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Weekly Current Affairs

English

National

1. VP C.P. Radhakrishnan Inaugurates 30th CII Partnership Summit

The 30th CII Partnership Summit 2025 was inaugurated by Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on November 14. The summit, themed "Technology, Trust and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order," gathered over 2,500 delegates from 77 countries to explore India's rapid growth and investment opportunities, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu highlighted the state's focus on new technologies, infrastructure, and attracting USD 0.5 trillion in investments with 50 lakh jobs targeted.



2. India to Build World's Deepest Underwater Lab at 6,000 Metres by 2047

India announced plans to construct the world's deepest underwater research laboratory at 6,000 metres beneath the Indian Ocean by 2047 as part of Vision 2047. The project begins with a 500-metre demonstrator module to test life-support and pressure systems. The full-scale habitat will feature pressure-resistant titanium structures, 360-degree observation panels, and docking bays for submersibles, enabling long-term deep-sea research in biodiversity, drug discovery, geology, and human performance under extreme conditions.

3. PSA Chairs Second Annual Review of RuTAG 2.0 Initiative at IIT Guwahati

The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, chaired the Second Annual Review Meeting of the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) 2.0 at IIT Guwahati on November 13-14, 2025. The meeting evaluated progress across seven RuTAG Centres, focusing on rural technology commercialization, scalability, and deployment to empower rural communities. The event highlighted the importance of innovation-driven development and showcased grassroots innovations addressing diverse rural challenges.

4. Traditional Lepcha Musical Instruments Receive GI Recognition

Two traditional Lepcha musical instruments – the Tungbuk (a three-string instrument) and the Pumtong Pulit (a bamboo flute) – have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) registration by the Government of India. The certificates were handed out on November 5 during the first Tribal Business Conclave in New Delhi, organised by the Ministries of Culture, Tribal Affairs, and Commerce & Industry. The recognition helps preserve Lepcha cultural heritage, boosts artisan livelihoods, and encourages younger generations to carry forward these musical traditions.



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5. RBI Introduces Relief Options for Exporters Through Moratoriums and Credit Extensions

The Reserve Bank of India has rolled out relief measures for exporters facing stress from global trade disruptions. Term loans due between September 1 and December 31, 2025, can have a moratorium, with interest accruing on a simple basis and convertible into a funded interest term loan. The repayment period for export loans has been extended: pre- and post-shipment credit tenor raised to 450 days (from 270), and the realisation of export proceeds can now take up to 15 months instead of 9. Shipment timelines for advance payments have also been relaxed to 3 years.

6. Bank Credit Growth Eases to 11.3 Percent as Deposit Expansion Touches 9.7 Percent in October

Bank credit year-on-year growth slowed to 11.3% by 31 October, according to RBI data, down slightly from earlier in the month. Meanwhile, deposits rose 9.7%, narrowing the gap between lending and deposit mobilization. Demand deposits (current + savings) saw a strong increase, indicating that banks are attracting more low-cost funds, while fixed-deposit growth remained modest. The shift hints at cautious borrowing and strong liquidity accumulation in the banking system.

7. Odisha Beaches Retain Blue Flag Certification, Setting a Global Benchmark

The beaches of Puri and Sunapur in Odisha have once again been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag certification for 2025-26, reaffirming their status among the world's highest-standard eco-tourism destinations. Sunapur secured the recognition for the third consecutive year, while Puri's Golden Beach earned it for the seventh time. These accolades reflect the beaches' compliance with strict criteria covering water quality, waste management, accessible infrastructure, safety, and environmental

education. The success is attributed to strong local community involvement and sustained investment in green tourism infrastructure.

8. Wholesale Inflation Drops Further Into Negative Territory

India's wholesale inflation (WPI) fell to -1.21% in October, marking a 27-month low. This deflation is driven by steep declines in food prices (down ~5 percent), fuel and power costs, electricity, and basic metals. Manufactured goods inflation also eased to 1.54%. The drop reflects broad-based softness in wholesale prices, echoed by weak demand and favorable base effects.

9. Bihar Assembly Election 2025: NDA Secures Massive Win, BJP Becomes Largest Party

In the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a landslide victory by winning 202 out of 243 seats, cementing its dominant position. The BJP emerged as the single-largest party in Bihar for the first time, winning 89 seats, while the Janata Dal (United) also recorded a strong tally. The opposition Mahagathbandhan, including RJD and Congress, performed poorly, signaling a major political shift in the state.



