report 2026 Released:** The report highlighted persistent global income inequality. It noted India's top 1% holds a disproportionate share of wealth, urging progressive taxation reforms.
- **NASA Loses Contact with MAVEN:** NASA temporarily lost communication with the MAVEN Mars orbiter. The spacecraft has studied Mars' atmosphere for over a decade, with restoration efforts underway.

- **Henrique Braun Appointed Coca-Cola CEO:** The Coca-Cola Company appointed Henrique Braun as its new CEO. He is expected to focus on sustainability, innovation, and digital expansion globally.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **NMDC-IIT Kanpur Cybersecurity MoU:** NMDC signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur to strengthen cybersecurity in mining operations. The partnership leverages IIT Kanpur's C3iHub for cyber risk assessment and digital transformation.
- **GELS 2025 Inaugurated in Odisha:** Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi inaugurated the Global Energy Leaders' Summit (GELS) 2025 in Puri. India's first energy-focused summit was held from December 5–7, 2025.
- **GELS 2025 Organisers & Theme:** GELS 2025 was organised by the Government of Odisha with the Tony Blair Institute (UK). Theme: "Powering India: Sufficiency, Balance, Innovation".
- **Draft Puri Declaration Unveiled:** The Draft Puri Declaration was released at the conclusion of GELS 2025. It aims to ensure a collaborative, equitable, and accelerated clean energy transition across Indian states.
- **MoUs Signed at GELS 2025:** Four MoUs were signed covering renewable energy, green hydrogen, and clean energy integration. Partners included NTU Singapore, GRIDCO, IIT Bhubaneswar, ReNew, Avaada, SECI, OHPC, OREDA, and NIRL.
- **GELS Logo & Website Launched:** The logo and website of GELS 2025 were launched on November 13, 2025. It was launched by MoS Shripad Yesso Naik, Ministry of Power.
- **Patanjali-Russia Cultural MoU:** Patanjali Group signed an MoU with the Government of Russia to promote yoga, Ayurveda, and wellness. The agreement was signed by Baba Ramdev and Russia's Minister Sergey Cheremin.
- **India-Israel Agri JV Launched:** India and Israel announced a 50:50 joint venture named 'Semiophore Ltd.' The JV will manufacture and commercialise pheromone-based crop protection technologies globally.
- **TASL-Lockheed Martin MRO Facility:** Tata Advanced Systems Ltd and Lockheed Martin announced a new MRO facility in Bengaluru. It will support the Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules fleet.
- **Tata Group-Intel Semiconductor MoU:** Tata Group signed an MoU with Intel Corporation to explore semiconductor collaboration. The partnership focuses on chip manufacturing, packaging, and AI compute markets in India.
- **NITI Aayog-HUL Circular Economy Programme:** Atal Innovation Mission partnered with Hindustan Unilever Limited. The programme aims to accelerate India's transition to a circular economy through startups.

- **India-Italy Sports Cooperation MoU:** The IOA and Italy's CONI signed a five-year MoU in New Delhi. The agreement strengthens bilateral cooperation in sports training and development.
- **India-Liberia Pharma MoU:** India and Liberia signed an MoU on medicine quality standards. It strengthens pharmaceutical safety and regulatory cooperation.
- **MSME Ministry Partners with Amazon:** MoU signed to support Vishwakarma artisans through Amazon Karigar platform, expanding online marketplace access.
- **India Post Joins Hands with BSE:** Agreement aims to expand mutual fund access in rural and semi-urban India through post offices.

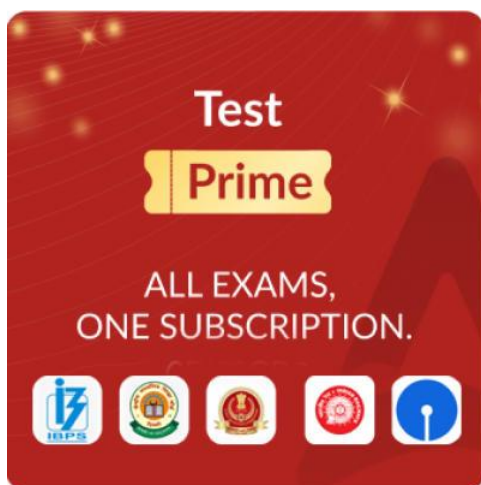
Books and Authors

- **Gujarati Edition of 'Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai' Released:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the Gujarati edition of the biography '*Chunotiya Mujhe Pasand Hai*' in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The book is based on the life of UP Governor Anandiben Patel. The biography was originally written in Hindi by Vinay Joshi, Ashok Desai, and Pankaj Jani. It was published by Prabhat Prakashan in May 2025.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Fino Payments Bank** received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert into a **Small Finance Bank (SFB)**, becoming India's first Payments Bank to get such approval, enabling lending and higher deposit limits.
- The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** entered a bancassurance partnership with **Yes Bank** in **December 2025**, announced in the presence of **LIC Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) R. Doraiswamy** and **Yes Bank Managing Director & CEO Prashant Kumar**.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** granted in-principle approval to **Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)** to register as an **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** under the **SEBI (InvIT) Regulations, 2014**.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** launched its premium **RuPay credit card 'Luxura'** in **New Delhi**, appointing **Indian Women's Cricket Team captain Harmanpreet Kaur** as its first female brand ambassador.
- **SEBI** launched the **Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA)** platform with the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and **CAREEdge** to curb misleading performance claims by advisors and stockbrokers.
- The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** invested **USD 50 million** in **GFCL EV Products Limited**, a subsidiary of **Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited (GFL)**, to support India's first integrated battery materials facility.

