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Weekly Current Affairs

English

## National

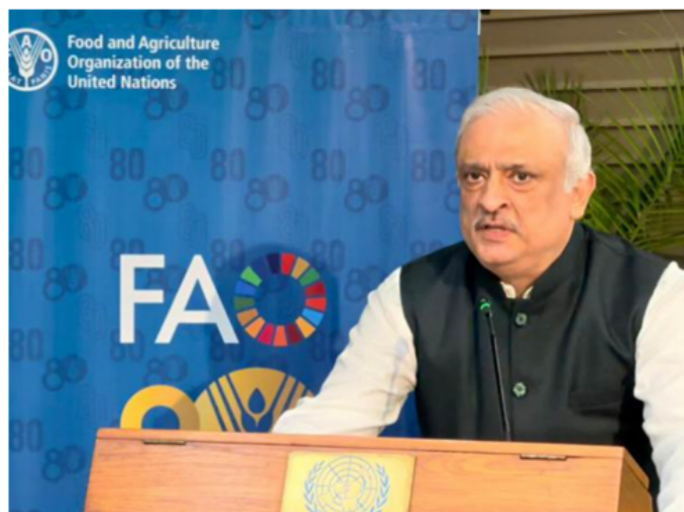
### 1. Centre Launches ₹600 Crore Kapas Kranti Mission

The Government of India launched the ₹600 crore Kapas Kranti Mission to boost long-staple cotton yield using High-Density Plantation (HDP) techniques, digital tools, and farmer support. Announced by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, the mission draws from Maharashtra's HDP successes and targets 24 lakh cotton farmers in Telangana. It includes training, seed distribution, and a "Kapas Kisan App" for streamlined procurement, enhancing farmer income, cotton productivity, and procurement transparency through 122 new centers.



### 2. India, FAO Celebrate 80 Years Food Partnership

On World Food Day 2025, India and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) commemorated 80 years of collaboration that transformed India from food scarcity to self-sufficiency. Highlighting innovations like public stockholding, Minimum Support Price, and nutrition-focused sustainable farming, the partnership has empowered 146 million small farmers and bolstered global food security. The event in New Delhi featured key leaders and launched FAO's coffee table book "Sowing Hope, Harvesting Success," underscoring India's rise as an agricultural leader.



### 3. NITI Aayog Introduces 'We Rise' Programme to Empower Women Entrepreneurs

The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) of NITI Aayog and DP World have jointly launched the "We Rise – Women Entrepreneurs Reimagining Inclusive and Sustainable Enterprises" programme under the ATR framework. The initiative will identify 100 women-led MSMEs with high growth potential and provide export-readiness, mentorship, market access and trade facilitation, including showcasing products at a global B2B/B2C marketplace in Dubai. With over 90,000 women already on WEP's platform, this collaboration aims to deepen linkages between women entrepreneurs and international value chains.

### 4. Harsh Sanghavi Appointed as Gujarat's New Deputy Chief Minister After Cabinet Reshuffle

In a sweeping cabinet reshuffle on 17 October 2025, the Gujarat government led by Bhupendra Patel elevated Harsh Sanghavi—three-time MLA from Majura, Surat—to the post of Deputy Chief Minister. The ceremony at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, also saw 25 other ministers sworn in, taking the total strength of the council to 26. Sanghavi retains key portfolios including Home, Police, and Transport,

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signalling a fresh emphasis on law and order, youth and regional balance ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.



## 5. UIDAI Announces Aadhaar Mascot Design Competition with Cash Prize of One Lakh Rupees

The UIDAI has launched a nationwide mascot-design contest on the MyGov platform inviting all Indian citizens (individuals or teams) to create an official mascot for the Aadhaar programme. Applicants must submit one original design, a concept note, and a proposed name by 31 October 2025. The design should reflect Aadhaar's values of trust, inclusivity, security and digital innovation. Prize awards include Rs 50,000 for first place, Rs 30,000 for second and Rs 20,000 for third.

## 6. FASTag Annual Subscription Reaches 25 Lakh Users Within Two Months

Launched on 15 August 2025, the FASTag Annual Pass for non-commercial vehicles has crossed the 25 lakh-user mark in just two months, according to officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). During this period it also logged approximately 5.67 crore toll transactions via 1,150 national-highway toll plazas. The pass allows unlimited toll crossings (up to 200) for a year with a one-time fee and

aims to simplify highway travel and reduce wait time.

## 7. Jio Payments Bank to Roll Out ANPR-Based Toll Collection on National Highway 48

Jio Payments Bank (JPBL) has secured contracts to implement the next-generation Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) toll collection system using FASTag-based Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) on the Gurugram-Jaipur stretch of National Highway 48 (NH 48), specifically at the Shahjahanpur and Manoharpura toll plazas. The system allows vehicles to pass without stopping, using technologies like RFID, ANPR, DSRC and GNSS, thereby reducing congestion and improving travel ease.

