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National

1. Oil India and RVUNL Partner to Develop 1.2 Gigawatt Renewable Energy Projects in Rajasthan

A joint venture has been formed between Oil India Limited and Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (RVUNL) to develop renewable energy capacity totalling 1.2 gigawatts in Rajasthan. The plan includes 1,000 MW of solar generation and 200 MW of wind power, to be built within RVUNL's Renewable Energy Park. The new entity will serve both commercial customers and state electricity distribution companies. It will also explore green hydrogen and related clean energy solutions. The agreement reflects both organisations' complementary strengths in fossil and power sectors.

2. Tamil Nadu Issues Identity Cards for Women Self-Help Group Members, Becomes First State to Do So

Tamil Nadu has become the first Indian state to issue identity cards to women who are members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The cards were distributed alongside bank loan linkages in Salem under a state initiative. SHG members will now get benefits such as free transport of their products up to 100 km in state buses and discounts at government-run outlets like Aavin, Cooptex, and Mudhalvar Marundhagam. Over 15,000 SHG members in Tiruvallur have already received such cards in a recent event. The move aims to empower women economically and improve access to welfare and market facilities.



3. Prime Minister Inaugurates Construction of India's First PM MITRA Park in Madhya Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first PM MITRA Park in Bhainsola, Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. Spanning 2,158 acres, the park is a greenfield textile hub aimed at strengthening the entire textile value chain—from spinning and designing to processing and exports. It aligns with the '5F' vision: Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign. Expected to generate over 300,000 jobs, the park has attracted more than 20,000 crore in investments and honors the Maheshwari saree heritage.

4. IRDAI Launches Bima Sugam Platform to Simplify Insurance Access

The insurance regulator has unveiled Bima Sugam, a unified digital marketplace intended to make buying and managing insurance far simpler. The platform will host life, health, motor, property, travel, agricultural and other general insurance products, letting customers compare plans, purchase policies, renew them, and eventually submit claims—all under one roof. It is being developed by the Bima Sugam India Federation with backing from industry bodies and will roll out features in phases, starting with an information hub and moving to real transactions. Full operations are expected by

December 2025.

5. Election Commission Deregisters 474 Political Parties for Non-Compliance

The Election Commission of India has de-listed 474 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) in its second phase of clean-up for failing to contest any elections over the past six years. Combined with a previous round where 334 were removed in August, this brings the total delisted in two months to 808. Before the action, there were about 2,520 such parties; after this, roughly 2,046 remain. The EC is also identifying 359 RUPPs that have not submitted audited accounts or filed election-expenditure reports for the last three financial years, despite contesting elections.

6. India Records First Half-Year Decline in Carbon Dioxide Emissions in 2025

India's carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector declined by 1% year-on-year in the first half of 2025, marking only the second such drop in nearly 50 years. This reduction is attributed to record additions of clean energy capacity, milder weather conditions, and increased hydropower output. Despite this positive development, emissions from other sectors like steel and cement continue to rise due to ongoing infrastructure investments. If clean energy growth continues and demand remains stable, India's power-sector emissions could peak before 2030.

7. Mohanlal receives the 2023 Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contribution to cinema

Veteran Malayalam actor, director, and producer Mohanlal has been selected for the 2023 Dadasaheb Phalke Award by the Government of India, in recognition of his iconic contribution to Indian cinema. The announcement, made

following the recommendation of the selection committee, says his versatility, talent, and decades of hard work have set high standards. The award will be conferred during the 71st National Film Awards on 23 September 2025. Mohanlal, with a career spanning over forty years, expressed deep gratitude to his audience and collaborators for their support.

8. India commemorates 60 years of the 1965 war victory

India has begun commemoration of the 60th anniversary of its 1965 war with Pakistan by holding events to honour the courage and sacrifice of its soldiers. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met veterans and families of martyrs in New Delhi, paying tribute to those who fought in battles such as Asal Uttar, Phillora, Chawinda, and Dograi. He lauded the spirit of unity under then-Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and emphasised that sovereignty remains non-negotiable. The observance includes displays, historical recountings, and public remembrance ceremonies across the country.