- **Genesys International Corporation Limited** launched India's first 3D subsurface mapping technology and secured a ₹17.38 crore contract covering six Adani Group airports.
- **SEBI** overhauled merchant banker regulations, introducing capital adequacy norms mandating minimum liquid net worth and revenue from permitted activities.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a ₹99.30 lakh penalty on Jammu & Kashmir Bank for violations of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, and Internal Ombudsman Scheme.
- **IDFC First Bank Limited** launched **FIRST WOW! Black**, an upgraded fixed deposit (FD)-backed credit card offering zero percent foreign exchange (forex) markup on international spending.
- The RBI granted **Airpay Payment Services** full authorisation as a **Cross-Border Payment Aggregator (PA-CB)**, allowing operations across PA-Online (PA-O), PA-Physical (PA-P) and PA-CB segments.
- **Bharti Airtel Limited** partnered with **Google** to launch **Rich Communication Services (RCS)** messaging in India, priced at ₹0.11 per message with an 80:20 revenue-sharing model.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** recognised **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** as the world's largest Fast Payment System (FPS) by volume, with India accounting for 49% of global real-time transactions.
- The **Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF)** enabled deployment of 5.45 crore digital touchpoints in Tier-3 to Tier-6 areas, with 56.86 crore Quick Response (QR) codes issued to 6.5 crore merchants by Financial Year 2024–25 (FY25).
- The **Ministry of Finance** recovered ₹2,000 crore of unclaimed assets under the 'Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar' campaign conducted from October 4 to December 5, 2025.
- The **RBI** issued the **Interest Rate Derivatives (IRD) Master Directions, 2025**, allowing resident and non-resident entities to trade rupee interest rate derivatives from March 1, 2026.
- **Sahaj Insurance Services**, a subsidiary of **Sahaj Retail Limited**, received a corporate agency licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- **Wise**, a global fintech company, launched its multi-currency travel card in India, announced at the **Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2025** in Mumbai.
- **ICICI Bank Limited** acquired an additional 2% stake in **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC)** for ₹2,140 crore, maintaining majority ownership.
- **IndusInd Bank Limited** and **Jio-bp (Reliance-BP Mobility Limited)** launched a **RuPay co-branded fuel and lifestyle credit card**, marking IndusInd's first fuel-focused card.
- The RBI approved **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** to set up the **Indian Digital Payments Infrastructure Company (IDPIC)** to curb digital fraud across Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** raised India's Financial Year 2025–26 (FY26) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 7.2%, citing strong demand and Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms.
- **Amazon** announced **USD 35 billion** investment in India by 2030 at the **Smbhav Summit** and signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya** for skill development.
- India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves declined to **USD 686.227 billion** in **November 2025**, with a fall in foreign currency assets but a rise in gold reserves.
- Deposits under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)** reached **₹2.75 lakh crore** across 56 crore accounts, with 78% rural/semi-urban coverage and 50% accounts held by women.
- **Deloitte India** launched 'Tax Pragya', an **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tax research platform** using predictive analytics to reduce research time.
- The **Adani Group** announced a **₹2,500 crore AI-powered data centre** in **Telangana**, supporting **High-Performance Computing (HPC)** and cloud infrastructure.
- **Tata Group** and **Intel Corporation** signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** for semiconductor projects, including a **fab at Dholera** and an **Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility** at **Guwahati**.
- **Microsoft Corporation** announced a **USD 17.5 billion** investment in **Artificial Intelligence** and cloud infrastructure in India, with **Hyderabad** hosting its largest hyperscale data centre region.
- **Gautam Adani** announced a **USD 75 billion** green energy investment plan, with the **Khavda Renewable Energy Park** targeting **30 gigawatt (GW) capacity** by 2030.



- **Telangana** secured ₹5.75 lakh crore investment commitments at the **Rising Global Summit 2025**, focusing on Artificial Intelligence and data centres.
- The **RBI Financial Services Directions 2025** eased restructuring norms for large banks, while **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** must adopt upper-layer norms by **March 2028**.
- The **RBI** announced a **USD 5 billion buy-sell swap** to stabilise the **Indian rupee**, with forex reserves at **USD 686.2 billion** at end-November.
- **Google** appointed **Amin Vahdat** as **Head of Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure**, strengthening its **AI-focused expansion strategy**.
- **Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW)** appointed **Milan Nedeljković** as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** effective **May 2026**, amid the **electric vehicle (EV) transition**.
- **Amul**, a brand of **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**, extended sponsorship of the **Argentina national football team** until the **FIFA World Cup 2026**.
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** won 'Best Bank in India' at **The Banker Awards 2025** for digital innovation and branch expansion.
- **DBS Bank Limited (Development Bank of Singapore)** was named **Global Bank of the Year 2025** by **The Banker** magazine for digital leadership and customer-centric growth.
- **Retail Inflation Rises to 0.71% in November 2025**: Food deflation eases while urban inflation reaches 1.4%, showing mixed economic signals.
- **Forex Reserves Touch \$687.26 Billion**: Foreign exchange reserves reach new milestone driven by growth in gold reserves and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).