## 8. Hindustan Shipyard Limited Receives Mini Ratna Category Recognition

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), located in Visakhapatnam and administered under the Ministry of Defence, has been conferred 'Mini Ratna' status in October 2025 in recognition of its sustained profitability and operational turnaround. The shipyard reported positive net worth after decades and has embraced reforms in financial management, productivity and modernisation, enabling greater autonomy in decision-making and major investments.

## 9. FAO Honours Sundarbans' Sustainable Aquaculture Model

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has globally recognized the Sustainable Aquaculture in Mangrove Ecosystems (SAIME) model from West Bengal's Sundarbans. Implemented by the Nature Environment and Wildlife Society with international partners, SAIME integrates shrimp farming with mangrove conservation to enhance livelihoods and climate resilience. By linking aquaculture productivity to ecosystem health, it



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fosters community participation, supports carbon sequestration, and demonstrates how sustainable aquaculture can protect biodiversity while promoting economic growth in coastal regions.



## 10. Vishwas Scheme Launched to Reduce EPF Litigation

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched the Vishwas Scheme during its 238th Central Board of Trustees meeting to reduce litigation caused by high penal damages on delayed PF remittances. The scheme rationalizes penalty rates to 0.25% per month (up to 2 months delay), 0.5% (up to 4 months), and 1% thereafter. Operational for six months and extendable, the scheme covers ongoing and pending cases, promising faster dispute resolution, lower legal costs, and improved compliance.



## 11. Rajnath Singh Launches Titanium Plant in Lucknow

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Titanium and Superalloy Plant in Lucknow to boost India's defence self-reliance. The ₹1,000 crore facility, producing over 6,000 tonnes annually, will supply crucial aviation-grade materials for military applications like fighter jets and missiles. The plant supports Aatmanirbhar Bharat, employment, MSMEs, and indigenous defence programs. Partnerships like PTC Industries with Bharat Dynamics and DRDO's approvals for aerospace components further advance India's strategic material independence and defence manufacturing capabilities.



## 12. Centre Augments Notary Capacity in Four States

The Law Ministry increased notary limits in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, and Nagaland through the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2025, effective immediately. This change was in response to rising demand due to population growth and administrative expansion. The move aims to improve access to legal documentation, reduce delays, and strengthen grassroots legal infrastructure. It supports smoother property transactions, court processes, and business activities, thereby enhancing justice delivery and administrative efficiency across these states.



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### 13. Ahmedabad Recommended to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games

Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India, has been recommended by the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board to host the centenary 2030 Commonwealth Games, subject to final approval at the General Assembly in Glasgow on November 26, 2025. This will be India's second time hosting the event after the 2010 Games in Delhi. The recommendation highlights India's growing stature in the global sporting arena. The Games are seen as a platform to inspire youth, boost infrastructure, tourism, and contribute to India's sports culture development.

### 14. India Hosts Successful 8th CCSCH Session

The 8th Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) concluded successfully in Guwahati, India. The committee finalized global standards for large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander, enhancing quality, safety, and consistency in the global spice trade. Established under the Codex Alimentarius Commission, CCSCH focuses on harmonizing worldwide spice standards. India hosts the committee with the Spices Board as secretariat, strengthening India's role in advancing international food safety, fair trade practices, and global spice market competitiveness.



### 15. Finance Minister Inaugurates dhaRti BioNest at IIT Dharwad

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the dhaRti BioNest Incubation Centre at IIT Dharwad recently. This centre supports early-stage startups in biotechnology, deep tech, and healthcare by providing advanced lab infrastructure, mentoring, regulatory support, and investor networking. Funded by ₹5.2 crore from MPLADS and ₹5 crore from BIRAC, dhaRti BioNest has already aided 15 startups under the Elevate Karnataka scheme, each receiving ₹50 lakh, strengthening India's biotech innovation ecosystem, especially in tier-2 cities.



### 16. India Science Festival 2025 Chandigarh Hosts Vibrant

The 11th India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held in Chandigarh from December 6-9, 2025, themed 'Vigyan se Samruddhi: For Atma Nirbhar Bharat.' As the country's premier science outreach event, IISF brings together scientists, innovators, students, and the public to celebrate scientific achievements and promote self-reliance through science and technology. The festival will focus on five key themes including regional ecology, science for society, Atma Nirbhar Bharat, bioeconomy, and integrating traditional knowledge with modern science.



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## 17. Meta's Project Waterworth Selects Mumbai, Visakhapatnam

Meta Platforms has chosen Mumbai and Visakhapatnam as the landing sites for Project Waterworth, a multibillion-dollar undersea cable spanning over 50,000 km connecting five continents. This cable, equipped with 24 fiber pairs, will significantly boost India's internet capacity, reduce latency, and enhance digital infrastructure resilience. By linking India with the US, Brazil, and South Africa, the project supports growing demands for AI, cloud computing, and digital services, cementing India's role as a critical player in global digital connectivity.