9. Puducherry becomes the first Union Territory to record zero maternal deaths

Puducherry has become the first Union Territory in India to record zero maternal deaths during childbirth in the year 2024-25. This achievement earned the UT a Platinum Certificate from the

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Union government for delivering high-quality maternity services. The milestone was announced during the inauguration of the Mega Women's Health Festival, Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan. The Health Department's efforts included screening and treating nearly 62,000 young women for anaemia, alongside various health initiatives.

10. MeitY to set up 500 data labs across India under AI Mission

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is set to establish over 500 data labs across India under the IndiaAI Mission. This initiative aims to bolster AI research, innovation, and skill development, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The government also plans to launch a national AI framework within the next 10 days to guide AI development and ensure ethical standards. Additionally, sector-specific AI models for agriculture, weather forecasting, and logistics are in development.

11. Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri Sworn in as Chief Justice of Patna High Court

Justice Pavankumar Bhimappa Bajanthri has been formally sworn in as the 46th Chief Justice of the Patna High Court. The oath was administered by the Governor of Bihar at Raj Bhavan, in a ceremony attended by senior state officials. He was already serving as Acting Chief Justice after his predecessor moved on. His legal career spans decades: he enrolled as an advocate in 1990, served in Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana, returned to Karnataka, and has been a judge at Patna since 2021.

12. Union Minister Introduces LDB 2.0 Platform to Boost India's Digital Trade

A new version of the Logistics Data Bank, called

LDB 2.0, has been launched to strengthen India's trade competitiveness and digital infrastructure. The platform gives real-time visibility of containers via high seas tracking, and multimodal shipment tracking across road, rail and sea. It offers live container heat maps and integrates with the Unified Logistics Interface Platform. It is meant to support MSMEs, improve logistics efficiency, reduce costs, and help in planning infrastructure better across the supply chain.

13. Piyush Goyal Unveils Industrial Park Rating Framework Version 3.0

The Indian government has introduced Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) 3.0, the latest version of a framework to assess and benchmark industrial parks nationwide. It is designed to improve competitiveness of industrial infrastructure, attract investment, and align with sustainability goals. New criteria include green infrastructure, digitalisation, logistics connectivity, skill linkages, and feedback from tenants. Parks will be classified into Leaders, Challengers, or Aspirers, facilitating transparency and encouraging upgrades across parks in different States and Union Territories.

14. India, ADB Ink \$125M Deal to Upgrade Assam Infrastructure

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125-million loan agreement to enhance urban infrastructure and municipal services in six districts of Assam. The project aims to benefit 360,000 residents by providing continuous metered water supply, upgrading storm water management, and strengthening urban governance through institutional reforms. Key initiatives include six water treatment plants, 800 km of distribution pipelines, and real-time monitoring systems. In Guwahati, storm water

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management will be improved with flood diversion channels, upgraded drainage, and a retention pond to boost climate resilience.

15. PM Modi Opens Revamped Tripura Sundari Temple

On September 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the redeveloped 524-year-old Tripura Sundari Temple in Udaipur, Gomati district, Tripura, under the PRASHAD scheme. The project, costing over Rs 52 crore with an additional Rs 7 crore from the Tripura government, enhanced the temple and its surroundings. Built in 1501 by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya, the temple is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas and a symbol of Tripura's cultural heritage. The PM's visit included a puja, reflecting its religious and historical significance.

16. MDL, Tamil Nadu Partner to Develop East Coast Shipyard

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu to develop a world-class greenfield shipyard on India's eastern coast under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. Signed on September 19, 2025, by MDL Director Biju George and Guidance Tamil Nadu CEO Dr. Darez Ahamed, the project aims to boost India's shipbuilding capacity, naval preparedness, and commercial maritime capabilities. The initiative will create high-value jobs and strengthen regional industrial development, with support from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

17. Ayushman Bharat Marks 7 Years of Healthcare Transformation

Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) completed seven years on September 23, 2025, providing ₹5 lakh annual

health cover per family and emerging as the world's largest government-funded health scheme. Launched in 2018 from Ranchi, it has facilitated over 10.3 crore hospital admissions worth ₹1.48 lakh crore in cashless treatments. The scheme now covers 12 crore families, including ASHA and anganwadi workers, senior citizens above 70, and gig workers, supported by 1.8 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, enhancing accessible, equitable, and affordable healthcare across India.