Appointments/Resignations

- **Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo** was re-elected as **President of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)** for the **2025–2029 term** in December 2025. The election was held at **Park Plaza Hotel, Mohali (Punjab)** and supervised by **Justice (Retired) Nirmaljit Kaur**.
- **Pawan Singh** was elected **unopposed as Secretary General of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI)** in December 2025. He succeeded **Kanwar Sultan Singh**, who assumed the role of **Vice President (VP)** of NRAI.
- **Zen Technologies Limited** secured a **₹120 crore contract** from the **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** in December 2025. The project involves setting up **India's first Combat Training Node (CTN)** at the **Infantry School, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh (MP)**.

- The **Combat Training Node** project was awarded under the **Ministry of Defence's Simulation Framework 2024**. It aims to enhance **technology-driven and realistic military training** in India.
- **Arkin Gupta**, a **United States of America (USA)-based Indian-origin financial innovator**, was featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 List 2026**. He was recognised in the **Finance category** for contributions to **data-driven investment frameworks and early-stage strategies**.
- **Ajai Kumar Shukla** Named **PNB Housing Finance MD & CEO**: Appointment effective from **December 18, 2025**, to lead housing finance operations.
- **Aman Jain** Appointed **Meta India Head of Public Policy**: Meta India announces new leadership for public policy and government relations.

Defence News

- The **5th edition of joint military exercise 'Harimau Shakti 2025'** between the **Indian Army (IA)** and the **Royal Malaysian Army** began on **December 05, 2025** at **Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR), Rajasthan**; the exercise runs till **December 18, 2025** to enhance **interoperability in sub-conventional operations under the United Nations (UN) Chapter VII mandate**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** handed over **seven indigenous technologies** developed under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme** to the **Indian Armed Forces** during an **Empowered Committee meeting** at **DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi** in December 2025.
- The technologies transferred by **DRDO** include **Indigenous High-Voltage Power Supply (IHVPS)**, **Tide-Efficient Gangway (TEG)**, **Very Low Frequency–High Frequency Switching Matrix System (VLF–HF SMS)** and **VLF Loop Aerials (VLF-LA)**, along with **Indigenous Waterjet Propulsion System (IWPS)**, **Novel Process for Recovery of Lithium Precursors (NPRLP)** and **Long-Life Seawater Battery System (LLSBS)**.
- An **18-member Indian Army Eastern Command (EC) mountaineering team** successfully summited **Mount Kangto (7,042 metres)** in **Arunachal Pradesh (AR)** in December 2025, marking the **first-ever recorded ascent** of the highest peak of the state in the **Kameng Himalayas**.
- The **Mount Kangto expedition** was flagged off by the **General Officer Commanding (GOC), Gajraj Corps**, and flagged in by **Lieutenant General Ram Chander Tiwari, Indian Army Commander, Eastern Command (EC)**, who praised the team's professionalism and courage.
- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** inaugurated **125 infrastructure projects** of the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** from **Union Territory (UT) Ladakh** in December 2025, including **28 roads, 93 bridges and 4 miscellaneous projects**, the highest launched simultaneously.

