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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. India's First Bullet Train by August 2027

India's first bullet train, part of the Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, will begin operations by August 2027, announced Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Mehsana. The 508 km route, assisted by Japan, will operate at speeds up to 320 km/h, marking India's leap into high-speed rail. The minister also highlighted Gujarat's industrial and rail growth, including 2,764 km of new rail lines and rising semiconductor development.

2. Viksit Bharat Strategy Room Launched at LBSNAA

NITI Aayog inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Strategy Room (VBSR) at LBSNAA, Mussoorie, to promote data-driven governance and evidence-based policymaking among civil services trainees. This dynamic governance hub integrates multi-sector data for real-time decision support and fosters innovation, data literacy, and accountability. Concurrently, the NITI for States Use Case Challenge Awards recognized district administrations applying data intelligence to solve local governance issues across six thematic areas, strengthening grassroots innovation and governance across India's aspirational districts.



3. PM Modi Launches Rs.35,440 Crore Agricultural Schemes

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched agricultural schemes worth Rs.35,440 crore at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, focusing on productivity, diversification, irrigation, storage, and credit access. The PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana with Rs.24,000 crore and Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses with Rs.11,440 crore are key initiatives. Projects in animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing were also inaugurated, alongside foundation stones for cold chain, fisheries, and aquapark developments, reinforcing farmer welfare and rural growth.

4. Afghan Foreign Minister Visits India to Strengthen Bilateral Ties

During a six-day visit, Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi travelled to India to enhance diplomatic, economic, and strategic cooperation. He met with senior Indian officials to explore trade, health, consular and infrastructure collaboration. India responded by announcing plans to upgrade its mission in Kabul into a full embassy, signaling deeper engagement without formally recognising the Afghan regime. The visit also included outreach to business leaders and a stop at a prominent religious seminary, underscoring India's calibrated diplomatic approach.



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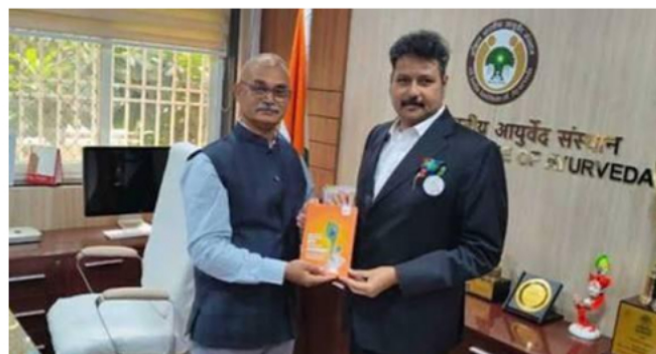
5. Purple Fair 2025 Kicks Off in Goa Promoting Social Inclusion and Diversity

Purple Fair 2025 (International Purple Fest) began in Goa, showcasing the talents, entrepreneurship, and dignity of persons with disabilities. Goa's government collaborated with central social justice agencies and NGOs to host accessible infrastructure, inclusive programming, and awareness events. Officials highlighted that persons with disabilities are contributors to society, not merely beneficiaries. The festival also reinforced "inclusive thinking" and featured a broad agenda spanning art, employment, and accessibility.



6. Three Major Indian Ports Announced as Green Hydrogen Development Hubs

The government has officially designated three major Indian ports — Deendayal (Gujarat), V.O. Chidambaranar (Tamil Nadu), and Paradip (Odisha) — as green hydrogen development hubs. These ports will be scaled up to support production, storage and export of green hydrogen under the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The move aligns with India's push toward low-carbon energy and sustainable maritime infrastructure. The hubs are expected to enable clean fuel adoption, reduce carbon emissions, and stimulate economic growth in those regions.



7. AIIA Expands Ayush Insurance Coverage and Enhances Research Partnerships

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) has launched a Project Management Unit (PMU) dedicated to Ayush insurance matters, aiming for better implementation, transparency and stakeholder engagement. It held a meeting with experts to enhance insurance inclusion in the Ayush sector to expand accessibility of traditional therapies. Concurrently, it entered into academic collaborations—such as with Manav Rachna University—to pursue joint research, evidence-based validation, and cross-discipline exchange in Ayurveda and related systems.

8. Centre Issues First Rules to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Targets

The central government has announced the Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025, marking India's first legally binding framework for emissions per unit of output. It applies to aluminium, cement, chlor-alkali, and pulp & paper industries, covering 282 industrial units. These rules mandate reductions for 2025-26 and 2026-27 relative to a 2023-24 baseline. Units meeting targets can earn tradable carbon credits; those failing must purchase credits or face environmental compensation. This regulatory step strengthens the domestic carbon market.

