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Weekly Current Affairs

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National

1. Sandip Pradhan Takes Charge as Whole-Time Member at SEBI

The government has appointed Sandip Pradhan, a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service officer and Director General of Income Tax (Investigation) in Pune, as a Whole-Time Member of Securities and Exchange Board of India for a three-year term or until further orders. His appointment is expected to strengthen the board's regulatory leadership, particularly in tax-linked financial oversight, market surveillance, and corporate governance enforcement.



2. Amit Agrawal Named as India's New Telecom Secretary in Major Bureaucratic Changes

The government has appointed Amit Agrawal, a 1993-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and former Secretary of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, as the new Secretary of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). He replaces Neeraj Mittal who has moved to lead the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Agrawal's extensive experience in digital governance, electronics, finance and the Unique Identification Authority positions him to lead spectrum management, infrastructure rollout and regulatory coordination in a key

sector undergoing transformation.



3. Government to Unveil Updated National Accounts Series for GDP from 2026

The government will release a revamped series of national accounts for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on 27 February 2026, using fiscal year 2022-23 as the new base year. The overhaul introduces updated data sources, refined methodologies and an Advisory Committee chaired by B. N. Goldar to guide inclusion of LLPs, government-provided housing imputation and sector deflator revisions. The goal is to better capture India's evolving economy for policy and analysis.

4. India's Forex Holdings Expected to Hit New Record Levels Soon

India's foreign-exchange reserves have surged to about US \$676.3 billion as of early April 2025, marking the highest level in five months and continuing a multi-week build-up. The rise reflects sustained inflows and valuation gains in foreign currency assets held by the Reserve Bank of India, which now offers around eleven months of import cover — underpinning the resilience of India's external finances. Analysts believe further accumulation is likely in the near term.

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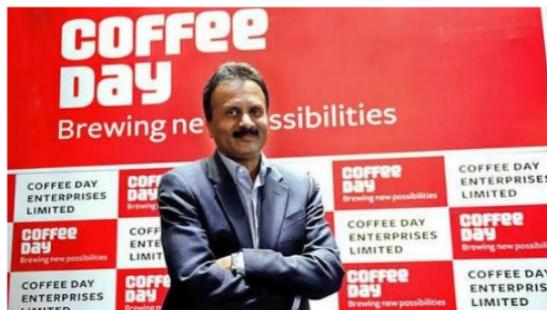
5. Government Overhauls

Regulations To Strengthen Coastal Shipping Growth

The government has introduced sweeping reforms in maritime regulation to boost domestic coastal shipping. The newly enacted Coastal Shipping Act, 2025 replaces outdated legislation and removes licensing hurdles for Indian-flag vessels. By simplifying procedures such as sign-on/off formalities and shifting oversight from immigration to port authorities, the measures aim to cut red-tape and enhance competitiveness of coastal trade. The reforms align with the national push to exploit the 7,500 km coastline and raise coastal cargo share by 2030.

6. Karnataka Coffee Industry Gets New Leadership Team

Karnataka Planters Association (KPA), the apex body representing coffee growers in Karnataka, has elected a new leadership team during its 67th Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2025 in Chikmagaluru. M Salman Baseer has taken charge as the Chairman, while M C Kariappa has become the Vice-Chair. Their leadership comes at a crucial time because Karnataka contributes nearly 70 percent of India's total coffee production. The industry continues to face challenges related to climate change, labour shortages, fluctuating global prices and rising production costs.



7. RBI Moves Ahead With Linking UPI And TIPS To Simplify India–Eurozone Payments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has begun the realisation phase of linking India's domestic instant payments platform Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the TARGET Instant Payment Settlement (TIPS) system operated by the Eurosystem. The integration aims to enable faster, cheaper and more transparent cross-border remittances between India and Euro-area countries. It marks a strategic step in extending India's digital payment infrastructure globally, reducing reliance on legacy channels and lowering transaction frictions.

8. IIM Ranchi Secures AMBA Accreditation and Earns Four Palms in Global Eduniversal 2025 List

IIM Ranchi has earned accreditation from the Association of MBAs (AMBA), marking its MBA programme as meeting rigorous global postgraduate management education standards. Simultaneously, it has been awarded "4 Palms of Excellence" in the Eduniversal Best Business Schools Ranking 2025, which recognises its growing international footprint, quality of curriculum, partnerships and global reputation. This dual recognition elevates its standing among global business schools and signals stronger student, research and industry linkage opportunities.

