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## National

### 1. RBI Rejects Jana Small Finance Bank's Proposal for Universal Banking Licence

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has returned Jana Small Finance Bank's (SFB) application to convert into a universal bank, citing unmet criteria. CEO Ajay Kanwal clarified that the application was returned, not rejected, and the bank plans to address the gaps before reapplying. The decision will not affect Jana SFB's current operations, though it delays cost-saving benefits from the license. Kanwal emphasized that the parent company's restructuring was unrelated to the application. Following the news, Jana SFB's shares dropped 2.79% to Rs. 443.95 on the BSE.

### 2. Pravaig Unveils 'VEER', India's First Electric Vehicle Built Specifically for Defence Use

India has advanced its defence self-reliance with the Pravaig VEER EV, an all-electric military vehicle developed by Bengaluru-based Pravaig Dynamics. Designed for stealth missions and rough terrains, the VEER EV features low noise, minimal heat emissions, and easy field-repair capability. It recently won the iDEX award for defence innovation after successful military trials. Supporting the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, the VEER promises lower operational costs, energy efficiency, and enhanced tactical mobility. Pravaig Dynamics now plans large-scale production, marking a key milestone in India's indigenous defence and electric mobility sector.

### 3. EMRSs Across India to Observe Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada from November 1 to 15, 2025

The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs), under NESTS and the Ministry of Tribal

Affairs, will celebrate Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh Pakhwada from November 1-15, 2025, culminating on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, marking Bhagwan Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary. The fortnight aims to honour tribal heroes, promote cultural pride, and inspire students through art, heritage, and awareness programs. Over 1.5 lakh students from 497 EMRSs will participate in exhibitions, padyatras, and cultural events. Managed by NESTS, EMRSs provide quality education to tribal children while preserving their culture, supporting India's vision of Viksit Bharat.

### 4. India launches its first fully digital National Marine Fisheries Census 2025

The Union Minister of State for Fisheries, George Kurian, launched the household enumeration phase of the National Marine Fisheries Census (MFC) 2025 at ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi. Marking India's first fully digital fisheries census, it will run from November 3 to December 18, covering over 1.2 million households in nine coastal states and four Union Territories. Using CMFRI's VyAS Bharat and VyAS Sutra apps, data will be collected in real time with geo-referencing and central monitoring. Conducted under PMMSY, this "Smart Census for Smarter Fisheries" aims to strengthen digital governance in the marine sector.

### 5. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launches the second edition of the Rs. 1 lakh crore 'Anusandhan' startup fund

At the TiEcon Delhi-NCR conference, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal urged India to achieve technological self-reliance through the Make in India initiative. Themed "India's Deeptech Moment: From Digital Leadership to Technological Sovereignty," the event emphasized innovation and Swadeshi-driven growth. Goyal announced two major funds—the Startup Fund of Funds (Second Edition) and the Rs. 1 lakh

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crore Anusandhan Fund—to support deeptech startups and research. Highlighting India's rise as a global innovation hub, he identified AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, defence, and space as key focus areas for future growth.

### 6. SBI Foundation and ICRISAT launch SMART-CROP initiative to advance smart, data-driven agriculture

The SMART-CROP (Sustainable Monitoring and Real-time Tracking for Crop Resilience and Optimal Practices) project, launched by ICRISAT in collaboration with UAS Raichur and Agribridge, aims to support over 8,000 farmers in Telangana and Karnataka. Supported by the SBI Foundation's LEAP initiative, this three-year project promotes climate-smart, data-driven farming. Using satellite imaging, remote sensing, and AI/ML tools, it enables early detection of crop stress, pest attacks, and climate risks. Focusing on pulses like pigeon pea and chickpea, SMART-CROP enhances productivity, reduces losses, and empowers farmers with training and real-time insights for sustainable agriculture.

### 7. SBI Becomes Special Category Client of India Bullion Exchange

The State Bank of India (SBI) has executed its inaugural gold trade after joining the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX) as a Special Category Client. This move enables the bank's IFSC unit to directly import bullion via IIBX, streamlining access for jewellers and bullion dealers and boosting market transparency and efficiency. The central bank's permission for bank branches in GIFT-IFSC to act as trading or clearing members underpins this step. SBI's participation is expected to deepen liquidity and reduce reliance on conventional import channels.

### 8. EPFO Introduces Employees' Enrolment Programme 2025

The EPFO has launched an "Employees' Enrolment Scheme – 2025" to bring more salaried workers into formal social-security coverage. It applies to employees excluded from benefits between 1 July 2017 and October 2025, allowing their employers to voluntarily enrol them without employee contribution for the missed years. The campaign runs from 1 November 2025 to 30 April 2026 and aims to formalise employment, ease business compliance and strengthen retirement protections for workers.