- The **125 BRO projects**, worth ₹5,000 crore, cover **2 Union Territories (Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir)** and **7 states** including **Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Mizoram**, strengthening border connectivity.
- The **920-metre Shyok Tunnel** on the **Durbuk–Shyok–Daulat Beg Oldie Road** along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in eastern Ladakh was inaugurated to ensure **year-round connectivity and faster troop movement**.
- In **Uttarakhand**, **five strategic border bridges—Pangti, Suraithota, Ghamshali, Gurkuti and Niti**—were virtually inaugurated in the **Niti Pass region of Chamoli district**, enhancing connectivity near the **India–China border**.
- The **Galwan War Memorial** in eastern Ladakh was virtually inaugurated to honour **Indian Army personnel** who sacrificed their lives during the **Galwan Valley clash with Chinese soldiers in 2020**.
- **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** and **Lockheed Martin** began construction of a **C-130J Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility** in **Bengaluru**, aimed at supporting Indian and regional **C-130J aircraft fleets**.
- India plans to deploy the **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS)**, including **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)** and **Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS)**, to protect **Delhi National Capital Region (NCR)** under **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- The **Indian Navy** is set to commission **DSC A20**, India's **first indigenous Diving Support Craft (DSC)**, to strengthen underwater repair, diving and rescue operations in line with **self-reliant defence manufacturing**.
- In **December 2025**, **DBS Bank Limited (Development Bank of Singapore)** was named **Global Bank of the Year 2025** by **The Banker magazine**, a publication of the **Financial Times**, at the **Bank of the Year Awards 2025** held in **London, United Kingdom (UK)**; this marked its **third win** after **2018 and 2021**.
- **Raveena Tandon**, a **Bollywood actor**, was named **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India Person of the Year 2025** for her **meat-free lifestyle pledge**, strong **wildlife protection advocacy**, support for the **Compassionate Citizen school programme**, and donation of a **mechanical elephant** to a **Jain temple** in **Karnataka**.
- **Neal Mohan**, **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **YouTube**, was named **TIME CEO of the Year 2025** by **TIME magazine** for **creator-first innovations** such as **YouTube Shorts and YouTube TV**, and for leadership in **ethical digital media transformation**.
- **Arkin Gupta**, a **United States of America (USA)-based Indian-origin innovator**, was selected for the **Forbes 30 Under 30 List 2026** in the **Finance category** for developing **data-driven investment frameworks** using **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML)** and **behavioural analytics** to promote **financial inclusion**.
- **Leonardo DiCaprio** was named **TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025** for his performance in **“One Battle After Another”**, which crossed **USD 200 million globally**, and for his continued **environmental conservation advocacy** through **Re:wild**.
- **A’ja Wilson** was crowned **TIME Athlete of the Year 2025** after a historic **Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA)** season, becoming the **first player** to win **Championship, Most Valuable Player (MVP), Finals MVP, Defensive Player of the Year (DPOY)** and **Scoring Title** in a single season.
- **Supriya Sahu**, **Additional Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu**, won the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Champions of the Earth Award 2025** in the **Inspiration and Action category** at the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)** in **Nairobi**, for advancing **sustainable cooling systems and ecosystem restoration**.
- **Alia Bhatt**, a **Bollywood actor**, received the **Golden Globe Horizon Award** at the **Red Sea International Film Festival** in **Saudi Arabia** for her **global impact on cinema**, and shared visuals of her upcoming **Yash Raj Films (YRF) Spy Universe film “Alpha”**, scheduled for release on **April 17, 2026**.
- **Dinesh Khatak**, an officer of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, received the **Home Minister’s Efficiency Medal** for **exemplary service and operational excellence**, recognising his outstanding contribution to **internal security operations**.

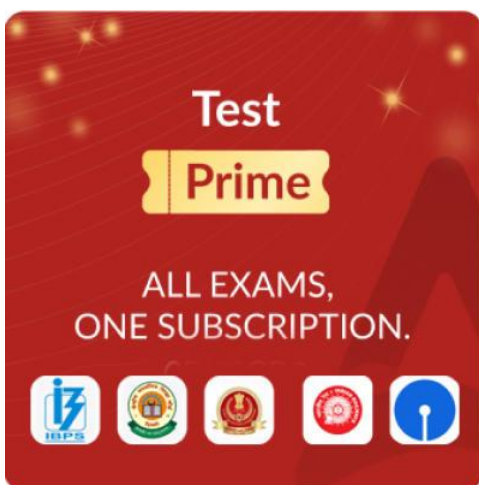
Awards and Recognitions

- On **December 5, 2025**, the **Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)** awarded the **first-ever FIFA Peace Prize** to **Donald John Trump**, **President of the United States of America (USA)**, during the **Final Draw Ceremony of the 2026 FIFA World Cup** in **Washington, D.C., USA**; the award was presented by **Gianni Infantino**, **President of FIFA**.
- In **December 2025**, **Anant Ambani**, **Founder of the wildlife conservation centre Vantara**, received the **Global Humanitarian Award for Animal Welfare** from the **Global Humane Society**, the international arm of the **American Humane Society**, in **Washington, D.C., USA**; he became the **youngest-ever and first Asian recipient** of this honour.
- **Colonel Prateek Roy** of the **Indian Army (IA)** received the **Geddes Gavel Award** in **December 2025** after completing the **Defence Strategic and Studies Course** at the **Australian Defence College, Australia**, reflecting strengthening **India–Australia strategic ties**.

- **TIME Person of the Year 2025:** TIME Magazine named "Architects of AI" as Person of the Year 2025. The honor recognized global AI pioneers driving breakthroughs in generative artificial intelligence.

Summits and Conferences News

- **Amit Shah, Union Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Cooperation,** inaugurated the **EARTH Summit 2025** held from **December 05–06, 2025** at **Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**; the summit focused on strengthening India's cooperative and governance ecosystem.
- During **EARTH Summit 2025**, **Amit Shah** launched **13+ digital services and products** including **Digital Kisan Credit Card (Digi KCC)**, **Campaign Sarathi**, **Website Sarathi**, **Cooperative Governance Index (CGI)**, **electronic–Primary Agricultural Credit Society (ePACS)**, the **world's largest Grain Storage Application**, **Shiksha Sarathi** and **Sarathi Technology** under the '**Sahakar Sarathi**' initiative.
- In **December 2025**, the **8th edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2025 (SIH 2025)** was officially launched across **60 nodal centres** nationwide. The event was organised by the **Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education (MoE)** in collaboration with the **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** to promote **student-led innovation and problem-solving**.
- **Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025 & BHARAT-WIN Portal:** Union Minister C.R. Patil launched Jal Shakti Hackathon 2025 and Bharat-Water Innovation Network portal in New Delhi. It promotes tech-driven water solutions using a Whole-of-Government and Jan Bhagidari approach.
- **Water Vision @2047:** The hackathon aligns with Water Vision @2047 to strengthen innovation in water management. Winners will receive ₹1 lakh PoC grants, with NIH Roorkee as Project Implementation Agency.
- **Bharat 6G Mission Apex Council Meeting:** Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia chaired the Bharat 6G Mission meeting in New Delhi. India aims to emerge as a global 6G leader by 2030 through B6GA and innovation roadmaps.