9. Government Approves First Limestone Mining Block Auction in Jammu and Kashmir

The Union Ministry of Mines has approved the first-ever auction of limestone mineral blocks in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, scheduled for 24 November 2025. Seven blocks spanning approximately 314 hectares across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri and Poonch have been identified under UNFC G3 and G4 categories. The auction is being conducted

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under subsections (4) & (5) of Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2015 (MMDR Act), enabling the Centre to step in where local administration faces procedural constraints. The move aims to boost industrial activity, local employment, revenue generation and to align with sustainable mining practices.

10. Kashi Tamil Sangamam Fourth Edition to Commence on December Two this year

The fourth edition of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 4.0), organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with several ministries and institutions, will begin on December 2, 2025. It will bring together over 1,400 delegates from Tamil Nadu across 7 categories (students, teachers, writers/media, agriculture/allied, professionals/artisans, women, spiritual scholars) for eight days of immersive activities in Varanasi, Prayagraj and Ayodhya. The theme for this year is "Learn Tamil – Tamil Karkalam", aimed at promoting Tamil language learning among North Indian students, strengthening cultural and linguistic ties between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, and celebrating India's civilisational unity.

11. Indian Railways Achieves Record Freight Loading Crossing One Billion Tonne Mark in Financial Year Twenty Five to Twenty Six

Indian Railways has loaded approximately 1,020 million tonnes of freight as of 19 November 2025 in the financial year 2025-26, crossing the one-billion-tonne threshold. Daily freight loading has reached about 4.4 million tonnes, up from around 4.2 million last year. Major contributors include coal (505 MT), iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT) and containers (59 MT). The robust performance reflects improved efficiency, strong demand and the railways' pivotal role in

supporting industrial growth and greener logistics solutions.

12. Electricity Amendment Bill

Twenty Twenty Five Introduced to Transform Power Sector Regulations

The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025 introduces major reforms aimed at modernising India's power sector by promoting competition in distribution, strengthening regulatory oversight and enabling cost-reflective tariffs. It allows multiple licencees to operate in the same area, maintains protections for farmers and low-income households, and seeks to phase out cross-subsidies. The changes aim to address inefficiencies in state distribution companies, high technical and commercial losses, and sluggish innovation in power supply.

13. Justice Surya Kant Takes Oath as Fifty Third Chief Justice of India

Justice Surya Kant was sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on 24 November 2025, at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan and administered by the President. Born in a village in Haryana and starting his career at district courts, he has risen through the ranks to the Supreme Court bench. His tenure is expected to focus on reducing judicial backlog, clearing high-profile constitutional cases and strengthening justice delivery.

14. Constitution One Hundred Thirty First Amendment Bill Places Chandigarh Under Article Two Hundred Forty

The proposed Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2025 aims to place the Union Territory of Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution, empowering the President to issue regulations for its governance. The change would align Chandigarh with other territories without legislatures and may lead to appointment of an

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independent administrator instead of the current arrangement under the Punjab Governor. At present the measure is under consideration and has triggered political debates about regional autonomy, governance structure and center-state relations.

15. Jaipur Hosts Opening of Fifth Khelo India University Games at Sawai Mansingh Stadium

The fifth edition of the Khelo India University Games was officially inaugurated at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on 24 November 2025, marking the start of a multi-city competition across Rajasthan. Around 7,000 participants from over 230 universities will compete in 23 medal sports, with the traditional game Kho-Kho featured as a demonstration. The opening ceremony featured cultural performances and a drone show, reflecting Rajasthan's heritage while underscoring the national vision of developing emerging sports talent.

16. Delhi Government Plans Major Overhaul, Revenue Districts to Increase to Thirteen

The government of the capital is moving ahead with a major administrative reorganisation, with an in-principle proposal to raise the number of revenue districts from 11 to 13 and expand sub-divisional offices from 33 to 39. The plan also envisages establishing mini-secretariats in each district to provide most services under one roof and realign district boundaries to match municipal zones for better governance and resident convenience.

17. Operation Pawan Troops to Receive Formal Army Recognition After Nearly Four Decades

For the first time since the late-1980s mission Operation Pawan (1987-1990), the Indian Army will officially honour the personnel who served under the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri

Lanka. A formal wreath-laying ceremony will be held at the National War Memorial in New Delhi, led by the Army Chief, to pay tribute to the 1,171 soldiers killed and more than 3,500 wounded during the operation. The move addresses long-standing demands for institutional recognition of their sacrifices.