### 9. UIDAI Launches 'Aadhaar Vision 2032' to Strengthen Future Digital Identity System

UIDAI has unveiled the "Aadhaar Vision 2032" framework to modernise India's digital-identity system for the coming decade. The roadmap emphasises integration of technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, quantum computing and advanced encryption to bolster security, scalability and compliance with global and national data-protection norms. A high-level expert committee will frame the detailed strategic document guiding the evolution of Aadhaar's architecture in alignment with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act.

### 10. Marine Fisheries Census 2025 Goes Fully Digital with Introduction of VYAS Applications

India's 5th Marine Fisheries Census (MFC 2025) has launched a fully digital enumeration process using mobile and tablet apps like VyAS-NAV and VyAS-BHARAT, developed by the ICARCentral Marine Fisheries Research Institute. The exercise will cover around 1.2 million marine fisher households across coastal states and union territories. Real-time, geo-referenced data collection replaces manual methods, improving accuracy and speed. The digital drive is part of wider reforms under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya

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Sampada Yojana to strengthen livelihoods, infrastructure and governance in the fishing sector.

### 11. India Set to Restart Clearance of Chinese Imports After a Five-Year Suspension

India has decided to lift the five-year freeze on approvals for Chinese imports, imposed after the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes. The move aims to ease supply chain disruptions, boost domestic industries, and meet rising consumer demand following GST cuts. Approvals for goods from China and other Asian nations will now be fast-tracked. However, sectors involving telecom, surveillance, and dual-use technologies will continue facing strict scrutiny to ensure national security while supporting economic recovery.

### 12. Bihar's Gogabeel Lake Designated as the Newest Ramsar Site

Gogabeel Lake in Katihar district, Bihar, has been declared India's newest Ramsar site in 2025, recognizing its ecological and cultural significance. Formed as an ox-bow lake between the Ganga and Mahananda rivers, it serves as a vital habitat for migratory birds and threatened species like the Smooth-Coated Otter and Wallago attu. Earlier designated as Bihar's first Community Reserve, the lake also holds cultural importance through local festivals such as Chhath, promoting the Ramsar principle of sustainable and wise wetland use.

### 13. India Ranks Third in Global Clean Industry Pipeline

India holds the world's third-largest clean industry pipeline with 65 commercial-scale low-emission projects worth over \$150 billion, aiming to decarbonize sectors like chemicals, steel, cement, and aviation. Despite this robust pipeline, only six projects have reached the final investment decision stage due to challenges like regulatory delays and high financing costs.

These projects, concentrated in seven key states, offer potential to cut 160–175 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually and create around 200,000 jobs, aligning with India's net-zero target by 2070.

### 14. India Exports 20 MT Fortified Rice to Papua New Guinea

India, through APEDA, has facilitated the export of 20 metric tonnes of fortified rice from Chhattisgarh to Papua New Guinea, emphasizing its growing role in nutrition-centric agri-exports. Fortified rice is enhanced with micronutrients like iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12 through an extrusion process, improving nutritional value. This initiative not only supports global nutrition but also positions Chhattisgarh and India as reliable suppliers of value-added, high-quality food products, reinforcing India's commitment to food security and international trade growth.

### 15. India's First Digital Museum Celebrates Tribal Freedom Fighters

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum, India's first fully digital museum located in Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh. Dedicated to tribal warriors who resisted British colonial rule, the museum employs state-of-the-art VFX displays, digital projections, interactive screens, and QR-coded storytelling to create an immersive experience. It honors Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, Chhattisgarh's first martyr, and chronicles major tribal revolts such as the Halba Rebellion and Sarguja Revolt, preserving their legacy and inspiring future generations.

### 16. Gogabeel Lake Becomes India's 94th Ramsar Site

Gogabeel Lake, an oxbow wetland located in Katihar district, Bihar, has been designated as India's 94th Ramsar site of international importance. It is Bihar's first community reserve,

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managed by local communities, and serves as a crucial habitat for over 90 bird species, including migratory and threatened species like the Lesser Adjutant Stork and the Smooth-coated Otter. The lake plays a significant role in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, and maintaining biodiversity. With this addition, Bihar now has six Ramsar sites, ranking third among Indian states. India ranks third globally in total Ramsar sites.

## 17. PM Modi to Launch Year-Long 150th Anniversary of Vande Mataram

India celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram from November 7, 2025, to November 7, 2026, marking the song's historic legacy by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. The inaugural event at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, will be presided over by PM Narendra Modi, featuring mass singing nationwide, cultural performances, and the release of a commemorative stamp and coin. Vande Mataram symbolizes India's patriotism, unity, and freedom struggle, inspiring citizens across generations.