18. President Murmu Felicitates 71st National Film Awards Winners

The 71st National Film Awards ceremony was held on September 23, 2025, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, with President Droupadi Murmu felicitating the winners. Malayalam superstar Mohanlal received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his contributions to Indian cinema. Major awards included Best Feature Film – 12th Fail, Best Hindi Film – Kathal: A Jackfruit Mystery, Best Actor – Shah Rukh Khan and Vikrant Massey, and Best Actress – Rani Mukerji. The awards recognized both veteran and new talents, highlighting socially relevant and experimental films across regional and technical categories.

19. Government and Zepto Join Hands to Generate Employment Opportunities via NCS Portal

The Government and Zepto have entered into a memorandum of understanding to harness the National Career Service portal for job creation. Under the pact, Zepto will list 10,000 job roles on the portal, targeting youth, women, and first-time job seekers. The move aims to formalize gig and quick-commerce roles by integrating them with social security schemes and e-Shram registration. It also strengthens the pipeline for

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urban employment and enhances youth employability through digital tools.

20. India Imposes Temporary Limit on Silver Imports Until March 31, 2026

The Indian government has imposed import restrictions on plain silver jewellery and unstudded silver jewellery until March 31, 2026. This policy change, effective immediately, was announced by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The decision aims to curb the misuse of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and address the surge in imports of silver disguised as finished jewellery. Previously, these imports were allowed freely, but the recent increase has prompted the government to regulate them to better manage trade flows and protect domestic industries.

21. Union Cabinet Clears Highway Project Worth 3822 Crore on NH-139W in Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a 78.94 km four-lane highway on the Sahebganj–Areraj–Bettiah section of National Highway 139W in Bihar, with an investment of 3,822.31 crore rupees. This project, to be executed under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), aims to enhance connectivity between Patna and Bettiah, linking key districts such as Vaishali, Saran, Siwan, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, and West Champaran. The initiative is expected to support long-distance freight traffic, boost access to critical infrastructure, and drive regional economic growth by improving linkages to agricultural hubs, industrial areas, and cross-border trade routes.

22. Cabinet Sanctions 78-Day Productivity Linked Bonus for Railway Employees

The Union Cabinet has approved a Productivity

Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for 10.91 lakh non-gazetted railway employees, totaling 1,865.68 crore rupees. The maximum payable amount per employee is 17,951 rupees. This bonus, disbursed annually before the Durga Puja/Dussehra holidays, recognizes the exceptional performance of railway staff during the 2024–25 financial year, which saw record cargo loading of 1,614.90 million tonnes and nearly 7.3 billion passengers carried.

23. Finance Minister Unveils Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal

On September 24, 2025, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) in New Delhi. This statutory body aims to provide taxpayers with an independent forum for resolving GST-related disputes. GSTAT will operate through a principal bench in New Delhi and 31 state benches across 45 locations. The tribunal will begin hearing cases from December 2025, with appeals accepted until June 30, 2026. A dedicated e-Courts portal has been introduced for online filings and virtual hearings.

24. Cabinet Approves DSIR/CSIR Scheme for Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

On September 24, 2025, the Union Cabinet approved the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) / Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scheme on 'Capacity Building and Human Resource Development' with a total outlay of 2,277.397 crore rupees for the 15th Finance Commission cycle (2021–22 to 2025–26). Implemented by CSIR, the scheme aims to provide a strong platform for young researchers aspiring to pursue careers in universities, industry, national R

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and D laboratories, and academic institutions under the guidance of eminent scientists and professors across Science, Technology and Engineering, Medical, and Mathematical Sciences (STEMM).

25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi Leads the 49th PRAGATI Meeting

On September 24, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 49th PRAGATI meeting at South Block, reviewing eight critical infrastructure projects across sectors including Railways, Mines, Water Resources, Power, and Industrial Corridors. These projects span 15 states and Union Territories, with a cumulative investment exceeding 65,000 crore rupees. The Prime Minister emphasized the importance of adhering to clear timelines, effective inter-agency coordination, and prompt resolution of bottlenecks to ensure timely delivery and public benefit.

International

1. India and Canada Resume Trade Negotiations, Aim to Enhance Economic Cooperation

India and Canada have agreed to resume trade negotiations and restore diplomatic ties, marking a significant shift in bilateral relations. This decision follows a period of strained interactions and aims to enhance cooperation in various sectors. The resumption of talks is expected to lead to the establishment of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), focusing on goods, services, investment, and dispute settlement mechanisms. Both nations are committed to fostering a mutually beneficial economic partnership.