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9. PM Modi Inaugurates Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana

On October 11, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' and 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, with a combined outlay of over ₹35,000 crore. The schemes aim to boost crop productivity, promote diversification, strengthen pulse value chains, and improve irrigation and credit facilities in 100 districts. Additionally, projects worth over ₹5,450 crore were inaugurated, and ₹815 crore in new projects were laid. Modi highlighted agricultural achievements under NDA, urging farmers to focus on pulses for protein security.

10. Ministry of Labour and Employment Releases Draft of Shram Shakti Niti 2025

The Government of India released the draft **Shram Shakti Niti 2025**, aiming to create a universal, portable social security system for all workers. It integrates welfare schemes like EPFO, ESI, PM-JAY, and e-SHRAM, while promoting workplace safety, digital compliance, and increased female labour participation. The policy emphasizes skill development, employment facilitation, green jobs, and a just transition to sustainable industries. Implementation will occur in three phases, supported by AI-driven monitoring, a unified labour data architecture, and inter-ministerial coordination to ensure transparency and efficiency.

11. India's inaugural bullet train expected to begin operations by August 2027

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India's first bullet train is expected to become operational by August 2027. Speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference in Mehsana, he highlighted Gujarat's industrial

growth, including 2,764 km of new railway lines, semiconductor and electronics sector expansion, and upcoming investments by 30 Japanese chemical and gas companies. The event also saw MoUs signed to boost industrial development in sectors like agriculture, automobile components, renewable energy, and tourism, strengthening employment and investment opportunities in the state.

12. Shah Rukh Khan Becomes First Actor to Join Billionaire Club

Shah Rukh Khan has become the world's first actor to join the billionaire club, with a net worth of \$1.4 billion (₹12,490 crore), surpassing global stars like Taylor Swift, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Tom Cruise. His wealth comes from multiple sources, including his production company Red Chillies Entertainment, IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders, brand endorsements, and strategic investments such as his Mumbai residence "Mannat." Despite this milestone, the richest Bollywood celebrity remains Ronnie Screwvala with an estimated net worth of \$1.5 billion (₹13,300 crore).

13. Labour Minister Launches Vishwas Scheme to Resolve EPF Disputes

Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Vishwas Scheme to reduce litigation under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act by introducing rationalised penal damages. The launch took place during the 238th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees of the EPF in New Delhi. Alongside, Mandaviya introduced digital initiatives like the upgraded return filing module, user management module, e-Office, and SPARROW system for efficient APAR management. The board also approved

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simplified norms for partial withdrawals to enhance member convenience and retirement security.

14. India Launches \$77 Billion Hydro Project Amid China's Dam Expansion

India has announced a ₹6.4 trillion (\$77 billion) hydroelectric plan to generate 76 GW of power from the Brahmaputra River basin by 2047, addressing rising electricity demand and reducing fossil fuel dependence. The project covers 208 hydroelectric sites across 12 northeastern sub-basins, including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, and West Bengal, with Arunachal alone contributing 52.2 GW. The plan also includes 11.1 GW of pumped-storage capacity. Executed in two phases, it involves key public sector utilities NHPC, NEEPCO, and SJVN, and is strategically important amid China's upstream dam development.

15. Telangana Tops India in UPI Usage: RBI Study

A recent Reserve Bank of India (RBI) study highlights that Telangana leads India in Unified Payments Interface (UPI) usage intensity, measured per capita, with Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Maharashtra also showing high adoption. Using PhonePe data as a proxy, the study notes that increased UPI transactions are reducing cash demand, reflected in declining ATM withdrawals. Most peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions are under ₹500. High UPI usage in southern and western states is linked to urbanization and employment-driven migration, while cash reliance remains higher in northeastern states, Kerala, Goa, and Delhi due to tourism, remittances, and limited digital infrastructure.

16. Government Launches LIMBS Dashboard for Real-Time Court Case Tracking

The Indian government launched the LIMBS Live Cases Dashboard on October 14, 2025, to enhance transparency and efficiency in litigation management. Part of the Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) initiated in 2015, the dashboard tracks over 7 lakh active cases across 53 ministries, covering the Supreme Court, High Courts, and subordinate courts. It provides real-time case updates for the next seven days, improves inter-ministerial coordination, supports e-governance, and enables faster legal analysis, resource allocation, and accountable decision-making, reducing delays and legal costs.