18. Justice Vikram Nath Takes Charge as Executive Chairman of NALSA

Justice Vikram Nath, a judge of the Supreme Court of India since 2021, has been nominated by the President as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), effective 24 November 2025, under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. He succeeds his predecessor following standard convention and will now oversee the nation's legal-aid apparatus meant to provide free competent legal services to marginalised and economically weaker citizens.

19. New All-Day Emergency Helpline 14490 for Women in Crisis Rolled Out by NCW

The National Commission for Women has launched a new 24x7 short-code helpline number 14490 to provide immediate and cost-free assistance to women facing violence, harassment or other kinds of distress across India. The easy-to-remember number is linked to NCW's existing helpline to ensure faster intervention and enhanced outreach. This initiative aims to strengthen women's safety infrastructure and encourage timely access to help in crisis situations.

20. Andhra Pradesh Announces Three Additional Districts, Taking Total Count to Twenty Nine

The state government of Andhra Pradesh has approved the creation of three new districts – Polavaram district, Markapuram district and Madanapalle district – increasing the total

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number of districts in the state to 29. In addition, five new revenue divisions and a new mandal have been sanctioned to facilitate administration. The official notification is expected soon. The reorganisation aims to improve governance and bring administration closer to people.

21. State Government

Launches Rythanna Meekosam Initiative to Support and Empower Farmers

The state government of Andhra Pradesh has launched "Rythanna Meekosam," a farmer-centric programme running from November 24 to 29, to strengthen agriculture through a five-point support model. The scheme emphasises water security, demand-based farming, adoption of agri-technology, boosting food processing, and broad government backing. Officials will visit rural households, followed by workshops at Farmer Service Centres from December 3. The initiative aims to ease financial burden, modernise farming and ensure stable rural incomes.

22. Assam Introduces New Bill Seeking a Ban on Polygamy with Jail Provisions for Violations

The government of Assam has tabled the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 in the state Assembly, proposing to criminalize polygamy across nearly all the state, with exceptions for certain tribal areas under Sixth Schedule. Under the draft law, entering a second marriage while already married could result in up to seven years' imprisonment, rising to ten years if the prior marriage was concealed. Offenders may face fines, lose eligibility for state-sponsored benefits, and victims will get compensation. The legislation also penalizes religious authorities and guardians who facilitate such marriages.

23. Prime Minister Modi Releases Special Stamp and Coin in Tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a commemorative stamp and special coin honouring Guru Tegh Bahadur on his 350th martyrdom anniversary during an event in Kurukshetra. The ceremony highlighted the Guru's sacrifice for religious freedom and protection of human values. Cultural presentations, exhibitions, and a coffee-table book showcased his teachings and historic contribution. The government emphasised its commitment to preserving Sikh heritage and ensuring younger generations understand the Guru's role in defending justice, faith and societal harmony.

24. NCC Marks Its Seventy Eighth Raising Day with Countrywide Tributes and Service Events

The National Cadet Corps celebrated its seventy eighth Raising Day on November twenty three with nationwide tributes and public-service activities. A wreath-laying ceremony at the National War Memorial on November twenty two, led by the Defence Secretary and DG NCC, honoured fallen soldiers. Cadets across India organised blood donation drives, cleanliness campaigns, tree plantation and anti-drug initiatives. Established in 1948, the NCC has grown to twenty lakh cadets and now focuses on modern training including drone operations, cyber awareness and disaster response.

25. Digital Connexion Announces 11 Billion Dollar Investment for New AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam

Digital Connexion — a joint venture of Reliance Industries, Brookfield and Digital Realty — has committed to invest about 11 billion US dollars (₹98,000 crore) by 2030 to build a 1-gigawatt AI-native data centre campus in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The facility will span roughly

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400 acres, and be equipped with high-density AI-ready infrastructure, redundant power supply and high-speed connectivity, aimed at supporting cloud services and large-scale AI workloads. This positions Visakhapatnam as a major hub in India's data infrastructure expansion.

26. Sardar@150 Unity March Launched as Nationwide Padyatra Honours Legacy of National Integration

The Sardar@150 Unity March, launched on 6 October 2025, is a nationwide campaign commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Spearheaded by MY Bharat and supported by the government, the march aims to engage youth through padayatras, cultural events, pledge drives and civic-awareness programmes. The national-level march began on 26 November and will conclude on 6 December, covering a 152-kilometre route from Patel's birthplace to the Statue of Unity, promoting national unity, integration, and youth participation.