2. US Federal Reserve reduces interest rate by 25 basis points, indicating the start of an easing cycle

The U.S. Federal Reserve has reduced its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to a range of 4.00%–4.25%, marking its first rate cut since December 2024. This decision reflects the Fed's shift in focus from combating inflation to addressing concerns over a weakening labor market and rising unemployment. Despite inflation remaining above the 2% target, the Fed projects two more rate cuts in 2025, aiming to stimulate economic growth and employment.

3. High Seas Treaty achieves its 60th ratification, clearing the way for enforcement

The High Seas Treaty has achieved its 60th ratification, with Morocco becoming the latest country to deposit its instrument of ratification. This milestone triggers a 120-day countdown for the treaty to enter into force, expected on January 17, 2026. The treaty establishes the first legally binding framework to protect marine biodiversity in international waters, enabling the creation of marine protected areas, regulating harmful activities, and promoting international scientific cooperation.

4. US President issues a proclamation to impose an annual fee of 100,000 dollars on H-1B visa applications

President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation imposing a 100,000 dollars annual fee on new H-1B visa applications, effective from September 21, 2025. This fee applies solely to new applicants and does not affect current visa holders or those seeking renewals. The policy aims to deter the displacement of American workers and address national security concerns. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis if deemed in the national interest.

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5. United States Senators Propose India Shrimp Tariff Act to Safeguard American Seafood Sector

A bill called the India Shrimp Tariff Act has been proposed by two U.S. Senators to protect Louisiana's shrimp and catfish industries from what they describe as unfairly cheap imports from India. The legislation would introduce phased tariffs on shrimp imports from India, beginning with 10 percent and potentially reaching 40 percent by 2028. Supporters argue this will level the playing field for domestic producers who face higher regulatory costs, while exporters warn of damage to trade where India already pays anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

6. India Gains Exclusive Exploration Rights for Polymetallic Sulphides in the Carlsberg Ridge

India has signed a fifteen-year contract with the International Seabed Authority granting exclusive rights to explore polymetallic sulphides (PMS) over a 10,000 square kilometre area in the Carlsberg Ridge of the Indian Ocean. The move makes India the first country to hold two such PMS exploration contracts under the ISA, the other being in the Central and Southwest Indian Ridges. PMS are rich in metals including copper, zinc, gold, silver and platinum. The contract aligns with India's Deep Ocean Mission and its goals for the Blue Economy and technology development.

7. India Secures Seat on Interpol Asian Committee

India was elected as a member of the Interpol Asian Committee during the 25th Asian Regional Conference held in Singapore. Represented by a delegation from the CBI, India's election through a multi-stage voting process aims to enhance regional cooperation on security challenges like

organized crime, cybercrime, human trafficking, terrorism, and drug trafficking. The committee will meet annually to guide coordinated actions, set strategic priorities, and advise the conference on operational issues. This reflects India's growing leadership in international policing and transnational security.

8. India, Morocco Sign Defence Cooperation MoU

On September 22, 2025, India and Morocco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation in Rabat, aiming to strengthen defence industry collaboration. Signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Morocco's Defence Minister Abdeltif Loudiyi, the MoU establishes an institutional framework for joint exercises, military training, capacity building, and collaboration in areas like counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, peacekeeping, military medicine, and expert exchanges. Discussions also covered industrial partnerships in defence, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals, reflecting the deepening strategic friendship between the two nations.

9. China Introduces K Visa to Lure Global Talent

China is set to launch a new K-Visa from October 1, 2025, aimed at attracting young science and technology professionals globally. Unlike traditional visas, it does not require a domestic employer invitation and allows multiple entries, longer validity, and extended stays. K-Visa holders can participate in scientific research, education, cultural exchanges, and entrepreneurship. This move complements China's long-term goal of becoming a global technology leader by 2035. The initiative contrasts with the US, which recently imposed a \$100,000 H-1B visa fee.

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10. UK PM Keir Starmer Receives Living Bridge Award

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer was honoured with the 'Living Bridge' Award on September 23, 2025, for his pivotal role in concluding the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), also called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The award, accepted by Seema Malhotra, recognises efforts to strengthen bilateral ties in trade, education, culture, and diplomacy. The FTA aims to double trade to \$120 billion by 2030, enhance market access, reduce tariffs, and boost investments across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, textiles, fintech, education, legal services, AI, and sustainability.