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10. Government Announces One Thousand Five Hundred Crore Projects to Upgrade New Mangalore Port

The central government, led by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, launched 16 infrastructure and 113 CSR initiatives worth ₹ 1,500 crore at the New Mangalore Port Authority's (NMPA) Golden Jubilee celebration. Announced by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the projects include a 150-bed multi-specialty hospital (via PPP), a four-lane port road, scanner systems, truck terminal, and rail-covered sheds. The upgrades aim to modernise the port under the Maritime India Vision 2030 and improve its cargo handling capacity.

11. RBI's Ten Percent Limit on Acquisition Funding Prompts Banks to Seek Greater Freedom

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed draft guidelines that cap bank exposure to acquisition financing at 10 percent of their Tier-1 capital, part of a broader limit on capital market exposures. Under the plan, banks may fund up to 70 percent of an acquisition's value, but only if the target is a listed and profitable company. The loan must be fully secured by the target's shares, and debt-equity post acquisition must stay under a 3:1 ratio. Several banks are now pushing for a more flexible, higher limit.

12. Forty Two Indian Pilgrims Lose Their Lives in Bus and Tanker Crash Near Medina

A tragic accident near Medina in Saudi Arabia has killed at least 42 Indian Umrah pilgrims, mostly from Hyderabad. The bus they were traveling in collided with a diesel tanker around 1:30 a.m., caught fire, and was totally destroyed. Indian authorities have set up a 24x7 control room in Jeddah, and the Ministry of External Affairs along with the Saudi civil defence is coordinating rescue and recovery. Most of the victims are believed to be women and children.

13. Centre Aims to Allocate Ten Thousand Kilometres of Highway Works in Financial Year Twenty Twenty Six

The Indian government has set a target to construct around 10,000 km of national highways in FY 2025-26, a modest reduction compared to the previous year. The plan includes building about 5,800 km of high-speed corridors, especially expressways. To fund this, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways aims to raise ₹30,000 crore via toll-operate-transfer and around ₹35,000 crore from private investors. However, some analysts warn that slow project awarding could dampen the pace of execution.

14. RBI Clears Appointment of S Krishnan as New Chairperson of Jammu and Kashmir Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of veteran banker S. Krishnan as the part-time, non-executive chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Bank. His term begins on 13 November 2025 and runs until 26 March 2028. Krishnan, currently an independent director at the bank, brings decades of experience, having previously served as MD & CEO of Punjab & Sind Bank and Tamilnad Mercantile Bank. He is expected to strengthen governance and strategic guidance at the Kashmir-based lender.

15. Union Health Minister J P Nadda Unveils Ten New AMRIT Pharmacies Across India

Union Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated 10 new AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) pharmacies virtually, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the AMRIT scheme. These new outlets are located in major medical institutions, including AIIMS campuses, PGI Chandigarh, IIT Jodhpur, and cancer and neuroscience centers. The network now spans over 255 centres in 24 states and four Union Territories, providing essential medicines and implants at significantly lower prices.

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16. Supreme Court Directs Jharkhand to Notify Saranda Forest as a Wildlife Sanctuary

Union Health Minister J P Nadda inaugurated ten new AMRIT pharmacies through a virtual event to mark the scheme's tenth anniversary. These outlets have been added to major medical institutions, including AIIMS campuses, PGI Chandigarh, IIT Jodhpur and several national speciality centres. With this expansion, the AMRIT network now covers more than two hundred fifty locations across the country. The initiative aims to make essential medicines and implants more accessible by offering them at significantly reduced prices for patients.

17. Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, DRDO Sign MoU for Smart Defence Tech

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed an MoU on 17 November 2025 to jointly develop smart technologies for national security. The partnership will focus on logistics management, chip design, hardware security, and advanced encryption such as homomorphic and blockchain-based systems. The two institutions will collaborate on research, capacity building, and seminars. As India's first transport and logistics university, GSV aims to strengthen defence-related innovation through this collaboration.



18. 16th Finance Commission Submits 2026–31 Report to President

The 16th Finance Commission, chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, submitted its 2026–31 report to President Droupadi Murmu. Constituted under Article 280(1) of the Constitution, the Commission examined the financial position of the Union, States and Local Governments. Its report is based on extensive consultations with central ministries, state governments, local bodies and experts. As per the Finance Ministry, the report will be made public once it is tabled in Parliament by the Union Finance Minister under Article 281.