27. EPFO Forms Panel for Cadre Revamp to Strengthen Operations and Member Services

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has constituted a four-member committee to suggest organisational and cadre restructuring, in a move to strengthen operations and improve member services. Chaired by a former senior government secretary, the panel is tasked with reviewing workload distribution, staff strength, inefficiencies and deployment patterns, and recommend reorganisation by March 31, 2026. The exercise aims to optimise manpower, streamline processes, and ensure better responsiveness and service delivery across the retirement fund body.

28. Cabinet Clears Multi-Tracking Rail Projects Worth 2781 Crore in Maharashtra and Gujarat

The government's Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved two major multi-tracking railway projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat with a total investment of ₹2,781 crore. The plans include doubling the Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)-Kanalus line in Gujarat and adding third and fourth tracks on the Badlapur-Karjat section in Maharashtra. The expansion will add approximately 224 km of rail routes, boost freight capacity by 18 million tonnes per annum, improve connectivity for over 585 villages and ease suburban passenger movement in the Mumbai region.

29. Prime Minister Unveils Global Aircraft Engine MRO Facility in Hyderabad

The government inaugurated the first global-scale aircraft-engine Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India, established by Safran Aircraft Engine Services India (SAESI) near Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Spread over 45,000 square metres and backed by an initial ₹1,300 crore investment, the centre can service LEAP engines used in Airbus A320neo and Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. Once operational, it will reduce reliance on overseas maintenance, generate over 1,000 skilled jobs, and deepen India's aerospace self-reliance.

30. India Showcases Tribal Craft and Indigenous Art at the Forty Fourth India International Trade Fair

The 44th India International Trade Fair at Bharat Mandapam turned into a vibrant "Mini India," spotlighting tribal craft and indigenous art from across states. The fair featured traditional lac-bangle makers from tribal communities, handloom weavers, rural artisans, and handicraft stalls. Visitors saw live demonstrations of tribal art forms such as

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lacquer work, weaving, filigree, stone carving and more, highlighting both cultural heritage and rural entrepreneurship. The event showcased crafts rooted in tribal identity alongside regional specialties, amplifying India's diversity in art and craft.

31. 44th India International Trade Fair 2025 Concludes Successfully

The 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2025 concluded at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, celebrating India's industrial and cultural diversity under 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.' Over 18 lakh visitors participated as awards recognized top states, ministries, PSUs, foreign pavilions, and private enterprises across categories. Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, Meghalaya, Haryana, and the Ministry of Defence were among top awardees. The fair highlighted innovation, inclusivity, and sustainable initiatives, showcasing India's resilience and vast potential in trade and business.

32. Indian AI OncoMark Revolutionizes Cancer Molecular Diagnosis

Researchers from S N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and Ashoka University launched OncoMark, an AI framework that decodes cancer hallmarks like metastasis and immune evasion from single-cell data across 14 types. Trained on 3.1 million cells with synthetic biopsies, it hits 99% internal accuracy and 96% on external sets, enabling precise tumor profiling beyond TNM staging for tailored therapies. Validated on 20,000 samples, it visualizes progression, boosting India's precision oncology efforts.

33. Ambedkar Bust Unveiled at UNESCO Paris on Constitution Day

India unveiled a bust of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on November 26, 2025, coinciding with Constitution Day

to honor his role as India's Constitution architect and champion of equality. Led by Ambassador Vishal V. Sharma with UNESCO Director General Khaled El-Enany present, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it a fitting global tribute aligning Ambedkar's ideals of justice and education with UNESCO's human rights mission. This installation underscores his enduring international legacy alongside figures like Gandhi.

34. Goa CM Unveils K Vaikunth Stamp at IFFI 56

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant released a commemorative postal stamp honoring veteran cinematographer K Vaikunth at the 56th International Film Festival of India in Panaji, celebrating his 50-year legacy in Hindi cinema classics like *Mere Apne*, *Mausam*, and *Parichay*. The event included screening his 1977 documentary *Goa Marches On*, spotlighting his technical mastery and Goan ties. Vaikunth, who passed in 2003 after earning a Filmfare for *Seeta Aur Geeta*, shaped visual storytelling for generations.

35. CBDT Launches NUDGE for Voluntary Tax Compliance Push

India's Central Board of Direct Taxes introduced the NUDGE campaign—Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable—to promote voluntary income tax return corrections, targeting mismatches in Schedule FA for foreign assets like bank accounts, properties, and securities, plus overseas income. Starting with SMS and email alerts using pre-filled data, it allows revisions by month's end under Section 139(5) to dodge Black Money Act penalties amid CRS data exchanges. This tech-driven nudge prioritizes self-compliance over enforcement for transparency.