## 18. CAG Approves Two Centralised Audit Cadres for Revenue, Expenditure

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has granted in-principle approval for creating two new specialised cadres within the Indian Audit and Accounts Department—the Central Revenue Audit (CRA) Cadre and the Central Expenditure Audit (CEA) Cadre—effective from January 1, 2026. These cadres aim to consolidate over 4,000 audit professionals, deepen domain expertise, and enhance the quality and coherence of central government financial audits. The reform centralises cadre management, reducing multiple controlling authorities into single ones for each vertical, and introduces dedicated SAS exam streams. Officers in both cadres will be liable for all-India

transfers, with a transparent transfer and posting board to ensure fair career progression.

### International

#### 1. PayPal Partners with OpenAI to Launch ChatGPT's First Built-In Digital Payments Wallet

PayPal has partnered with OpenAI to integrate its digital wallet into ChatGPT, enabling users to shop and make payments directly through the AI platform. The collaboration, which boosted PayPal's shares by 4%, allows customers to use "Buy with PayPal" for secure purchases while merchants can list products within ChatGPT. CEO Alex Chriss said the move enhances safe, AI-powered commerce with PayPal's trusted protections. The partnership aligns with OpenAI's e-commerce expansion alongside Shopify and Walmart, positioning PayPal as a leader in AI-driven payments and advancing its goal to power secure, seamless digital transactions globally.

#### 2. Russia Unveils Khabarovsk Submarine Designed to Carry Poseidon Underwater Drone

Russia has launched its new Khabarovsk-class (Project 09851) nuclear-powered submarine built to serve as a carrier for the Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone system. The submarine was rolled out at the Sevmash shipyard in Severodvinsk and signifies a strategic shift toward unmanned and robotic undersea weapon delivery. The vessel is designed to deploy multiple long-range autonomous underwater systems, expanding Russia's maritime deterrence and challenging conventional naval and anti-submarine defence norms.

#### 3. India to Welcome First Taliban-Appointed Diplomat Since Kabul Takeover

India and Afghanistan are set to strengthen

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diplomatic ties with the appointment of the first Taliban diplomat in New Delhi since the group's 2021 takeover of Kabul. The move follows Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's visit to India, during which both nations agreed to upgrade missions and enhance cooperation. India reaffirmed its support for Afghanistan through aid and medical supplies, while the Taliban recognized India as a reliable partner and backed its sovereignty over Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **4. Former North Korean Head of State Kim Yong Nam Passes Away at 97**

Kim Yong Nam, North Korea's former ceremonial head of state, died at 97 on November 3, 2025, from multiple organ failure. A loyal supporter of the Kim dynasty, he served under Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and Kim Jong Un, notably as chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly (1998–2019). Known for his disciplined diplomacy, he represented North Korea internationally, including during the 2018 Winter Olympics. Admired for his loyalty and caution, he remained unscathed through regime transitions and retired in 2019.

#### **5. Charles Coste, the World's Oldest Olympic Gold Medalist, Passes Away at 101**

Charles Coste, France's legendary cyclist and the world's oldest Olympic gold medallist, passed away at 101 in November 2025. He won gold in the 1948 London Olympics team pursuit and famously defeated Italian champion Fausto Coppi in the 1949 Grand Prix des Nations. Coste also carried the Olympic torch at the 2024 Paris Games, symbolizing enduring Olympic spirit. Following the death of Agnes Keleti, he became the oldest living Olympic gold medallist, marking an era of post-war sporting excellence.

#### **6. Maldives Implements World's First Smoking Ban for Future Generations**

The Maldives has become the world's first country to enforce a generational smoking ban, effective from November 1, 2025. The law prohibits anyone born on or after January 1, 2007, from buying, using, or being sold tobacco, including vaping and e-cigarette products. Retailers violating the rule face heavy fines up to 50,000 Maldivian rufiyaa. This move aims to create a "tobacco-free generation" and sets a global precedent after New Zealand repealed and the UK delayed similar legislation.

#### **7. CBSE Hosts First International Sahodaya Conference Dubai**

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) hosted its first International & 31st Annual Conference of Sahodaya School Complexes in Dubai on November 4–5, 2025. The theme, "Rooted in Wisdom, Rising with Vision: Reimagining Education through NEP 2020," focused on implementing India's National Education Policy globally. Over 1,000 school leaders from CBSE-affiliated schools worldwide participated, emphasizing partnerships, innovative teaching, and holistic education aligned with NEP 2020's goals.

#### **8. Indian-Origin Ghazala Hashmi Elected Virginia's Lieutenant Governor**

Ghazala Hashmi, an Indian-origin Democrat and former educator, has made history by becoming Virginia's first Muslim and South Asian American Lieutenant Governor with 54.2% of the vote. Born in Hyderabad and raised in the U.S., she has a PhD in American Literature and served nearly 30 years in academia. Hashmi flipped a Republican Senate seat in 2019, chaired the Senate Education and Health Committee in 2024, and campaigned on education, healthcare, voting rights, and environmental justice. Her election reflects growing diversity in U.S. politics.