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19. Goa Police First in India to Reach 100% Cyber Fraud Response

Goa Police has become the first in India to achieve a 100% response rate for cyber fraud calls through its new 1930 cloud-based call centre. Launched last month and inaugurated by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the centre has handled over 5,000 calls, registered 581 complaints and responded to 1,500 missed calls. With improved voice clarity, automated recording, real-time supervision and strict quality checks, the system has enhanced accessibility, boosted public trust and enabled faster action against cyber fraud.

20. UIDAI's New Aadhaar App Transforms Digital Identity

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a new Aadhaar mobile app, in early access, on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store to offer a secure, paperless digital identity experience. The app enables instant Aadhaar sharing via QR code and verifiable credentials, supports up to five profiles per device, and uses masked Aadhaar numbers to protect privacy. Biometric locking, OTP-based login, and a 6-digit PIN enhance security, while simplifying KYC for banking, government, travel, and education services.

21. India Re-Elected to Codex Executive Committee 2027

India secured a unanimous re-election to the Codex Executive Committee (CCEXEC) for the Asia region at the 48th Codex Alimentarius Commission session, extending its term until 2027. Led by Rajit Punhani, CEO of FSSAI, India reinforced its leadership in global food safety and trade standards by advocating efficient, science-based, and equitable food policies reflecting regional interests. Key achievements include progress on standards for cashew kernels, fresh produce, pesticide residue monitoring, and adoption of AI to enhance Codex operations.



22. India Launches AMR 2.0 to Combat Resistance

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda launched the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2.0 for 2025–2029, targeting the growing threat of drug-resistant infections. The plan focuses on strengthening multi-sector coordination across human, animal, and environmental health, increasing accountability, enhancing surveillance, and promoting rational antibiotic use. It builds on the prior strategy by addressing gaps, involving the private sector, and aligning with WHO's Global Action Plan and One Health approach. The plan aims to reduce AMR-related health and economic burdens in India.

23. Government Launches Free 'YUVA AI for ALL' Course

The Government of India, through the Ministry of Electronics and IT under the IndiaAI Mission, launched 'YUVA AI for ALL,' a free, 4.5-hour self-paced online course designed to teach basic AI skills to 1 crore citizens. The course features six modules covering AI fundamentals, ethics, Indian real-world examples, and future opportunities, aimed at students, professionals, and general learners. Available on platforms like FutureSkills Prime and iGOT Karmayogi, learners receive government certification upon completion, promoting AI literacy and responsible use nationwide.

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24. India's First Tesla Experience Centre Coming Up in Gurugram Soon

Tesla is opening its first fully integrated facility in India on November 26 at Orchid Business Park, Gurugram. The centre will combine a showroom, delivery hub, and service centre, giving customers a complete Tesla experience. This expansion follows earlier experience centres in Mumbai and New Delhi. Tesla entered the Indian market by launching two variants of the Model Y, with prices starting at ₹ 59.89 lakh. The move signals an important step in its India growth.

25. CAG Sets Up a New Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is establishing a Centre of Excellence for Financial Audit in Hyderabad to modernise public audit practices. This national hub will focus on research, training and standardising high-quality audit methodologies. It plans to use data-analytics and artificial intelligence to shift from sample-based audits to full data-driven reviews. The centre will also incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into audit frameworks.

26. Gen Z-Oriented India Post Campus Store Opens at IIT Delhi

India Post has launched its first Gen Z-themed campus post office at IIT Delhi, reflecting a push to modernise postal spaces for young citizens. The revamped office includes student-designed graffiti, Wi-Fi zones, QR-based parcel booking, and Speed Post discounts. Students are also involved as brand ambassadors, co-creators, and in a franchise model to run parts of the office. India Post plans to revamp 46 campus post offices nationwide by December 2025.

27. Dell India Names Anurag Arora as Senior Director and General Manager

Dell Technologies has appointed Anurag Arora as Senior Director & General Manager of its India consumer sales business, tasking him with

leading strategy, sales, and growth. He brings 28 years of experience across sales, e-commerce, large-format retail, and omni-channel distribution. Since joining Dell in 2020, he has shaped its India consumer operations via Dell.com and retail. His leadership is expected to accelerate Dell's expansion, deliver technology innovation, and improve customer experience in the Indian consumer market.