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International**1.UAE Rises to Third Position Globally as Major Humanitarian Contributor in 2025**

The United Arab Emirates has emerged as the third-largest humanitarian donor worldwide for 2025, contributing USD 1.46 billion — about 7.2 % of global tracked aid — according to United Nations data. Its aid spanned emergency relief, development support and long-term recovery efforts across multiple crisis zones, underscoring the UAE's growing role in global humanitarian engagement.

2. Larry Page Moves Ahead of Jeff Bezos to Become Third Richest Globally

Larry Page, co-founder of Alphabet Inc., has overtaken Jeff Bezos to become the world's third-richest person. The surge followed a sharp rise in Alphabet's stock after the debut of its new AI model, boosting Page's net worth by several billion dollars in a single day. The shift underlines how rapid investor reactions to innovation and tech advances can instantly reshape the rankings of the world's wealthiest individuals.

3. India Resumes Tourist Visas For Chinese Nationals After Long Suspension

India has resumed issuing tourist visas to Chinese nationals at its embassies and consulates worldwide, ending a five-year suspension that began after the 2020 border clash. This policy change follows earlier steps in July when visa access was restored only through missions in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The decision is part of a broader initiative to rebuild people-to-people ties, restart direct flights, and stabilise bilateral relations.

4. Seychelles Joins Colombo Security Conclave As Latest Member

Seychelles has joined the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) as its sixth full member during the 7th NSA-level meeting held in New Delhi on 20-21 November 2025. The inclusion reinforces cooperation among Indian Ocean region countries on critical security domains such as maritime safety, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and disaster response coordination. With Seychelles' strategic presence in the western Indian Ocean, the expansion enhances the grouping's operational reach and promotes deeper institutional collaboration to ensure regional stability, safeguard sea lanes, and address emerging shared security challenges effectively.

5. Global Legal Challenges Emerge Against India's Basmati Rice GI Safeguards

India's efforts to protect the "Basmati" rice designation under a geographical indication (GI) are facing fresh legal and trade challenges abroad. Several countries and export competitors are contesting India's claims over exclusive rights to the term, risking brand dilution and export premium erosion. These disputes come at a time when India is negotiating major free trade agreements and the outcome could influence access to key global markets and producer incomes.

6. Leonardo DiCaprio To Be Honoured With Desert Palm Achievement Recognition

Leonardo DiCaprio will receive the Desert Palm Achievement Award (Actor) on 3 January 2026 at the Palm Springs International Film Festival for his performance in One Battle After Another directed by Paul Thomas Anderson. The award honours DiCaprio's enduring cinematic influence and a career built on emotionally rich roles and unwavering artistic integrity. Organisers praised

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his ability to continually redefine screen acting and deliver performances with depth, courage and resonance.

7. India Joins Australia and Canada to Launch New ACITI Partnership for Cooperation

India, Australia and Canada have announced a new trilateral partnership called the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation (ACITI) Partnership, unveiled at the G20 Summit. The initiative aims to deepen cooperation in emerging and critical technologies including artificial intelligence, clean energy, and resilient supply chains for critical minerals. Officials from the three countries are expected to meet in the first quarter of 2026 to translate the framework into action.

8. India Joins WorldSkills Asia 2025 for the First Time with a Team of Twenty-Three Members

India is participating for the first time in the WorldSkills Asia Competition 2025, sending a contingent of 23 competitors (across 21 skill categories) to compete in Chinese Taipei from 27-29 November 2025. The send-off ceremony was held by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, emphasising India's commitment to building global skills capacity and recognition. The team has undergone rigorous national-level training under expert mentorship.

Sports

1. India Achieves Historic Ninth Gold Medal Finish at World Boxing Cup Finals 2025

India concluded the finals of the World Boxing Cup 2025 in Greater Noida with an outstanding haul of nine gold medals, finishing on top of the medal table. The women's contingent secured seven of those golds, while the men added two more, resulting in a total medal count of 20

(nine gold, six silver, five bronze). The home-team success underscores India's boxing depth though analysts note the field did not draw the strongest global line-up.

2. Roger Federer Chosen for Entry into International Tennis Hall of Fame

Roger Federer has been elected into the International Tennis Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2026, becoming the only player in that category selected this year. He retired in 2022 after a legendary career that includes 20 Grand Slam singles titles, 103 tour-level championships, and a record 237 consecutive weeks at world number one. The induction ceremony will take place in August 2026 in Newport, Rhode Island.