## 18. Kerala's Underwater Tunnel Vypin-Fort Kochi Travel Revolution

Kerala is constructing its first underwater tunnel (2.75 km) connecting Vypin and Fort Kochi as part of the coastal highway project, reducing travel distance from 16 km to 3 km beneath the Arabian Sea. The ₹2,672 crore twin-tube tunnel will feature advanced safety systems and cut travel time from over two hours to 30 minutes, while reducing monthly commuting costs by nearly ₹1,500. The tunnel was favored over a bridge due to technical, financial, and environmental advantages, promising smoother, safer coastal connectivity.

## 19. IndiaAI, WHO Launch Call for AI Healthcare

The IndiaAI Mission under MeitY and the WHO

have launched a global call for abstracts showcasing impactful and scalable AI applications in healthcare across the Global South. Selected entries will contribute to a Casebook of AI Health Use Cases to be unveiled at the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. This initiative aims to help policymakers, researchers, and innovators replicate successful AI healthcare solutions, promoting responsible AI adoption and accelerating digital transformation in healthcare systems worldwide.

## 20. Kerala Becomes India's First Extreme Poverty-Free State

Kerala will officially be declared India's first state free of extreme poverty on November 1, 2025—its formation day. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will make the announcement at a public event in Thiruvananthapuram, attended by film icons Kamal Haasan, Mammooty, and Mohanlal. The Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), launched in 2021, identified over 64,000 impoverished families and enabled rehabilitation through housing, healthcare, education, and income generation. With multidimensional poverty now below 0.55%, Kerala meets the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of "No Poverty."

## 21. Chennai Launches India's First Real-Time Flood Forecasting

Chennai has become India's first city to implement a fully operational Real-Time Flood Forecasting and Spatial Decision Support System (RTFF & SDSS). The ₹107.2 crore World Bank-funded project, managed by Tamil Nadu Urban Infrastructure Financial Services Ltd, integrates Automatic Rain Gauges, Weather Stations, and Water Level Recorders over a 4,974 sq km region. Supervised by IIT Madras, the system enables proactive flood prediction in Adyar, Cooum, and Kosasthalaiyar river basins, strengthening Chennai's disaster resilience and climate-smart urban governance.



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## 22. NHAI Launches AI-Driven 3D Survey Vehicles Nationwide

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is deploying advanced 3D laser-based Network Survey Vehicles across 23 states, covering over 20,933 km of national highways. These vehicles use AI technology to automatically detect road defects like cracks, potholes, and patches without human intervention. Data is uploaded to NHAI's AI-powered Data Lake for expert analysis, enabling proactive maintenance, improving road safety, reducing repair costs, and enhancing infrastructure transparency. This marks a shift to smart highway management aligned with India's infrastructure vision.

### International

## 1. Uruguay Leads Latin America in Legalizing Euthanasia

Uruguay became the first Latin American country to legalize euthanasia through legislation, marking a milestone in bioethics and human rights. The law permits mentally competent adults with incurable illnesses causing unbearable suffering to seek medically assisted death, excluding assisted suicide. Approved by Uruguay's Senate with strong support, this legislation introduces strict medical protocols and ethical safeguards, reflecting the nation's progressive values despite opposition from the Catholic Church. The law may influence euthanasia debates across Latin America.



## 2. India Elected Co-Chair of UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific

India has been elected Co-Chair of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) for the 2025–2028 term. Representing 56 countries, UN-GGIM-AP promotes geospatial data use for economic, social, and environmental benefits. India's role strengthens its leadership in global geospatial policy, digital governance, and regional collaboration. The election reflects India's growth in geospatial innovation aligned with domestic initiatives like Digital India, Smart Cities Mission, and Gati Shakti infrastructure plan.



## 3. India and Indonesia Conduct Fifth Edition of Joint Naval Exercise Samudra Shakti

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The Indian Navy is hosting the fifth edition of the bilateral maritime exercise Samudra Shakti with the Indonesian Navy from 14-17 October 2025 at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command. The harbour phase includes cross-deck visits, joint yoga sessions, sports fixtures and subject-matter expert exchanges; the sea phase involves helicopter operations, air-defence drills, weapon firing and visit-board-search-seizure (VBSS) exercises. The exercise underlines both nations' commitment to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region and aims to improve interoperability and mutual understanding.



#### 4. India Proposes Akash Missile System to Brazil

India has pitched its indigenously developed Akash medium-range surface-to-air missile system to Brazil during wide-ranging defence talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Brazilian Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin in New Delhi. The missile, known for intercepting multiple aerial threats with high reliability, is already in service with the Indian Army and Air Force. Discussions also included co-development and co-production opportunities, strengthening the India-Brazil strategic partnership and enhancing India's footprint in global defence exports.