11. Seventh Future Food Forum 2025 Commences in Dubai

The 7th Future Food Forum 2025 commenced in Dubai on September 23, 2025, at Le Méridien Dubai Hotel and Conference Centre. Under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Economy and Tourism, the forum convenes global leaders, innovators, and stakeholders to advance food security, innovation, and sustainability. The event aligns with the UAE's economic diversification strategy, aiming to strengthen interconnected industries, including food, and is expected to contribute over AED 30 billion to the national economy.

Sports

1. Uttarakhand Hosts Asian Cadet Cup 2025, State Chief Minister Inaugurates the Event

The Asian Cadet Cup 2025 (fencing) got underway in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, inaugurated by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at the Manaskhand Hall in the Indira Gandhi International Sports Stadium. More than 250

athletes are participating, including about 150 from India, alongside competitors from various Asian countries such as Tajikistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Syria, and Indonesia. The CM emphasised that fencing, though once under-encouraged, is now growing in youth interest. He also underlined the state's commitment to sports development through new infrastructure, schemes for athletes, and the reinforcement of sports education.

2. Arshdeep Singh becomes the first Indian bowler to claim 100 wickets in T20 Internationals

Arshdeep Singh has become the first Indian bowler to claim 100 wickets in men's T20 Internationals. He accomplished this feat during India's Asia Cup 2025 match against Oman by dismissing Vinayak Shukla. Reaching the figure in only 64 matches, he also set a global record as the fastest pace bowler to do so. His consistent line and length since debuting in 2022 have earned him a reputation as a dependable strike bowler in the shortest format of the game.

3. Smriti Mandhana Surpasses Virat Kohli's Record for Quickest Century by an Indian in ODIs

Smriti Mandhana scored a blistering century in just 50 balls against Australia in the third ODI at Delhi, setting a new record for the fastest ODI ton by an Indian, beating the previous best of 52 balls held by Virat Kohli. Her innings included 17 fours and five sixes, finishing on 125 runs off 63 balls, though India lost the match. She also bettered her own previous Indian women's record of 70 balls, and this century is among the fastest ever in women's ODIs.

4. Indian Skater Anish Raj Achieves Bronze at 2025 World Championships

At the 73rd Inline Speed Skating World Championships in China, Indian junior skater

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Anish Raj won the bronze medal in the Junior Men's One-Lap Road Sprint event. This marks his first podium finish in that event for India in the junior category. The championship saw India collect multiple medals, enhancing its profile in inline speed skating. Anish's performance adds to an already strong showing by India in the tournament.

5. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Records Fastest 400m Performance in Four Decades

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone won gold in the women's 400 metres at the 2025 World Athletics Championships, clocking 47.78 seconds — the fastest time in the event in nearly 40 years. Previously a dominant figure in the 400m hurdles (holding Olympic and world titles), she has now made a remarkable transition to the flat 400m. She beat Olympic champion Marileidy Paulino (47.98) and Salwa Eid Naser (48.19), setting a new championship record and positioning herself second on the all-time list behind a long-standing record from 1985.

6. Anandkumar Velkumar Clinches Gold at 2025 World Speed Skating Championships

Anandkumar Velkumar made history at the 2025 World Speed Skating Championships in China by winning India's first-ever gold in the Senior Men's 1000m sprint with a time of 1:24.924. The 22-year-old also secured gold in the 42 km marathon, in addition to a bronze in the 500m sprint, becoming India's first double world champion in speed skating. His remarkable performance — two golds and one bronze in one championship — has been widely hailed as a breakthrough for the sport in his country.

7. Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone Clocks Fastest 400m in 40 Years

American athlete Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone

made history by winning the women's 400m gold at the World Athletics Championships 2025 in Tokyo on September 18, clocking 47.78 seconds. This marks the fastest women's 400m time in 40 years, surpassing her own American record of 48.29s. She successfully transitioned from 400m hurdles, where she is a two-time Olympic champion and 2022 World Champion. Silver went to Marileidy Paulino (Dominican Republic) and bronze to Salwa Eid Naser (Bahrain), making McLaughlin-Levrone the second-fastest woman in history over 400m.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

8. India and Australia Finalize Organic Products Recognition Arrangement

India and Australia have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for organic products on September 24, 2025, at Vanijya Bhavan, New Delhi. This agreement, under the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), allows mutual acceptance of organic certification standards, eliminating redundant inspections. It covers unprocessed plant products (excluding seaweed, aquatic plants, and greenhouse crops), processed plant-based foods, and wine. The MRA aims to simplify compliance, reduce trade barriers, and enhance market access for certified organic producers in both countries.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. CMLRE study reports severe ecological damage from ELSA 3 shipwreck

A study by the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE) has confirmed significant ecological damage from the sinking of the MSC Elsa 3 off the Kerala coast on May 25,

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2025. The wreck released petroleum pollutants, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons and trace metals like nickel and lead, into the Arabian Sea. These contaminants have adversely affected marine life, from plankton to seabirds. The study emphasizes the urgent need for sealing the wreck's fuel compartments and long-term environmental monitoring.

2. LEADS 2025 Released to Assess Logistics Efficiency Across Indian States and Union Territories

A new edition of the national index called Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2025 has been launched to benchmark logistics performance for all States and Union Territories. It aims to support manufacturing competitiveness under the Make in India drive by reducing costs and improving supply chain efficiency. The index now features assessments of 5-7 key transport corridors using journey time, truck speed, and waiting periods, along with section-wise speed evaluation via APIs on major road routes. It will enable focused interventions by providing sharper diagnostic insights.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. PhonePe Receives RBI Approval to Function as Online Payment Aggregator

PhonePe has secured final approval from the central bank to operate as an online payment aggregator. This authorization enables it to onboard and provide payment processing services for merchants across India, especially small and medium sized enterprises. The licence comes over two years after receiving provisional clearance. PhonePe now joins more than fifty firms with full licences under the regulator's framework governing payment intermediaries. With this, the company aims to expand its

merchant acceptance network, boost digital inclusion, and improve transaction experiences via secure, reliable, and developer-friendly tools.

2. Researchers develop the world's first operational viral genome designed through artificial intelligence

Researchers at Stanford University and the Arc Institute have developed the world's first operational viral genome designed entirely through artificial intelligence. Utilizing AI models trained on millions of genomes, they generated bacteriophages capable of infecting and killing antibiotic-resistant E. coli strains. This achievement marks a significant step toward AI-generated life forms and demonstrates the potential of AI in synthetic biology for combating bacterial infections.

3. CDS Opens First Tri-Services Tech Symposium (T-SATS)

The first Tri Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) was inaugurated by India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, on September 22, 2025, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. Aimed at fostering defence-academia collaboration, T-SATS brings together the Armed Forces, academic institutions, and R&D organisations to develop indigenous technologies for national security. Over 62 institutions participated, showcasing 43 innovative projects. MoUs were signed with leading universities to promote defence-focused research, technology transfer, and applied R&D, reflecting India's commitment to innovation and self-reliant defence capabilities.

4. Russia to Finish S-400 Deliveries to India by 2026

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Russia will complete its \$5.43 billion S400 Triumph missile system deal with India by 2026, delivering the final of five systems. Four systems have already been supplied despite US warnings of potential CAATSA sanctions, which have not been invoked. India is also exploring acquisition of advanced S500 missiles. The S400 proved effective during Operation Sindoor in May 2025, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India and Pakistan later agreed to a ceasefire after four days of cross-border strikes.

5. Indian Navy to Commission Androth, 2nd ASW Vessel

The Indian Navy is set to commission its second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), INS Androth, at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on 6 October 2025, under Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) with over 80% indigenous components, Androth enhances India's maritime self-reliance and anti-submarine capabilities. Equipped with advanced weapons, sensors, communication systems, and waterjet propulsion, it can conduct surveillance, Search and Rescue, and coastal defence missions, reinforcing India's naval strength and indigenous warship development.

6. Centre Extends General Anil Chauhan's Service as Chief of Defence Staff Till 2026

The government has approved an extension of General Anil Chauhan's tenure as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) along with his role as Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs until 30 May 2026, or until further orders. Originally appointed in September 2022, his three-year term was due to conclude, but the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet granted the continuation. This move ensures

continuity in top military leadership amid regional security challenges and ongoing defence reforms.