3. Lakshya Sen Triumphs to Win the Australian Open Super Five Hundred Championship

Lakshya Sen secured his first title of the 2025 season by winning the men's singles at the Australian Open 2025 (Super 500) in Sydney, defeating Japan's Yushi Tanaka 21-15, 21-11 in just 38 minutes. The dominant performance marked a strong comeback for Sen after a challenging period on the international circuit. His decisive win demonstrates renewed confidence, improved game rhythm and growing momentum ahead of upcoming major tournaments. The victory also reinforces his status among the world's top shuttlers.

4. Rohit Sharma Appointed Tournament Ambassador for ICC Men's T20 World Cup Twenty Twenty Six

Former India captain Rohit Sharma has been named the tournament ambassador for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be jointly hosted by India and Sri Lanka. The announcement came with the release of the tournament schedule. Rohit, who led India to the 2024 T20 World Cup title and has played in all

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previous nine editions, expressed honour at being chosen while still playing international cricket. He said he hopes the next generation of players replicate past success.

5. Indian Women's Team Lifts Kabaddi World Cup Title Once More

The Indian women's kabaddi team clinched the 2025 Women's Kabaddi World Cup title by defeating Chinese Taipei women's kabaddi team 35–28 in the final held in Dhaka. India maintained unbeaten form throughout the tournament, including a 33–21 win over Iran women's kabaddi team in the semi-finals. This marks their second consecutive World Cup victory. The win was met with widespread praise and is seen as a boost for women's sports in the country.

6. Young British Chess Talent Astonishes Audience with Performance at Women's Championship Event

Ten-year-old British chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan delivered a stunning performance at the UK Women's Blitz Championship in Royal Leamington Spa, winning eight consecutive games against older and experienced opponents. The victory placed her among the top fifty women globally in blitz chess. Experts called her a generational talent, noting her calm strategy and dominance. Already the youngest Woman International Master, she continues breaking records after representing England internationally at nine. Bodhana now aims to become the youngest grandmaster in history.

7. Javokhir Sindarov Secures the 2025 FIDE World Cup Chess Championship

At the 2025 FIDE World Cup held in Goa, 19-year-old Javokhir Sindarov defeated China's Wei Yi in a dramatic rapid tiebreak to claim the title –

becoming the youngest ever winner in the event's history. After two classical games ended in draws, Sindarov held his nerve in rapid tie-breaks, outplaying Wei Yi to win the trophy, \$120,000 prize and a place in the 2026 Candidates Tournament. His breakout performance marks a fresh generational shift in elite chess.

8. South Africa Crushes India by 408 Runs Record

South Africa achieved a historic 408-run victory against India in the second Test at Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium on November 27, 2025. This marks India's worst-ever Test defeat by runs, surpassing the previous 342-run loss to Australia. The 2-0 series whitewash highlights a rare and troubling home form decline for India, suffering consecutive series losses after decades. South Africa, led by Temba Bavuma, showcased dominance with disciplined bowling and strategic play, winning 11 of their last 12 Tests.

Ranks/Reports/Indices

1. India Sees Twenty-One Percent Decline in TB Cases and Mortality Also Drops by Twenty-Five Percent

India has recorded a 21 % drop in tuberculosis (TB) incidence between 2015 and 2024 – falling from 237 to 187 cases per lakh of population – according to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global TB Report 2025. Simultaneously, TB mortality has fallen by 25 % over the same period, moving from 28 to 21 deaths per lakh. These results are driven by stronger case-finding, scaling treatment coverage above 92 % and community mobilisation efforts.

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2. SEBI Updates Materiality Norms for Related Party Deal Disclosures by Companies

SEBI has revised its framework for material related-party transactions (RPTs) for listed companies by introducing tiered materiality thresholds based on annual turnover rather than a single fixed cap. Entities with turnover up to ₹20,000 crore will now treat an RPT as material if it exceeds 10 per cent of turnover. For entities between ₹20,001 crore and ₹40,000 crore the threshold is ₹2,000 crore plus 5 per cent of turnover above ₹20,000 crore. For those above ₹40,000 crore it is ₹3,000 crore plus 2.5 per cent of turnover above ₹40,000 crore, capped at ₹5,000 crore. Disclosure and audit-committee approval requirements have also been eased for smaller value transactions.