#### 5. Masako Nozawa Earns Japan's Cultural Merit Honor

Masako Nozawa, the legendary voice of Son Goku from Dragon Ball, has become the first voice actor to receive Japan's prestigious Persons of Cultural Merit award in 2025. The honor recognizes her six-decade contribution to anime and voice acting, elevating the status of seiyuu in Japanese cultural heritage. Born in 1936, Nozawa has voiced multiple generations of beloved characters and holds Guinness World Records for her longevity in video game voice roles, marking an unmatched legacy in global pop culture.

#### 6. Sanae Takaichi Japan's First Female Prime Minister

Sanae Takaichi was elected Japan's first female prime minister on October 21, 2025, securing 237 votes in the Lower House. Her rise marks a significant gender milestone and a right-wing political shift inspired by Margaret Thatcher and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. She advocates for stricter immigration, traditional family values, and a tougher security stance. Her election sparked the "Takaichi Trade" in markets despite warnings of economic risks. While breaking gender barriers, she reflects conservative views on social roles.



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## 7. PM Modi Congratulates Rodrigo Paz Pereira, Bolivia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Rodrigo Paz Pereira on his election as President of Bolivia, marking an end to two decades of left-wing rule. Pereira, winning 54.53% of votes, will serve a five-year term starting November 2025. India and Bolivia share friendly ties with growing cooperation in trade, minerals, infrastructure, health, and IT. India has extended development aid and medical assistance to Bolivia and offers training slots under the ITEC program to bolster bilateral relations.



## 8. Tuvalu Joins IUCN as 90th Member

Tuvalu, a small island nation in the Pacific Ocean, recently became the 90th State Member

of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Known for its low-lying coral atolls and vulnerability to climate change and sea-level rise, Tuvalu's accession to IUCN strengthens its voice in global conservation efforts. Membership allows Tuvalu to engage with international partners, access conservation resources, and advocate for climate resilience and biodiversity protection.

## 9. Netherlands Hosts NATO's Annual Steadfast Noon Exercise

NATO's annual nuclear deterrence exercise, Steadfast Noon 2025, is being hosted by the Netherlands with Volkel Air Base as the main site. About 70 aircraft from 14 allied nations, including dual-capable jets like the F-35, are participating. The exercise simulates nuclear mission readiness without using live weapons, focusing on complex coordination, strike capabilities, and command and control. Other participating bases include those in Belgium, Britain, and Denmark. France is not participating, maintaining its separate nuclear command.

## 10. India-Brazil Expand MERCOSUR Trade Pact Ambitiously

India and Brazil have agreed to significantly expand their Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) under the MERCOSUR bloc, aiming to boost bilateral trade from approximately \$12 billion in 2024 to \$20 billion by 2030. The expansion plans include tariff and non-tariff concessions, enhancing market access, and fostering investment across diverse sectors such as agriculture, technology, clean energy, and manufacturing. The collaboration also features a forthcoming technical dialogue and stronger private sector engagement to finalize the expanded trade framework.



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Sports

### 1. Cape Verde Makes Historic FIFA World Cup Qualification

Cape Verde has qualified for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, becoming the second-smallest nation ever to do so after Iceland. The island nation topped its qualifying group with 23 points, surpassing Cameroon and others. This historic achievement marks Cape Verde's rise in international football, powered by strategic player recruitment from its diaspora, strong team unity, and enhanced investment supported by FIFA. The accomplishment highlights how focused planning can enable small nations to succeed on the global sports stage.



### 2. Morocco Wins First U-20 World Cup

Morocco made history by defeating Argentina 2-0 on October 19, 2025, to win its first U-20 FIFA

World Cup title in Chile. This victory marks a milestone for African football and youth development, ending a 16-year wait since Ghana's 2009 win. Yassir Zabiri starred with two first-half goals, leading Morocco through an impressive knockout run against strong teams like South Korea, the USA, France, and ultimately Argentina. Argentina's absence of key players affected their final performance.



### 3. Jyothi Surekha Vennam Wins Historic Archery Bronze

Jyothi Surekha Vennam became the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the Archery World Cup Final 2025, clinching bronze in Nanjing by defeating world No. 2 Ella Gibson with a perfect 150-145 score. The Asian Games champion had earlier won against Alexis Ruiz and narrowly lost the semifinal to world No. 1 Andrea Becerra. This marks her third World Cup Final appearance and a major milestone for Indian archery.





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#### 4. Young British-Indian Chess Prodigy Beats Champion

At just 10 years old, British chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan from Indian-origin has made history by defeating former Women's World Champion Grandmaster Mariya Muzychuk at the 2025 European Club Cup in Rhodes, Greece. Born in London to Tamil Nadu parents, Bodhana has rapidly risen through ranks, becoming the youngest player to earn a Woman Grandmaster norm, breaking records previously held by top players. Experts hailed her win as an 'incredible' upset, signaling a bright future for English chess.