#### **9. Second World Summit for Social Development**

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## 2025 Convened in Doha

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD-2), held from November 4-6, 2025, in Doha, Qatar, is a United Nations initiative reaffirming global commitments to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment, decent work for all, and foster social inclusion. It aligns with recent global processes such as the 2023 SDG Summit and upcoming Financing for Development conference. Building on the 1995 Copenhagen Summit, it addresses continuing social development gaps, encourages global solidarity, and strengthens the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to build more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies.

## 10. Kazakhstan First Central Asian Country to Join Abraham Accords

Kazakhstan has become the first South Asian and Central Asian country to join the Abraham Accords, a U.S.-brokered diplomatic framework originally signed in 2020 to normalize relations between Israel and moderate Arab states. Announced by U.S. President Donald Trump in November 2025, Kazakhstan's accession signifies a strategic expansion of the Accords beyond the Middle East, enhancing multilateral cooperation on diplomacy, trade, and security. Though Kazakhstan and Israel have maintained diplomatic ties since 1992, joining the Accords carries symbolic importance and aligns with Kazakhstan's multi-vector foreign policy aiming for regional stability and diversified international partnerships.

## Sports

### 1. Chennai's 16-year-old Ilamparthy AR Achieves the Title of India's 90th Chess Grandmaster

Tamil Nadu's chess dominance continues as 16-

year-old Ilamparthy AR from Chennai becomes India's 90th Grandmaster after earning his final norm at the Bijeljina Open in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A student of Velammal School and trained by GM Shyam Sundar M, Ilamparthy achieved his earlier norms in Vietnam and Singapore and surpassed the 2500 Elo mark during the Rilton Cup. Recognised globally, he even received support from Dutch GM Anish Giri in 2022. His success reinforces Tamil Nadu's status as India's chess powerhouse, inspiring young talents nationwide.

### 2. Indian tennis ace Rohan Bopanna has announced his retirement from professional tennis

Indian tennis legend Rohan Bopanna has announced his retirement, concluding an illustrious career spanning over two decades. Renowned for his powerful serves and doubles mastery, Bopanna's final match was at the 2025 Paris Masters with Alexander Bublik. A two-time Grand Slam champion, he won the 2017 French Open (Mixed Doubles) and the 2024 Australian Open (Men's Doubles), also becoming the oldest World No. 1 in doubles at 43. His famous "Indo-Pak Express" partnership with Aisam-ul-Haq symbolised unity beyond sport. Bopanna's legacy of excellence, sportsmanship, and longevity will continue to inspire Indian tennis for generations.

### 3. FIDE renames the Chess World Cup Trophy in honour of Viswanathan Anand

In a historic tribute to Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand, the FIDE Chess World Cup trophy has been renamed the Viswanathan Anand Cup. The announcement, made in Panjim, Goa, honors the five-time World Champion's immense impact on global chess. The 2025 edition will feature 206 players from 80 nations, including India's D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa, while Magnus Carlsen and

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Hikaru Nakamura will skip the event. Anand's legacy as India's first Grandmaster continues to inspire a new generation of chess prodigies.

#### 4. Punjab's Namitbir Singh Walia earns the prestigious International Master (IM) title

In a proud milestone for Punjab, Namitbir Singh Walia from Jalandhar has become the state's second International Master (IM) in chess after Dushyant Sharma. He earned his final IM norm at the 3rd Annemasse International Masters Tournament in France, finishing fourth overall. A B.Com student at SRCC, Delhi, Namitbir balances academics with his chess career. Trained by coaches Kanwarjit Singh, Alexander (Ukraine), and Swayam Mishra, he has a peak FIDE rating of 2,408 and now aims for the Grandmaster (GM) title, marking Jalandhar as Punjab's new chess hub.

#### 5. Kane Williamson Retires from T20 Internationals After Playing 93 Matches

New Zealand's Kane Williamson has announced his retirement from Twenty20 international cricket after 93 matches and more than 2,500 runs in the format. He will continue playing Test and ODI cricket for his country. The 35-year-old cited the right time to step away and provide the team clarity ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, allowing younger talent to emerge. He leaves as the second-highest run-scorer for his country in the format and a former captain.

#### 6. India Achieves Record 48 Medals at 2025 Asian Youth Games

India achieved its best-ever performance at the Asian Youth Games held in Manama, Bahrain, securing a total of 48 medals: 13 gold, 18 silver and 17 bronze. Among the highlights were its first gold in girls' kabaddi, a world-youth record in weightlifting and a strong final-day haul of seven golds. The tally reflects the progress of India's youth-sports infrastructure and rising

competitiveness on the continental stage.