3. RBI Bulletin Highlights Strong Economic Activity Driven by Festive Buying and Steady Consumption

The November 2025 bulletin of the RBI notes that India's economy gained momentum in October thanks to robust festive-season spending, strong urban consumption and persistent rural demand. Key reforms—such as reductions in goods and services tax rates and interest rate cuts—helped refresh domestic activity despite global headwinds. Financial conditions remain favourable, inflation has cooled sharply, and the central bank sees the economy entering a cycle of rising investment and growth.

4. Jakarta Tops Global Cities as Most Populous in 2025

The UN's World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 report crowns Jakarta, Indonesia, the world's most populous city at 42 million residents, surpassing Tokyo's 33 million and Dhaka's 37 million, due to standardized urban metrics capturing sprawl and density better. This reflects Asia's dominance with nine of the top ten megacities amid rapid urbanization—now

housing nearly half of 8.2 billion people globally. Revised criteria ensure fairer comparisons, highlighting challenges like infrastructure strain while projecting two-thirds urban by 2050.

Summits/MoUs/Conferences/Agreement

1. India And Israel Begin Free Trade Agreement Discussion Through Terms Of Reference

India and Israel have signed a Terms of Reference to officially begin negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement aimed at strengthening bilateral economic ties. The framework outlines discussions on reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, simplifying customs procedures, improving market access, and enabling greater investment and technology collaboration across priority sectors. Both sides will follow a phased approach, starting with areas that can deliver quick and meaningful gains for businesses. The planned agreement seeks to boost trade volumes, enhance supply chain partnerships, and promote deeper commercial cooperation between the two nations.

2. Sixth International Agronomy Congress Set To Commence In New Delhi On Twenty Four November

The Sixth International Agronomy Congress (IAC-2025) will convene in New Delhi from November 24 to 26 at the National Agricultural Science Complex, under the theme "Re-envisioning Agronomy for Smart Agri-food Systems and Environmental Stewardship." The event is expected to draw over one thousand participants, including agronomists, researchers, policymakers and industry innovators. Delegates will explore topics such as climate-resilient farming, precision agriculture methods, soil and water health management, and the use of digital technologies to build future-ready food systems that support sustainability and productivity.

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3. India and Nepal Begin Joint Military Exercise Suryakiran Nineteen in Pithoragarh

The 19th edition of the joint military exercise between Indian Army and Nepali Army started on November 25, 2025 at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand and will run until December 8. The two-week drill will focus on mountain warfare, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and integrated ground-aviation operations. This edition will also integrate advanced technologies like drones, unmanned logistic vehicles and AI-enabled decision tools, aiming to enhance interoperability and joint readiness in challenging and dynamic environments.

4. India Internet Governance Forum 2025 to Highlight an Inclusive and Sustainable Digital Pathway

The fifth edition of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF) 2025 will take place on 27–28 November in New Delhi under the theme “Advancing Internet Governance for an Inclusive and Sustainable Viksit Bharat.” The Forum will bring together government, industry, civil society, academia and technical community to discuss India’s digital future. Discussions will focus on three sub-themes: Inclusive Digital Future; Digital Infrastructure for Resilient and Sustainable Growth; and AI for People, Planet and Progress. The event aims to shape the nation’s internet governance toward inclusion, sustainability and responsible AI use.

5. MapmyIndia Joins Hands with Zoho CRM to Develop India’s First Home-Grown Location Intelligence Solution

MapmyIndia and Zoho have announced a collaboration integrating MapmyIndia’s “Address Capture” and “Nearby Lead Finder” tools directly into Zoho CRM. This integration enables businesses to visualise customer locations,

capture verified addresses, find potential leads nearby, and optimise field-sales routes — all using fully Indian mapping infrastructure. The move is part of a push for “Swadeshi” digital solutions, offering enterprises a location-aware, privacy-focused alternative to global mapping services while strengthening the local tech ecosystem.

Science and tech/Space/Defence

1. China Plans Nuclear-Shielded Artificial Floating Island Project

China is developing a massive, semi-submersible floating artificial island designed to withstand nuclear blasts and extreme sea conditions. The 78,000 tonne twin-hull platform is described as a “mobile, self-sustaining” structure capable of housing 238 people for four months without resupply. Official commentary presents it as a deep-sea research facility, but its defensive design and sea-power implications have raised strategic and geopolitical questions. The project targets operational status by 2028.

2. Inquiry Underway After Tejas Fighter Jet Crashes During Airshow Demonstration

An Indian Air Force Tejas fighter jet crashed during a low-altitude aerobatic display at the Dubai Air Show, resulting in the death of the sole pilot. The incident occurred as the aircraft executed a negative-G roll and lost control close to the runway at Al Maktoum International Airport. A court of inquiry has been constituted by the Indian Air Force to determine the cause of the crash, with investigations covering mechanical, control-surface and procedural possibilities.