#### 5. India Clinches Kabaddi Double Gold at Asian Youth Games

India dominated the kabaddi event at the 2025 Asian Youth Games in Bahrain, with both the Under-18 boys' and girls' teams winning gold medals unbeaten. The girls' team crushed Iran 75-21 with Neha Patel scoring 28 points, while the boys narrowly defeated Iran 35-32 in a tense final. The clean sweep reinforces India's status as Asia's youth kabaddi powerhouse. Matches were held at Isa Sports City, Riffa, enhancing India's overall medal tally at the games.



#### Ranks/Reports/Indices

##### 1. India Launches State Mining Readiness Index

The Ministry of Mines launched the first State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI) in 2025 to rank Indian States on mining efficiency, reforms, and sustainability in the non-coal sector. The index promotes transparency, competition, and responsible mining focusing on minerals critical for energy transition and industrial growth. States are categorized by resource endowment, with Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat leading mineral-rich states. SMRI aims to boost governance, investor confidence, and align resource management with India's Vision 2047 for sustainable development.

##### 2. India Ranks 9th Globally in Forest Area, 3rd in Growth

According to FAO's GFRA 2025, India has climbed to the 9th position globally in total forest area, up from 10th, with approximately 72.74 million hectares. It also maintains the 3rd position worldwide in annual forest area gain, adding about 191,000 hectares annually. This progress reflects successful afforestation policies, community participation, and government initiatives like the Green India Mission. The growth emphasizes India's leadership in sustainable land management and climate



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commitments, reinforcing its role in global ecological conservation efforts.

## Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

### 1.Chandigarh to Host Eleventh Edition of India International Science Festival

The 11th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) is scheduled for 6–9 December 2025 in Chandigarh, under the theme “Vigyan se Samruddhi: For Atmanirbhar Bharat”. The event, coordinated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, will bring together students, researchers, startups and industry stakeholders to celebrate scientific innovation, focus on the science-technology-ecology interface in North-West India and the Himalayan region, and integrate traditional knowledge with modern research. It aims to democratise research funding and promote interdisciplinarity across institutions and states.



### 2. Uttarakhand Hosts AI Impact Summit Ahead of India–AI 2026 Global Event

The Uttarakhand AI Impact Summit 2025 was held on 17 October 2025 in Dehradun, organised by the Government of Uttarakhand in collaboration with the India AI Mission under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY). The summit acts as a precursor to the India–AI Impact Summit scheduled for 19–20 February 2026 in New Delhi and focused on using artificial intelligence for inclusive growth, governance, and innovation in the Himalayan

region. Key sectors such as startups, academia and public administration participated to shape AI’s role in local economy transformation and sustainable development.

## Science and tech/Space/Defence

### 1.Telangana Tops India in Mobile Recovery Efforts

Telangana leads India in recovering lost and stolen mobile phones, tracing over 1,00,020 devices through the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal as of October 16, 2025. Hyderabad commissionerate reported the highest recoveries with nearly 15,000 phones unblocked. The CEIR system blocks stolen phones across networks and enables police tracking for recovery. Telangana’s success is due to proactive police efforts, integration with the Telangana Police Citizen Portal, and strong public awareness campaigns enhancing digital security.

### 2. Curie Money and Lxme Broaden Access to UPI Payment Services

Fintech platform Curie Money has emerged from its beta phase and opened its UPI-cum-investment application to all Android and iOS users after receiving approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The app allows users to make payments while keeping unused funds automatically invested in liquid mutual funds and supports instant redemption. Simultaneously, Lxme, a women-focussed fintech platform, has launched “LxmePay” – a UPI service exclusively for women, enhancing financial inclusion in the digital payments space.

### 3. DRDO Tests High-Altitude Combat Parachute System

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the



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indigenously developed Military Combat Parachute System (MCPS) from an altitude of 32,000 feet. Designed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra, and the Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory, Bengaluru, the system integrates advanced steering, descent, and navigation features. Compatible with India's NAVIC system, MCPS ensures operational autonomy and precision, marking a key step in indigenous defence innovation and self-reliance for India's paratrooper operations.

#### 4. ISRO Develops Vikas-Powered Test Vehicle CES

ISRO has developed a cost-effective, single-stage test vehicle powered by the Vikas engine to validate the Crew Escape System (CES), a critical emergency safety mechanism for the Gaganyaan mission. CES quickly pulls the crew module and astronauts to a safe distance from a failing launch vehicle using solid motors, followed by a multistage parachute deceleration ensuring safe splashdown. The system features an Integrated Vehicle Health Management system for early anomaly detection and timely activation, enhancing astronaut safety during launch abort scenarios.

#### 5. GalaxEye to Launch Multi-Sensor Satellite 2026

Indian space-tech startup GalaxEye is set to launch 'Mission Drishti' in the first quarter of 2026. This 160 kg satellite is India's largest privately built and the highest resolution satellite domestically developed. Combining synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and high-resolution optical imaging, it ensures all-weather, day-night Earth observation capability. The mission aims to deploy 8-12 satellites by 2029, supporting applications in defense, disaster management, agriculture, and infrastructure monitoring, significantly advancing India's private space sector and geospatial intelligence capabilities.