28. Nitish Kumar Begins His Tenth Term as Chief Minister of Bihar

Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as Chief Minister of Bihar for a historic tenth time, after the NDA secured a decisive victory in the state assembly elections. The oath ceremony was held at Gandhi Maidan in Patna and featured top party leaders. His return reflects sustained political strength and alliance management. During this term, Nitish will form a new council of ministers, aiming to deliver on long-standing governance pledges and consolidate his party's influence across the state.

29. Centre Brings All Four Labour Codes Into Force, Reshaping Employment Framework

The government has officially brought into force four comprehensive labour codes as of 21 November 2025, namely the Code on Wages, 2019, Industrial Relations Code, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020 and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. These replace 29 older central labour laws, simplifying a complex regulatory framework and aiming to better protect workers, especially in evolving employment models. The reforms include wider social security coverage and minimum wage norms, and they are positioned to support a future-ready workforce and stronger industrial resilience.

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30. Punjab Scheduled Castes Commission Launches Dedicated Courtroom for Quicker Case Disposal

The Punjab Scheduled Castes Commission has inaugurated a separate courtroom dedicated to hearing matters pertaining to Scheduled Castes, making it the first such initiative by a state body across India. The courtroom offers modern infrastructure and aims to fast-track case proceedings, reduce delays, and enhance access to justice for the SC community. This move signals a focused effort to strengthen institutional capacity and ensure fairness, transparency and efficiency in addressing caste-based grievances.



31. Supreme Court Clarifies Governors Are Not Bound by Fixed Time Limits on Bills

The Supreme Court of India ruled that while state governors and the President must act on bills passed by legislative bodies within a reasonable period, courts cannot impose fixed deadlines for assent under Articles 200/201 of the Constitution. The judgment reaffirmed that governors have discretion—such as granting assent, returning the bill, or reserving it for the President—but cannot indefinitely sit on bills.

32. India Adds More Airports to Visa-on-Arrival Access for UAE Travelers, Including Cochin, Calicut and Ahmedabad

India has expanded its Visa-on-Arrival (VoA) facility for citizens of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by including three additional international airports — namely Cochin International Airport (Kochi), Calicut International Airport (Kozhikode) and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (Ahmedabad) — raising the total to nine participating airports. Eligible UAE nationals (with a previous Indian visa) can now enter via these airports for tourism, conferences, medical or business purposes under simplified conditions. The move is aimed at strengthening bilateral travel links and easing mobility between the two countries.

International

1. Iceland Declares AMOC Collapse a National Security Threat and Existential Risk

The Government of Iceland has officially declared the potential collapse or significant slowdown of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) as a national security threat and existential danger. This marks the first time a specific climate phenomenon has been added to Iceland's National Security Council agenda. The AMOC system, which transports warm tropical waters northward keeping Europe's climate mild, is threatened by Greenland's accelerating ice melt and freshwater runoff. Experts warn that an AMOC failure could trigger drastically colder winters across Northern Europe, disrupted rainfall patterns globally—including shifts in the Indian monsoon—and severe socio-economic impacts like food insecurity and energy challenges for the region.

2. United States Ends Its Longest Government Shutdown After Forty Two Days

The federal government of the United States reopened after a record-breaking 43-day

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shutdown when a funding bill was signed to resume operations. The impasse began on October 1 due to a failure to pass full-year appropriations, and it disrupted services, delayed pay-checks for federal workers and triggered travel and aid setbacks. The agreement extends most funding until January and resolves furloughs and layoffs, but key debates—such as on health-care tax credits—remain unsettled, raising prospects of fresh showdowns ahead.

3. Gulf Cooperation Council Approves Single Window Travel Framework to Strengthen Regional Movement

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has approved a “one-stop” travel system enabling citizens to complete immigration, customs, and security checks at a single checkpoint. The pilot will begin in December 2025, covering air travel between the UAE and Bahrain, and could expand to all six GCC countries if successful. A unified digital platform will also link travel violations across member states, boosting efficiency and integration. This is part of broader efforts alongside a unified GCC tourist visa to deepen regional connectivity.

4. Death Sentence for Sheikh Hasina Triggers Major Political Upheaval in Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina, the deposed former prime minister of Bangladesh, has been sentenced to death in absentia by the country’s International Crimes Tribunal, on charges of crimes against humanity linked to a deadly crackdown on student protests in 2024. She has strongly rejected the verdict as “biased, politically motivated,” calling the tribunal “rigged.” The sentence has sparked nationwide unrest, with protests intensifying and security forces using tear gas, sound grenades, and batons to contain demonstrators.