17. India's Female Workforce Hits 42% in 2023-24

India's female workforce participation has risen significantly, reaching 42% in 2023-24, up from 23% in 2017-18, according to the Labour and Employment Ministry. World Bank data highlights India as leading BRICS nations in this growth over the past decade. The increase reflects policy measures enhancing women's access to skills, credit, and formal employment. Initiatives include extended maternity and childcare leave, spousal posting, and skill development programs. One Stop Centres provide support against violence, promoting women's economic inclusion as a key driver of national progress.

18. Siddi Tribe Records 72% Literacy Rate

The Siddi tribal community, an Indo-African group and a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), has achieved a literacy rate of 72%, earning praise from the President of India. Descended from Bantu people, the Siddis arrived in India during the 7th and 16th centuries and mainly reside in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana. Recognized as a Scheduled Tribe in 2003, they face socio-economic challenges but have made significant

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progress in education. Their unique culture, languages, and traditional occupations continue to enrich India's social fabric.

19. Government, Zomato Join Hands to Create 2.5 Lakh Jobs Annually

The Government of India has signed an MoU with Zomato to create 2.5 lakh jobs annually through the National Career Service (NCS) portal, focusing on technology-enabled and flexible employment. This initiative targets delivery partners and gig workers, offering real-time, flexible, and socially protected opportunities. It aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana and India's broader Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, formalizing gig work and promoting inclusion, stability, and access to social schemes for youth and women across urban and semi-urban areas.

20. NHAI Plans to Incorporate All Municipal Waste in Road Construction by 2027

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to use all municipal waste generated in the country for road construction by 2027, as stated by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Currently, 80 lakh tonnes of waste are already utilized, including 25 lakh tonnes for the Ahmedabad–Pune Highway and 40 lakh tonnes for the Mumbai–Delhi Highway. Innovations like bio-bitumen from livestock, certified superior to petroleum bitumen, and research on hydrogen from waste are underway. The initiative promotes sustainability and encourages students to become job creators.

21. Prime Minister Modi Unveils Development Projects Worth 13,430 Crore in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for various development

projects totalling about 13,430 crore in Andhra Pradesh. These span sectors such as power transmission, industrial hubs, roads, rail upgrades, defence manufacturing, and gas infrastructure. Key initiatives include a 2,880-crore transmission strengthening line, industrial areas in Kurnool and Kadapa, and a natural gas pipeline between Srikakulam and Angul. The announcements aim to boost investment, improve connectivity, and spur job creation.

22. Life Insurance Corporation Introduces Jan Suraksha and Bima Lakshmi Schemes

The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched two new life insurance plans—Jan Suraksha (Plan 880) and Bima Lakshmi (Plan 881). Jan Suraksha is a micro insurance product aimed at low-income groups, offering guaranteed additions and an auto-cover feature. Bima Lakshmi is exclusively for women, with periodic money-back options, guaranteed additions, and auto coverage. These are the first LIC products introduced under the new GST regime.

23. Bajaj Finserv Asset Management Rolls Out 'Pay with Mutual Fund' Feature Through UPI

Bajaj Finserv AMC has launched a new feature called "Pay with Mutual Fund" in collaboration with fintech company Curie Money. Under this scheme, investors can make UPI payments (for groceries, online shopping, cabs etc.) directly from their mutual fund holdings. The system works via liquid or instant-redemption funds: when a user scans a QR-code and approves a payment, the amount is auto-redeemed from their fund in the background. The redemption limit is either ₹50,000 or 90 percent of the investor's holding, whichever is lower.

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International

1. Buddha's Sacred Relics Exhibit in Kalmykia

Sacred relics of Lord Buddha from the National Museum, New Delhi, will be exhibited in Russia's Kalmykia from October 11 to 18, 2025, at the Geden Sheddup Choikorling Monastery. A high-level Indian delegation, led by UP Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, will participate in religious events. The exposition includes rare Buddhist artefacts, stamps, and historical displays tracing Buddha's legacy, strengthening cultural ties with Kalmykia's Buddhist population. The relics' journey follows earlier international exhibitions in Mongolia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

2. Rishi Sunak Appointed as Strategic Adviser to Microsoft and Anthropic

Rishi Sunak, former UK Prime Minister, has been named senior adviser to Microsoft and AI firm Anthropic in part-time roles focused on global strategy, macroeconomic and geopolitical insights. He will not engage in UK policy advisement or lobbying, per conditions set by the advisory oversight body. Sunak pledges to donate all earnings from these roles to a charity he co-founded. These appointments reflect growing crossover between political experience and tech governance in the AI era.