#### 7. Indian Hockey Marks Centennial with Nationwide Celebrations

India begins centenary celebrations of hockey on November 7, 2025, marking 100 years since the Indian Hockey Federation's founding. The grand event at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi, includes over 1,000 matches across 500+ districts involving 36,000+ players, symbolizing gender equality in sports. The celebrations feature hockey legends, commemorative publications, photo exhibitions, and a trophy tour ahead of the FIH Junior Men's World Cup 2025 in Tamil Nadu. The initiative honors India's rich legacy including 13 Olympic medals and inspires future generations for continued excellence.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

#### 1.WMO Reports 2025 Second or Third Warmest Year on Record

The World Meteorological Organization's 'State of the Climate Update for COP30' reports 2025 as likely the second or third warmest year recorded. The past 11 years, including 2025, are the warmest on record in 176 years of observational data. Atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O reached record highs in 2024 and continue rising. Arctic and Antarctic sea ice levels remain at record lows, while ocean heat content and sea levels have risen substantially. The report underscores that current climate action is insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement goals but highlights ongoing growth in renewable energy and science-based climate planning.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

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### 1. Reliance and Google have partnered to enhance India's AI infrastructure and broaden access to advanced technologies

Reliance Industries Limited and Google have joined forces to advance India's artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem, focusing on accessibility, inclusion, and innovation.

Announced on October 30, the partnership will offer Jio users aged 18–25 free access to Google Gemini Pro for 18 months, promoting AI literacy among youth. The collaboration aims to develop AI models in Indian languages, introduce Gemini Enterprise Suite for businesses, and build AI infrastructure powered by Reliance's green energy. By combining local data centers with Google's TPUs, the initiative supports India's "AI for All" mission and strengthens the country's digital economy.

### 1. China's Shenzhou-21 Mission Launches Youngest Astronaut and Laboratory Mice to the Tiangong Space Station

China successfully launched the Shenzhou-21 spacecraft from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, marking another milestone in its ambitious space programme. Aboard a Long March-2F rocket, the mission will dock with the Tiangong Space Station for a six-month stay. The crew includes Commander Zhang Lu, Engineer Wu Fei—China's youngest astronaut at 32—and Specialist Zhang Hongzhang. The mission features China's first in-orbit experiment with mice to study microgravity effects. It strengthens China's "space dream" to send astronauts to the Moon by 2030, reinforcing its independent and growing role in global space exploration.

### 2. India launches the tri-service exercise 'Ex Trishul'

India has launched Exercise Trishul, a major tri-service military drill along the western border with Pakistan, to enhance joint combat readiness and inter-service coordination. Held from October 30 to November 10, 2025, across Gujarat and Rajasthan, the exercise involves over 20,000 troops from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Conducted in three phases, it tests coastal defence, land warfare, and air operations. Supported by the BSF and Coast Guard, Trishul focuses on integrated command structures, technology-driven warfare, and swift, unified defence responses.

### 3. Indian Army Organises VAYU SAMANVAY-II Exercise in Desert Region

The Indian Army recently conducted the large-scale exercise Vayu Samanvay-II in a desert sector under the Southern Command. The two-day event focused on integrating drone operations, counter-drone systems, and multi-domain command and control in a contested environment. It tested aerial and ground assets, combined electronic warfare, and operational readiness in harsh terrain. The exercise reflects the Army's push for enhanced technology-driven warfare capabilities and self-reliance in unmanned and autonomous systems.

### 4. IBM and AICTE Collaborate to Establish Artificial Intelligence Laboratory in India

IBM has entered into a collaboration with AICTE to establish a National AI Lab at the AICTE Headquarters in New Delhi. The facility is designed to serve as a national hub for artificial-intelligence research, innovation and skills development, providing advanced computing infrastructure, AI tools, project-based learning and mentorship to students and faculty across India's technical education ecosystem. The initiative aligns with the broader goal of equipping the next generation of Indian learners to perform in a digital economy.

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## 5. China Successfully Achieves First-Ever Thorium-to-Uranium Fuel Conversion in TMSR

China has achieved the world's first successful thorium-to-uranium fuel conversion in its Thorium Molten Salt Reactor (TMSR) — the only operational molten-salt reactor globally. This marks a major milestone in advanced nuclear energy development. The TMSR uses molten salt as coolant, ensuring passive safety, minimal waste, and efficient energy extraction. Thorium, three times more abundant than uranium, must be converted into Uranium-233 for use. India, rich in thorium reserves, is developing similar reactors like the Advanced Heavy Water and Molten Salt Breeder Reactors.

## 6. OpenAI, Amazon Ink \$38 Billion AI Expansion Deal via AWS

OpenAI has signed a seven-year, \$38 billion deal with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to access massive cloud computing resources, including Nvidia chips, to power its AI models like ChatGPT. The partnership marks OpenAI's first major move after restructuring to gain operational independence. It plans to invest \$1.4 trillion to build 30 gigawatts of computing capacity. The deal boosts Amazon's AI standing against Microsoft and Google, while OpenAI expands its multi-cloud strategy for future AI development.