#### 6. DRDO Extends Astra Mark 2 Missile Range

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is advancing the Astra Mark 2 beyond visual range air-to-air missile, aiming to extend its operational range beyond 200 kilometers. This missile, already more advanced than its predecessor Astra Mark 1, features dual-pulse propulsion, indigenous RF seeker, Mach 4.5 speed, and advanced electronic counter-countermeasures. The extension will give the Indian Air Force a strategic edge by allowing engagement of aerial threats from safer distances and is set for integration with Sukhoi and Tejas fleets.

#### 7. India Advances Antibiotic, Gene Therapy Innovations

India announced Nafithromycin, its first indigenous antibiotic targeting resistant respiratory infections, developed collaboratively by the Department of Biotechnology and Wockhardt. Alongside this, India achieved success in gene therapy for hemophilia with a clinical trial at Christian Medical College, Vellore, showing 60-70% correction and no bleeding episodes. These breakthroughs symbolize India's stride toward biotech self-reliance, supported by expanded genome sequencing and AI healthcare applications. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation promotes a robust public-private research ecosystem with ₹50,000 crore funding plans.

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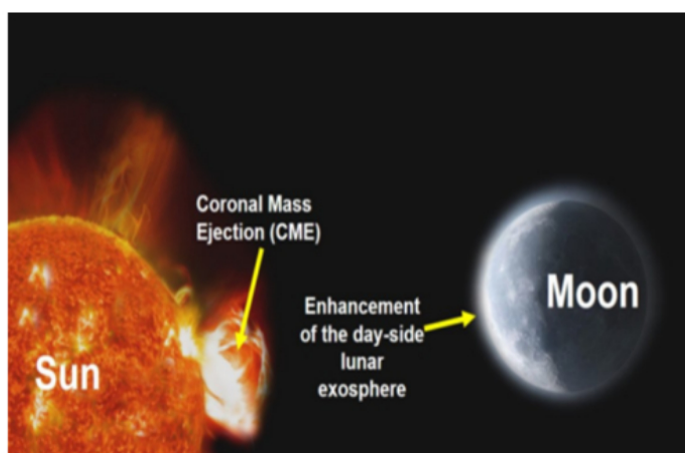
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## 8. Chandrayaan-2 Observes Solar Impact on Moon

ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 made the first direct observation of solar eruptions, specifically Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs), affecting the Moon's exosphere. The lunar exosphere's density increased tenfold as atoms and molecules were knocked off the Moon's surface by solar particles. This discovery advances understanding of lunar space weather and highlights the Moon's vulnerable airless environment. Chandrayaan-2's CHACE-2 instrument solidifies India's role in advanced lunar research and planetary exploration.



## 9. Florida Confirms Cases of Zombie Deer Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), known as

Zombie Deer Disease, is a fatal neurological illness primarily affecting deer, elk, moose, and reindeer. Caused by infectious misfolded proteins called prions, it damages the brain, leading to progressive weight loss and behavioral changes over 18–24 months. CWD spreads through bodily fluids and contaminated environments, with prions remaining infectious for years. There is currently no treatment or vaccine, and while no human transmission is confirmed, experts remain cautious about risks.

## 10. Indian Navy Inducts 11th ACTCM Barge LSAM 25

The Indian Navy inducted its 11th Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, LSAM 25 (Yard 135), at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, recently in October 2025. Built by MSME shipyard Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane, the barge was indigenously designed, tested for seaworthiness, and complies with Naval and Indian Register of Shipping regulations. LSAM 25 enhances logistical capabilities by facilitating ammunition handling and transportation alongside jetties and outer harbours, supporting India's Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.



## 11. Astronomers Observe Ring Formation Around Chiron



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Astronomers have observed a dynamic ring system forming around the icy centaur (2060) Chiron, located between Saturn and Uranus. Chiron, about 200 km wide, orbits the Sun every 50 years and exhibits traits of both asteroids and comets. Using stellar occultation, researchers identified four rings—three dense, one diffuse—composed mainly of water ice and rock. This discovery offers new insights into ring formation around small celestial bodies and reveals evolving cosmic structures beyond giant planets.

## 12. Finance Ministry Approves Maitri II Antarctic Station

India's Finance Ministry has approved the establishment of Maitri II, the country's newest and fourth research station in eastern Antarctica, scheduled for completion by January 2029. Maitri II will replace the aging Maitri station and is planned as a green research base powered by renewable energy such as solar and wind. Equipped with automated instruments for continuous data relay, it will enhance India's scientific presence under the Antarctic Treaty System, supporting climate, glaciology, biological, and atmospheric research.