3. Nobel Prize 2025

The Nobel Prize 2025, awarded between October 6–13, recognized outstanding contributions in Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, Literature, Peace, and Economics. Key winners include Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi (Medicine) for immune tolerance research; John Clarke, Michel H. Devoret, and John M. Martinis (Physics) for quantum discoveries; Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, and Omar M. Yaghi (Chemistry) for metal-organic frameworks;

László Krasznahorkai (Literature); and Maria Corina Machado (Peace) for promoting democracy in Venezuela. The awards, established by Alfred Nobel in 1901, honor work benefiting humanity and inspire future generations.

4. GalaxEye to Launch First Multi-Sensor Earth Observation Satellite by 2026

Space-tech startup GalaxEye plans to launch the world's first multi-sensor Earth observation satellite, Mission Drishti, in early 2026. Weighing 160 kg, it is India's largest privately built and highest-resolution satellite, using proprietary SyncFused Opto-SAR technology that combines Synthetic Aperture Radar and multispectral sensors. Offering 1.5-meter resolution, it will support applications in defence, agriculture, disaster management, infrastructure monitoring, and financial assessments. GalaxEye aims to deploy 8–10 satellites by 2029, enhancing global geospatial intelligence and AI-powered imagery insights.

5. EY and Microsoft Launch Free AI Training Program in India

EY India, in partnership with Microsoft, has launched the free AI Skills Passport program to train students and early-career professionals in job-ready AI skills. Available in English and Hindi, the self-paced program offers around 10 hours of video content, practical exercises, and assessments covering AI fundamentals, responsible AI, and industry applications in healthcare, finance, and technology. Participants also gain career readiness skills and receive a verifiable digital badge. The initiative aims to bridge India's AI skills gap and reach youth across all socio-economic backgrounds.

6. Maldives First to Eliminate Mother-to-Child HIV,

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Hepatitis B, and Syphilis

The Maldives has become the first country in the world to achieve “triple elimination” of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, validated by the World Health Organization. This success is attributed to strong political will, universal health coverage, and integrated maternal and child health services. Over 95% of pregnant women receive antenatal care and testing, with timely hepatitis B vaccination for newborns. Partnerships with government, private providers, and international agencies ensured comprehensive screening, treatment, and sustained progress toward maternal and child health.

7. Israel to Present Trump with Highest Civilian Award for Gaza Ceasefire

Israel will award US President Donald Trump the Israeli Presidential Medal of Honor for his key role in brokering a Gaza ceasefire and facilitating the release of Israeli hostages. The award, presented by Israeli President Isaac Herzog, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to Israel or humanity. Trump's efforts were praised for promoting security, cooperation, and hope for peace in the Middle East. The honor has previously been awarded to former US President Barack Obama in 2013.

8. Palau Conducts World's First Live Underwater Interview

Palau conducted the world's first live underwater interview to promote ocean conservation, featuring President Surangel Whipps Jr. and Estonian Olympic swimmer Merle Liivand. The conversation was enabled by LiFi Talking Mask technology, which transmits sound underwater using light. Palau, an archipelago of around 340 islands east of the Philippines, faces threats from rising sea levels, with some atolls at risk of

submersion. This follows earlier underwater initiatives, including Maldives' 2009 cabinet meeting and Seychelles' 2019 submersible interview.

9. US Pledges \$20 Billion Support Package to Help Stabilize Argentina

The US has announced a \$20 billion aid package to help Argentina tackle its currency crisis ahead of the midterm elections on October 26, 2025. President Trump met Argentine President Javier Milei at the White House to discuss the financial support, which is contingent on Milei's party performing well in the elections. Argentina's economy has faced turmoil following provincial election losses, declining currency value, and investor concerns, despite reforms including spending cuts, deregulation, and large-scale public-sector layoffs since 2023.

10. UPI Set to Debut in Japan via NPCI-NTT DATA Partnership

Indian travelers visiting Japan will soon be able to use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for seamless transactions, following an MoU between NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and NTT DATA Japan. This collaboration allows payments via QR codes in INR, eliminating currency conversion. NTT DATA operates CAFIS, Japan's largest card processing network. UPI, launched in 2016, is already accepted in countries like Bhutan, France, and Singapore. Its global expansion enhances travel convenience, financial inclusion, and showcases India's fintech capabilities.

11. India Secures Seat on UN Human Rights Council for 2026-28

India has been elected unopposed to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the 2026-28 term, marking its seventh term on the

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council. The UNHRC, formed in 2006 with 47 member countries, is the principal UN body promoting and protecting human rights globally. India's election, announced by the UN General Assembly, reflects its commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights. During its tenure, India aims to actively contribute to global human rights discussions and collaborate with member nations to address pressing human rights issues.