5. São Paulo Hosts 3rd International Ayurveda Conference

The 3rd International Ayurveda Conference was held in São Paulo, Brazil, celebrating 40 years of Ayurveda in the country. Organized by SVCC and Conayur under ICCR, it highlighted India–Brazil cooperation in traditional medicine. Ambassador Dinesh Bhatia and Ayush Secretary Dr. Rajesh Kotecha emphasized advancing research, inclusivity, and global collaboration, ahead of the WHO–Ayush Summit in December 2025. A key milestone was Ayurveda’s official inclusion in Brazil’s Classification of Occupations. The event featured thematic lectures, sessions and discussions on the future of Ayurveda.

6. UK Named Country Partner for Hornbill Festival

The United Kingdom has been named the official Country Partner for Nagaland’s Hornbill Festival 2025, held from December 1 to 10 at Kisama, Kohima. The partnership, formalized between Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and British Council India, includes curated cultural programs and a UK artist’s performance. Air India Express is the Official Travel Partner, launching a Boeing 737–8 with tribal Tsüngkotepsü livery and offering a 15% travel discount. The collaboration aims to boost cultural tourism, global visibility, and economic growth for Nagaland.

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7. United States Declares Saudi Arabia a Major Non NATO Ally

During a White House dinner with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that Saudi Arabia will be formally designated a “major non-NATO ally.” The status grants the kingdom enhanced military and economic cooperation, including easier access to U.S. defense technology and possible stationing of U.S. weapons. The two countries also signed a strategic defence agreement covering arms sales, nuclear cooperation, and investment pledges.



8. Switzerland and Ireland Confirmed as Partner Nations for Hornbill Festival 2025

The Hornbill Festival, scheduled in Nagaland from December 1 to 10, 2025, has confirmed Switzerland and Ireland as its partner nations, marking a strong cultural collaboration with Europe. The partnership aims to showcase a rich variety of artistic traditions, including folk music, theatre, literature and public-art installations that highlight global creativity alongside Naga heritage. This association is expected to attract more international visitors, strengthen tourism opportunities and open new avenues for cultural exchange, while celebrating the festival's growing global identity and vibrant community participation.

Sports

1. India Emerges Champion at Asian Archery Championships 2025

India delivered a standout performance at the Asian Archery Championships 2025 in Dhaka, winning 10 medals. In recurve events, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat claimed individual gold, with Ankita defeating Paris 2024 silver medallist Nam Su-hyeon. India also won men's team gold led by Atanu Das, while Rahul and Sangeeta secured silver and bronze. In compound events, Jyothi Surekha Vennam led India's five-medal haul with titles in both individual and team categories. Overall, India earned six gold, three silver and one bronze.



Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. India Ranks 6th Globally with Over 64,000 Patent Filings

India has emerged as the world's 6th-largest patent filer, with over 64,000 patent applications filed, more than 55% by resident innovators, signaling a shift from being technology consumers to creators. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted India's rise in the Global Innovation Index from 81st to 38th as a reflection of growing scientific capacity. The surge is driven by a vibrant start-up ecosystem, skill development, supportive government policies,

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and a focus on commercialization, boosting India's innovation and economic competitiveness.



2. Singapore Tops Henley Passport Index 2025; India Ranks 85th

The Henley Passport Index 2025 ranks Singapore as the world's strongest passport with visa-free access to 193 destinations, followed by South Korea and Japan. India's passport slipped to 85th place, granting visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 57 countries, down five places from 2024. The dip is attributed to limited bilateral visa agreements and slower diplomatic negotiations. This index reflects changing global mobility trends, with Asian passports dominating and Western powers like the US and UK experiencing declines.

3. Moody's Outlook Places India at the Top of G Twenty Growth Rankings

According to Moody's Global Macro Outlook report, India is expected to maintain a 6.5% annual growth rate through 2027, making it the fastest-growing economy among the G-20 nations. The strong forecast is attributed to robust domestic demand, diversified exports, and continued policy support, including tax reforms and monetary easing. Despite global trade risks like tariffs, India's deep capital markets, moderate external debt, and large financial buffers make it well-positioned to face external shocks.