## 13. India Recognizes Three Ports as Green Hydrogen Hubs

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has officially designated three major Indian ports—Deendayal Port Authority (Gujarat), V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Tamil Nadu), and Paradip Port Authority (Odisha)—as Green Hydrogen Hubs under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM). Launched in January 2023, NGHM aims to establish India as a global hub for green hydrogen production, usage, and export, targeting 5 million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen by 2030. This recognition is expected to drive industrial investment,

innovation, and clean fuel technology adoption at the ports.

### Miscellaneous

## 1. Uttarakhand Drives Responsible AI Leadership for India

The Uttarakhand AI Impact Summit 2025, held in Dehradun on October 17, acted as a prelude to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026, underscoring India's commitment to ethical, inclusive, and people-centric AI. Organized by the Government of Uttarakhand with MeitY's IndiaAI Mission, it brought leaders from government, academia, and startups together. The event showcased AI's role in governance, education, healthcare, and sustainability, positioning India as a frontrunner in global technology dialogue and responsible digital transformation.



## 2. Akkai Padmashali Joins Supreme Court Transgender Committee

Akkai Padmashali, a prominent transgender rights activist from Karnataka, has become the first transgender member appointed to a Supreme Court committee on equal opportunity policy for transgender rights. This historic appointment marks a milestone for representation and inclusivity at the national

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level. The committee, headed by Justice Asha Menon, aims to implement transgender protections based on landmark rulings like NALSA (2014). Padmashali advocates for social justice while expanding activism to include diverse gender minorities.



### 3. AIIA Marks 9 Years with Significant Milestones

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day in New Delhi, treating over 30 lakh patients through 44 specialty clinics and establishing seven new Health and Wellness Centres. Established under the Ministry of AYUSH, AIIA has gained national and international recognition as a center of excellence in Ayurvedic education, research, and healthcare. The institute actively promotes India's vision to be a global leader in traditional healthcare systems, advancing collaborations and innovations in Ayurveda.



### 4. Nirmal Minda Appointed President of Assocham

Nirmal Kumar Minda, Executive Chairman of Uno Minda Group, assumed the presidency of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) on October 17, 2025. Renowned for his five decades in the auto component sector, Minda is recognized for innovation and supply chain leadership. Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO of Axis Bank, was named Senior Vice-President subject to RBI approval. Their leadership is expected to boost industry advocacy, focusing on technology, competitiveness, and economic growth.



### 5. Prestigious National Energy Conservation Awards 2025 Announced

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has invited applications for the 35th National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2025, recognizing excellence in energy efficiency across industries, transport, buildings, institutions, and energy-efficient appliances. This year, a new category for digital content creators and influencers has been introduced to harness social media's power in promoting energy conservation awareness. Scheduled for December 14, 2025, the awards support India's commitment to sustainability and climate goals by encouraging adoption of innovative energy-saving technologies and practices.



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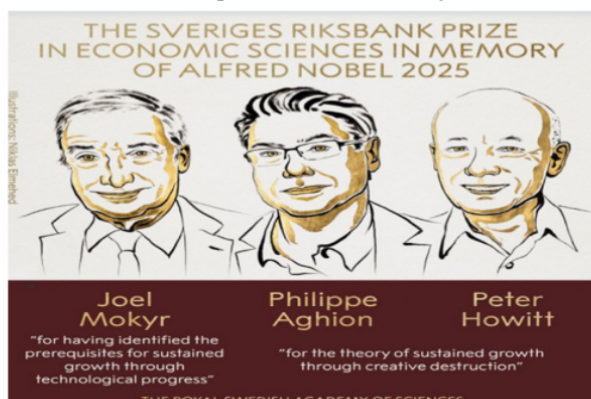
English

## 6. India Launches 'Fare Se Fursat' Fixed Fare Scheme

The Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurated the 'Fare Se Fursat' fixed airfare scheme by government-owned Alliance Air, running on a pilot basis from October 13 to December 31, 2025. This initiative offers a single, constant fare on select regional routes, eliminating airfare fluctuations and enabling predictability even for last-minute bookings. Aligned with the UDAN regional connectivity mission, it aims to encourage air travel among first-time flyers in smaller cities and make flying accessible, affordable, and stress-free.

## 7. 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics Awarded Mokyr, Aghion, Howitt

The 2025 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences was awarded to Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt for their fundamental work explaining innovation-driven economic growth over the past two centuries. Mokyr explored prerequisites for sustained growth via technological progress, emphasizing knowledge flow and societal openness. Aghion and Howitt developed the theory of creative destruction, mathematically describing how innovation makes older products obsolete, fostering economic dynamism. Their research elucidates mechanisms behind sustained global economic expansion.