12. India and South Korea Conduct Their First Joint Naval Exercise 'IN-RoKN'

India and South Korea have begun their inaugural bilateral naval exercise, named IN-RoKN, at the Busan naval base. The exercise comprises harbour and sea phases. During the harbour phase, naval officers exchange visits, hold cross-training and share best practices. The sea phase includes joint manoeuvres between INS Sahyadri and ROKS Gyeongnam, enhancing interoperability. This joint drill signals strengthening maritime cooperation and shared strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

13. BLS International Selected to Manage Indian Visa Application Centres Across China

A three-year contract was awarded to BLS International Services by the Ministry of External Affairs, effective from October 14, 2025, to establish and operate Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs) in three Chinese cities: Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. These centres will have enhanced infrastructure, multilingual staff and upgraded technology to facilitate visa services for applicants. The contract comes shortly after prior restrictions on visa issuance had been relaxed.

Sports

1. Bumrah First Indian Fast Bowler to Play 50 Matches in Every Format

Jasprit Bumrah made history by becoming the first Indian fast bowler to play 50 matches across all international formats—Tests, ODIs, and T20Is—achieving this milestone during the second Test against the West Indies at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, on October 10, 2025. His achievement places him among an elite group of Indian players, including MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit Sharma, Ravichandran Ashwin, and KL Rahul, who have played 50 or more matches across formats, cementing Bumrah's legacy as one of India's finest modern pacers.

2. Nishad and Simran Clinch Gold at 2025 Para Athletics Worlds

At the World Para Athletics Championships 2025 in New Delhi, India secured four medals on October 3, including golds for Nishad Kumar in men's high jump T47 and Simran Sharma in women's 100m T12. Bronze medals went to Preethi Pal in women's 200m T35 and Pardeep Kumar in men's discus throw F64. Nishad set a new Asian record at 2.14m, while Simran recorded a personal best of 11.95 seconds. India's overall tally reached 15 medals, with 54 men and 19 women competing.

3. Ahmedabad Recommended to Host Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Sport Executive Board has recommended Amdavad (Ahmedabad), India, to host the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games, with the final decision at the General Assembly in Glasgow on 26 November 2025. The recommendation follows a detailed evaluation of candidate cities based on infrastructure, athlete experience, governance, and alignment with Commonwealth values. This marks a

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milestone for India, highlighting its sporting history and commitment to international partnerships. Nigeria's proposal will continue to be supported for future hosting opportunities, including 2034 Games.

Ranks/Reports/Indices**1.NITI Aayog Publishes Roadmap for Employment Generation in Artificial Intelligence Economy**

NITI Aayog has released a "Roadmap for Job Creation in the AI Economy," outlining how AI will reshape work, workers and the workforce. The document notes that India's technology and customer-experience sectors face job disruption but also opportunities for net job creation. It projects up to 4 million new AI-driven jobs over the next five years, contingent on reskilling and innovation. The roadmap recommends a National AI Talent Mission, embedding AI literacy in education, and positioning India as a global destination for AI skills.

2. Sa-Dhan Unveils Quarterly Microfinance Insights from Its Annual Bharat Microfinance Study

Sa-Dhan has released its Quarterly Microfinance Report, building on its Bharat Microfinance Study, showing rising loan defaults in FY 2024-25 and slower credit growth. Delinquencies over 30 days increased sharply, and many microfinance institutions are under pressure over asset quality and profitability. Outstanding portfolio and new disbursements declined significantly. The report underscores the need for stronger risk controls, diversified funding sources, digital adoption, and policy support to restore sector resilience and growth momentum.

3. Henley Passport Index 2025

The Henley Passport Index 2025 ranks Singapore as the world's most powerful passport with visa-free access to 193 destinations, followed by South Korea and Japan. The United States fell to 12th place, while India slipped to 85th, reflecting changes in global mobility and visa policies. China rose to 64th, and the UAE showed notable improvement. Regional comparisons highlight India's position relative to neighbors like Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. The index underscores shifts in diplomatic influence, travel freedom, and global economic trust.