4. WHO Report Notes Major Improvement in India's Tuberculosis Situation

According to the WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2025, India's TB incidence rate has dropped from 237 per lakh in 2015 to 187 per lakh in 2024 — a 21% decline. The country's TB mortality rate also fell from 28 to 21 per lakh in the same period. Treatment coverage reached 92% in 2024, and the number of "missing" (undiagnosed) TB cases has significantly reduced. However, India continues to account for about 25% of global TB cases.

5. WHO Reports 3.5 Lakh Annual Deaths from Cervical Cancer

WHO observed the first World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day, highlighting that cervical cancer causes over 3.5 lakh global deaths annually, with 90% occurring in low- and middle-income countries. The disease is highly preventable through HPV vaccination, screening, and timely treatment. India records over 80,000 cases yearly and is preparing a phased HPV vaccine rollout under the Universal Immunisation Programme. Innovations like AIIMS' ₹100 rapid test kit and global efforts by Gavi aim to accelerate elimination targets worldwide.

6. India Skills Report 2026: Employability at 56.35%; Women Lead

The India Skills Report 2026, released by ETS with CII, AICTE, AIU and Taggd, shows India's employability rising to 56.35%. Women's employability reached 54%, surpassing men for the first time in five years. The report highlights India's growing AI talent share (16%) and a projected 1.25 million AI professionals by 2027. The gig workforce may reach 23.5 million by 2030. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka emerged as the most employable states, with strong demand in tech, BFSI and manufacturing.

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7. HDFC Bank Returns to the Top as India's Most Valuable Brand for Twenty Twenty Five

HDFC Bank regained its position as India's most valuable brand in the 2025 Kantar BrandZ survey, with a brand value of about forty-five billion dollars. Its value rose by eighteen per cent year on year, propelled by heavy digital investment, innovation in financial products, and a deeply customer-focused strategy. Since 2014, its brand value has surged by three hundred seventy-seven per cent, highlighting its sustained leadership in India's banking sector through sustained growth and resilient consumer trust. Market momentum continues.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. 56th International Film Festival of India Opens in Goa, Showcasing Global Cinema Excellence

The 56th edition of the film festival has commenced in Goa from November 20 to 28, bringing together filmmakers, delegates and global cinema lovers. Over 240 films from 81 countries are scheduled for screening, highlighting diverse cultures, storytelling traditions and cinematic innovation. In addition to showcasing films, the event features immersive experiences, cultural integration and a parade-style opening that merges Goa's heritage with international film flair.

2. TCS and TPG Join Forces to Drive India's Future in AI and Data Centre Growth

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has entered a strategic partnership with investment firm TPG to form a joint venture dedicated to developing large-scale, AI-ready data centres in India under the banner of HyperVault AI Data Centre Ltd.. The venture will see a multi-billion-dollar investment (about ₹18,000 crore) and aims to build gigawatt-scale infrastructure to support AI workloads, sovereign data hosting and India's ambition to be a global technology hub. This collaboration signals a significant shift for TCS

into capital-intensive infrastructure and underlines the growing importance of data-centre capability in India's digital ecosystem.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. DRDO Develops Next-Gen Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), through its Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) in Visakhapatnam, has developed next-generation Man-Portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (MP-AUVs) designed for rapid and autonomous underwater mine detection. Equipped with side scan sonar, underwater cameras, deep learning-based target recognition, and acoustic communication systems, these compact drones enable real-time classification of mine-like objects with minimal human intervention. Successful field trials at NSTL have validated their performance, and production is expected soon, enhancing India's underwater defence capabilities.

2. IAF Arrives in France for Garuda-2025 Joint Air Exercise

The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has arrived at Mont-de-Marsan Air Base in France to participate in the bilateral air exercise Garuda-2025 from November 16 to 27. The exercise, involving IAF's Su-30 MKI and French Air and Space Force's Rafale jets, aims to enhance interoperability, exchange tactical best practices, and strengthen the strategic defence partnership between India and France. This high-intensity combat training also signals India's expanding military diplomacy and operational reach in Europe.

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3. India's Space Agency to Scale Up Spacecraft Manufacturing; Chandrayaan Four Planned for a Twenty Twenty Eight Liftoff

ISRO is gearing up for a major expansion, aiming to triple its spacecraft production capacity in the next three years amid rising mission demand. According to its chairman, seven more launches are planned in the current financial year, including commercial satellites and major PSLV and GSLV missions. A sample-return mission, Chandrayaan-4, has been approved for 2028, promising one of India's most technically advanced lunar efforts. ISRO is also advancing its roadmap for an Indian Space Station and deeper international partnerships.