## 7. India-UK Launch Dashboard Tracking Science Tech Projects

India and the UK jointly launched the pilot India-United Kingdom Science and Technology Partnership (IN-UK-STP) Dashboard on November 4, 2025, in New Delhi. The tool maps 143 bilateral projects from 2018 onward, detailing funding, implementing agencies, and alignment with India-UK Science and Innovation Council goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It supports data-driven policymaking by providing actionable insights to synergize priorities and identify collaboration gaps,

enhancing bilateral R&D cooperation.

## 8. MNRE Hosts International Conference on Green Hydrogen

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) will host the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2025) on November 11-12, 2025, in New Delhi at Bharat Mandapam. The conference aims to accelerate India's green hydrogen sector by aligning government, industry, and research priorities, focusing on scaling production, infrastructure, financing, certification, export readiness, skill development, and global collaboration under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

## 9. Telangana Launches AI Innovation Hub for Global Leadership

Telangana has established the Telangana Artificial Intelligence Innovation Hub (TAIH) in Hyderabad to position the state as a top 20 global AI hub by 2035. Spearheaded by IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, the hub will unify AI research, innovation, and collaboration across academia, industry, and startups, involving partners like IIT Hyderabad, BITS Pilani, ISB, NALSAR, Google, Microsoft, Infosys, and Amazon. Focus sectors include healthcare, governance, and machine learning, aiming to boost AI-driven public services, economic growth, and skill development.

## 10. Google's Project Suncatcher to Launch AI Data Centres in Orbit

Google's Project Suncatcher aims to build solar-powered AI data centres in space, deploying constellations of satellites equipped with Tensor Processing Units (TPUs) and free-space optical communication for ultra-fast data transfer. The project addresses energy and cooling challenges faced by terrestrial AI centres by exploiting near-continuous sunlight and vacuum conditions in low-earth orbit. Despite technical

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hurdles like satellite station-keeping and radiation exposure, Google plans prototype launches by 2027, positioning space as a scalable and sustainable hub for future AI computation.

## 11. Indian Navy to Commission 'Ikshak' Boosting Hydrographic Excellence

The Indian Navy will commission SVL Ikshak on November 6, 2025, at Naval Base Kochi, marking a significant advancement in indigenous hydrographic survey capabilities under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) with over 80% indigenous content, Ikshak is the third Survey Vessel (Large) and the first stationed at Southern Naval Command. Equipped with state-of-the-art technologies like multi-beam echo sounder, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), and helicopter deck, it enhances India's maritime domain awareness, navigational safety, and disaster response.

## 12. VAIBHAV Fellowship Connects Indian Diaspora Scientists Globally

The VAIBHAV Fellowship, implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is awarded to outstanding Indian-origin scientists (NRI/OCI/PIO) engaged in global research. Fellows identify an Indian host institution and may collaborate for up to two months annually over three years, receiving INR 4 lakh monthly along with travel and accommodation support. The fellowship aims to strengthen India's higher education and research ecosystem by facilitating collaborations, sharing best practices, and building long-term connections. Eligibility requires a PhD or equivalent from a recognized university and affiliation with a top 500 QS World University.

## 1. Lucknow Honoured as UNESCO 'City of Gastronomy' for Its Exquisite Awadhi Culinary Legacy

Lucknow has been officially recognised by UNESCO as a "City of Gastronomy" under its Creative Cities Network (UCCN), honouring its centuries-old Awadhi culinary tradition rooted in the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb. Announced during UNESCO's 43rd General Conference in Samarkand, this milestone celebrates the city's global culinary identity. The nomination, prepared by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Directorate and the Ministry of Culture, highlighted iconic dishes like Galouti Kebab, Nihari-Kulcha, and Makhan Malai. The recognition promotes sustainable tourism, supports local artisans, and strengthens India's cultural diplomacy. With Lucknow's inclusion, India now has nine cities in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.

## 2. World Savings Day 2025

World Thrift Day, or World Savings Day, is celebrated annually to emphasise the value of saving and financial planning. Globally observed on October 31 and in India on October 30, it honours the legacy of Indira Gandhi. The day originated in 1924 at the International Savings Bank Congress in Milan, Italy, introduced by economist Filippo Ravizza to rebuild trust in banks after World War I. The 2025 theme, "Conquer Your Tomorrow," promotes saving as a tool for financial resilience. It highlights how regular savings empower individuals and contribute to national economic growth.