4. India's Trade Deficit Widens to 32.15 Billion Dollars in September 2025

India's merchandise trade deficit surged to 32.15 billion USD in September 2025, marking a 13-month high. The increase was driven by a sharp jump in imports—especially gold, silver, and crude—and a fall in exports to the United States amid new tariffs. While overall exports rose modestly to 36.38 billion USD, the imbalance in trade flows pushed the deficit wider. This widening gap may pressure the current account and currency stability.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement**1.NeGD Partners with Bharat Taxi to Launch Cooperative Ride-Hailing Platform**

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) has signed an MoU with Sahakar Taxi Cooperative Ltd to develop Bharat Taxi, India's first cooperative-based ride-hailing platform, set for launch in December 2025. NeGD will provide strategic, technical and governance support: aiding in architecture design, integrating with national digital infrastructure like DigiLocker and UMANG, and ensuring privacy, cybersecurity, multilingual UI. The initiative represents a shift

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toward cooperative mobility models and reducing dependency on private global ride apps.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. India Launches National Red List Roadmap

India unveiled its National Red List Roadmap and Vision 2025–2030 during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, aiming to assess and conserve its rich biodiversity. The initiative aligns with IUCN standards and global biodiversity frameworks, developing a science-based, inclusive strategy. India plans to publish National Red Data Books by 2030 to document endangered species and guide conservation efforts. This roadmap supports India's legal and international commitments, addressing urgent conservation needs for its endemic flora and fauna.

2. Global Fintech Fest 2025 Launched in Mumbai

Global Fintech Fest 2025 commenced at Mumbai's Jio World Centre with PM Narendra Modi and UK PM Keir Starmer delivering keynote addresses. The event, themed "Empowering Finance for a Better World Powered by AI," gathers over 7,500 companies and 70 regulators globally to discuss AI-driven financial innovation, inclusion, and ethical growth. Highlights include Bharat AI Experience Zone, fintech showcases, and strategic India-UK partnerships, reinforcing India's leadership in digital finance and global collaboration for sustainable fintech development.

3. First Radio Image of Binary Black Holes

Astronomers have for the first time captured radio images of two supermassive black holes orbiting each other in galaxy OJ287, confirming

long-held theories. The discovery was made using the RadioAstron space telescope combined with ground observatories, revealing distinct black holes with one launching a twisting, high-energy particle jet. The research involved Indian scientists from ARIES and international collaborators. This visual proof enhances understanding of black hole dynamics and will aid future gravitational wave studies.

4. India and United Kingdom Conduct First Joint Carrier Strike Naval Exercise

India and the United Kingdom have launched their first ever joint Carrier Strike Group exercise, codenamed Exercise KONKAN-25, off India's western coast. For the first time, India's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and the UK's HMS Prince of Wales are operating together in coordinated maritime operations. Shared drills include anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine warfare, and tactical air combat across sea and air domains. The initiative boosts naval interoperability and signals deepening strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific region.

5. India, UK Conduct First Joint Carrier Strike Drill

The Indian and UK navies conducted their first combined Carrier Strike Group exercise as part of Exercise Konkan 2025, held off India's western coast from October 5–9. The UK's aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales and India's INS Vikrant participated, along with fighter jets, helicopters, submarines, and surface ships, demonstrating advanced air-sea combat readiness. Allied ships from Norway and Japan also joined. The four-day exercise enhanced interoperability, strategic ties, and coordinated maritime capabilities, marking a historic milestone in India-UK naval cooperation.

6. India and Australia Launch Joint Military

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Exercise AUSTRAHIND 2025

The fourth edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise, AUSTRAHIND 2025, began in Perth on October 13, 2025. An Indian Army contingent of 120 personnel, led by a Battalion of Gorkha Rifles, is participating along with troops from other arms and services. The exercise aims to enhance military cooperation, improve interoperability, and allow sharing of tactics and procedures for sub-conventional warfare in urban and semi-urban terrains. It focuses on joint company-level operations, tactical drills, and integration of emerging technologies, strengthening bilateral defence ties.

7. Adani and Google to Set Up India's Biggest AI Data Hub

Google, Adani ConneX, and Bharti Airtel are collaborating to build India's largest AI data centre in Visakhapatnam, part of Google's \$15-billion investment in the country's AI ecosystem. The project includes a new subsea cable, renewable energy integration, and energy storage systems, supporting Andhra Pradesh's goal of 6 GW data-centre capacity by 2029. This initiative positions Vizag as a global tech hub. Other US and Indian tech firms, including Amazon Web Services, OpenAI, and TCS, are also investing heavily in AI infrastructure in India.

8. Airtel Teams Up with IBM to Enhance Cloud Services in India

Bharti Airtel has partnered with IBM to expand cloud services in India, enabling Airtel Cloud customers to deploy IBM's offerings, including AI-ready servers, across sectors like banking, healthcare, and government. The collaboration includes setting up two Multizone Regions (MZR) in Mumbai and Chennai to ensure data safety and uninterrupted operations. This partnership addresses growing demand for

cloud computing, supports data residency requirements, and helps Indian businesses maintain mission-critical workloads, enhancing India's digital infrastructure and AI capabilities.