- **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit:** India will host the summit from 17–19 Dec 2025 at Bharat Mandapam. Theme focuses on science-backed traditional medicine and global well-being.

Ranks and Reports

- In **December 2025**, **TIME Magazine** named **Neal Mohan**, **Indian-origin Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YouTube Inc.**, as **TIME CEO of the Year 2025**, recognising his role in shaping **global digital content consumption**; in **2024**, the honour was awarded to **Lisa Tzvu-Fang Su**, **CEO and Chair of Advanced Micro Devices (AMD)**.
- **Neal Mohan** began his career as a **consultant** before joining **NetGravity**, later acquired by **DoubleClick**, and played a key role in **Google's 2007 acquisition of DoubleClick**; he joined **Google** in **2008** as **Senior Vice President (VP) for Display and Video Advertisements**.
- Appointed **Chief Product Officer (CPO) of YouTube** in **2015**, **Neal Mohan** has served as **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of YouTube** since **2023**, succeeding his mentor **Susan Wojcicki**, who stepped down from the role.
- **Leonardo DiCaprio**, Oscar-winning Hollywood actor, was named **TIME Entertainer of the Year 2025** following the global success of his film "**One Battle After Another**", marking a career spanning over **35 years** including his **Academy Award for Best Actor (2015)** for **The Revenant**.
- In **December 2025**, the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** inducted **72 new cities from 46 countries** into its **Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)**, expanding the network to **425 cities across 91 countries worldwide**.
- The **2025 GNLC intake** includes **11 capital cities** such as **Cairo (Egypt)**, **Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)**, **Lisbon (Portugal)**, **Ankara (Türkiye)** and **Buenos Aires (Argentina)**, while **12 countries** including **United States of America (USA)** and **Chile** joined the network for the **first time**.
- The **Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)** was launched by the **UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL)** in **2013** and formally began accepting city declarations in **2015**, aiming to promote **lifelong learning, policy dialogue and sustainable urban development**.
- As of **December 2025**, **UNESCO's GNLC** comprises **425 cities from 91 countries**, collectively supporting **lifelong learning for nearly 500 million people** across the world.
- **India has three cities** in **UNESCO's Global Network of Learning Cities**: **Warangal (Telangana)**, **Thrissur (Kerala)** and **Nilambur (Kerala)**, reflecting India's commitment to **inclusive and lifelong education**.
- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** promotes **peace and security** through cooperation in **education, science, culture, communication and information**; it has **194 Member States**, headquarters in **Paris, France**, and was established in **1945**.

Sports News

- **Indian Chess Grandmaster (GM) Arjun Erigaisi** won the **2nd Jerusalem Masters 2025** by defeating **five-time World Champion GM Viswanathan Anand** in the final held in **Jerusalem, Israel**, from **November 30 to December 3, 2025**.
- The **5th Khelo India University Games 2025 (KIUG 2025)** were held across **seven cities of Rajasthan** from **November 24 to December 5, 2025**; **Chandigarh University (Punjab)** topped the medal tally with **67 medals**, followed by **Lovely Professional University (LPU)** and **Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU)**.
- On **December 7, 2025**, **Lando Norris (McLaren Racing)** won his **first Formula One (F1) World Drivers' Championship** after finishing third at the **Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2025** in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, clinching the title by **two points**.
- **Lando Norris** became the **11th British driver** to win the **F1 World Championship** and secured **McLaren's 13th drivers' title**, becoming the first British champion since **Lewis Hamilton (2020)**.
- In **December 2025**, **Indian GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** won the **International Chess Federation (FIDE) Circuit 2025** with **115.17 points**, earning **direct qualification** to the **Candidates Tournament 2026**.
- **Praggnanandhaa** became the **only male player** to qualify via the **FIDE Circuit**, while **Divya Deshmukh, Koneru Humpy, and Vaishali Rameshbabu** qualified for the **2026 Women's Candidates Tournament**.
- The **2nd Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) Asian Equestrian Championships 2025** were held in **Pattaya, Thailand**, from **November 24 to December 7, 2025**; **Thailand** topped, followed by **Hong Kong**, while **India** won **5 medals**.
- **Ashish Limaye** became the **first Indian rider** to win **individual gold in Eventing** at the **FEI Asian Equestrian Championships**, while **India's Eventing team** won **silver** and **Shruti Vora** claimed **three silver medals in Dressage**.
- The **14th FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025** was held in **Chennai and Madurai, Tamil Nadu**, from **November 28 to December 10, 2025**; **Germany** won **gold**, **Spain** **silver**, and **India** **bronze**.
- **Rohit Sharma**, **India's One Day International (ODI) captain**, crossed **20,000 international runs** on **December 6, 2025** against **South Africa**, becoming the **fourth Indian** after **Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli and Rahul Dravid**.
- **Yashasvi Jaiswal** scored his **maiden ODI century** on **December 6, 2025** against **South Africa**, becoming the **sixth Indian** to score centuries in **Tests, ODIs and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)**.