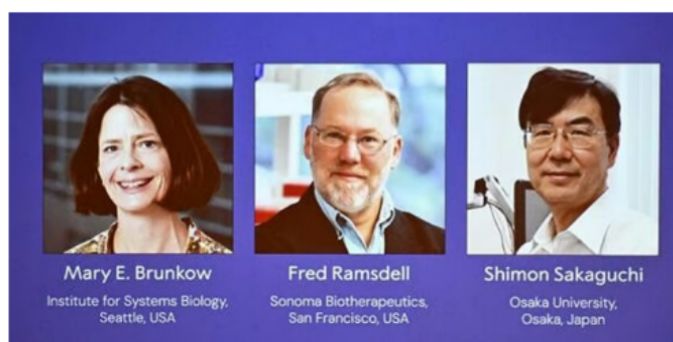


## 8. India Observes Police Commemoration Day October 21

Police Commemoration Day, observed on October 21 annually, honors India's police personnel who died in the line of duty. The date marks the 1959 Hot Springs ambush in Ladakh, where ten officers were killed by Chinese troops. The day's national ceremony at New Delhi's National Police Memorial features wreath-laying and parades honoring over 36,000 martyrs. A week of public events promotes awareness, unity, and respect while also highlighting pressing issues such as understaffing, mental health, and infrastructure needs within India's police forces.

## 9. Nobel Prize for Immune Tolerance Breakthrough

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi for their pioneering discoveries of peripheral immune tolerance and regulatory T (Treg) cells. Sakaguchi discovered Treg cells in 1995, crucial for preventing the immune system from attacking the body. Brunkow and Ramsdell identified the FOXP3 gene controlling Treg development, explaining autoimmune diseases like IPEX. Their work paves the way for new therapies in cancer, autoimmune diseases, and transplant medicine.



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## 10. Physicist Chen Ning Yang Dies Aged 103

Chen Ning Yang, celebrated Chinese-American physicist and 1957 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, passed away in Beijing at age 103 on October 18, 2025. Born in 1922 in Anhui, China, Yang and Tsung-Dao Lee won the Nobel for their breakthrough work proving the violation of parity symmetry in weak nuclear interactions, revolutionizing particle physics. He also contributed significantly to the development of the Yang-Mills theory, fundamental to the Standard Model of particle physics.



## 11. Kaziranga Director Sonali Ghosh Wins Kenton Award

Dr. Sonali Ghosh, Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has become the first Indian recipient of the Kenton R. Miller Award by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. Presented biennially, this award recognizes outstanding innovation in national park management and sustainability. Dr. Ghosh's efforts in community engagement, biodiversity conservation, and integrating traditional ecological knowledge with scientific approaches have been widely acclaimed, highlighting India's leadership in protected area conservation on the global stage.



## 12. UPI Payments to Launch Soon in Japan

NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NTT DATA Japan to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) acceptance at merchant outlets across Japan starting October 2025. This allows Indian tourists to use UPI for seamless, QR-based payments in INR without currency conversion. NTT DATA operates Japan's CAFIS, the largest card payment network, facilitating smooth integration. UPI's expansion enhances convenience for Indian travelers and promotes India's digital payment system globally.



## 13. Hindustan Shipyard Achieves Mini Ratna Status Milestone

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, established in 1941, was granted Mini Ratna status by the



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Government of India in October, 2025. This marks a major revival after decades of financial and operational struggles. The status grants HSL greater autonomy to form joint ventures, approve investments, and lead advanced naval projects. The recognition aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, strengthening indigenous maritime defence capabilities and innovation, positioning HSL as a key player in the global defence manufacturing sector.

#### 14. Advertising Legend Piyush Pandey Passes Away, Leaves Legacy

Piyush Pandey, Padma Shri awardee and known as the 'Father of Indian Advertising,' passed away at 70. Joining Ogilvy India in 1982, he transformed the advertising landscape by creating relatable, culturally rooted campaigns in Indian languages. His iconic works include Fevicol, Cadbury Dairy Milk, and Asian Paints ads, along with the political slogan 'Ab ki baar, Modi sarkar.' Awarded globally, including Cannes Lions, his legacy endures in Indian advertising's storytelling approach and mentoring future creatives.



#### 15. Justice Prathiba Singh to Lead WIPO Advisory Board

Justice Prathiba M. Singh of the Delhi High Court has been appointed as Chair of the World

Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Advisory Board of Judges for 2025–2027, becoming the first Indian and Asian to hold this global post. The Geneva-based board comprises eminent judges who guide WIPO's judicial outreach and IP governance. Justice Singh, a Cambridge alumna and renowned IP expert, earlier chaired Delhi HC's Intellectual Property Division and co-leads WHO's AI in Health Committee, symbolizing India's growing global legal leadership.



#### 16. World Polio Day 2025: End Polio Globally Now

World Polio Day is observed annually on 24 October to raise awareness of poliomyelitis, a highly infectious viral disease causing paralysis in children. The 2025 theme, "End Polio: Every Child, Every Vaccine, Everywhere," stresses universal vaccination access to eradicate polio globally. Established by Rotary International to honor Dr. Jonas Salk's vaccine breakthrough, the day highlights global efforts by WHO, UNICEF, and partners to sustain immunization, prevent outbreaks, and ensure no child is left vulnerable to this debilitating disease.