Miscellaneous

1. Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound Selected as India's Official Nominee for the Oscars 2026

Neeraj Ghaywan's Hindi film Homebound has been selected as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 2026 Academy Awards. The film stars Ishaan Khatter, Janhvi Kapoor, and Vishal Jethwa, and is produced by Dharma Productions. It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and received the second runner-up position for the International People's Choice Award at the 2025 Toronto International Film Festival. The selection was announced by N. Chandra, chairperson of the Film Federation of India's selection committee.

2. Project Vijayak Marks 15th Raising Day in Kargil

Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 15th Raising Day in Kargil, Ladakh, marking 15 years of service in high-altitude connectivity. The project has built over 1,400 km of roads and 80 major bridges, including reopening Zojila Pass in 31 days. With a Rs 1,200 crore plan, it aims to expand roads, tunnels, and bridges using advanced technologies. Celebrations included cultural events, memorials, and welfare initiatives for workers, reflecting BRO's commitment to operational preparedness and local development.

3. Ex-CJI DY Chandrachud Releases Debut Book Why the Constitution Matters

Former Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, has released his debut book titled "Why the

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Constitution Matters” in 2025, published by Penguin Random House. Drawing on over 25 years of judicial experience, Chandrachud explains how constitutional values shape justice, governance, and social progress in India. The book makes legal principles accessible to the public, emphasizes citizen engagement, and explores themes like human rights, equality, secularism, and liberty. It encourages readers, especially students and young citizens, to view the Constitution as a living guide for everyday life and democratic participation.

4. Gram Panchayats Bag 2025 e-Governance Awards for Digital Innovation

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj recognized outstanding Gram Panchayats with the National e-Governance Awards 2025 for pioneering digital service delivery. Rohini (Maharashtra) won Gold for a fully paperless e-Office; West Majlishpur (Tripura) received Silver for Citizen Charter-driven governance; Palsana (Gujarat) and Suakati (Odisha) earned Jury Awards for integrating digital platforms for tax payments, grievance redressal, and inclusive services. The awards, including financial incentives, highlight innovative, citizen-centric, and transparent governance models showcased at the 28th National Conference on e-Governance in Visakhapatnam.

5. IndusInd Bank Names Viral Damania CFO

IndusInd Bank appointed Viral Damania as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Key Managerial Personnel, effective September 22, 2025, as part of a leadership overhaul following an accounting lapse. Santosh Kumar relinquished his additional role as Special Officer – Finance and Accounts but continues as Deputy CFO. Damania brings over 27 years of banking and professional experience, previously

serving as CFO of Bank of America India and holding roles at Citibank and PwC. His appointment aims to strengthen governance, internal controls, and investor confidence at the bank.

6. RBI Cancels Datta Finance NBFC Licence

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificate of registration of New Delhi-based Datta Finance and Trading Pvt Ltd due to irregular lending practices. The NBFC violated guidelines by outsourcing critical functions—including customer sourcing, due diligence, loan disbursement and recovery, servicing, and KYC verification—to third-party service providers in its digital lending operations. The move highlights RBI's strict enforcement of regulatory norms in the non-banking financial sector to ensure responsible lending and protect borrowers' interests.

7. Nvidia to Invest \$100 Billion in OpenAI AI Expansion

Nvidia will invest up to \$100 billion in OpenAI, providing data center chips and acquiring non-voting shares, marking a major AI industry partnership. The deal allows OpenAI to access advanced chips for computing power while giving Nvidia a financial stake. The agreement involves deploying at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia systems by late 2026, supporting OpenAI's AI infrastructure. Analysts note potential antitrust scrutiny and “circular” concerns as competitors may face challenges due to Nvidia's chip dominance and OpenAI's software leadership.

8. Jio Payments Bank Launches Savings Pro at 6.5%

Jio Payments Bank has introduced “Savings Pro”, a digital service that automatically invests customers' surplus funds exceeding ₹5,000 into

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overnight mutual funds, providing potential returns of up to 6.5% per annum. Customers can invest up to ₹1,50,000 per day, with 90% of the invested amount available for instant redemption (up to ₹50,000) and the remaining funds redeemable within 1–2 working days. The platform charges no entry or exit fees and no hidden costs, offering a seamless way to earn higher returns on idle balances while maintaining liquidity.