- **Sunil Narine (West Indies)** became the **first bowler to take 600 wickets in T20 cricket** on **December 4, 2025**, achieving the milestone during the **International League T20 (ILT20)**.
- **Sarwagya Singh Kushwaha (3 years, 7 months)** became the **youngest FIDE-rated chess player in history**, achieving a **FIDE Rapid Rating of 1572** after defeating adult-rated players.
- **India** hosted the **Squash World Cup** in **Chennai** for the **third consecutive year** from **December 10–14, 2025**, featuring **12 nations** in a **mixed-team format**.
- **Jasprit Bumrah** became the **first Indian bowler to take 100 wickets in all three international formats** on **December 9, 2025**, joining an elite global list of fast bowlers.
- **India** will host the **first Commonwealth Kho Kho Championship 2026** from **March 9–14, 2026**, with **over 24 nations** participating; **Ahmedabad** is a leading contender for hosting duties.
- **Germany** defeated **Spain** to win the **FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025** in **Chennai**, showcasing tactical dominance and strong defensive play.
- **Mullanpur Stadium (Punjab)** inaugurated stands named after **Yuvraj Singh** and **Harmanpreet Kaur**, honouring their contributions to **Indian cricket**.
- In the **Under-19 Asia Cup 2025**, **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** scored a record **171 runs** against the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, highlighting **India's emerging youth cricket talent**.

Schemes and Committees News

- On **December 10, 2025**, the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** issued the **Master Circular on Investment Guidelines** for **government sector pension schemes**, including **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), National Pension System (NPS), Corporate Government (CG) NPS, NPS Lite, Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and APY Fund Scheme**, replacing the **March 2025 guidelines** with immediate effect.
- Under the revised **PFRDA investment framework**, pension funds can invest up to **65% in Government Securities (G-Secs)**, considered the safest instruments, and up to **45% in corporate bonds and other debt instruments** such as **infrastructure debt and bank deposits**, subject to **credit-rating norms**.
- **Short-term debt exposure** has been capped at **10%**, allowing investments in instruments like **Commercial Paper (CP)** and **Certificates of Deposit (CoD)** to manage **liquidity requirements**.
- **Equity exposure** under government pension schemes is capped at **25%**, with investments permitted through **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), Follow-on Public Offers (FPOs), Offers for Sale (OFS)** and **index-linked instruments**.

- Pension funds are allowed to invest up to **5% in Asset-Backed, Trust-Structured and Miscellaneous Investments**, ensuring controlled exposure to **alternative assets**.
- The **PFRDA master circular** broadened investment avenues by permitting investments in **Gold and Silver Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)**, **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)**, **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**, **AAA-rated Municipal Bonds (MBs)** and **Government Debt ETFs**, enhancing **diversification, liquidity and risk management**.

Science and Technology News

- In **December 2025**, astronomers from the **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (NCRA-TIFR)**, Pune discovered an ancient massive spiral galaxy named **Alaknanda**, located **12 billion light-years away**, using **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** data; the discovery was made by **Rashi Jain and Prof. Yogesh Wadadekar** and published in **Astronomy & Astrophysics**.
- The spiral galaxy **Alaknanda**, discovered in the **Abell 2744 field**, is about **1.5 billion years old**, has **two distinct arms**, and a **high star-formation rate of 63 solar masses per year**, challenging theories that early-universe galaxies were largely chaotic.
- In **December 2025**, the **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)** at **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B)** launched '**Y-Point Venture Capital (VC) Fund**', India's **first deep-tech VC fund** managed by an **academia-linked incubator**, with a corpus of **₹250 crore**.
- The **Y-Point Venture Capital Fund** aims to support **early-stage deep-tech startups** by providing **critical risk capital**, strengthening India's **innovation and research-driven startup ecosystem**.
- On **December 10, 2025**, **Professor Abhay Karandikar**, Secretary of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** under the **Ministry of Science & Technology (MoS&T)**, virtually inaugurated India's **National Hub for Quantum Communication** at **IIT Madras Research Park, Chennai**.
- The **IIT Madras – Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Samgnya Technologies Foundation** was established under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** and will focus on **Quantum Cryptography, Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), Post-Quantum Security, Quantum Repeaters and Satellite-based Quantum Communication**.
- The **Quantum Communication Hub** is India's **first national-level dedicated hub** under **NQM** and one of **four thematic hubs**, alongside **Quantum Computing (IISc Bengaluru)**, **Quantum Sensing & Metrology (IIT Bombay)** and **Quantum Materials & Devices (IIT Delhi)**.