9. IndiaAI Introduces Face Authentication Challenge for Exams

IndiaAI, under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, has launched the Face Authentication Challenge to enhance transparency and integrity in public examinations. Startups and companies are invited to develop secure, AI-enabled solutions for image verification and application de-duplication, ensuring fair merit-based selection. The challenge offers up to ₹5 lakh for shortlisted teams and up to ₹1 crore for top solutions with a two-year deployment contract. Applications are open until 25th October 2025, supporting India's vision of ethical and inclusive AI.

10. Ola Electric Introduces 'Ola Shakti' Platform for Advanced Energy Storage Solutions

Ola Electric has launched its first non-vehicle product, Ola Shakti, a battery energy storage system (BESS) designed for homes and small enterprises. It uses the proprietary 4680 Bharat cell technology, manufactured at Ola's Tamil Nadu gigafactory, and supports modular expansion, over-the-air updates, remote control, and intelligent backup prioritisation. Reservations begin at ₹999, with deliveries expected in early 2026. The move marks the company's entry into India's growing energy storage segment.

11. A R Rahman Collaborates with Google Cloud to Create AI-Driven Music Avatars

Oscar-winning composer A. R. Rahman has teamed up with Google Cloud to launch Secret Mountain, an AI-powered virtual band. The project features six digital avatars from diverse backgrounds—such as a Tamil rapper, Irish

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singer, and African percussionist—each bringing distinct musical identity, culture, and visual aesthetics. The avatars will perform genre-blending soundscapes, weaving storytelling with metahuman realism. The collaboration aims to push the boundaries of music, visuals, and narrative through artificial intelligence tools.

Miscellaneous

1.HDFC Bank Launches “My Business QR” Innovation

HDFC Bank introduced “My Business QR” at GFF 2025 in partnership with Vyaparify, offering small merchants a digital storefront through a single QR code. Integrated with the SmartHub Vyapar app, it provides a searchable online profile enabling customers to discover, contact, order, chat, and pay seamlessly. This easy-to-use solution requires no technical skills or infrastructure, empowering SMEs to build digital presence, improve customer engagement, and compete effectively in the digital economy while supporting national financial inclusion goals.

2. Tele MANAS App Upgraded for Mental Health

Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda unveiled major upgrades to the Tele MANAS app on World Mental Health Day 2025, enhancing access to mental health services across India. New features include multilingual support in 10 regional languages, accessibility for visually impaired users, an AI chatbot named Asmi, and an emergency response module. Actor Deepika Padukone was named Mental Health Ambassador to promote awareness. The app has handled 28 lakh calls, signaling growing outreach and acceptance of mental health support nationwide.

3. MeitY Advances Digital Agriculture via AgriEnlcs

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) announced a technology transfer under the AgriEnlcs Programme, focused on integrating AI, IoT, machine vision, and sensors to modernize agriculture and environmental management. The programme, implemented by C-DAC Kolkata, fosters R&D, deployment, and commercialization of precision digital technologies benefiting farmers and communities. C-DAC, founded in 1988 to pioneer India's supercomputing capabilities, acts as the nodal agency coordinating academic, industrial, and government partners in advancing digital agriculture.

4. RBI Introduces Unified Markets Interface for Tokenized Finance

On October 11, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the Unified Markets Interface (UMI) to enable asset tokenisation and settlement using wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). UMI aims to enhance market efficiency, transparency, liquidity, and global integration by converting assets like bonds and commodities into digital tokens. The initiative leverages blockchain technology and the Account Aggregator framework to ensure secure, inclusive, and interoperable financial transactions. Alongside UMI, RBI introduced fintech innovations such as UPI HELP, IoT payments, Banking Connect, and UPI Reserve Pay to strengthen India's digital financial ecosystem.

5. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed annually on 13 October to

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promote global efforts in minimizing the impact of natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the day emphasizes disaster prevention, community resilience, and proactive risk reduction strategies. It aligns with the Sendai Framework (2015–2030) and highlights the role of organizations like UNESCO in early warning systems, disaster education, risk mapping, and promoting resilient infrastructure and community-led initiatives worldwide.

6. Sonali Sen Gupta Named as RBI Executive Director

On October 9, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Sonali Sen Gupta as its new Executive Director. With over three decades of experience at the central bank, she has previously served as Regional Director for Karnataka and worked in departments including Financial Inclusion, Banking Regulation, and Human Resource Management. As Executive Director, she will oversee Consumer Education and Protection, Financial Inclusion and Development, and Inspection Departments. Sen Gupta has represented India internationally in forums like G20–GPII and OECD–INFE and serves as RBI's nominee director on Indian Overseas Bank's board.