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3. Ethiopian Volcano Hayli Gubbi Awakens After 12 Thousand Years, Ash Disrupts Flights

The long-dormant Hayli Gubbi volcano in Ethiopia's Afar region erupted for the first time in an estimated 10 000–12 000 years, sending ash plumes up to around 14 km into the atmosphere. The ash cloud travelled across the Red Sea, Yemen and Oman, and reached parts of northern India, causing significant disruption to flight operations and prompting aviation advisories. Though no casualties have been reported, the event has raised concerns over air quality, engine safety for aircraft, and the broader implications of volcanic activity.

4. Pellet Plant Unveiled and Bio-Ethanol Project Foundation Laid in Haryana by Minister Pralhad Joshi

The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy inaugurated a biomass-pellet plant in Rewari, Haryana, with capacity of about 240 tonnes per day, and laid the foundation stone for a bio-ethanol facility. These projects aim to convert agricultural residue into clean energy, support the country's push for higher ethanol blending and provide additional income streams for farmers. The initiatives align with national goals on renewable fuel and stubble-burning reduction.

5. Indian Army Hosts Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 Summit

The Indian Army hosted the third Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi on November 27–28, focusing on India's three-phase military transformation strategy by 2047. The event emphasized indigenisation, advanced technology, and multi-domain warfare under the theme "Reform to Transform: Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat." President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the event, urging preparedness across traditional and emerging domains. Army Chief General

Upendra Dwivedi outlined phased reforms for a digitized, self-reliant, and agile force aligned with India's development goals.

Miscellaneous

1. Velamala Simmanna Honored with LNF Literary Prize for the Year 2025

Velamala Simmanna, a distinguished scholar of Telugu literature and former Head of the Department of Telugu at Andhra University, has been selected for the LNF Literary Award 2025 in recognition of his prolific contributions. He has authored over 100 books spanning literary criticism, language studies and cultural essays. The award carries a cash prize and will be presented in Visakhapatnam on 18 January 2026, marking Simmanna's role in enriching Telugu literature and cultural heritage.

2. RCMS Bank Recognised as the Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank

Rani Channamma Mahila Sahakari Bank, known as RCMS Bank, has been awarded the Best Profit-Making Cooperative Bank title for 2025 in Belagavi district by the Karnataka State Urban Cooperative Banks Federation. The recognition was presented during the 72nd All-India Cooperative Week celebrations. The award acknowledges the bank's strong financial performance, transparent governance, customer-centric services and its focus on empowering women through accessible credit. RCMS Bank continues to expand its operations while supporting small businesses and promoting inclusive economic participation.

3. PUMA Names Ramprasad Sridharan as New Managing Director for its India Operations

PUMA has named Ramprasad Sridharan as the new Managing Director for its India operations, effective December 2025. Sridharan brings over

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25 years of experience in brand building, retail leadership and commercial strategy across Asia Pacific, with prior senior roles at companies like United Colours of Benetton India, Clarks and Reebok India. He will report directly to PUMA's Chief Commercial Officer, succeeding the previous India head after his departure. The appointment signals PUMA's intent to deepen its presence in India's competitive footwear and apparel market.

4. 10-Year-Old Giovanna Wins Bronze at World Jiu-Jitsu Championship

Ten-year-old Indian athlete Giovanna de Sequeira won bronze in the under-28kg Infant/Girls Gi category at the 2025 World Professional Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Abu Dhabi. She made an inspiring comeback after knee surgery five months earlier, rebuilding her strength through the Kickboxing National Championship. Supported by her family and led by coach Raunak Singh, Giovanna's resilience and skill highlight her promise and India's growing presence in global youth martial arts. Her sister Erica, also an accomplished jiu-jitsu athlete, contributes to their shared legacy.

5. Bharatanatyam Icon Kumari Kamala Dies at 91

Renowned Bharatanatyam dancer Kumari Kamala, born Kamala Lakshminarayanan and known as Baby Kamala, passed away in California at age 91 after seven decades promoting the art form. Trained in Vazhuvoor style by guru Ramaiah Pillai, she bridged Sadir's temple origins to modern stage Bharatanatyam, performing globally and teaching in the US diaspora. Recipient of Padma Bhushan (1970) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1968), her expressive grace and discipline inspired generations worldwide.