- In **December 2025**, scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** discovered **two new species of jumping spiders—Asemonea dentis and Colyttus nongwar**—in **Meghalaya**, reinforcing the ecological importance of the **Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot**.
- The spider discoveries by **ZSI** were published in **Zootaxa**, a leading international taxonomy journal published by **Magnolia Press, Auckland (New Zealand)**.
- In **2025**, **Deepavali** was officially inscribed in **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list**, recognising its universal symbolism of **light over darkness** and associated traditions like **rangoli, diya-making and community rituals**.
- The **United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** qualified **AIM-NASH**, the world's **first Artificial Intelligence (AI) system** for assessing **Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)**, enabling faster and more consistent analysis of **liver biopsy images**.
- On **December 11, 2025**, **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** and the **IndiaAI Mission** hosted the **Global AI Conclave in Chennai**, focusing on **AI Safety Commons for the Global South** and interoperable AI frameworks.
- The **Global AI Conclave 2025** served as a precursor to the **India-AI Impact Summit 2026**, highlighting India's growing leadership in **ethical, inclusive and locally relevant artificial intelligence governance**.

Important Days News

- **Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD)** is observed annually on **7 December** to honour personnel of the **Indian Army (IA)**, **Indian Navy (IN)** and **Indian Air Force (IAF)** for their courage and sacrifice; **7 December 2025** marked the **77th observance**.
- The **United Nations (UN) International Civil Aviation Day** is observed every year on **7 December** to highlight the role of aviation in socio-economic development; **7 December 2025** marked the **81st anniversary** of the **Chicago Convention (1944)** signed in the **United States of America (USA)**.
- **South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day** is observed annually on **8 December** to mark the adoption of the **SAARC Charter in 1985**; **8 December 2025** marked the **41st observance**.
- The **Indian Navy (IN)** observes **Submarine Day** every year on **8 December** to commemorate the induction of **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kalvari**, India's first submarine, in **1967**; **2025** marked the **58th Submarine Day**.
- The **United Nations International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime** is observed on **9 December**; **2025** marked its **10th anniversary** and the **77th anniversary of the Genocide Convention**.

- The **United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD)** is observed globally on **9 December** to raise awareness against corruption; the **2025 theme** was “**Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow’s Integrity.**”
- The **United Nations Human Rights Day (HRD)** is observed annually on **10 December** to mark the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948**; **2025** marked the **77th anniversary** of UDHR and **32 years** of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- The **Human Rights Day 2025 theme** was “**Human Rights, Our Everyday Essentials**”, highlighting dignity, freedom and equality in daily life across the world.
- The **United Nations International Mountain Day (IMD)** is observed every year on **11 December** to promote sustainable mountain development; the **2025 theme** was “**Glaciers matter for water, food and livelihoods in mountains and beyond.**”
- **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Day** is observed annually on **11 December** to commemorate UNICEF’s establishment in **1946** by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**; **2025** marked the **79th anniversary**.
- **Bodhi Day** was observed globally on **8 December 2025** to mark **Lord Buddha’s enlightenment**, with celebrations at **Bodhi Gaya (UNESCO World Heritage Site)** focusing on the **Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path**.
- The **International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day** is observed on **12 December** to promote **affordable, quality healthcare for all**, supporting **Sustainable Development Goal-3 (SDG-3)**.
- The **International Day of Neutrality** is observed annually on **12 December** to recognise the role of **neutral states** in conflict prevention, mediation and strengthening global peace.
- **International Day Against Colonialism (December 14, 2025)**: Observed for first time following UN Resolution A/RES/80/106, reaffirming commitment to decolonization and self-determination, with UN General Assembly plenary on December 18 marking 65 years of Resolution 1514 (1960).
- **National Energy Conservation Day (December 14)**: Celebrated by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) to promote energy efficiency, sustainable development, and recognize excellence through National Energy Conservation Awards.

Obituaries News

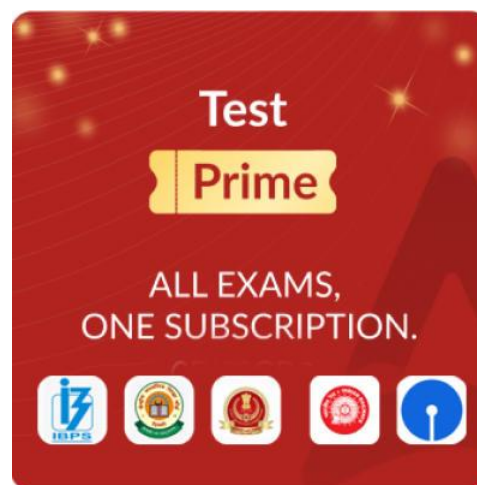
- **Simone Tata**, former **Chairperson of Lakme** and mother of **Noel Tata (Chair, Tata Trusts)**, passed away at the age of **95** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**; she was born on **March 2, 1930, in Geneva, Switzerland**, and played a key role in shaping India’s cosmetics industry.
- **Frank Gehry**, world-renowned **Canadian-American architect**, passed away at **96** in **Santa Monica, California**,

United States of America (USA); born **Frank Owen Goldberg (28 February 1929, Toronto, Canada)**, he won the **Pritzker Prize (1989)** and designed landmarks like the **Guggenheim Museum Bilbao**.