4. India, UK Launch Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-25

The eighth edition of the India-UK joint military exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-25 began on 17 November 2025 at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. Held from 17-30 November, the 14-day exercise includes 240 personnel from both armies, with the Indian Army represented by the Sikh Regiment. Conducted under a UN mandate, it focuses on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban conditions, featuring joint planning, tactical drills and simulations. Started in 2011, the exercise strengthens bilateral military cooperation and regional security.

5. India's First Commercial PSLV Mission to Launch Oceansat Payload

The PSLV-C54 mission successfully placed Oceansat-3 (EOS-06) into sun-synchronous orbit, along with eight nanosatellites. The Oceansat-3 satellite carries ocean-colour, sea-surface temperature, scatterometer, and ARGOS sensors for enhanced oceanographic monitoring. This launch underlines India's growing commercial space capabilities, demonstrating that the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle can carry both government and private payloads in a single mission. It reinforces data continuity for marine research.

6. New Digital Combat Uniform Secures Intellectual Property Rights, Signaling a Breakthrough in Defence Design

The Indian Army has officially secured design registration for its new three-layer digital-print combat coat, granting it exclusive intellectual property rights. Developed in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology under the Army Design Bureau, this uniform combines a digitally camouflaged outer layer with an insulated mid-jacket and thermal base layer. The IPR protection prevents unauthorised reproduction, strengthening self-reliance in defence apparel, while enhancing soldier comfort, mobility, and operational effectiveness.

7. India Achieves Record Defence Manufacturing Output, Boosting Self-Reliance and Exports

India's defence manufacturing sector has achieved a record-high production value of ₹1.54 lakh crore in fiscal year 2024-25, with exports reaching ₹23,622 crore—both reflecting strong growth in indigenous capability and global supply reach. The surge is supported by around 16,000 MSMEs entering the defence manufacturing ecosystem, broader private-sector participation and government initiatives prioritising indigenisation under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiative. This transition marks a significant shift from import dependency to becoming a global defence manufacturing hub.

8. Google Establishes New AI Hardware Engineering Facility in Taiwan

Google has inaugurated its largest AI infrastructure hardware engineering hub outside the United States in Taipei, Taiwan. The facility will house hundreds of engineers and focus on designing, testing and deploying AI-hardware systems for global data centres. Taiwan's strong semiconductor ecosystem and global supply-chain position underpin this investment. This move also signals deeper US-Taiwan tech alignment in a geopolitically sensitive region.

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9. United States Clears US \$93 Million Weapon Sale to India: Javelin Missiles and Excalibur Projectiles

The US State Department has approved the sale of approximately US \$93 million worth of defence equipment to India, comprising anti-tank Javelin missile systems and Excalibur precision artillery projectiles. The deal is part of the foreign military sales programme and marks a boost to the US-India strategic partnership, enhancing India's precision strike capabilities. Congress must still review the notification, but the approval represents deeper defence linkages between the two nations.

Miscellaneous

1. Ethiopia Reports First Marburg Virus Outbreak

Ethiopia has confirmed its first-ever outbreak of Marburg virus disease in the South Ethiopia Region, with nine cases identified in Jinka town. Marburg virus, similar to Ebola, is a deadly hemorrhagic fever caused by fruit bats and spreads through bodily fluids of infected individuals. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, muscle aches, fatigue, and severe bleeding. There is no vaccine or antiviral treatment yet. Ethiopia, supported by WHO and Africa CDC, is actively containing the outbreak through screening, isolation, contact tracing, and raising public awareness.

2. Science City's Climate Gallery Wins Prestigious CIMUSET Award

The National Council of Science Museums' Science City Kolkata received the CIMUSET Award for its climate change gallery "On The Edge?" announced at the 27th ICOM General Conference in Dubai. The 10,000 sq.ft gallery utilizes scientific rigor, community engagement, and inclusivity to educate visitors on climate change impacts and mitigation. Since its inauguration in January 2025, over one million visitors have experienced interactive exhibits featuring AR/VR and storytelling that inspire collective climate action, especially among youth. The project aligns with global sustainability goals and India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.