## 3. Former Indian Hockey Legend Manuel Frederick Passes Away at 78

Former Indian hockey goalkeeper Manuel Frederick, India's first Olympic medallist from Kerala, passed away at 78. Born in Burnassery, Kannur, he earned fame for his fearless saves and was part of the bronze medal-winning team

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at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Nicknamed "Tiger," Frederick also represented India in the 1973 and 1978 Hockey World Cups. A recipient of the Dhyān Chand Award in 2019, he played for top teams like ASC, HAL, and Mohun Bagan. His legacy continues to inspire young players, marking him as one of India's greatest goalkeepers.

#### 4. India Achieves Three Guinness World Records Under the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan" Initiative

The Union Health Ministry earned three Guinness World Records under the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (SNSPA)" for mass participation in healthcare initiatives, reflecting India's leadership in preventive and women-centric health. Launched by PM Narendra Modi (17 Sept–2 Oct 2025) during Poshan Maah, the campaign emphasised women's health as key to Viksit Bharat. With over 11 crore participants, 19.7 lakh health camps, and collaboration across 20+ ministries, SNSPA achieved massive screenings for hypertension, diabetes, cancer, anaemia, and TB. It stands as one of the world's largest community-driven health initiatives promoting holistic family wellness.

#### 5. Raj Kumar Arora assumes the role of Financial Advisor (Defence Services)

On November 1, 2025, Shri Raj Kumar Arora, a 1990-batch Indian Defence Accounts Service officer, assumed charge as the Financial Advisor (Defence Services). With over 30 years of experience in defence finance, acquisitions, and policy, he previously served as Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA). His career includes key roles in the UPSC, Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of Finance. As FADS, Shri Arora will oversee financial planning, budgeting, and procurement, ensuring transparency and efficiency in India's defence expenditure.

#### 6. World Vegan Day 2025

World Vegan Day, celebrated annually on November 1, promotes a compassionate and sustainable lifestyle that avoids animal exploitation in food, clothing, and products. Established in 1994 by Louise Wallis of the Vegan Society UK, it marks the 50th anniversary of the society's founding. The 2025 theme, "Veganism and its Positive Impact on the Planet, Animals, and Human Health," emphasizes the role of plant-based living in reducing climate change, improving health, and protecting biodiversity. Celebrations include vegan fairs, workshops, and awareness drives promoting ethical, eco-friendly, and cruelty-free living.

#### 7. Vishvajit Sahay Appointed as New Controller General of Defence Accounts

Vishvajit Sahay, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS), has officially taken charge as the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) on November 1, 2025. He brings over three decades of experience in defence finance and public administration, having held senior positions in the Department of Heavy Industry, Department of Science & Technology and within the Defence Accounts Department. His appointment comes at a time of intensified focus on modernising defence financial management.

#### 8. SBI Introduces SBI-STAR Awards to Recognize Employee Excellence

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SBI STAR' (Staff Talent Acknowledgement & Recognition), an annual award to honour employees' excellence beyond professional roles in fields like arts, literature, sports, culture, social work, and environment. The initiative promotes holistic employee engagement and well-being among its 2.45 lakh workforce. Employees can self-nominate, and selections will follow a transparent evaluation at Circle and Corporate

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levels. SBI STAR aims to celebrate diverse talents, foster motivation, and instill organisational pride within India's largest banking institution.

### 9. India Post Payments Bank and EPFO Introduce Free Doorstep Service

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) signed an MoU on 3 November 2025 to offer free doorstep submission of Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) for EPS-95 pensioners. Using Aadhaar-based biometric or face authentication, postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks will assist pensioners through IPPB's vast postal network. The service, fully funded by EPFO, promotes Digital India, Ease of Living, and financial inclusion by simplifying pension verification and reducing the burden on senior citizens.

### 10. NaBFID to Transform into Global Infrastructure Bank

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), established in 2021, will be renamed Infrastructure Development Bank (IDB) signaling its transformation into a global infrastructure-financing institution aligned with India's economic ambitions. National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), 100% government-owned and classified as an All-India Financial Institution under RBI, NaBFID intends to provide long-term financing and mobilize private investment for infrastructure projects, while enhancing India's influence on global infrastructure development and financing.

### 11. Sanjay Garg New Bureau Of Standards Chief

Sanjay Garg, an IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, assumed charge as Director General of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on November 1, 2025, and also serves as President of India's IEC national committee. With over 30

years' experience across diverse sectors including agriculture, food logistics, and industry, he previously led technological initiatives at ICAR and DARE. Garg's appointment marks a key moment for BIS, significant for supporting "Make in India," export growth, and global standard alignment.

### 12. Global Push Strengthens Tsunami Preparedness On November 5

World Tsunami Awareness Day 2025, observed on November 5, focuses on "Be Tsunami Ready: Invest in Tsunami Preparedness". This UN-designated day highlights the urgent need for proactive investment in early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and community education to reduce risk in tsunami-exposed regions. Drawing inspiration from a Japanese tale of early action, the day reminds nations to cooperate globally, share best practices, and foster local drills and preparedness measures for protecting over 700 million vulnerable people.