- **Dr. Baba Adhav**, veteran **labour rights activist**, passed away at **95** on **December 9, 2025**, in **Pune, Maharashtra**; he led decades-long movements for **hamals, rickshaw pullers and informal workers**, and founded the **Hamal Panchayat**.
- **Kalyan Chatterjee**, acclaimed **Bengali film actor**, passed away at the age of **81** after a career spanning from **Apanjan (1968)** to classics with directors like **Satyajit Ray, Tapan Sinha and Rituparno Ghosh**, noted for his **naturalistic acting style**.
- **Sophie Kinsella** (pen name of **Madeleine Wickham**), celebrated **British author** of the **Shopaholic series**, passed away at **55** after battling **glioblastoma**; her works sold millions globally and inspired a **2009 film adaptation**.
- **Shivraj Patil**, senior **Indian National Congress leader** and former **Union Home Minister**, passed away at the age of **90**; he also served as **Speaker of the Lok Sabha (1991–1996)** and **Governor of Punjab**.

Miscellaneous News

- **SIM-Binding Rules for Messaging Apps**: DoT directed apps like WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal, and Snapchat to enforce SIM-binding and periodic web logout. The move aims to prevent cyber fraud and protect telecom identifiers under Telecom Cybersecurity Amendment Rules, 2025.
- **Vigyanika Science Literature Festival 2025**: Held in New Delhi on 8–9 Dec 2025. It promoted science communication in Indian languages.
- **Bhartiya Bhasha Utsav 2025**: Celebrated linguistic diversity across India. Aligned with NEP 2020’s emphasis on mother-tongue education.
- **Lionel Messi Statue in Kolkata**: A 70-foot iron statue of Lionel Messi was unveiled in Kolkata. It reflects India’s growing football culture and tourism potential.



Static Takeaways

Entity / Topic	Details
Malaysia	Prime Minister: Anwar Ibrahim; Capital: Kuala Lumpur; Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
Israeli Chess Federation (ICF)	Chairman: Dr. Zvika Barkai; Established: 1951; Headquarters: Tel Aviv, Israel
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS)	Union Minister: Mansukh Mandaviya (Porbandar, Gujarat); Minister of State: Raksha Khadse (Raver, Maharashtra)
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Union Minister: Rajnath Singh (Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh); Minister of State: Sanjay Seth (Ranchi, Jharkhand)
Russia	President: Vladimir Putin; Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishustin; Capital: Moscow; Currency: Russian Ruble (RUB)
Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)	Chairman: Dr. Samir V. Kamat; Headquarters: New Delhi; Established: 1958
Fino Payments Bank Limited (FPBL)	MD & CEO: Rishi Gupta; Headquarters: Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra; Established: 2017
Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	Director General: Lt. General Raghu Srinivasan; Headquarters: New Delhi; Established: 1960
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Chairperson: Tuhin Kanta Pandey; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Statutory body since 1992
FIFA	President: Gianni Infantino; Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland; Established: 1904
FIA	President: Mohammed Ben Sulayem (UAE); Headquarters: Paris, France; Established: 1904
ICAO	Secretary-General: Juan Carlos Salazar Gomez; Headquarters: Montreal, Canada; Established: 1944
SAARC	Secretary-General: Md. Golam Sarwar (Bangladesh); Secretariat: Kathmandu, Nepal; Established: 1985
Indian Navy	Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi; Headquarters: New Delhi; Established: 1950
Karnataka	Chief Minister: Siddaramaiah; Governor: Thaawar Chand Ghelot; Capital: Bengaluru; Wildlife Sanctuaries: Chincholi, Dandeli
Gujarat	Chief Minister: Bhupendra Patel; Governor: Acharya Devvrat; Capital: Gandhinagar; National Parks: Gir, Marine
Odisha	Chief Minister: Mohan Charan Majhi; Governor: Hari Babu Kambhampati; Capital: Bhubaneswar; Wildlife Sanctuaries: Satkosia Gorge, Nandankanan
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)	Director: Vivek Bhasin; Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra; Renamed in 1966
Department of Telecommunications (DoT)	Secretary: Amit Agrawal; Headquarters: New Delhi; Established: 1985
TIME Magazine	CEO: Jessica Sibley; Headquarters: New York, USA; Established: 1923
Global Humane Society	President & CEO: Robin R. Ganzert; Headquarters: Washington DC, USA
International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF)	President: Luciano Rossi; Headquarters: Munich, Germany; Established: 1907
UNODC	Director General: Ghada Fathi Waly (Egypt); Headquarters: Vienna, Austria; Established: 1997
Ministry of Jal Shakti	Union Minister: C. R. Patil (Navsari, Gujarat); Ministers of State: V. Somanna (Tumkur, Karnataka), Raj Bhushan Choudhary (Muzaffarpur, Bihar)
UNESCO	Director-General: Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz; Headquarters: Paris, France; Established: 1945; Member States: 194
Ministry of Textiles	Union Minister: Giriraj Singh (Begusarai, Bihar); Minister of State: Pabitra Margherita (Rajya Sabha, Assam)

Entity / Topic	Details
International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI)	President: Ingmar De Vos; Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; Founded: 1921
Ministry of Communications	Union Minister: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (Guna, Madhya Pradesh); Minister of State: Dr. Chandrasekhar Pemmasani (Guntur, Andhra Pradesh)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva; Headquarters: Washington DC, USA; Established: 1944; Members: 190
FIDE	President: Arkady Dvorkovich; Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland; Established: 1924
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Chairperson: Justice V. Ramasubramanian; Headquarters: New Delhi; Established: 1993