7. Filmfare Awards 2025

The 70th Filmfare Awards 2025 were held at EKA Arena, Ahmedabad, hosted by Shah Rukh Khan with Karan Johar and Maniesh Paul. Laapataa Ladies set a new record by winning 13 awards, including Best Film, Best Director (Kiran Rao), and several acting and technical categories. Alia Bhatt won Best Actress (Jigra), while Abhishek Bachchan (I Want To Talk) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu

Champion) shared Best Actor. Critics' awards went to Rajkummar Rao and Pratibha Rannta. Lifetime Achievement Awards were conferred on Zeenat Aman and Shyam Benegal, with Achint Thakkar receiving the RD Burman Award.

8. Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh Receives Global Sustainability Honor

Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to receive the Kenton R. Miller Award from the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) for innovation in national park sustainability. Recognized for integrating community engagement, traditional ecological knowledge, and modern science, her work has positively impacted biodiversity in Manas and Kaziranga. The award, established in 2006, honors contributions in planning, governance, monitoring, and communication to address challenges like poaching, climate change, and limited finances in protected areas.

9. World Standards Day 2025

World Standards Day is celebrated annually on 14 October to honor the contributions of experts and organizations in developing international standards. Spearheaded by IEC, ISO, and ITU, the day emphasizes the role of standards in promoting interoperability, consumer safety, global trade, innovation, and sustainable development. The 2025 theme, "A Shared Vision for a Better World," highlights their importance in addressing global challenges like climate change, digital transformation, public health, and energy transition, uniting industries and nations through cooperative progress.

10. Government Extends 16th Finance Commission Term to Nov 30

The Indian government has extended the tenure

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of the 16th Finance Commission to November 30, 2025. Constituted on December 31, 2023, and chaired by Arvind Panagariya, the commission will recommend tax distribution between the Centre and states for the 2026–2031 period. It comprises four members, including full-time and part-time experts, and is assisted by key officials. Besides fiscal devolution, the commission will review disaster management financing under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, aiming to ensure balanced Centre–state financial relations and effective resource allocation.

11. EPFO Permits Full Provident Fund Withdrawal Under New Rules

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) now allows members to withdraw 100% of their eligible PF balance, including both employee and employer contributions. Partial withdrawal rules have been simplified into three categories—essential needs, housing, and special circumstances—with relaxed limits and a minimum service requirement of 12 months. Withdrawals under special circumstances require no justification. A minimum of 25% of contributions must remain in the account to protect retirement savings. Digital processing ensures faster, paperwork-free claims, while pension withdrawal timelines have also been extended for financial security.

12. World Food Day 2025

World Food Safety Day 2025 is observed on June 7 with the theme "Food Safety: Science in Action," emphasizing the role of science, research, and innovation in preventing foodborne risks. Established by the UN in 2018, the day promotes global awareness of safe food practices, encouraging governments, businesses, educational institutions, and consumers to

ensure food safety. In India, challenges include rising food adulteration, limited food safety officers, and inadequate laboratories. The observance highlights shared responsibility and the importance of hygiene, traceability, and informed food choices.

13. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's Birth Anniversary

India celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on October 15, honoring his legacy as a scientist, educator, and former President. Born in 1931 in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, Kalam contributed significantly to India's space and missile programs, earning the title "Missile Man of India." His presidency (2002–2007) emphasized youth engagement, education, and innovation. Known for inspiring students nationwide, he promoted holistic learning, creativity, and ethics. Kalam's vision continues to guide India in fostering inclusive, impactful education and scientific advancement.

14. Tarun Garg Appointed as Hyundai India's First Indian Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) has announced that Tarun Garg will assume the roles of Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer starting January 1, 2026, pending shareholder approval. He will become the first Indian national to lead the company since its inception. Currently serving as the Whole-time Director and COO, Garg succeeds Unsoo Kim, who will return to a strategic post at Hyundai's headquarters. The transition aligns with the company's plan to deepen local leadership and reinforce its commitment to India.

15. Adani Group to Construct Ropeway in Kedarnath, Cutting Trek Duration to Just 36 Minutes

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Adani Enterprises has received a Letter of Award from the National Highways Logistics Management Ltd to build a 12.9-kilometre ropeway between Sonprayag and Kedarnath under the Parvatmala Pariyojana. The ropeway, costing about ₹4,081 crore, will reduce the current 8-9 hour trek to just 36 minutes. Built under a Public-Private Partnership, it will be operated by Adani's RMRW division and serve up to 1,800 pilgrims per hour in each direction. Completion is expected in six years, with operational rights for nearly three decades.