### 13. Indian-British Tycoon Gopichand Hinduja Passes Away

Gopichand Hinduja, chairman of the Hinduja Group and one of India's most respected businessmen, has died at 85 in London. Born in 1940, he played a vital role in transforming his family's trading firm into a multinational conglomerate spanning automotive, finance, energy, and media. Revered for his humility and philanthropy, he fostered business and cultural links between India and the UK, and topped the UK Rich List for seven years. His passing marks the end of a business era.

### 14. David Beckham Knighted by King Charles III

David Beckham was officially knighted by King Charles III on November 4, 2025, at Windsor Castle, receiving the title Sir David Beckham for his outstanding services to football.

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and philanthropy David Beckham. The ceremony marked the pinnacle of Beckham's career, honoring his football legacy, including 115 appearances for England and multiple league titles, and his extensive charitable work as a UNICEF ambassador and supporter of educational initiatives. His wife Victoria designed the suit he wore for the occasion.

### 15. Amul and IFFCO Top Global Cooperatives List

India's cooperatives Amul (Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation) and Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) have secured the 1st and 2nd ranks respectively in the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) World Cooperative Monitor 2025. The rankings are based on turnover relative to GDP per capita and social impact, underscoring India's leading role in cooperative governance and inclusive rural development. The results were announced at the ICA CM50 Conference in Doha, Qatar.

### 16. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Awarded Peace Leadership 2025

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation, was honoured with the 2025 World Leader for Peace and Security Award by the Boston Global Forum and AI World Society. Recognized for his peace-building work across 180 countries, including mediation in conflict zones like Colombia, Iraq, and Kashmir, his efforts blend Eastern spirituality with Western innovation. The Art of Living Foundation's initiatives encompass prisoner rehabilitation, river revival, and free education, making peace a practical, global reality.

### 17. Kartik Naach Festival Ends at Patan Durbar Square

Nepal's 300-year-old Kartik Naach Festival concluded on Kartik Purnima at Patan Durbar Square, Lalitpur, after a 10-day celebration of traditional dance-drama and global art

exhibitions. Established in the 17th century by King Siddhinarsingh Malla, this festival blends mythological storytelling with classical dance, enriched by Nepali instruments. Besides cultural performances, it showcased a global tattoo artist painting exhibition supporting children's welfare. The event highlights Nepal's cultural continuity, boosts tourism, engages local youth, and promotes heritage conservation at this UNESCO World Heritage site.

### 18. Maharashtra First Indian State Partners with Starlink Satellite Internet

Maharashtra has become the first Indian state to sign a Letter of Intent with Elon Musk's Starlink Satellite Communications Pvt Ltd to provide high-speed satellite internet to remote, underserved, and aspirational districts like Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Washim, and Dharashiv. This landmark partnership supports the state's Digital Maharashtra mission by enhancing connectivity for government institutions, rural communities, health centers, and public infrastructure. Starlink's LEO satellites overcome terrain and infrastructure challenges, promising scalable, reliable internet crucial for education, healthcare, disaster response, and e-governance.

### 19. KSLU Awards Honorary Doctorate to AP Governor Abdul Nazeer

Karnataka State Law University (KSLU) awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer during its 7th convocation at the Farmers' Knowledge Centre, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad. The degree was conferred by Karnataka Governor and KSLU Chancellor Thaawar Chand Gehlot in the presence of Law Minister H K Patil. Recognized for his judicial excellence as a former Supreme Court judge and contributions to constitutional law, Nazeer expressed gratitude and reaffirmed his commitment to justice and

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legal education. The honor reflects his impact on law, governance, and public service.

#### **20. Sai Gautam Wins Prestigious Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award**

Dr. Sai Gautam Gopalakrishnan, Associate Professor at IISc Bengaluru, has been conferred the Manohar Parrikar Yuva Scientist Award 2025 for his impactful research in computational materials science. Instituted by the Goa Government to honor former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, this award recognizes young scientists demonstrating excellence and innovation. With a ₹5 lakh cash prize—the highest for a national science award—the honor will be formally presented at the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahotsav in December. Dr. Sai's work advances AI-driven materials design, accelerating discoveries in energy, electronics, and sustainable technologies.

#### **21. Buddha's Sacred Relics to Grace Bhutan's GPPF 2025**

India's National Museum will send the sacred relics of Lord Buddha to Bhutan for public display from November 8 to 18 during the Global Peace Prayer Festival (GPPF) in Thimphu. The event coincides with the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's fourth king, Jigme Singye Wangchuk. Led by Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar, the delegation will display the relics at Tashichho Dzong's Kuenrey Hall. The festival celebrates shared Buddhist heritage, featuring exhibitions on Guru Padmasambhava and the Buddha, enhancing spiritual ties between the two nations.