3. Tata Memorial Scientists Announce New Advancement in Bladder Cancer Treatment

Researchers at Tata Memorial Centre have demonstrated that adding targeted radiation therapy after radical bladder removal (cystectomy) in high-risk cases significantly reduces pelvic recurrences. The phase III BART trial found that patients receiving moderate-dose radiotherapy experienced a sharp drop in relapse rates, without a meaningful increase in severe side effects. This finding could reshape post-surgery care for bladder cancer by making adjuvant radiotherapy part of the standard treatment for selected high-risk patients.

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4. Thota Tharani has been honoured with France's prestigious Chevalier Award

Veteran art director Thota Tharani has been honoured with France's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his exceptional contribution to Indian cinema and visual arts. The award was presented on 13 November 2025 in Chennai. With a career spanning over four decades, he is known for iconic films like *Nayakan*, *Indian*, and *Ponniyin Selvan*. A Padma Shri awardee, he has also won multiple national and state awards, making him one of India's most influential production designers.



5. 2025 National Gopal Ratna Award Winners Announced

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying announced the National Gopal Ratna Awards 2025, one of India's top honours in the livestock and dairy sector. The awards will be presented on 26 November during National Milk Day. A total of 2,081 applications were received across categories for Best Dairy Farmer, Best Dairy Cooperative/FPO/MPC, and Best Artificial Insemination Technician. First-rank winners in the farmer and cooperative categories will receive ₹5 lakh. The AIT category carries only certificates and mementos.

6. India Celebrates World Fisheries Day 2025

India will observe World Fisheries Day 2025 on November 21 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on "India's Blue Transformation:

Strengthening Value Addition in Seafood Exports."

The event features the virtual presence of Union Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Ministers of State, with delegations from 27 countries. Key initiatives like the National Framework on Traceability in Fisheries and Aquaculture and guidelines for mariculture and smart harbours will be launched. Technical sessions will cover value addition and export potential of inland fisheries.

7. President Murmu Presents Sixth National Water Awards

On November 18, 2025, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the Sixth National Water Awards and Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards in New Delhi, recognizing outstanding efforts in water conservation, efficient use, and community involvement. With over 35 lakh groundwater recharge structures built, the awards celebrate sustainable water management amidst growing challenges. President Murmu emphasized India's cultural reverence for water, the urgent need for coordinated action on water security, and the collective responsibility of all sectors to ensure sustainable water use for future generations.



8. Indira Gandhi's 108th Birth Anniversary Tribute

Indira Gandhi's 108th birth anniversary on November 19, 2025, honors India's first and only woman Prime Minister renowned for strong

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leadership and bold decisions. Born to Jawaharlal Nehru, she played a critical role in shaping modern India, from the Green Revolution to the 1971 war that led to Bangladesh's creation. Remembered as the "Iron Lady," her tenure includes major social reforms and the controversial Emergency period. Her legacy of resilience, vision, and dedication continues to inspire the nation.



9. Venu Srinivasan Wins CII Quality Ratna Award

Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company, was awarded the prestigious 2025 CII Quality Ratna Award for his pioneering leadership in Total Quality Management (TQM) and advancing India's manufacturing capabilities. Honored at the 33rd CII Excellence Summit in Kolkata, Srinivasan transformed TVS Motor into a global quality benchmark, being the first Indian two-wheeler company to win the Deming Prize. His vision emphasizes customer-centric innovation, employee engagement, and sustainable industrial growth aligning with national manufacturing goals.



10. India's Sanitation Progress Celebrated on World Toilet Day

On November 19, 2025, India marked World Toilet Day highlighting the success of its Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and allied schemes in transforming sanitation access. With over 5.67 lakh villages achieving Open Defecation Free Plus status and nearly 4,700 cities certified ODF, India's efforts have cut diarrhoeal deaths by 300,000 since 2014. The mission emphasizes sustainability through SBM-Gramin Phase II, enhancing waste management, and integrates with AMRUT and Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure clean water and sanitation nationwide.



11. Demat Accounts Cross Twenty One Crore Mark Amid Intense IPO Activity

India's total demat account count has surged past 21 crore, reflecting a booming retail investor base amid strong IPO momentum. SEBI reports around one lakh new demat accounts are being opened daily, signaling widespread interest in capital markets. The spike is driven by retail participation in primary issuances and digital broker platforms. Such growth underscores growing financial awareness, broadening equity access across India, and demonstrates how IPO waves are fueling long-term market engagement.